

Important Terms in 29th October -2020 News

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Line of Credit:

- It is a credit facility extended by a bank or any other financial institution to a government, business or an individual customer, that enables the customer to draw the maximum loan amount.
- The borrower can access funds from the line of credit at any time as long as they do not exceed the maximum amount (or credit limit) set in the agreement and meet any other requirements such as making timely minimum payments.

Particulate Matter:

- Also called particle pollution, it is a term for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air.
- It includes:
 - PM10: inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller; and
 - PM2.5: fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.
- Sources of PM: Some are emitted directly from a source, such as construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, smokestacks or fires.

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle:

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is the third generation launch vehicle.
- PSLV is the first launch vehicle which is equipped with liquid stages.
- PSLV's first successful launch was in October 1994. PSLV was used for two of the most important missions. These are Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013.
- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark II and GSLV MkIII are other two launch vehicles

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC):

- KVIC is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Important Terms in 26th October -2020 News

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CPI-IW:

- The CPI-IW is mainly used for determining dearness allowance (DA) paid to central/state government employees and workers in the industrial sectors besides measuring inflation in retail prices, fixation and revision of minimum wages in scheduled employments.
- CPI-IW is compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Program):

- It was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology. It was approved by the Government of India in 1983 and completed in March 2012.
- The 5 missiles (P-A-T-N-A) developed under this program are:
 - Prithvi: Short range surface to surface ballistic missile.
 - Agni: Ballistic missiles with different ranges, i.e. Agni (1,2,3,4,5)
 - Trishul: Short range low level surface to air missile.
 - Nag: 3rd generation anti-tank missile.
 - Akash: Medium range surface to air missile.

Antibody:

- Antibody, also called immunoglobulin is a protective protein produced by the immune system in response to the presence of a foreign substance, called an antigen.
 - A wide range of substances are regarded by the body as antigens, including disease-causing organisms and toxic materials.
- Antibodies recognize and attack onto antigens in order to remove them from the body.

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Central Bureau of Investigation:

- The CBI is the premier investigating police agency in India. It functions under Deptt. of Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India.
- The origins of CBI can be traced back to the Special Police Establishment (SPE) set up in 1941 in order to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in the War & Supply Department of India during World War II (1939-45).
- The need for a Central Government agency to investigate cases of bribery and corruption was felt after the end of World War II. So, DSPE (Delhi Special Police Establishment) Act, 1946 was brought that gave the legal power of investigating cases to CBI.
- It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries.

Foreign Currency Assets:

- FCA are assets that are valued based on a currency other than the country's own currency.
- FCA is the largest component of the forex reserve. It is expressed in dollar terms.
- FCA includes the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.
 - Currency appreciation refers to the increase in value of one currency relative to another in the forex markets.
 - Currency depreciation is a fall in the value of a currency in a floating exchange rate system.
- In a floating exchange rate system, market forces (based on demand and supply of a currency) determine the value of a currency.

Financial Action Task Force:

- Formation: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
- Objectives: To set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- Secretariat: Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- Member Countries: The FATF currently has 39 members including two regional organisations — the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council. India is a member of the FATF.
- Decision Making Body: The FATF Plenary is the decision making body of the FATF. It meets three times per year.

Important Terms in 23rd October -2020 News

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Cost Inflation Index:

- It is used to estimate the increase in the prices of goods and assets year-by-year due to inflation.
- It is calculated to match the prices to the inflation rate. In simple words, an increase in the inflation rate over time will lead to a rise in the prices.
- Cost Inflation Index = 75% of the average rise in the Consumer Price Index (urban) for the immediately preceding year.
- Consumer Price Index compares the current price of a basket of goods and services (which represent the economy) with the cost of the same basket of goods and services in the previous year to calculate the increase in prices.
- The Central Government specifies CII by notifying in the official gazette.

