

NEWS TODAY

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING INNOVATION SURVEY (NMIS) 2021-22 RELEASED

• NMIS 2021-22 was undertaken by **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** in collaboration with **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** to evaluate **innovation performance of manufacturing firms** in India.

➤ UNIDO (established in 1966) is a **specialized agency of UN to promote, and accelerate industrial development**. India is one of UNIDO's Founding Members.

• It had **two specific components** viz.

➤ **Firm-level survey:** It captured data related to **process of innovation, access to finance, resources, and information for innovation**.

➤ **Sectorial System of innovation survey:** It targeted firm and non-firm actors through **5 selected sectors i.e., food & beverage, textiles, automotive, pharmaceutical, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**.

➤ Firm level survey findings were used to compile **India Manufacturing Innovation Index (IMI^{II})**, covering 28 states and 6 UTs.

• **Key highlights of IMI^{II}**

➤ Indian manufacturing sector has an **overall IMI^{II} score of 28.17**.

➤ **Karnataka ranked highest on NMIS score** followed by Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.

➤ **Low scoring states are North-eastern states (excluding Assam)**, followed by Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand.

➤ **Barriers to innovation** are lack of access to 4.0 technologies, no clear national innovation strategy, high cost, restricted finance, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

• **Innovate to Make in India** as a manufacturing innovation strategy.

• **Support pre-competitive, collaborative industry focused** research and innovation.

• **Enhance state government participation** for fostering innovation in MSMEs.

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO) DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI

• During meeting, member nations discussed **several areas of cooperation** including **eliminating terrorism in all its forms**, security of **vulnerable populations**, ensure **food security, etc.**

➤ India elaborated on **concept of 'SECURE'** (floated during **SCO summit in Qingdao, China, 2018**) which reflects India's commitment towards **multi-dimensional welfare of region**.

▪ **SECURE** stands for- **S** Security of citizens; **E** - Economic development for all; **C** - Connecting the region; **U** - Uniting the people; **R** - Respect for Sovereignty and Integrity; **E** - Environmental protection.

➤ India also discussed **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** during bilateral meeting with Iranian counterpart.

• INSTC is **7,200 km-long multi-mode transport project** intended to boost the movement of freight between **India and Russia through Central Asia and Iran**.

➤ It passes through **Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe besides India and Iran**.



Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



Genesis: An intergovernmental organization founded in **Shanghai in 2001** by China, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.



Objectives: Strengthening mutual confidence and good-neighbourly relations among member countries; Promoting effective cooperation in politics, trade and economy, science and technology, culture etc.



Members: It has **9 permanent members** (China, Russian, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, **India**, Pakistan, Iran), **3 observer members** (Afghanistan, Mongolia, Belarus), and **7 dialogue partners**.



Other Key Information: **Council of Heads of States** is the apex decision-making body.

○ It has also set up a **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)**.

REGISTER FIRs AGAINST HATE SPEECH EVEN IN ABSENCE OF COMPLAINTS: SUPREME COURT

- Extending the scope of its 2022 order beyond three states (NCT of Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh), Supreme Court directed **States/UTs to suo motu register FIRs on hate speech incidents** and proceed against offenders without waiting for any formal complaint.
 - Any **failure to comply this would be treated as contempt of court.**
- Hate speech has **not been defined in any law in India.**
 - It can be **conveyed through any form of expression** including images, cartoons, objects, gestures and symbols and can be disseminated offline or online.
- **Law Commission (LC)** defined it as an **incitement to hatred** primarily against a group of persons defined in terms of **race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief etc.**
 - LC has proposed two new sections, **Section 153C, and Section 505A in IPC to criminalize hate speech specifically.**

LEGISLATIONS FOR HATE SPEECH

- **IPC, 1860 sections like 153A, 153B, 298, etc.** deal with speech or words that could create mischief, or cause imputations to national integration.
- **Right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 (2)** is subject to 'reasonable restrictions' for preserving inter alia 'public order, decency or morality.'

