

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said that cryptocurrencies were a threat to the country's financial stability and had no underlying value. "Investors in cryptocurrencies, when they are investing, should keep in mind that whatever they are investing is at their own risk. They should also keep in mind that cryptocurrencies have no underlying [asset], not even a tulip." The tulip reference is to a 17th century market bubble when investors bet on the price of tulip bulbs.

As many as 648 police stations in the country do not have telephones, a report by a parliamentary panel tabled in the Rajya Sabha said. Uttar Pradesh, one of the largest States, did not have phone connection in 75 police stations, while Jammu and Kashmir had 79 police stations without telephone connection. In Punjab, the number stood at 69. Other than this, the largest shortfall was found in North-East States — 141 police stations in Assam, 54 in Arunachal Pradesh, 64 in Manipur, 62 in Meghalaya and 36 in Nagaland did not have telephone connection. The report said that 257 police stations did not have vehicles and 143 did not have wireless sets. The report was drafted by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs. The committee expressed concern that even after 15 years, only 17 States have either enacted the Model Police Act, 2006, or amended their existing Act.

The RBI on Thursday decided to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 4% and reiterated its 'accommodative' policy stance in a bid to ensure the economy's recovery from the COVID19 pandemic becomes durable and broad based. The improving outlook for inflation gave it room to focus on growth, the RBI added.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday proposed to extend the term liquidity facility of ₹50,000 crore offered to emergency health services by three months till June 30. Last year in May, RBI had announced an on tap liquidity window of ₹50,000 crore, at the repo rate with tenors of up to three years, to boost provision of immediate liquidity for ramping up COVID19 related healthcare infrastructure and services in the country.

HYDROGEN FUEL

1. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified in 2016 for use of Hydrogen as an automotive fuel in the country. The Hydrogen fuel for Internal Combustion Engine can be formed by blending 18% of Hydrogen with CNG (HCNG). Hydrogen is a clean zero-carbon fuel burned with oxygen that produces only water.

2. **Hydrogen is an energy carrier that can be used to store, move, and deliver energy produced from other sources. These qualities make it an attractive fuel option for transportation and electricity generation applications.**

Sources - Hydrogen can be produced from many domestic resources, such as natural gas, nuclear power, biomass, and renewable power like solar and wind. Methods - Hydrogen fuel can be produced through several methods.

3. Thermal processes (Natural gas reforming, Coal gasification, Biomass gasification, and Reforming of renewable liquid fuels), Electrolytic processes (Electrolytic hydrogen production), Solar-driven processes (Photo-biological processes, solar thermochemical processes, and photo-electrochemical processes) and Biological processes (Microbial biomass conversion and photo-biological processes).

4. The most common methods today are natural gas reforming (a thermal process), and electrolysis. Uses - Hydrogen fuel cells produce electricity by combining hydrogen and oxygen atoms. So, hydrogen can be used in fuel cells or internal combustion engines. It can be used in cars, in houses, for portable power, and in many more applications.

RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION

1. Indian Army has commenced the implementation of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tagging of its ammunition inventory. Radio Frequency Identification is a wireless communication technology. It uses the electromagnetic or electrostatic coupling in the radio frequency portion of the electromagnetic spectrum to passively identify a tagged object.

2. **RFID system comprised of two components: tags and readers. RFID Tags use radio waves to communicate their identity and other information to nearby readers.** RFID tags can store a range of information from one serial number to several pages of data. They can be passive or active. Passive tags are powered by the reader and do not have a battery. Active tags are powered by batteries.

3. Reader is a network-connected device that has one or more antennas that emit radio waves and receive signals back from the RFID tag. It uses radio waves to transmit signals that activate the tag.

4. Once activated, the tag sends a wave back to the antenna, where it is translated into data. Readers can be mobile so that they can be carried by hand, or they can be mounted on a post or overhead.

KIRAN SCHEME

1. Around 110 women scientists in 'Women Scientist Scheme' received financial assistance under Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement for Nurturing (KIRAN) Scheme during 2020-21. In 2014, Department of Science and Technology has restructured all the women specific programmes under one umbrella scheme 'KIRAN'.

2. **KIRAN is addressing various issues related with women scientists (e.g. unemployment, relocation etc.) and aimed to provide opportunities in Research (WOS-A), Technology development/demonstration (WOS-B), and Self-employment (WOS-C) etc.**

3. KIRAN is actively involved in taking proactive measures, under the name CURIE (Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities). Under CURIE, the state-of-the-art infrastructure will be developed in women universities in order to attract, train and retain promising girls students in S&T domain.

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT 2013

South Korea's leader Moon warned that the Korean peninsula could slide back into a "state of crisis" if Pyongyang follows through on threats to resume testing long range missiles. President Moon Jaein said that any move by North Korea to restart long range missile tests would wipe out years of effort and peace talks.

Indonesia will order 42 Rafale fighter jets, French Defence Minister Florence Parly, who is currently on a trip to the Asian country, confirmed.

Russia rolled its tanks across Belarus on Thursday for live fire drills that drew an ominous warning from NATO and added urgency to Western efforts to avert a feared invasion of Ukraine.

The Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) has completed the exercise of surveying the 17.78 lakh acres of defence land, the first such exercise post Independence, "As per the records maintained by the Defence Estates Office, Ministry of Defence owns about 17.99 lakh acres of land, of which 1.61 lakh acres of land is located within 62 notified cantonments across the country. About 16.38 lakh acres of land is spread across many pockets outside the cantonments," a Defence Ministry statement said.

The Delhi government put a draft policy in the public domain under which cab aggregators, food and other doorstep delivery services in the city would have to mandatorily switch their entire fleet to electric vehicles in a phased manner. Once the policy is notified, within three months, cab aggregators and delivery services will have to make sure that 10% of all new two-wheelers and 5% of all new four wheelers in their fleet are electric. By March 2023, they will have to ensure 50% of all new two wheelers and 25% of all new four wheelers are electric.

With the MPC's (Monetary Policy Committee) forecast for inflation to average 4.5% over 2022-23 predicated on another significant uncertainty, a normal monsoon, the RBI's rate setting panel has risked forsaking its primary mandate of ensuring price stability at the altar of imparting a monetary impetus to the economy. At a time when inflation is at multidecadal highs in a number of countries, prompting several major central banks including the Federal Reserve in the U.S. to start normalising policy, there is a real danger of the RBI falling behind the curve.

The balance between the Centre and the States has been envisioned by

1. Free of cost distribution is done under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme to the migrants/stranded migrant persons, those neither covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) nor under any State PDS scheme. The NFSA, 2013 aims to provide for food and nutritional security in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

2. Now, Public Distribution System (PDS) is governed by the NFSA, 2013. **NFSA provides subsidized food grains under Targeted PDS (TPDS). Eligibility Priority Households (PHH) to be covered under TPDS, according to guidelines by the State government. Existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Households.**

3. Eldest woman of the beneficiary household (18 years or above) is considered as 'Head of Family' for issuing ration cards. Provisions The Act entitles 35 kg of foodgrains per AAY Household per month, whereas 5 Kg of foodgrain per PHH Person per month. These 5 Kgs of food grains per person per month will be given at Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains. Meal and maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and 6 months after the child birth. Meals for children upto 14 years of age.

4. Food security allowance to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals. Setting up of grievance redressal mechanisms at the district and state level. Coverage - NFSA provides coverage for nearly 2/3rd of the country's total population, basis Census 2011 population estimates. 75% of Rural and 50% of Urban population is entitled to receive highly subsidised foodgrains under these two categories of beneficiaries - PHH and AAY Households.

NATIONAL POLICY ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

1. As mandated by the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005, the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM) had been issued. This Policy's vision is to build a safe & disaster resilient India by developing a holistic, proactive, multi-disaster oriented & technology driven strategy through a culture of prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response.

2. **Objectives of the National Policy on Disaster Management Promoting a culture of prevention, preparedness and resilience at all levels through knowledge, innovation and education. Encouraging mitigation measures based on technology,** traditional wisdom and environmental sustainability. Establishing institutional and techno-legal frame works to create an enabling regulatory environment and a compliance regime.

3. Developing forecasting and early warning systems backed by responsive and failsafe communication with information technology support. Promoting a productive partnership with the media to create awareness and contributing towards capacity development. Ensuring efficient response and relief with a caring approach towards the needs of the vulnerable sections of the society.

4. Undertaking reconstruction as an opportunity to build disaster resilient structures and habitat for ensuring safer living. Promoting partnership with media in disaster management. The first National Disaster Management Plan was issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in 2016 and it was revised in 2019.

MPs RIGHT TO QUESTION

1. In both Houses, elected members enjoy the right to seek information from various ministries and departments in the form of starred questions, unstarred questions, short notice questions and questions to private members.

2. How are questions admitted? Usually, MPs' questions form a long list, which then go through a rigorous process of clearance. The admissibility of questions in Rajya Sabha is governed by Rules 47-50 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States. **Once a question that fulfils the conditions of admissibility is received, the Secretariat sends it to the ministry concerned. Once the facts are received from the ministry, the question is further examined for admissibility.** A final list of questions is circulated to ministers, on the basis of which they frame their answers.

3. What kind of questions can be asked? In Rajya Sabha, among various norms, the question "shall be pointed, specific and confined to one issue only; it shall not bring in any name or statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible;

the framers of the Constitution. It is an extraordinary balance. In making that balance work, the President has an extraordinary role. In the appointment of Governors, again, the President has a huge role, because in that balance, the glue is provided by the Governors. Presidents have spoken candidly about names that have come to them from the Prime Minister of the day about Governors' appointees and the President said, sorry, I don't think this is a very good name and the Prime Minister accepted that. So, in the choice of the Governors, the President has a huge role and if those Governors are appointed with care, then the balance is, to that extent, more secure.

if it contains a statement the member shall make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement; it shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statements". In Lok Sabha, questions that are not admitted include: those that are repetitive or have been answered previously; and matters that are pending for judgment before any court of law or under consideration before a Parliamentary Committee.