RT-PCR Test:

- Kary Mullis, the American biochemist invented the PCR technique. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1993.
- Under this, copies of a segment of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) are created using an enzyme called Polymerase.
- The 'chain reaction' signifies how the DNA fragments are copied, exponentially — one is copied into two, the two are copied into four, and so on.
- A fluorescent DNA binding dye called the "probe" is added to DNA, which shows the presence of the virus on a fluorometer.
- Since coronavirus is made of RNA (ribonucleic acid), therefore to detect coronavirus, RNA is converted into DNA using a technique called reverse transcription.
- A 'reverse transcriptase' enzyme converts the RNA into DNA.
- Copies of the DNA are then made and amplified.

UDAN:

- Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) was launched as a regional connectivity scheme (RCS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.

Aim:

- To develop the regional aviation market.
- To provide affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel on regional routes to the common man even in small towns.
- It envisages providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through the revival of existing airstrips and airports.

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Antitrust Laws:

- Antitrust laws are regulations that monitor the distribution of economic power in business, making sure that healthy competition is allowed to flourish and economies can grow.
- Antitrust laws apply to nearly all industries and sectors, touching every level of business, including manufacturing, transportation, distribution, and marketing.
- These prohibit a number of business practices that restrain trade. Examples of illegal practices are price-fixing conspiracies, corporate mergers that are likely to cut back the competitive fervor of certain markets, and predatory acts designed to gain or hold on to monopoly power.
- In India, competition policy has been implemented via the Competition Act, 2002 which along with its amendment, establishes a Competition Commission of India to prevent anti-competitive practices, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of the consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets in India.

Foreign Direct Investment:

- FDI is the process whereby residents of one country (the home country) acquire ownership of assets for the purpose of controlling the production, distribution and other activities of a firm in another country (the host country).
-It is different from Foreign Portfolio Investment where the foreign entity merely buys stocks and bonds of a company. FPI does not provide the investor with control over the business.
- Flows of FDI comprise capital provided (either directly or through other related enterprises) by a foreign direct investor to an enterprise.

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project:

- It is a multi-purpose irrigation project, on the Godavari River in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally, Telangana initiated in 2016.
- The project starts at the confluence point of Pranahita River and Godavari River.
- Originally called Dr. B R Ambedkar Pranahita Chevella Sujala Sravanthi Project in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, it was redesigned, extended and renamed as Kaleshwaram project in Telangana in 2014.

Important Terms in 21st October -2020 News

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Malabar Exercise:

- It is an annual trilateral naval exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the USA which is held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- It began as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the USA in 1992 and was expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.
- The Exercise is aimed to support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules based international order.
- It is also aimed at interoperability with an emphasis on humanitarian assistance, surface war manoeuvres, anti-submarines warfare, counter-terror operations, gunnery training and aerial surveillance.

Heeng:

- It is a herbaceous plant of the umbelliferae family. It is a perennial plant whose oleo gum resin is extracted from its thick roots and rhizome. The plant stores most of its nutrients inside its deep fleshy roots.
- It is endemic to Iran and Afghanistan, which are also the main global suppliers of it. It is very popular in India and is used in cooking.
- Climatic Condition: It thrives in dry and cold desert conditions. The plant can withstand a maximum temperature between 35 and 40 degree, whereas during winters, it can survive in temperatures up to minus 4 degree.

Ghar Tak Fibre:

- Launched in September this year.
- It aims to connect all the villages with high-speed internet.
- **Targets:** Under the scheme, Bihar has to provide at least five fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) connections per village, while there should also be at least one WiFi hotspot per village.
- **Implementation:** The project will be jointly executed by the Department of Telecom (DoT), ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and Common Service Centres (CSC).

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National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):

- It was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal.
 - NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
 - NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Disinvestment:

- Disinvestment means sale or liquidation of assets by the government, usually Central and state public sector enterprises, projects, or other fixed assets.
- The government undertakes disinvestment to reduce the fiscal burden on the exchequer, or to raise money for meeting specific needs, such as to bridge the revenue shortfall from other regular sources.
- Strategic disinvestment is the transfer of the ownership and control of a public sector entity to some other entity (mostly to a private sector entity).
 - Unlike the simple disinvestment, strategic sale implies a kind of privatization.

