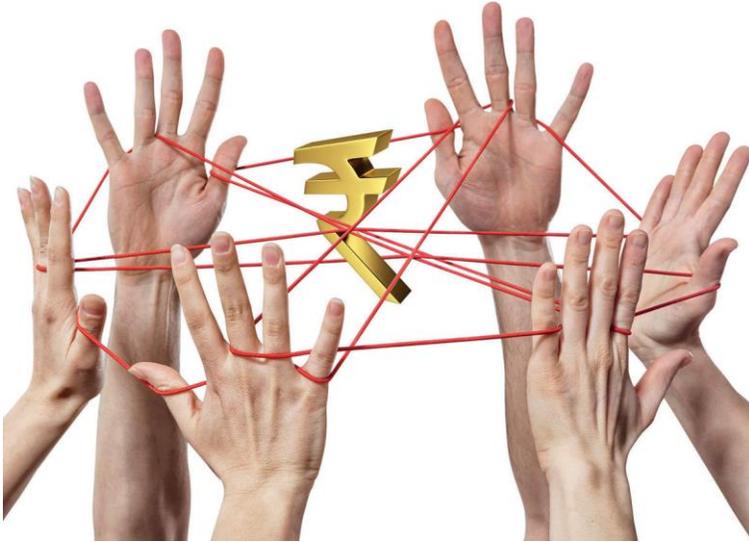


1. Social Stock exchange



Topic: Economy

In News: The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) received in-principle approval from market regulator Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to issue Social Stock Exchange.

More on the Topic

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Union Budget speech of 2019-20, had proposed creation of a Social Stock Exchange, under the regulatory ambit of SEBI.
- It is intended for **listing social enterprises and voluntary organizations working for the realization of a social welfare objective**, so that they can raise capital as equity, debt or as units like a mutual fund (MF).
- The government, through gazette notification has declared a new security **“Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP)” under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.**
- **“The new instrument ZCZP can be publicly or privately issued by Not for Profit (NPO) upon registering with the Social Stock Exchange segment of NSE to raise funds subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria.**
- Currently the regulations have prescribed the minimum issue size as **₹ 1 crore and minimum application size for subscription at ₹ 2 lakhs.**
- Subscription to the ZCZP would be like a **philanthropic donation.**

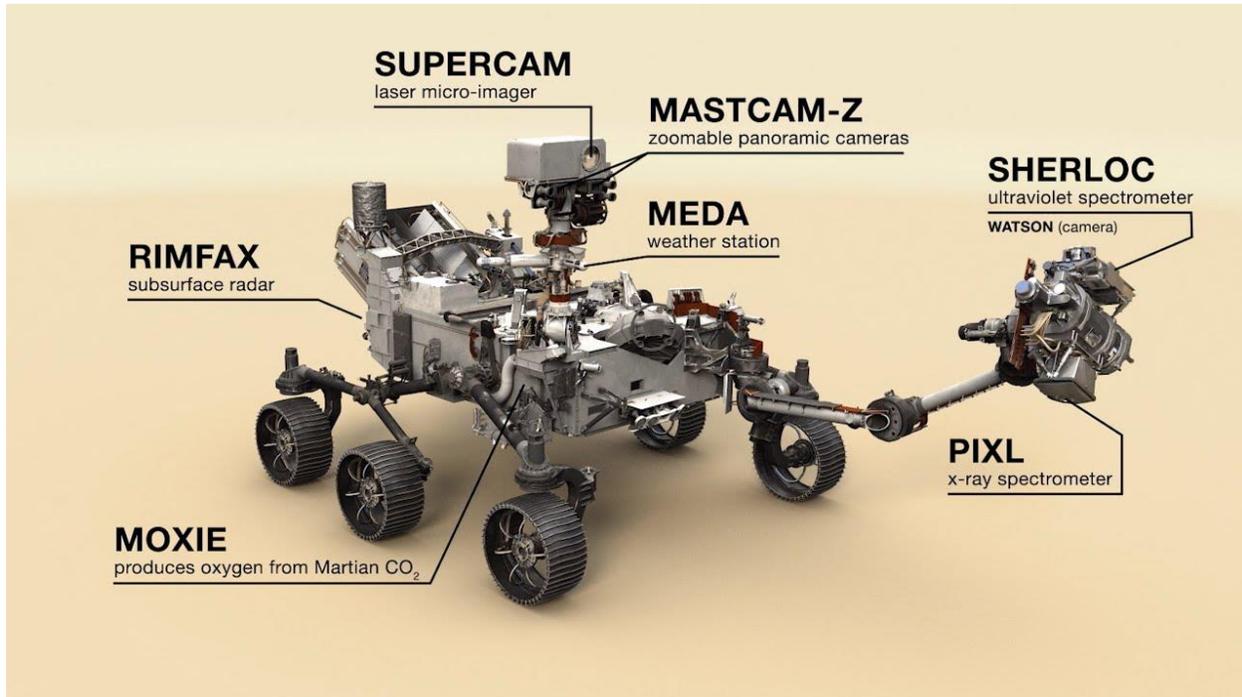
Significance of SSE:

