



CURRENT AFFAIRS - PART 7

V W Shaped Recovery

- Past recessions and recoveries have followed four common shapes: V, U, W and L, where the letters describe the trajectory of GDP.
- V-shaped recessions begin with a steep fall, but trough and recover quickly.
- W-shaped recessions begin like V-shaped recessions, but turn down again after false signs of recovery are exhibited. Also known as double-dip recessions, because the economy drops twice prior to full recovery.
- In a U-shaped recession, it takes many months, if not years, for the economy to recover. The long, flat stretch of sideways growth comprises the bottom of the U shape. The Great Recession is a good example of a U-shaped recession.
- The worst-case economic scenario for the COVID-19 crisis is that it causes an L-shaped recession – also referred to often as an L-shaped recovery. In this outcome, growth falls and does not recover for years, creating the long shape of the L. The official recession may end within a few quarters, but the recovery to a pre-recession level of economic output may take years.

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- Japan went through an L-shaped recession in the 1990s. There was a steep market crash at the beginning of the decade, which was followed by a credit crunch. The country saw more than 10 years of slow economic growth, which is known today as Japan's lost decade.

Zoonotic Disease

- A zoonosis (plural zoonoses, or zoonotic diseases) is an infectious disease caused by a pathogen (an infectious agent, such as a bacterium, virus, parasite or prion) that has jumped from a non-human animal (usually a vertebrate) to a human.
- **EXAMPLES**
 - Zoonotic influenza.
 - Salmonellosis.
 - West Nile virus
 - Coronaviruses
 - Rabies.
 - Brucellosis.
 - Lyme disease.

ASMAN. Alliance for Saving Mothers and Newborns

- “Alliance for Saving Mothers and New born” (ASMAN) is an initiative to improve the survival of mothers and new born in India by providing better quality of care, during the crucial 48-60 hour period around child birth, using technology innovations in public health centres.
- In India nearly 56000 women and 7,47,000 new born die due to pregnancy related complications every single day.
- ASMAN is a partnership between the Reliance Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, MSD for Mothers, Tata Trusts and USAID, and aims to facilitate the availability of quality healthcare under the five pillars of the Government of India’s Reproductive, Maternal, New born, Child and Adolescent Health Programme (RMNCH+A).

World Happiness Report

- The World Happiness Report is an annual publication of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- In July 2011, The UN General Assembly adopted resolution 65/309 Happiness: Towards a Holistic Definition of Development
- The first World Happiness Report was released on April 1, 2012
- The rankings of national happiness are based on a Cantril ladder survey. Nationally representative samples of respondents are asked to think of a ladder, with the best possible life for them being a 10, and the worst possible life being a 0. They are then asked to rate their own current lives on that 0 to 10 scale. The report correlates the results with various life factors.

National Happiness Index

- The Gross National Happiness Index is a single number index developed from 33 indicators categorized under nine domains.
- The GNH Index is constructed based upon a robust multidimensional methodology known as the Alkire-Foster method.
- 2019: For the third year in a row, Finland has placed at the top of the list as the happiest country in the world, with Denmark coming in second, followed by Switzerland, which pushed Norway out of the top three this year.
- Indians are not as happy in 2019 as they were in 2018 and the country figures at 140th place, seven spots down from last year, on this year's UN World Happiness Report

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient

- ‘A substance used in a finished pharmaceutical product (FPP), intended to furnish pharmacological activity or to otherwise have direct effect in the diagnosis, cure mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease, or to have direct effect in restoring correcting or modifying physiological functions in human being’
- API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) means the active ingredient which is contained in medicine. For example, an active ingredient to relieve pain is included in a painkiller. This is called API.
- Despite calls to reduce imports from China, India's reliance on its hostile neighbour for the pharmaceutical sector remains. At least 60% of India's Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) requirements come from China.

