

24 May 2021: PIB Summary & Analysis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. [Cyclonic Storm 'Yaas'](#)
2. [Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery in India](#)
3. [Technology Development Board \(TDB\)](#)
4. [India and Israel](#)
5. [Shahi Litchi](#)

1. Cyclonic Storm 'Yaas'

Context:

Yaas very likely to intensify into a 'Very Severe Cyclonic Storm'.

Know more about [Cyclone Yaas](#) in the link.

2. Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery in India

Context:

Hallmarking of gold Jewellery to begin from 15th June.

Details:

- Mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery/artefacts was to be implemented from 15th Jan 2020 but was extended to 1st June 2021 to clear old stock of non-hallmarked jewellery.
 - In view of the Covid pandemic, this date has been extended further to 15th
 - Mandatory hallmarking will make jewellers selling gold jewellery and artefacts to register with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and sell only hallmarked gold jewellery & artefacts.
 - The purpose of making hallmarking mandatory is to ensure that consumers are not cheated while buying gold ornaments and get the purity as marked on the ornaments.
 - This will enhance the credibility of the product and help to develop India as a leading gold market centre in the world.
 - According to World Gold Council, India has around 4 lakh jewellers, out of this only 35879 have been BIS certified.
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3. Technology Development Board (TDB)

Context:

Recycling carbon technology by Bangalore start-up received TDB National Award 2021.

Details:

- The award was given to the start-up for developing a commercial solution for the conversion of CO₂ to chemicals and fuels.
- Breathe Applied Sciences, a start-up incubated at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) developed efficient catalysts and methodologies for the conversion of CO₂ to methanol and other chemicals.
- The development is significant because the solutions help in the conversion of anthropogenic CO₂ generated from various sources including coal and natural gas power generation sectors, steel industry, cement industry, and chemical industries.
- The has the potential to develop a complete solution for the environmental issues due to global warming.
- The start-up has received funding from the DST [Nano Mission](#).

About Technology Development Board:

- The Technology Development Board is a statutory body instituted by the GOI in 1996.
- Its chief goal is to promote the development and commercialization of indigenous technology and adaptation of imported technology for wider application.
- The Board plays a pro-active role by encouraging enterprises to take up technology oriented products.
- It also provides equity capital or loans to industrial concerns and financial assistance to research and development institutions.
- It plays a big role in facilitating interaction between the industry, scientists, technocrats and specialists.
- The Secretary, Dept of Science & Technology is the ex-officio chairperson of the TDB.
- There are six other ex-officio members who are secretaries of various related departments within the government. There are four other private members also.

4. India and Israel

Context:

India and Israel signed a three-year work program for cooperation in agriculture.

Details:

- India and Israel are implementing the “Indo-Israel Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence” and “Indo-Israel Villages of Excellence”.
- Indo-Israel Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence:

- The Agriculture Ministry, GOI and Mashav (Israel's agency for International Development Cooperation) are leading Israel's largest G2G cooperation, with 29 operational Centres of Excellence (COEs) across India in 12 States.
- They are implementing Advanced-Intensive agriculture farms with Israeli Agro-Technology tailored to local conditions.
- The Centres of Excellence generate knowledge, demonstrate best practices and train farmers.
- Indo-Israel Villages of Excellence:
 - The program is aimed at creating a model ecosystem in agriculture across eight states, alongside 13 Centers of Excellence within 75 villages.
 - The program will promote the increase of net income and better the livelihood of the individual farmer, transforming traditional farms into modern-intensive farms based on Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan standards.

Also read: [Indo-Israel Relations](#)

5. Shahi Litchi

Context:

First consignment of GI certified Shahi Litchi from Bihar exported to the U.K.

Shahi Litchi:

- Shahi litchi was the fourth agricultural product to get GI certification from Bihar in 2018, after Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi paan.
 - GI registration for Shahi Litchi is held with the Muzaffarpur-based Litchi Growers Association of Bihar.
- Muzzafarpur, Vaishali, Samastipur, Champaran, Begusarai districts and adjoining areas of Bihar have favourable climate for growing Shahi Litchi.
- This variety of litchi is juicier and pulpier than the other varieties found in the rest of the country.
- In Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and nearby areas, the conditions are ideal for litchi cultivation, because of humid conditions and alluvial soil.
- Litchi cultivation in India was initially introduced in Bengal after which it spread to other regions including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.
- India is the second-largest producer of litchi in the world and Bihar is the leading state for litchi production in the country.

Also read: [List of Geographical Indications \[GI Tags\] in India](#)