FIVE ARAB STATES PLUS IRAN AMONG 19 NATIONS READY TO JOIN BRICS

- 19 nations including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain, and Iran have **expressed interest in joining the emerging-markets bloc of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).**
 - By 2028, BRICS is expected to make up **35 percent of global economy.**
- Also, BRICS is planning to launch its own "**new currency**" system, a major step towards **de-dollarization.**
 - **De-dollarization** refers to the process **wherein countries tend to reduce their reliance** on US dollar (USD) as a **reserve currency, medium of exchange, and also a unit of account.**
 - It entails a mix of macroeconomic and microeconomic policies to enhance the attractiveness of the local currency in economic transactions.
- **Significance of BRICS for India**
 - Intra-BRICS trade presents **opportunities for India in key markets**, including China.
 - Participation in a non-Western grouping like BRICS **balances India's growing partnerships with West.**

STUBBLE BURNING FINE SET TO BE NOTIFIED

- National Green Tribunal (NGT) has been **prescribing fines** of Rs 2500 to Rs 5,000, Rs 7,500 and Rs 15,000 for holdings above 10 acres.
 - Imposition of fines will have huge implications given that **large areas are still under paddy cultivation and crop residue usage is still less than desirable.**
- Stubble burning is a **practice of removing agricultural waste from field** by setting on **fire the straw stubble (parali) that is left on land** after harvesting of grains like paddy, wheat etc. in order to prepare it for the next round of seeding.
 - **Pollutants released:** carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur oxides (SO_x), methane (CH₄) and Particulate Matters (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}).
- **Reason for stubble burning**
 - **Farmers use less labor-intensive methods** such as the **combine harvester leaving behind rice stubble.**
 - With as little as **10 days between rice harvesting season and sowing of wheat**, farmers often turn to stubble burning.
- **Initiatives taken to tackle stubble burning**
 - Scheme for **Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue.**
 - **Crop diversification** being promoted in states of Punjab and Haryana.
 - **National Policy on Biofuels.**

BRICS



Genesis: Group was formalised in 2006 during the 1st meeting of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) Foreign Ministers on margins of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). South Africa joined it in 2010.



About: It deliberates on important issues under three pillars of **political and security, economic and financial, and cultural and people to people exchanges.**



Objective: Promote peace, security, development and cooperation; establish a more equitable and fair world.

Other Key Information:



- It comprises **41% of world population**, having **24% of world GDP** and over 16% share in world trade.
- It also **established New Development Bank.**

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE GRID (NATGRID) TO SCALE UP SURVEILLANCE, OFFER REAL-TIME INTEL ON INDIVIDUALS

- To harness data for national security, **NATGRID will integrate data analytics, open source intelligence tool and web-based applications** to offer solution for intelligence and law enforcement to authorised central and State agencies.
 - It will collate information from airports, banks, passports, Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), National Population Register (NPR), corporate details, and any other source.
- NATGRID, **attached office of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, is the integrated intelligence grid that **connects databases of core security agencies**.
 - It was **proposed after 2008 Mumbai terror attacks** and approved in 2010.
 - It is conceptualised as a **seamless and secure database for information on terrorists, economic crimes** and similar incidents.
 - It will help to **track suspects with real-time data and access to classified information** like immigration, banking, individual taxpayers, air and train travels.
 - NATGRID **database will be available to prominent federal agencies** including CBI, ED, IB, DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence), NIA etc.
- NATGRID faced **opposition on account of possible violations of privacy** and leakage of confidential personal data.

ALSO IN NEWS



Asia Initiative

- India stressed the need to check tax evasion while addressing the meeting of the Asia Initiative of Global Forum.
- **Asia Initiative (aka Bali Declaration)**
 - It is focused on developing **solutions to ensure the implementation of tax transparency standards across Asia**.
 - **Members:** 17 countries including **India**.



Basrah Light Crude Oil

- It is **crude oil extracted from Al Basra oil terminal** and **Khor al-Amaya oil terminal** in southern Iraq.
- Basrah Light is a **medium gravity, low-Total Acid Number (TAN) and high- sulphur content**.



Interbank Call Money Rate

- Interbank call money rate has **surged past the upper band** of Reserve Bank of India's Interest Rate Corridor (IRC).
- An **interbank call money market** is a **short-term money market** which allows for large **financial institutions** to **borrow and lend money** at interbank rates.
 - Loans in the call money market are very short, **usually lasting no longer than a week**.
 - Call money market loans are often used to **help banks meet reserve requirements**.
 - Loans in the interbank call money market are typically **transacted based on the London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR)**.