API Manufacturing in India

- “China created a low-cost API manufacturing industry. Even the cost of finance in China is 6-7 per cent against India's 13-14 per cent,” the official added. So, due to low-profit margins and non-lucrative industry, Indian pharma companies over the years stopped manufacturing APIs.
- Fearing that the disruption in the supply from China will continue for prolonged period, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) of India has amended the Export Policy 2018, on 3 March 2020, (Amendment in Export Policy of APIs and formulation made from APIs) to restrict export of certain pharmaceutical products from India. This restriction is imposed on 26 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and their formulations, including paracetamol, vitamins, hormones and antibiotics accounting for about 10per cent of India's total pharmaceutical exports.

Curative Plea

- A curative petition is the last constitutional resort available for redressal of grievances in court after a review plea is dismissed or has been exhausted.
- A binding decision of the Supreme Court/High Court can be reviewed in a review petition. Furthermore, if a review petition is dismissed by the Supreme Court, it may consider a curative petition filed by the petitioner
- As per Article 137 of the Constitution of India and the rules made under Article 145, the Supreme Court of India has the power to review its judgment pronounced by it. As per Supreme Court rules, 1966 such a petition is to be filed within 30 days of the pronouncement of judgment or order and that petition should be circulated without oral arguments to the same bench that delivered the judgment.

Curative Petition

- If a review petition is dismissed by the Supreme Court, it may consider a curative petition filed by the petitioner so as to prevent abuse of process.
- In accordance with Order XVII, Rule 1(1) of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, a civil review petition can be moved.
- While a criminal review petition can be filed only on the ground of error apparent on the face of record.
- A curative petition is required to be certified by a senior advocate and then it is circulated to the three senior most judges and the judges who delivered the impugned judgment. There is no time limit for filing a curative petition and it is guaranteed under Article 137 of the Constitution of India.

Curative Petition

- The Supreme court has laid down specific conditions in order to entertain curative petition which are as follows:
- It has to be established by the petitioner that there was a genuine violation of principles of natural justice.
- It shall be specifically stated in the petition that the grounds mentioned had been taken in the petition and that it was dismissed by circulation.
- The curative petition shall be certified by a senior advocate.
- The curative petition is then circulated to the three senior most judges and also to the judges who passed the impugned judgment.
- If majority of the judges agree that the matter needs hearing, then it would be sent to the same bench.

Mercy Petition

- In the context of Indian Judicial System, Mercy Petition is the last resort. When a person has lost all the remedies available to him/her under all the prevailing laws as well as under the Constitutional remedies, he may file a mercy petition before the President of India under Article 72 of the Indian Constitution or the Governor of the state under Article 161 of the Indian Constitution. Then the petition of his will be treated on mercy not on the legality of the case.

In accordance with Article 72 of the Indian Constitution, President is empowered to reprieve, respite or remit punishment pronounced by the Apex court i.e. the Supreme court of India. However, the power to grant pardon is not discretionary as any decision is reached by consulting with the council of masters.

World Hearing Day

- World Hearing Day is held on 3 March each year to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.
- Key messages for World Hearing Day 2020:
- At all life stages, communication and good hearing health connect us to each other, our communities, and the world.
- For those who have hearing loss, appropriate and timely interventions can facilitate access to education, employment and communication.
- Globally, there is lack of access to interventions to address hearing loss, such as hearing aids.
- Early intervention should be made available through the health systems

Hearing Loss

- Over 5% of the world's population - or 466 million people - has disabling hearing loss(432 million adults and 34 million children). It is estimated that by 2050 over 900 million people - or one in every ten people - will have disabling hearing loss.
- There is no cure for sensorineural hearing loss, the most common form of hearing loss. Currently, the only method of rehabilitation is amplification via hearing aids, cochlear implants, or assistive listening devices.