The National Statistical Office:

- NSO is the central statistical agency of the Government mandated under the Statistical Services Act, 1980 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It is responsible for the development of arrangements for providing statistical information services to meet the needs of the Government and other users for information on which to base policy, planning, monitoring and management decisions.
 - The services include collecting, compiling and disseminating official statistical information.
 - All business operations in NSO are done in compliance with international standards, procedures and best practices.

Gross Value Added (GVA):

- It is the sum of a country's GDP and net of subsidies and taxes in the economy. It provides the rupee value for the amount of goods and services produced in an economy after deducting the cost of inputs and raw materials that have gone into the production of those goods and services.
- $\text{Gross Value Added} = \text{GDP} + \text{subsidies on products} - \text{taxes on products}$.

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Goods and Services Tax:

- GST was introduced through the 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016.
- It is an indirect tax on the supply of final goods and services.
- It has subsumed indirect taxes like excise duty, Value Added Tax (VAT), service tax, luxury tax etc.
- It is levied at the final consumption point.
- It is levied only on the value addition.
- It is collected on goods and services at each point of sale in the supply line.
- The GST avoids the cascading effect or tax on tax which increases the tax burden on the end consumer

Nilgiris Elephant Corridor:

- It is situated in the ecologically fragile Sigur plateau.
- It connects the Western and the Eastern Ghats.
- It is situated near the Mudumalai National Park in the Nilgiris district.
- It also has the Nilgiri hills on its southwestern side and the Moyar river valley on its northeastern side.

Asian Elephant:

- There are three subspecies of Asian elephant – the Indian, Sumatran and Sri Lankan.
- The Indian has the widest range and accounts for the majority of the remaining elephants on the continent.
- Common threats to African and Asian elephants: Escalation of poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment in captivity
- IUCN Red List status: (1) African elephants: vulnerable; (2) Asian elephants: endangered.
- CITES status: (1) Appendix I for Asian Elephants; (2) Appendix II for African elephants in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe

Sample Registration System (SRS):

- The SRS is a demographic survey for providing reliable annual estimates of infant mortality rate, birth rate, death rate and other fertility and mortality indicators at the national and sub-national levels.
- Initiated on a pilot basis by the Registrar General of India in a few states in 1964-65, it became fully operational during 1969-70.

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Greater One-Horned Rhino:

- There are three species of rhino in Asia — Greater one-horned (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Javan and Sumatran.
- Poaching for the horns and habitat loss are the two greatest threats to the survival of Asia's rhinos.
- The five rhino range nations (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia) have signed a declaration 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' for the conservation and protection of the species.

Protection Status:

- Javan and Sumatran Rhino are critically endangered and the Greater one-horned (or Indian) rhino is vulnerable in IUCN Red List.
- All three listed under Appendix I (CITES).
- Greater one-horned rhino is listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation:

- The Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) program was launched in 2017 and is funded by Coal India Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). It will be extended for next two years from 2020.
- HSCT refers to the transplantation of stem cells from various sources (bone marrow, growth factor-stimulated peripheral blood, and umbilical cord blood) for the treatment of various diseases like autoimmune, and genetic diseases.

Sickle Cell Disease:

- It is an inherited disease caused by defects, called mutations, in the beta globin gene that helps make hemoglobin. The red blood cells become hard and sticky and look like a C-shaped farm tool called a "sickle". The sickle cells die early, which causes a constant shortage of red blood cells.
- World Sickle Cell Day 2020 was observed to increase awareness about the Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) at the national level.
-The day is recognised by the United Nations and celebrated every year on 19th June.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India:

- It is registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
- It was set up in 1958 with the objective to promote cooperative marketing of agricultural produce to benefit the farmers.

Agricultural farmers are the members of the General Body of NAFED, who participate in the decision-making process.

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United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction:

- The UNDRR was established in 1999 as a dedicated secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is mandated to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities.
- It is an organisational unit of the UN Secretariat and is led by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG).
- UNDRR's Strategic Framework 2016-2021 has a vision to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses for a sustainable future with the mandate to act as the custodian of the Sendai Framework (India is a signatory).