Project 15B

- Imphal, Indian Navy's third indigenous stealth destroyer of Project 15B class, undertook maiden sea trial.
 - Project 15B is follow on of Project 15 A.
- Project 15B was initiated in 2011 to build **four guided indigenous stealth missile destroyers**.
 - Project 15B ships are **163 meters long and 17 meters wide**, displace 7400 tonnes when fully loaded, and have a **maximum speed of 30 knots**.
 - These ships are equipped with **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and long-range Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAM)**.
 - Ship has **several indigenous weapons systems** like **medium range SAMs, indigenous torpedo tube launchers, anti-submarine indigenous rocket launchers and 76-mm super rapid gun mount**.

 <p>Star Rating System for water fixtures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Centre is in the process of bringing in a star rating system for water fixtures similar to the ratings of electrical appliance.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Proposed star rating system for water fixtures will help in empowering consumers to make the right decisions while purchasing sanitary equipment.● New rating system would have 3, 4 and 5 star water fixtures based on their water efficiency.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It would come under one umbrella called Bharat Tap.➤ Bharat Tap is a collaborative effort which was formulated under AMRUT 2.0 to drive water efficiency.
 <p>Sun Halo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sun halo, a rare celestial event was seen around the Sun in the skies in Northern part of India.● It is an optical phenomenon, which happens when sunlight passes with unique hexagonal ice crystals in the atmosphere.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Hexagonal ice crystals are found in cirrus clouds. These are thin and wispy clouds.➤ It results in a bright ring or halo encircling the sun, which has a radius of around 22 degrees.➤ It is multi-coloured and looked like a rainbow enveloping the star of our solar system.
 <p>Blue Hole</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● World's second-deepest blue hole (deepest is Dragon Hole in South China Sea) discovered in Chetumal Bay, off the coast of Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.● Blue holes are large, undersea vertical caves or sinkholes found in coastal regions. Many contain a high diversity of plant and marine life, including corals, sea turtles and sharks.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Blue Holes are found on coastal karst platforms around the world.➤ Believed to be formed during latter ice ages around 11,000 years ago because of the erosion of limestone terrains.
 <p>Jantar Mantar Observatory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has informed Delhi High Court that an expert committee has been formed for conservation and preservation of the Jantar Mantar observatory.● Jantar Mantar was built by Maharaja Jai Singh of Jaipur in 1724. He also built Jantar Mantar at Jaipur, Ujjain, Mathura and Varanasi.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It consists of multiple buildings of unique form, each with a specialized function for astronomical measurement.➤ It was built to compile astronomical tables, and to predict the times and movements of sun, moon and planets.
 <p>Cham dance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Y20 delegates visited Hemis Monastery in Leh of Ladakh and witnessed famous Cham dance.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Other important monasteries in Ladakh are Alchi Monastery, Phuktal Monastery, Thiksey Monastery, Lamayuru Monastery etc.● About Cham dance<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It is considered to be an act of cleansing evil forces.➤ It is an elaborate masked and costumed dance performed on special occasions throughout Ladakh.➤ It is practiced in the Himalayas, especially in places where Tibetan Buddhism prospered in India (Ladakh, Dharamshala, Lahaul Valley etc.) and Bhutan and Tibet.
 <p>Personality in news</p>	<p>Raja Ravi Varma (29th April 1848- 2nd October 1906)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Raja Ravi Varma's unfinished works to be unveiled at Kilimanoor Palace in Kerala on 175th birth anniversary.● He was an Indian painter, born in Kerala, best known for uniting Hindu mythological subject matter with European realist historicist painting style.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ He was the first Indian artist to use oil paints, which were brought to India by the Britishers.➤ His painting 'Hansa Damayanti', which depicts the story of King Nala and Damayanti from Mahabharata won the first prize at Vienna Exhibition in 1873.<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Other major work includes Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair.➤ British government awarded him with Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal in 1904.➤ He was a pioneer in using art as a means of social reform, promoting education for women and advocating against social evils like child marriage.● Values: Compassion, Integrity etc.