Institutes of Eminence

- Institutes of Eminence (IoE) is a recognition scheme for higher education institutes in India, set by the UGC in 2017.
- The plan encompasses twenty institutions, 16 of which have already been declared Institutes of Eminence as of August 2019.
- Recognised institutes are granted more autonomy, both administratively (e.g. setting fees) and academically, and will enjoy better collaboration opportunities with global universities.
- Public institutions are granted up to ₹1,000 crore (equivalent to ₹12 billion or US\$160 million in 2019); no funding is awarded to private institutions.
- The scheme is to empower Higher Educational Institutions to help them become world class teaching and research institutions"

Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019

- The Bill was introduced in December 2019
- As of March, 2020 the Bill is being analyzed by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) in consultation with experts and stakeholders.
- The Bill covers mechanisms for protection of personal data and proposes the setting up of a **Data Protection Authority of India** for the same.
- Some key provisions the 2019 Bill provides for which the 2018 draft Bill did not, such as that the central government can exempt any government agency from the Bill and the Right to be forgotten, have been included.

Provisions of Personal Data Protection Bill

- The Bill aims
 - to provide for protection of the privacy of individuals relating to their personal data,
 - specify the flow and usage of personal data,
 - create a relationship of trust between persons and entities processing the personal data,
 - protect the fundamental rights of individuals whose personal data are processed,
 - to create a framework for organisational and technical measures in processing of data,
 - laying down norms for social media intermediary, cross-border transfer, accountability of entities processing personal data, remedies for unauthorised and harmful processing,
 - to establish a Data Protection Authority of India for the said purposes and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto.

Blue Monday

- **Blue Monday** is the name given to a day in January (typically the third **Monday** of the month) claimed to be the most depressing day of the year.
- Blue Monday is supposedly the **saddest day of the year**, due to a combination of bad weather, long nights and the lingering aftermath of the festive glut.

NRI New Criteria

- Budget 2020 amended the tax residency rules for NRIs.
- Till financial year (FY) 2019-20, an NRI who visited India would be considered a resident if they spent 182 days or more in the previous year in the country, in addition to an aggregate stay of 365 days or more in the preceding four years.
- Budget 2020 proposed to lower the threshold period of stay in the previous year to 120 days from 182 days.
- The budget proposed to amend the definition of “not ordinarily resident”. Till FY20, an individual was classified as a “not ordinarily resident” if he was a non-resident in India for nine out of 10 preceding years. The budget proposal has reduced the numbers of years to 7 out of the 10 preceding years.

NRI New Criteria

- The government is seeking to tax NRIs who are carrying on substantial economic activities from India. Under the present residence criteria of a minimum stay of 182 days in an FY, NRIs remain non-resident in India perpetually. Consequently, they do not declare and pay tax on their global incomes in India.
- Budget 2020 proposed to deem citizens of India who are not tax residents of any country as tax residents of India. Such individuals would not be able to employ international taxation rules to avoid taxes in India.
- The move signals a major shift in India's tax policy toward the approach followed by the US, which taxes its citizens irrespective of their tax residence.

eNAM

- National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the lead agency for implementing eNAM under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India.
- MISSION
- Integration of APMCs across the country through a common online market platform to facilitate pan-India trade in agriculture commodities, providing better price discovery through transparent auction process based on quality of produce along with timely online payment.

Infant Milk Substitute Act

- Infant milk substitute feeding Bottles and infant foods regulation of production supply and distribution 1992 Amendment Act 2003.
- An Act to provide for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of **infant milk substitutes**, feeding bottles and infant foods with a view to the protection and promotion of breast feeding and ensuring the proper use of Infant Foods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- The Act covers: infant milk substitute, Feeding bottles and infant foods
- Role of the Act:
 - To protect, promote & support breastfeeding
 - Controlling the marketing and promotional activities of baby food manufacturers
 - Educate pregnant women and lactating mothers

Breast Feeding

- - No advertisements
 - No free samples
 - No free subsidized supply of infant milk substitute
- Labels must say 'breast feeding is the best'
- No picture of women/infant on labels to promote sales
- No posters, no commission to in sales

National Youth Day

- National Youth Day is celebrated on 12 January being the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. In 1984 the Government of India declared this day as National Youth Day and since from 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.
- He saw hope for the future in every child and believed that with “muscles of iron” and “nerves of steel” they could bring about social change. Swami himself personified the eternal energy of the youth and a restless quest for truth.

