

Current Affairs: 18/19.06.2021

OFB corporatisation gets Cabinet approval

The Union Cabinet approved a plan to **corporatise the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)**. OFB has 41 factories which will be divided into seven fully government owned corporate entities on the lines of **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU)**. Once implemented, the OFB will cease to exist. There will be no change in service conditions of the employees

Benefits of the approval

- Make the country self-sufficient in defence manufacturing
- Transform the ordnance factories into productive and profitable assets,
- Deepened specialisation in the product range
- Enhanced competitiveness
- Improved quality
- Help in overcoming various existing shortcomings like eliminating inefficient supply chains

Children and Digital Dumpsites Report released by WHO

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** in its recent report “**Children and Digital Dumpsites**” has highlighted the risk that children working in informal processing are facing due to discarded **electronic devices or e-waste**. **It is the first ever WHO report on electronic waste and child health**. E waste refers to **old, end-of-life or discarded electronic items** and their parts.

Key highlights of the report

- Around 12.9 million women are working in informal waste sector exposing them to toxic e-waste (like Nickel, lead and Mercury) and put them and their unborn children at risk.
- Children exposed to e waste are particularly vulnerable to the toxic chemicals they contain due to their smaller size, less developed organs and rapid rate of growth and Development.

India extends \$100 mn loan to Sri Lanka for Solar Energy Projects

Recently, India has signed an agreement extending a USD 100 million Line of Credit (LOC) to Sri Lanka for Solar Energy projects. The LOC is for a period of 20 years, with an interest of 1.75%. It was signed between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of India. EXIM Bank is a specialized financial institution, wholly owned by the Government of India.

LOC will help Financing various projects in Sri Lanka’s solar energy sector

India’s Initiatives for Global Cooperation Solar Energy

[International Solar Alliance \(ISA\):](#)



Cross & Climb, Rohtak



Launched by the Indian Prime Minister and the French President in 2015

ISA' vision: To enable One World, One Sun, One Grid (OSOWOG).

One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG):

Focus: A framework for facilitating global cooperation, building a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources (mainly solar energy) that can be smoothly shared.

Schemes for Promoting Solar Energy in India

- Recently, India achieved **5th global position in solar power deployment** by surpassing Italy.
- **National Solar Mission** aims to establish India as a global leader in solar energy by creating the policy conditions for its deployment across the country.
- **Rooftop Solar Scheme:** To generate solar power by installing solar panels on the roof of the houses
- [Production-linked Incentive \(PLI\) scheme to promote manufacturing of high efficiency solar PV modules](#) in India.

Deep Ocean Mission

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Deep Ocean Mission of the Ministry of Earth Sciences with a view to explore the deep ocean for resources and develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.

To be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs 4,077 crore for a period of five years, the mission supports the blue economy initiatives of the Government of India.

- **Blue Economy** is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and ocean ecosystem health.

Importance of Oceans for India

- For India, with 7,517 km long coastline, nice coastal states with 30 percent of the country's population and three sides surrounded by the oceans, the ocean is a **major economic factor** supporting fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, livelihoods and blue trade.
- The oceans are also **storehouse** of food, energy, minerals, medicines.
- They are also **modulator of weather** and climate system of earth. Thus, oceanic health is important for Indian nonsoons.
- Oceans also provide **ecosystem services** like carbon sequestration, coastal protection, waste disposal and the existence of biodiversity.

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



2021 NATO Summit Held in Brussels, Belgium

On June 14, 2021, The yearly meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held a face-to-face summit at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. It was the 31st formal meeting of the heads of state and heads of government of the alliance.

About the Summit :

The summit of the **30-member NATO group was held as a part of U.S. President Joe Biden's first foreign trip.** All the leaders agreed on the "NATO 2030" agenda, a comprehensive initiative to make sure that the alliance remains ready to face future challenges. The agenda also states that NATO will **strengthen political consultation and the resilience of society, reinforce defense and deterrence, sharpen the technological edge, and develop its next Strategic Concept in time for the summit in 2022.**

IIT Bombay Hosts Conference of BRICS Network Universities

On June 16, 2021, The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay hosted a three-day virtual conference of BRICS Network Universities on electric mobility. The theme of the Conference of BRICS Network Universities is "Electric Mobility". The conference is **part of the engagements that India is hosting under the education stream during its 13th BRICS Summit this year.** More than 100 students, researchers, and faculty from the BRICS Network Universities of the five-member countries are expected to participate in the conference. The Conference deals with **Eighteen experts from Brazil, Russia, India, China and S. Africa who will talk about various aspects of electric mobility like traffic management, hydrogen technology, hybrid vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and linkage between e-mobility and livelihoods over the next three days.**

About BRICS Network Universities :

- **BRICS Network University is a union of higher education institutions of the five BRICS member countries.**