Universal Postal Union:

- The UPU is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal systems.
- Its headquarters are located in Berne, Switzerland.

Lepidoptera:

-Lepidoptera is the order of insects that includes butterflies, moths and skippers.

-The name Lepidoptera is derived from the Greek, meaning "scaly winged," and refers to the characteristic covering of microscopic dustlike scales on the wings.

- Due to their day-flying habits and bright colours, the butterflies are more familiar than the chiefly night-flying and dull-coloured moths, but the latter is far more varied and abundant.
- The skippers are a worldwide group intermediate between butterflies and moths.

Important Terms in 12th October -2020 News

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CBI:

- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating police agency in India.
- It functions under the superintendence of the Deptt. of Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India – which falls under the prime minister's office.
- However for investigations of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, its superintendence vests with the Central Vigilance Commission.
- It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries.
- Its conviction rate is as high as 65 to 70% and it is comparable to the best investigation agencies in the world.

Blue Flag Certification:

- The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary eco-labels awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.
- In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained.
- There are nearly 33 criteria that must be met to qualify for a Blue Flag certification, such as the water meets certain quality standards, having waste disposal facilities, being disabled-friendly, have first aid equipment etc.

- The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education).
- FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education) was established in France in 1985 and got extended to areas outside Europe since 2001

Repo Rate and Reverse Report Rate:

- It is the rate at which the central bank of a country (Reserve Bank of India in case of India) lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds.
- It is used by monetary authorities to control inflation.
 - In the event of inflation, central banks increase the repo rate as this acts as a disincentive for banks to borrow from the central bank. This ultimately reduces the money supply in the economy and thus helps in arresting inflation.
 - The central bank takes the contrary position in the event of a fall in inflationary pressures.
- Ideally, a low repo rate should translate into low-cost loans for the general masses. When the RBI slashes its repo rate, it expects the banks to lower their interest rates charged on loans.
- Reverse repo rate is the rate at which the RBI borrows money from commercial banks within the country.

Important Terms in 10th October -2020 News

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Monetary Policy Committee:

- The Monetary Policy Committee is a statutory and institutionalized framework under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, for maintaining price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
- The Governor of RBI is ex-officio Chairman of the committee.
- The committee comprises six members (including the Chairman) – three officials of the RBI and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
- Decisions are taken by majority with the Governor having the casting vote in case of a tie.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights:

- NCPCR is a statutory body set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

- The Commission's mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It inquires into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the Right to Education Act, 2009.

Cotton Corporation of India:

- CCI was established in 1970 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles as a Public Sector Undertaking under the Companies Act 1956.
- Headquarters: CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- Role: To undertake price support operations, whenever the market prices of cotton fall below the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) announced by Govt. of India, without any quantitative limit.

RTGS vs NEFT:

- **Use:** RTGS is meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers while NEFT is generally used for fund transfers of up to Rs. 2 lakh.
- The minimum amount to be remitted through RTGS is Rs. 2,00,000 with no upper or maximum ceiling.
- There is no limit imposed by RBI for funds transfer through NEFT system. However, banks may place amount limits based on their own risk perception with the approval of its board.

New Development Bank:

- It is a multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- It was agreed to by BRICS leaders at the 5th BRICS summit held in Durban, South Africa in 2013.
- It was established in 2014, at the 6th BRICS Summit at Fortaleza, Brazil.
- The bank is set up to foster greater financial and development cooperation among the five emerging markets.

Important Terms in 9th October -2020 News

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Arctic Council:

- The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART):

- ART is used to treat infertility. It includes fertility treatments that handle both a woman's egg and a man's sperm. It works by removing eggs from a woman's body and mixing them with sperm to make embryos. The embryos are then put back in the woman's body.
- In Vitro fertilization (IVF) is the most common and effective type of ART.
- ART procedures sometimes use donor eggs, donor sperm, or previously frozen embryos. It may also involve a surrogate carrier.

Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC):

- It is a company created in 2010 and jointly owned by advertisers, ad agencies, and broadcasting companies, represented by the Indian Society of Advertisers, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation and the Advertising Agencies Association of India.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting notified the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India on January 10, 2014, and registered BARC in July 2015 under these guidelines, to carry out television ratings in India.

India Meteorological Department (IMD):

- IMD was established in 1875.
- It is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India.
- It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.

Abortelphusa Namdaphaensis:

- It is a new freshwater crab species found recently on the edge of a small stream in Namdapha Tiger Reserve.
- The genus (Abortelphusa) is named after the Abor Hills, the species (Namdaphaensis) is named after Namdapha.
- Namdapha is known for its rich biodiversity, and believed to be the rare area that harbours four large cats: tigers, snow leopards, clouded leopards and leopards.

Gorkhaland Territorial Administration:

- It is an Autonomous District Council for the Darjeeling and Kalimpong areas of the West Bengal state in India.
- It was formed as a result of tripartite agreement between the West Bengal government, the Centre and the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) in 2011.
- The GTA was formed to replace the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council, which was formed in 1988 and administered the Darjeeling hills for 23 years.
- GTA presently consists of three hill subdivisions Darjeeling, Kurseong, Mirik, some areas of Siliguri subdivision of Darjeeling district and the whole of Kalimpong district under its authority.

Important Terms in 8th October -2020 News

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GI tag:

- A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.
- Once the GI protection is granted, no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products. It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product.

Black holes:

- A black hole is formed when stars collapse and can be defined as a space in the universe with an escape velocity so strong that even light cannot escape it.
- Escape velocity is the speed at which an object must travel to override a planet or an object's gravitational force.

Main features of black holes:

- Since light cannot get out, black holes are invisible and can only be tracked with the help of a space telescope or other special tools.

- Light cannot escape from black holes because the gravity inside a black hole is very strong as a result of a lot of matter being squeezed into a small space.

Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI):

- PMI is an indicator of business activity- in the manufacturing and services sectors.
- It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.

The PMI is a number from 0 to 100:

1. PMI above 50 represents an expansion when compared to the previous month;
2. PMI under 50 represents a contraction, and
3. A reading at 50 indicates no change.

CAWACH:

- The Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) is an initiative by the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- CAWACH supports innovations in the areas of diagnostics, devices, informatics including bio-informatics & information management systems, any intervention for the control of COVID-19 and/or startup ideas to address/mitigate various challenges faced by country/society due to the severe impact of COVID-19.
- It offers funding to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 200 lakhs to selected startups.

Important Terms in 7th October -2020 News

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Precision Agriculture:

- Precision agriculture (PA) is an approach where inputs are utilised in precise amounts to get increased average yields, compared to traditional cultivation techniques such as agroforestry, intercropping, crop rotation, etc.
- Sustainable PA is this century's most valuable innovation in farm management that is based on using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

- It is based on sustainable agriculture and healthy food production and it consists of profitability and increasing production, economic efficiency and the reduction of side effects on the environment.

Avian Botulism:

- It is a neuro-muscular illness caused by Botulinum (natural toxin) that is produced by bacteria, Clostridium botulinum.
- The bacteria are commonly found in the soil, rivers, and seawater. It affects both humans and animals.
- The bacteria also need anaerobic (absence of oxygen) conditions and do not grow in acidic conditions.
- The illness affects the nervous system of birds, leading to paralysis in their legs and wings.
- The outbreaks of avian botulism tend to occur when average temperatures are above 21 degrees celsius, and during droughts.

National Anti Doping Agency:

- Wet up as registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1890 on November 24, 2005 with a mandate for Dope free sports in India.
- The primary objectives are to implement anti-doping rules as per WADA code, regulate dope control programme, to promote education and research and creating awareness about doping and its ill effects.

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations:

- CEPI is an international non-governmental organisation funded by the Wellcome Trust, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the European Commission, and eight countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Japan, Norway, and the UK).
- Launched in 2017, its mission is to stimulate and accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable access to these vaccines for people during outbreaks.