Zero FIR

- It means that an FIR can be filed in any police station, irrespective of the jurisdictional limitations and location of the incident. The respective police station takes in the FIR and marks it as a zero FIR by giving it serial number zero and immediately transfer the documents over to the concerned jurisdiction
- There is no time limit to file FIR
- The procedure of filing an FIR is prescribed in Section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973. commission of a cognizable offence is given orally, the police must write it down. information or making a complaint to demand that the information recorded by the police is read over to you.
- As for the police, once the FIR is registered, they have to investigate the case, record statements of all witnesses, and file a final report.

Fugitive Economic Offender Act, 2018

- Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018: It seeks to confiscate properties of economic offenders who have left the country to avoid facing criminal prosecution or refuse to return to the country to face prosecution.
- Fugitive economic offender:
 - A person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for committing an offence listed in the Act and the value of the offence is at least Rs. 100 crore.
- Some of the offences listed in the act are:
 - Counterfeiting government stamps or currency.
 - Cheque dishonour.
 - Money laundering.
 - Transactions defrauding creditors.

Fugitive Economic Offender

- After hearing the application, a special court (Designated under the PMLA,2002) may declare an individual as a fugitive economic offender
- It may confiscate properties which are proceeds of crime, Benami properties and any other property, in India or abroad
- The central government may appoint an administrator to manage and dispose of these properties

Enforcement Directorate

- It is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
- On 1st May 1956, an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed in the Department of Economic Affairs for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947. In 1957, it was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'.
- ED enforces the following laws:
 - ❖ Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
 - ❖ Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

Vijaya Diwas and Kargil Vijay Diwas

- Vijay Diwas is commemorated every 16 December in India, to Indian military's victory over Pakistan in Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 for the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan.
- On 16 December every year, Citizens, senior officials, students & war veterans lay wreaths and remember the sacrifices of the soldiers.

Kargil Vijay Diwas 26th July

On this date in 1999 India successfully took command of the high outposts. The Kargil war was fought for more than 60 days and ended on 26 July 1999, when the Pakistani army took advantage of the melting snow and - betraying the bilateral understanding of both the nations that the post would remain unattended during the winter season - took command of the high outposts of India.

Cognizable Offence and FIR

- A cognisable offence is one where the police can make an arrest without a warrant. These include offences such as murder, rape, dowry death, kidnapping, etc. Section 154 of the CrPC lays down the manner in which information received on commission of cognisable offences needs to be treated.
- The bench ruled that registration of an FIR is mandatory under Section 154 CrPC if the information received by the police discloses commission of a cognisable offence. No preliminary inquiry is permissible in such a situation, it said.
- “The police officer cannot avoid his duty of registering offence if cognisable offence is disclosed. Action must be taken against erring officers who do not register the FIR if information received by him discloses a cognisable offence,” the court had observed.

Buddhist Circuit in India

- The holy places of Buddhism, where Lord Buddha was born and He taught, preached, and attained 'Enlightenment' and 'Nirvana', are termed as Buddhist Circuit. These are the spiritual homes of Buddhism, housing temples and monasteries of high religious significances, where followers of Buddhism associate themselves with the teachings of Lord Buddha. Buddhist Circuit has evolved as tourist centres for not only the followers of Buddhism but also others.
- PLACES
 - Bodhgaya
 - Sarnath
 - Kushinagar
 - Vaishali
 - Rajgir
 - Shravasti
 - Lumbini

Black Friday

- Black Friday is an informal name for the day after Thanksgiving Day in the United States. It is a public holiday in more than 20 states, and is considered the start of the US Christmas shopping season. Black Friday is a busy shopping day.

World Aids Day

- World AIDS Day on **1 December** brings together people from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity in the face of the pandemic.
- The **red ribbon** is the universal symbol of awareness and support for people living with HIV. **Wearing a ribbon** is a great way to raise awareness on and during the run up to World AIDS Day.

