

## 07 Sep 2020: PIB Summary & Analysis

### 1. Hypersonic Test Demonstration Vehicle

#### Context:

DRDO successfully flight-tested the indigenously-developed hypersonic technology demonstration vehicle (HSTDV).

#### Details:

- With this test, India joins a select group of countries (like China, Russia, USA) having the capability to develop the next-generation hypersonic cruise missiles.
- The HSTDV, based on hypersonic propulsion technologies and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation ([DRDO](#)), will help India develop futuristic space assets like long-range missile systems and aerial platforms.
- The HSTDV is capable of powering missiles to attain a speed of around **Mach 6 or six times the speed of sound**.
- The successful test implies that the DRDO will have the capacity to develop a hypersonic missile with a scramjet engine in the next five years, which will have the capacity to travel at more than two kilometres per second.
- The HSTDV operates on a scramjet engine, as against the ramjet engine which is used on most missiles.
  - The ramjet engines operate at supersonic speeds of up to Mach 3.
- The DRDO conducted the test at the APJ Abdul Kalam testing range (Wheeler Island) in Balasore, Odisha.
- The HSTDV performed on all parameters, including combustion chamber pressure, air intake and control guidance.
- The HSTDV is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft for hypersonic speed flight. Besides its utility for long-range cruise missiles of the future, the technology has multiple civilian applications also. It can be used for launching satellites at a low cost too.

### 2. World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS)

#### Context:

World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) is being organised by the [International Solar Alliance \(ISA\)](#).

#### About the WSTS:

- The virtual summit will focus on accelerating affordable and sustainable clean green energy by showcasing and deliberating on the innovative state of the art next-generation technologies in solar power.
- More than 26000 participants from 149 nations are expected to attend the summit.
- Many ISA countries' ministers will join high-level dignitaries, representatives of diplomatic missions, ISA Partners, business and industry leaders, solar project developers, solar manufacturers, R&D institutions, academia and think tanks, civil society, international organizations and donors, representatives of non-governmental and community-based organizations, research and training institutes, international media, multilateral and bilateral agencies.

- The summit will include many deliberations on low cost, innovative and affordable solar technologies.
- ISA would also be launching the ISA Journal on Solar Energy that would help authors from across the globe to publish their articles on solar energy, during the event.
- The keynote of the summit will be delivered by Nobel laureate, Dr M Stanley Whittingham. He had won the 2019 Nobel Prize for Chemistry along with two others for the discovery of the lithium-ion batteries. **Read more on how lithium-ion batteries work in [CNA dated Oct 10, 2019](#).**

### 3. Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGa)

#### Context:

The 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Supreme Court-mandated Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGa) was held (virtually) in September 2020.

#### Background:

- As per directions of the Supreme Court, states are mandated to set up their respective three-member Committees on Content Regulation of Government Advertisements.
- As per the SC's directions in 2015, the Government of India had set up a three-member committee in 2016 to look into content regulation of government-funded advertisements in all media platforms.
- States that have already constituted these committees: Karnataka, Goa, Mizoram and Nagaland.
  - The State Government of Chhattisgarh has given its consent to the Central Committee to monitor the content of its government advertisements.

#### Details:

- The CCRGa meeting took a serious note of the fact that other states have yet to constitute their respective state-level Committees.
- It was of the view that the delay in the part of the state governments to set up the committees may be construed as contempt of the SC's order.

#### Supreme Court's Guidelines about government advertisements:

- The content of government advertisements should be relevant to the government's constitutional and legal obligations as well as the citizen's rights and entitlements.
- The advertisement materials should be designed to meet the objectives of the campaign and to ensure maximum reach in a cost-effective way, and should also be presented in an objective, fair and accessible manner.
- It should be accurate and not showcase pre-existing policies and products as new. The advertisement content should also not promote the political interests of the ruling party.
- Advertisement campaigns should be justified and undertaken in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
- Government advertising must comply with legal requirements and financial regulations and procedures.

### 4. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (Global MPI)

**Context:**

NITI Aayog, as the nodal agency, has been assigned the responsibility of leveraging the monitoring mechanism of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to drive reforms.

**Details:**

- The NITI Aayog will leverage the monitoring mechanism of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to push forward reforms in the country and for this, it has also set up a coordination committee, called the Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC).
  - The NITI Aayog is the nodal agency for Global MPI.
  - The MPICC has members from relevant line Ministries and Departments, namely Ministry/Department of Power, WCD, Telecommunication, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Rural Development, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Food & Public Distribution, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Education, Housing & Urban Affairs, Health & Family Welfare, and Financial Services.
  - These Ministries/ Departments have been mapped to the ten parameters of the index (mentioned below).
  - Preparation of an MPI Parameter Dashboard to rank States and UTs, and a State Reform Action Plan (SRAP) are at an advanced stage of development.
- The MPI is one of the 29 global indices that the government has selected to monitor India's performance in.
  - This exercise called the **Global Indices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG)**, has the objective of enabling the utilisation of these indices as tools for self-improvement, bring about reforms in policies, while also improving last-mile implementation of government schemes.

## Identification of Reform Areas and Reform Actions

### Preparing an Action Plan to improve country's Global MPI performance



### About Global MPI:

- Global MPI is an international measure of multidimensional poverty covering 107 developing countries.
- It was first developed in 2010 by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#) for UNDP's Human Development Reports.
- The index is released at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development of the United Nations in July every year.
- **How is the index calculated?**
  - It is calculated by assigning scores for each surveyed household on 10 parameters.
  - These are based on nutrition, child mortality, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, and household assets.
  - The index complements traditional monetary poverty measures by capturing the acute deprivations in health, education, and living standards that a person faces simultaneously.
- In Global MPI 2020, India was 62<sup>nd</sup> among 107 countries with an MPI score of 0.123 and 27.91% headcount ratio, based on the NFHS-4 (2015-16) data.