SMART MISSILE:

- India has successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) from a test range off Odisha coast.
- SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight anti-submarine torpedo system for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations far beyond torpedo range.

Adjuvant:

- An adjuvant is a pharmacological or immunological agent that improves the immune response of a vaccine. Adjuvants may be added to a vaccine to boost the immune response to produce more antibodies and longer-lasting immunity, thus minimizing the dose of antigen needed.

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Exercise Bongosagar:

- Its first edition was held in 2019.
- **Aim:** To develop interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.
- **Participants:** Naval ships from both the countries along with the maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters will be participating in the exercise.
- It will be followed by the 3rd edition of India-Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (IN-BN CORPAT), wherein both countries will undertake joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).
- CORPATs have strengthened understanding between both the navies and instituted measures to stop the conduct of unlawful activities.

National Crime Record Bureau:

- NCRB, headquartered in New Delhi, was set-up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task Force (1985).
- NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country ('Crime in India' report).
- Being published since 1953, the report serves as a crucial tool in understanding the law and order situation across the country.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has released the annual Crime in India 2019 report.

INS Vikrant:

- It is India's first indigenously built Air CraftCarrier (Project -71) christened as INS Vikrant.

- INS Vikrant is the country's most prestigious and largest warship project.
- It is the first aircraft carrier to be built in India.
- India currently operates the INS Vikramaditya procured from Russia.

Goods & Services Tax Council:

- Goods & Services Tax Council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- Article 279A says that President shall by order constitute a Council to be called the Goods and Services Tax Council.

Composition of GST Council:

GST Council which will be a joint forum of the Centre and the States, shall consist of the following members: –

- The Union Finance Minister – Chairperson;
- The Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance – Member;
- The minister in charge of finance or taxation or any other minister nominated by each state government – members.
- One-half of the total number of members of GSTC form quorum in meetings of GSTC. Decisions in GSTC are taken by a majority of not less than three-fourth of weighted votes cast. Centre has one-third weight age of the total votes cast and all the states taken together have two-third of weight age of the total votes cast.

BRI:

- BRI consisting of the land-based belt, 'Silk Road Economic Belt', and 'Maritime Silk Road', aims to connect the East Asian economic region with the European economic circle and runs across the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa.
- BRI is China's ambitious project announced in 2013. It covers about 65% of the world population, 60% of the world GDP and over 70 countries in six economic corridors.

Important Terms in 3rd October -2020 News

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National Company Law Appellate Tribunal:

- The NCLAT was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
-NCLT is a quasi-judicial body that adjudicates issues relating to companies.
- It is also the appellate tribunal for orders passed by the NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, and for orders passed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under Sections 202 and 211 of the IBC.
- Any person aggrieved by any order of the NCLAT may file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

NABARD:

- NABARD is a development bank focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country. It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development. Its headquarter is located in Mumbai, the country's financial capital.
- It is responsible for the development of the small industries, cottage industries, and any other such village or rural projects.
- It is a statutory body established in 1982 under Parliamentary act-National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.

Confederation of Indian Industries (CII):

- It is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization.
- It was founded in 1895, its headquarters is in New Delhi.
- It works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

Anti-Tank missiles:

- Anti-Tank missiles (ATMs) are guided missiles designed primarily to destroy or damage heavily armoured vehicles and tanks.
- They're guided missiles that use various guiding algorithms like wire-guided missiles, laser guide guided missiles, etc.

Bandipur tiger reserve:

- Status: In 1974, Bandipur Tiger reserve was established as one of the first 9 Tiger Reserves under Project Tiger. In 1985, by including adjacent areas, it was enlarged and named as Bandipur National Park.
- Location: Tiger Reserve is situated in two contiguous districts (Mysore and Chamarajanagar) of Karnataka. It is located at the tri-junction area of the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve is surrounded by –
 1. Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) in the North West (Kabini Reservoir separates the two)

2. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) in the South and
 3. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the South West.
- Together these 4 areas are part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
 - Rivers: The park is situated between Kabini river in the north and the Moyar river in the south. The Nugu river runs through the park.