JAM Yojana

- **JAM** (short for **Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile**) trinity refers to the government of India initiative to link Jan Dhan accounts, mobile numbers and Aadhar cards of Indians to plug the leakages of government subsidies.

CDFD

- The **Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD)** is an autonomous organization funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology
- In addition, DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics services provided by the centre support some of the activities.
- The Centre is recognized by the University of Hyderabad for pursuing Ph.D. programme in Life Sciences.
- The centre is equipped with world class state-of-the-art instrumentation and computing infrastructure to facilitate working in frontier areas of research in Life Sciences.

International Seed Testing Association ISTA

- Founded in 1924, with the aim to develop and publish standard procedures in the field of seed testing, ISTA is inextricably linked with the history of seed testing. With member laboratories in over 80 countries/distinct economies worldwide, ISTA membership is truly a global network.
- ISTA members work together to achieve their vision of 'Uniformity in seed quality evaluation worldwide'. Our Association produces internationally agreed rules for seed sampling and testing, accredits laboratories, promotes research, provides international seed analysis certificates and training, and disseminates knowledge in seed science and technology. This facilitates seed trading nationally and internationally, and also contributes to food security.

Model Tenancy Act 2019

- It is new tenancy law designed to overhaul the tenancy market in India
- The Act seeks to solve the housing availability deficit and contribute to the Housing for all by 2022.
- Important Rules:
 1. Formation of Rent Authority department.
 2. Residential housing security deposit is capped at two months and one month for non-residential tenancy.
 3. Penalty on tenants for refusing to vacate the premises after the tenancy agreement expires or is mutually terminated.
 4. Landlord must provide access to basic essentials and utilities, and cannot hike the property rent in the middle of an ongoing tenancy term.

Agent Smith Malware

- Android malware, Agent Smith, is estimated to have infected 25 million Android devices worldwide.
- The malware exploits a vulnerability in the Android operating system.
- Once installed, Agent Smith disguises itself as an official Google-related application and hides its app icon from the launcher.
- A dropper app lures the victim to install the malware voluntarily. The initial dropper contains encrypted malicious files and usually takes the form of "barely functioning photo utility, games, or sex-related apps." The dropper decrypts and installs the malicious files.

National Ganga Council

- The NGC was formed in 2016 to prevent, protect and control pollution in River Ganga
- The National Ganga Council shall meet at least once every year or more as it may deem necessary
- NGC replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA), NGRBA was formed in 2009.
- The Council has been given overall responsibility for the superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries.
- The first meeting of the Council was aimed at reinforcing the importance of a 'Ganga-centric' approach in all departments of the concerned states as well as relevant Central Ministries.

National Ganga Council Composition

- Prime Minister- ex-officio Chairperson
- Union Minister for Water Resource and Ganga Rejuvenation(now Ministry of Jalshakti)- ex-officio Vice-Chairperson
- Ex-officio members of the council are CMs of;
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - West Bengal
 - Uttarakhand
 - Bihar
 - Jharkhand

Other members are: Union Ministers for Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, Urban Affairs, Power, Tourism, Shipping and Vice-Chairman Niti Aayog

Input Tax Credit

- Input tax credit (ITC) is the tax paid by the buyer on purchase of goods or services. Such tax which is paid at the purchase when reduced from liability payable on outward supplies is known as input tax credit. In other words, input tax credit is tax reduced from output tax payable on account of sales.
- Input credit means at the time of paying tax on output, you can reduce the tax you have already paid on inputs.
- Say, you are a manufacturer -
- tax payable on output (FINAL PRODUCT) is Rs 450
- tax paid on input (PURCHASES) is Rs 300
- You can claim INPUT CREDIT of Rs 300 and you only need to deposit Rs 150 in taxes.

