

Current Affairs=25/26-07-2020

DST launched Rs 15 Crore fund to support India-Russia collaboration joint R&D and cross-country technology adaptation

The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** under the Ministry of Science and Technology launched a joint India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme in partnership with Russia's **Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE)**. On the Indian side, the programme will be implemented & funded by **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** on behalf of the DST.

The objective of this bilateral initiative is to strengthen the Science, Technology and Innovation ties between the two countries by connecting Indian, and Russian Science & Technology (S&T) led Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and Start-ups for joint development through Research & Development (R&D) along with technology adaptation.

Implementation of programme; DST to fund up to Rs 15 cr

The programme will run through two annual cycles and top five selected Indian and Russian partners will be provided partial funding support. DST will fund up to **Rs 15 Crores** to Indian SMEs/Start-ups and FASIE will provide similar funding to the Russian projects. The remaining cost will be borne by partners.

First in the World: India builds electrified rail tunnel capable to run double-stack containers



India builds one kilometer (km) long World's first electrified rail tunnel that fits double stack containers. It cuts through Aravali mountain on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) near Sohna, Haryana.

The project is implemented by the DFCCIL (Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited).

The tunnel Breaking was completed on 24, July 2020. The project is expected to complete by the next 12 months.

About the tunnel

i. About 2500 to 500-million-year-old proterozoic rocks were broken to build the tunnel.

ii. The tunnel is capable of running 25 tonne axle load electric goods train with double stack containers that runs at a speed of 100 km per hour (kmph).

iii. The tunnel connects Mewat and Gurgaon districts, Haryana.

iv. One end of the tunnel is at Rewari, Haryana and the other end is at Dadri, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Dimension

- It is 14.5 meters and 10.5 meters in height (straight portion) and 15 meter wide and 12.5 meter height.
- The D-shape tunnel has a cross section area of 150 square meters, accommodates double line OHE (Overhead Equipment)
- It is also considered to be the biggest railway tunnel in India.

Key Points

i. The WDFC and the Eastern DFC are the two most important projects carried by the Indian Railways in the transportation of freight transportation.

ii. The functions of the two DFC are expected to start by 2021.

Hyderabad Ranked 16th in World's most Surveilled Cities & China tops: Comparitech

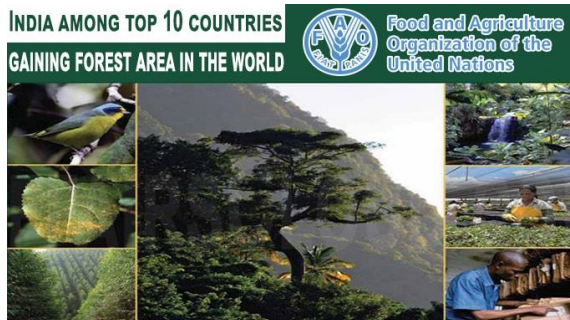


As per the new analysis by **Comparitech** on the World's Most Surveilled Cities, in **150 major cities** across the globe, **Hyderabad** has positioned in **16th rank** among the list of **top 20 cities** with the maximum number of Closed-circuit

television (CCTV) surveillance cameras. It has most CCTV surveillance in India. The List was topped by **Taiyuan, China**.

- Chennai(21st rank) and Delhi (33rd rank) made into the top 50 list.
- The research is based on the number of cameras per 1,000 people.
- **Number of cameras per 1000 people with Crime Index:**
- **Hyderabad**– 29.99 cameras per 1,000 people ie., 3 lakhs camera for 10,004,144 people. It's crime index is 43.46
- **Taiyuan, China**– 119.57 cameras per 1,000 people ie., 465,255 cameras for 3,891,127 people. It's crime index is 51.47.
- **Delhi ranked 2nd, Tokyo tops- 20 most populated cities in the world**
- The research also highlighted the 20 most populated cities in the world.**Delhi** ranked **2nd** and the list was topped by **Tokyo**, Japan. The **3rd rank** was secured by **Shanghai**, China.
- **Indian Cities**– Other indian cities which made into top 20 are: Mumbai in 9th rank and Kolkata in 15th rank.

India ranked 3rd in gaining forest area in world; global employment in forestry led by India: FAO

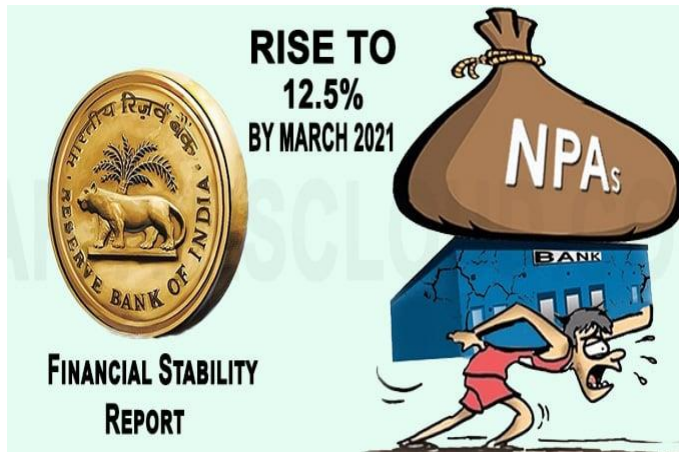


In accordance with the latest Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 brought out by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN), India has ranked 3rd among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas during 2010-2020. FRA 2020 examined the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990–2020.

- India reported **0.38%** annual gain in forest, or 266,000 ha of forest increase every year at an average. It's naturally regenerating forest rate was also 0.38% in 2010-20.
- As per the report, the world has a total forest area of 4.06 billion hectares (ha) in 2020, which is 31% of the total land area where India accounts for 2% of total global forest area. **Russia** has a maximum

forest area accounting 20% of global forest area (815 312 ha) followed by Brazil (496 620 ha-12%) & Canada (346 928 ha- 9%).

Gross NPA of banks may rise to 12.5% by March 2021: RBI Financial Stability Report



i. In accordance with the 21st issue of Financial Stability Report (FSR), July 2020 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released on July 24, 2020, the gross nonperforming assets (GNPA) ratio of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) may increase from 8.5% in March 2020 to 12.5% by March 2021

under the baseline scenario; the ratio may escalate to **14.7%** under a very severely stressed scenario.

ii. While Public sector banks' (PSBs) gross bad loans ratio of 11.3% at the end of March, 2020 may increase to 15.2% by March 2021 under the baseline scenario, on the other hand, Private banks may see an increase from 4.2% to 7.3%.