- With this, Social welfare enterprises and non-profits could soon get to **raise so-called social capital on a transparent electronic platform, aiding the process of rebuilding livelihoods ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic.**
- The exchange can result in a **vibrant and supportive ecosystem, enabling the non-profit sector to realise its full potential for creating social impact.**

- Certain tax incentives allowed under the recommendation would encourage **participation in the culture of ‘giving’** among various stakeholders.
- It would encourage banks and other investors to participate with non profit organisations and thereby making social and economic growth more inclusive.

Source: Indian Express

2. NASA Perseverance Mission



Topic: Science and Technology

In News: NASA's Perseverance mission dropped its first cache of precious rock samples on the sands of Mars.

More on the Topic:

- Igneous rock sample was collected from **Mars Jezero Crater** called **South Séítah**.
- Samples are being placed at a location called **“Three Forks,”** first such sample depot on **another world**.
- Depot will serve as a backup if Perseverance can't deliver its samples and subsequent NASA missions would return these samples to Earth

About Mars 2020 Mission:

- Mars 2020 is a Mars rover mission forming part of **NASA's Mars Exploration Program** that includes the rover **Perseverance**, the small robotic, coaxial helicopter **Ingenuity**, and associated delivery vehicles.



- Perseverance will **investigate an astrobiologically relevant ancient environment on Mars and investigate its surface geological processes and history**, including the assessment of its past habitability, the possibility of past life on Mars, and the potential for preservation of biosignatures within accessible geological materials.
- It will cache sample containers along its route for retrieval by a potential future Mars sample-return mission.

Source: PIB

3. Jan Vishwas Amendment Bill

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: Government has introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill 2022 in Lok Sabha.

More on the Topic:

- The bill is aimed at amending certain enactments for **decriminalising and rationalising minor offences**.
- Besides the decriminalisation of minor offences, the Bill envisages **the rationalisation of monetary penalties**, depending on the gravity of the offence, bolstering trust-based governance.
- The bill also proposes to **an increase of 10 per cent of the minimum amount of fine and penalty levied**, after the expiry of every three years, once the Bill becomes a law.
- Decriminalisation of large number of minor offences by replacing them with monetary penalties have been identified.

Significance of the Bill:

- The bill once become act will lead to settlement of a large number of issues, by compounding method, adjudication and administrative mechanism, without involving courts.
- This **will enable persons to remedy minor contraventions and defaults, sometimes committed unknowingly by them**.
- The remedy will also **save time, energy and resources**.
- This will aid in ease of doing business by not involving precious time and resources in the cumbersome legal procedures.

About Ease of Doing Business Parameters:

- Ease of doing business is **an index published by the World Bank**. It is an aggregate figure that includes different parameters which define the ease of doing business in a country.
- **There are 10 parameters of Ease of Doing Business:** Starting a Business of all, Dealing with Construction Permits, Getting Electricity, Registering Property, Getting Credit, Protecting, Minority Investors, Paying Taxes, Trading across Borders, Enforcing Contracts and Resolving Insolvency.
- EoDB is key to entrepreneurship, innovation and wealth creation.



- Low regulatory burden helps entrepreneurs systems etc. to devote time to productivity.

Source: Hindu

4. Anti-Competitive Practices By Big Tech - Report



Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance has presented a set of recommendations to rein in Big Tech companies through a digital competition law for regulating anti-competitive practices on their platforms.