Interconnect Usage Charges

- IUC is the cost paid by one mobile telecom operator to another when its customers make outgoing mobile calls to the other operator's customers.
- Eg: If a caller of Idea calls a subscriber of Airtel, Idea pays Airtel 14 paise/min. Idea recovers this amount from its subscribers.
- India's telecom operators will continue to pay 6 paise a minute charge on all voice calls to other networks up to December 31, 2020.

Universal Basic Income

- Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a model for providing a sum of money to all citizens of a country or other geographic area with a given sum of money, regardless of their income, employment status. The purpose of the UBI is to prevent or reduce poverty and increase equality among citizens.
- Many consider a universal basic income (UBI) programme to be a solution that could mitigate the looming crisis caused by dwindling job opportunities. UBI is also deliberated as an effective poverty-eradication tool. Supporters of this scheme include Economics Nobel Laureates Peter Diamond and Christopher Pissarides, and tech leaders Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk.

MiG-27

- The iconic **MiG-27** was **decommissioned** from the Indian Air Force at Jodhpur air base on Friday. After serving the IAF for over three decades, the fleet of **MiG-27** had their last sortie from the air base on Friday. Jodhpur air base had the squadron of seven **MiG-27**
- The **MiG-27s** successfully assisted in IAF's 'Operation Safed Sagar' during the 1999 Kargil War despite not being built for the high altitude. However, one **MiG-27** was lost during the war as the aircraft experienced engine failure and the pilot, then-flight lieutenant K Nachiketa, ejected.
- The IAF is still operating four squadrons of the upgraded **MiG-21s**, which entered service before the **MiG-27s**, but **will** phase out its entire **MiG** fleet by 2024.

CORAS (Commandos for Railway Safety)

- A new state-of-the-art facility will be built in Haryana's Jagadhari city to train CORAS commandos.
- CORAS commandos will be undergoing training programmes, including basic and advanced commando courses with specialisation in handling landmines and improvised explosive devices, hostage rescue, sniping and breaching.
- The first deployment of the Railway's commando unit CORAS will be in the Naxal-hit areas of Chhattisgarh
- They will also be deployed in areas where railway has major ongoing projects which need security like north eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir,"
- The unit is envisaged as a responder for any situation pertaining to damage, disturbance, disruption of train operations, attack/hostage/hijack, disaster situations in railway areas

Dyskinesia Disease

- **Dyskinesia** is an involuntary movement that you cannot control. It can affect just one part of the body, like the head or an arm, or it can affect your entire body. **Dyskinesia** can range from mild to severe and painful, and interfere with normal daily activities.
- The exact cause of dyskinesia is uncertain, but most agree that it is related to the long-term use of certain **medications**, including levodopa. It is thought that an increased sensitivity to dopamine in the brain as a result of levodopa, combined with the natural progression of Parkinson's, gives rise to dyskinesia.
- **dyskinesia** is a **neurological syndrome** caused by the long-term use of neuroleptic drugs. Neuroleptic drugs are generally prescribed for **psychiatric disorders**, as well as for some gastrointestinal and **neurological disorders**.

Intangible Culture Heritage

- Intangible cultural heritage includes song, music, drama, skills, crafts, and the other parts of culture that can be recorded but cannot be touched and interacted with, without a vehicle for the culture. These cultural vehicles are called "Human Treasures" by the UN.
- As of now the list has more than 100 elements. It also includes the 13 elements of India that have already been inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Intangible heritage includes cultural practices, oral traditions and language, skills, techniques and knowledges including dance, stories, crafts, medicines, designs and even digital heritage. Intangible cultural heritage is commonly defined as not having a physical presence.