International Day of Non-Violence:

- The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.
- He is the pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.
- The International Day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness".
- The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence"

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National Crime Record Bureau:

- NCRB, headquartered in New Delhi, was set-up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task Force (1985).
- NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country ('Crime in India' report).
- Being published since 1953, the report serves as a crucial tool in understanding the law and order situation across the country.

Peatlands:

- Peatlands are wetlands that contain ancient, decomposed and partially decomposed organic matter.
- Nearly half the world's peatland-stored carbon lies between 60 and 70 degrees north, along the Arctic Circle.

Arctic Permafrost:

- It is ground that remains completely frozen at 0 degrees Celsius or below for at least two years and is defined solely based on temperature and duration.
- It is composed of rock, sediments, sand, dead plant and animal matter, soil, and varying degrees of ice and is believed to have formed during glacial periods dating several millennia.
- It is mainly found near the polar zones and regions with high mountains covering parts of Greenland, Alaska, Russia, Northern Canada, Siberia and Scandinavia.
- Permafrost is the most threatened by climate change, Arctic regions are warming twice as fast compared to the rest of the planet, its current rate of temperature change being the highest in 2,000 years.

Naturopathy:

- It means 'natural cure'. By using a combination of healthy diet, simple self-help techniques, for example, breathing and relaxation exercises, beneficial herbs and general exercise, naturopathy seeks to promote the body's own ability to heal itself.
- Naturopaths treat most long-term conditions. In this practice it is used to treat recurrent infections, long-term fatigue, anxiety and irritable bowel syndrome. It is also useful for allergic conditions, chronic muscle pain and chronic disease in general.
- Government of India has declared November 18 as Naturopathy Day in commemoration of the commitment made by Mahatma Gandhi to Nature Cure on that day in 1945.

BrahMos missile:

- It is a surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile featuring indigenous Booster and Airframe Section.
- It flies almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8.
- The new BrahMos missile can strike targets over 400-km away with pin-point accuracy.
- The missile was jointly developed by India and Russia and was first tested in 2001

Mutation:

- Mutation is the property of a virus to undergo changes when it multiplies. As it replicates, it may not produce exact replicas of itself, resulting in the emergence of new strains, which may be more or at times less effective. Some strains die out, while the more effective ones, which spread efficiently, survive.

Index of Industrial Production:

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a fixed period of time.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- IIP is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
 - Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 - Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
- The eight core sector industries represent about 40% of the weight of items that are included in the IIP.
 - The eight core industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products (28.04 %)> Electricity (19.85 %)> Steel (17.92 %) > Coal (10.33 %) > Crude Oil (8.98 %) > Natural Gas (6.88 %) > Cement (5.37 %) > Fertilizers (2.63 %).
- Base Year for IIP calculation is 2011-2012.

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Amnesty International:

- It is an international Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) founded in London (UK) in 1961.
- It seeks to publicize violations by governments and other entities of rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), especially freedom of speech and of conscience and the right against torture.
- In 1977, it was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.
- AI India is a part of the global human rights movement spearheaded by Amnesty International. It has its registered office in Bangalore (Karnataka).

QUAD:

- The quadrilateral formation includes Japan, India, United States and Australia.
- All four nations find a common ground of being the democratic nations and common interests of unhindered maritime trade and security.
- The idea was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it.

UAE's Space Mission:

- In July 2020, the UAE launched a Mars probe named Amal (Hope) from Japan, marking the Arab world's first interplanetary mission.

-Amal is set to reach Mars in February 2021, the year UAE will celebrate 50 years of its formation.

-UAE has also set a goal to build a human colony on Mars by 2117.

-UAE is a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula.

- In 2019, the UAE sent its first astronaut to the International Space Station.

PMNCH:

- The Partnership (PMNCH) is a global health partnership founded in 2005.
- It is hosted at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland which joins the maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) communities into an alliance.
- The Accountability Breakfast aims to convert talk into action for the health and rights of women, children and adolescents.