More on the Topic:

- **Important Recommendations:**
- The government must frame a **definition for Systemically Important Digital Intermediaries (SIDIs) that need tighter regulations.**
- The classification could be **based on revenues, market capitalisation, and the number of active users.**
- **A top tech company must not "favour its own offers over the offers of its competitors"** when acting as mediators.
- Technology behemoths such as Alphabet (which owns Google), Meta (which owns Facebook), and Amazon are among those recognised the world over as Big Tech companies that act as crucial digital intermediaries.



- India must **identify the small number of leading players or market winners** that can negatively influence competitive conduct in the digital ecosystem.
- **India's competition law need to be enhanced** for which it is necessary to strengthen the Competition Commission of India to take on new responsibilities.
- **A specialized digital markets unit within the CCI should be formed** with skilled experts, academics, and attorneys, enabling the commission to closely monitor the SIDIs as well as emerging SIDIs.
- The SIDIs would have to **submit a report to the CCI every year describing the measures implemented to fulfill their obligations**. They must also publish a summary of this report on their websites.

Significance of Big Tech Monopoly Regulation:

- Report comes amid **a rising global scrutiny on big tech companies (such as Google, Apple) for abusing their market position**.
- These companies have wiped out any competition in order to maintain their monopolies on power.
- Facebook, which **has acquired over 94 companies**, the most notable being Instagram, WhatsApp Messenger, Oculus Virtual Reality, Giphy, and more.
- These are just a few examples of how these companies consolidate power and monopolize the industry.
- The Competition Commission of India has imposed **a provisional penalty of Rs. 1337.76 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in the Android Mobile device ecosystem**.

Indian Initiatives Applicable to Big Tech Companies:

- **Competition Act, 2002:** established the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The CCI has been established to eliminate practices having an adverse effect on competition.
- **Information and Technology Act, 2000:** The act governs all activities related to the use of computer resources in India.
- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):** The platform intends to promote open networks, which are developed using the open-source methodology. The project is aimed at curbing “digital monopolies”.

Source: Indian Express



5.Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: UIDAI Headquarter in New Delhi has won the GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022.

More on the Topic:

- It is the **national rating system of India for any completed building construction.**
- GRIHA is recognised as India's own green building rating system in India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Created, conceived developed jointly with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Source: Business Standard

6. Great Lakes



Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Scientists are building a sensor network to detect the trends in the water chemistry of Lake Huron, one of the five Great Lakes of North America.

More on the Topic:

- It is the first step towards developing a system that would be capable of measuring the carbon dioxide and pH levels of the Great Lakes over several years.
- It is known that **the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide has caused the world's oceans to turn more acidic.**
- Recently, it has been observed that by 2100, even the Great Lakes — Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario — might approach acidity at around the same rate as the oceans.

About the Great Lakes:

- The Great Lakes, **five interconnected bodies of water straddling the US-Canada border that drain into the Gulf of St Lawrence** in the North Atlantic through the St Lawrence River, are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world.
- The US-Canada border passes through Lakes Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario; Lake Michigan lies entirely in the US. Lakes Michigan and Huron are sometimes considered as a single water body; taken together, they are the world's largest freshwater lake by surface area.
- By itself, **Lake Huron is the world's third largest freshwater lake**, after Lake Superior and Lake Victoria.

Acidification of water bodies:

- Acidification of oceans or freshwater bodies takes place **when excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere gets rapidly absorbed into them.**
- Scientists initially believed this might be a good thing, as **it leaves less carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.**
- But in the past decade or so, it has been established that absorption of carbon dioxide leads to a lowering of the pH, which makes the water bodies more acidic.

Source: Business Standard

7. Asean India Grassroots Innovation Forum 2022

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: The 3rd ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum 2022 has begun.

More on the Topic:

- It has been launched by The **ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI)** in partnership with the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) .
- The three-day forum provides a platform for participants **to share experiences and best practices in grassroots innovation** among ASEAN and Indian communities.
- The event comprises seminar sessions, innovation competitions, and an exhibition. By bringing together key players, namely government officials, grassroots innovators,



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student innovators, academics, business actors, and the wider community, this forum provides a platform to promote and strengthen the development of the grassroots innovation ecosystem.

Source: Business Standard

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