Kilogram as Unit of Measurement

- We have seven base units in the International System of Units, which defines all other measurements
- They are the Meter, the second, the mole, the ampere, the Kelvin, the Candela and the Kilogram
- These seven underpin everything in our universe. They ensure stability in manufacturing, commerce, scientific innovation and more.
- So far measurement reference of kilogram ‘ a gleaming metal cylinder sits in a temperature-controlled vault at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in France. This hunk of platinum and iridium has defined mass around the globe since more than a century

Kilogram

- On November 16, 2018, representatives from more than 60 countries voted during the 26th meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures in Versailles, France to redefine the kilogram.
- Rather than basing the unit on this physical object, henceforth, the measure will be based on a fundamental factor in physics known as Planck's constant.
- This infinitesimally small number, which starts with 33 zeros after its decimal point, describes the behaviour of elementary packets of light known as photons, in everything from the flicker of a candle flame to the twinkle of stars overhead.
- Stephan Schlamminger worked to refine Plank's constant for the kilogram redefinition.
- The value of kilogram will remain the same for all time, no matter the location

Average revenue per user

- Average revenue per user is total revenue divided by the number of subscribers.
- ARPU includes not only the revenues billed to the customer each month for usage but also the revenue generated from incoming calls, payable within the regulatory interconnection regime.
- It normally manifest in the form of value added services
- The methodology for calculation of revenue payable to Government was under debate. Government has raised demand for huge amount from Telecom companies.

Irani Cup

- Irani cup is associated with Indian Cricket.
- It is held at the end of domestic season.
- It is played between the winner of Ranji Cup Trophy and the Rest of India cricket team
- In 2020 it was to be held between Saurashtra the winner of 2019-20 Ranji Trophy and the Rest of India Team but because of pandemic this year's tournament was cancelled.

Universal Service Obligation Fund

- The Government of India recently constituted a Committee of Secretaries (CoS), headed by the Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, to look for a relief package for the distressed telecom sector.
- The panel will comprise of secretaries to the Ministries of Finance, Law, and Telecommunication.
- Apart from the higher capital cost of providing telecom services in rural and remote areas, these areas also generate lower revenue due to lower population density, low income and lack of commercial activity.
- Thus normal market forces alone would not direct the telecom sector to adequately serve backward and rural areas.

Universal Service Obligation Fund

- The New Telecom Policy - 1999 (NTP'99) provided that the resources for meeting the Universal Service Obligation (USO) would be raised through a 'Universal Access Levy (UAL)', which would be a percentage of the revenue earned by the operators under various licenses. The Universal Service Support Policy came into effect from 01.04.2002.
- The move comes in the backdrop of a recent Supreme Court (SC) order and is expected to mitigate the impact of the more than ₹1.4 lakh crore that the telecom companies need to pay to the exchequer.
- Recently, the SC of India upheld the government's position on including revenue from non-telecommunication businesses in calculating the annual Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of telecom companies, that was opposed by the telecom operators.

Aspirational Districts

- Aspirational Districts are those districts in India, that are affected by poor socio-economic indicators. These are aspirational in the context, that improvement in these districts can lead to the overall improvement in human development in India.
- The 115 districts were identified from 28 states, at least one from each state, in a transparent manner by a committee of Senior Officers to the Government of India, in consultation with State Officials using a composite index of key data sets that included deprivation enumerated under the Socio-Economic Caste Census
- Districts are prodded and encouraged to first catch-up with the best district within their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism

Aspirational Districts

- 49 key performance indicators have been chosen to measure progress of the districts. Districts are prodded and encouraged to first catch-up with the best district within their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism.
- The Government is committed to raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all - “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas”. To enable optimum utilization of their potential, this program focusses closely on improving people’s ability to participate fully in the burgeoning economy. Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme’s core areas of focus.

Air Service Agreement

- Air Service Agreement is a bilateral agreement to allow international commercial air transport services between signatories.
- The bilateral system has its basis under the Chicago Convention and associated multilateral treaties. The Chicago Convention was signed in December 1944 and has governed international air services since then.
- Air service agreements (ASA) are formal treaties between countries - accompanying memoranda of understanding (MoU) and exchanges of formal diplomatic notes.
- ASAs cover the basic framework under which airlines are granted economic bilateral rights to fly two countries. The frequency, the designated airlines of the two signing countries, origin and intermediate points, traffic rights, type of aircraft and tax issues are normally covered by MoUs.

Thank You