

26 Oct 2021: PIB Summary & Analysis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. [8th India-Sweden Innovation Day](#)
2. [Vigilance Awareness Week](#)
3. [Open Network for Digital Commerce \(ONDC\)](#)
4. [Exercise Konkan Shakti 2021](#)
5. [Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue \(IPRD\)](#)

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1. 8th India-Sweden Innovation Day

Context:

8th India-Sweden Innovation Day held in New Delhi with the theme 'Accelerating India Sweden Green Transition'.

Details:

- The online event is hosted by India Unlimited in association with the Embassy of India in Sweden, Sweden-India Business Council, and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The science and technology cooperation between India and Sweden forms an important component of the bilateral cooperation, which was initiated through the Indo-Swiss Inter-Governmental Agreement signed at Stockholm in December 2005.
 - This agreement has provisions for cooperation through exchange of scientists, graduate students, research workers, technologists, other specialists and scholars among others.

2. Vigilance Awareness Week

Context:

Vigilance Awareness Week observed from 26th October to 1st November 2021.

Know more about the Vigilance Awareness Week in the article [Central Vigilance Commission](#).

3. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

Context:

Union Minister reviewed the progress on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) initiative of DPIIT.

What is Open Network for Digital Commerce?

- It is a platform to make e-commerce processes open source for online retailers.
- It is expected to digitize the entire value chain, standardize operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and enhance value for consumers.

Read more about [Open Network for Digital Commerce](#) in the linked article.

Progress on the ONDC:

- The Quality Council of India (QCI) has established a team of experts for the execution of the project.
- A number of small and medium enterprises have been on-boarded as volunteers to complement the ONDC team.
- An ONDC gateway has also been established.
- About 20 entities covering all network components are at various stages of on-boarding.
- [DPIIT](#) has approved a budget of approximately Rs 10 crores for initial work on the project.
- It has been suggested to establish a private sector led non-profit company to provide a start-up mindset for a population scale implementation, enabled by a management with a futuristic vision, leadership with a deep understanding of commerce, comfort with cutting edge technology, and missionary outlook to drive change.
 - The role of the entity would be to develop the network by adopting and building enabling technology and encouraging wide-scale voluntary participation by ecosystem players.
 - It would ensure network discipline by establishing a code of conduct and rules of network based on principles of consumer protection, fair trade and regulatory conformity.
 - The entity will also provide foundational services for managing the network like digital infrastructure for the network, common registry, certification of participants and certifying agencies, grievance redressal, etc.
 - The entity will develop and operate reference applications for buyers, sellers and gateway for market activation and priming the network along with partner entities.
 - It will also support SMEs in their digital transformation by developing readymade tools to help existing software applications quickly adapt to the network.

4. Exercise Konkan Shakti 2021

Context:

The sea phase of Ex Konkan Shakti 2021 began off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.

About Ex Konkan Shakti 2021:

- Konkan Shakti is the maiden tri-service exercise between the Armed Forces of India and the United Kingdom.

Also read: [List of Joint Military Exercises of the Indian Army](#)

5. Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD)

Context:

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) being held in October 2021.

What is the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD)?

- The Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) is the apex international annual conference of the Indian Navy, and is the principal manifestation of the navy's engagement at the strategic level.
- It was first held in 2018.
- It is organised by the National Maritime Foundation and is an annual event.
- The aim of each successive edition of the IPRD is to review both opportunities and challenges that arise within the Indo-Pacific.
- IPRD 2021 will focus on eight specific sub-themes under the broad theme of "Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges, and, Way Ahead".
- The eight sub-themes are:
 - Evolving Maritime Strategies within the Indo-Pacific: Convergences, Divergences, Expectations and Apprehensions.
 - Adaptive Strategies to Address the Impact of Climate Change upon Maritime
 - Port-led Regional Maritime Connectivity and Development Strategies.
 - Cooperative Maritime Domain Awareness Strategies.
 - Impact of the Increasing Recourse to Lawfare upon a Rules-based Indo-Pacific Maritime Order.
 - Strategies to Promote Regional Public-Private Maritime Partnerships.
 - Energy-Insecurity and Mitigating Strategies.
 - Strategies to Address the Manned-Unmanned Conundrum at Sea.