

# NEWS TODAY

## GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING NEW LAW TO STREAMLINE LOGISTICS SECTOR

- Ministry of Commerce is considering framing a law, **National Logistics Law Efficiency and Advance Predictability Act (NLLEAP)**, to replace Multi-Modal Transportation of Goods Act 1993.
  - > **Logistic** refers to overall process of how resources are handled and moved along the supply chain.
  - > **Multimodal transportation** refers to a combination of more than one mode of movement, such as rail, road or sea, for end-to-end delivery of goods.
- Through such a law **govt aims to**
  - > **Define various participants** of logistics space and **create a light regulatory ecosystem**.
  - > **Reduce the logistics cost**, from present 14% of GDP to less than 10%, as this impacts competitiveness of domestic goods in international market.
  - > Improve India's ranking in **Logistic Performance Index (LPI)**.
    - ⇒ LPI ranking (released by World Bank) is **44th (2018)**.
- **Current status of logistics sector:**
  - > **Lack of clarity about definition of logistics sector** and various elements in it.
  - > India's logistics sector is **highly fragmented**.
    - ⇒ Currently, **more than 20 government agencies**, 40 partnering agencies, 37 export promotion councils, etc. are involved in logistics sector.
  - > **Poor maintenance of equipment and facilities** including roads, ports, airports, poor intermodal connectivity etc.

## MARS ORBITER MISSION (MOM) SENDS IMAGES OF MARS' BIGGEST MOON PHOBOS AND ITS CRATERS

- Mars Colour Camera (MCC) onboard MOM (also known as Mangalyan) has captured the image of **Phobos, the closest and biggest moon of Mars**.
  - > Mars has two moons, the other being **Deimos**.
  - > Images highlighted craters on Phobos named- **Stickney, Shklovsky, Roche & Grildrig**.
- MOM, launched in 2013, is a **Mars exploration spacecraft** by ISRO.
  - > Core objectives of MOM include exploring the **Martian surface features, morphology, mineralogy and Martian atmosphere by indigenous scientific instruments**.
  - > Mangalyaan' mission made **India the first country in the world** to successfully launch its mission to Mars on the very first try.
- **Importance of MOM:**
  - > It aims to **search for methane**, an important chemical in life processes.
    - ⇒ Mars has **evidence for water and habitable environment**.
  - > Mars study will help to address **fundamental questions about history of our solar system**.
- **Key achievements of MOM**
  - > Discovered that **dust storms on Mars can rise up to hundreds of kilometers**.
  - > Took **full disc image of the planet**, showing Elysium - **large volcanic province** on Mars.

## MANY STATES OPPOSE DRAFT ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020, FEAR INCREASE IN RATES

- Bill was proposed to amend Electricity Act 2003 to **address problems of operational inefficiencies, liquidity, and financial solvency**.
- However, various states like **Rajasthan, Telangana, Maharashtra etc** termed bill to be contradictory to decentralisation of power for States.
- **Key amendments proposed and state's concerns:**
  - > **Cost reflective Tariff and Provision for direct benefit transfer (DBT)** of subsidy provided to consumers.
    - ⇒ States say that it would be difficult to enforce DBT in electricity and it would affect states financial and operational powers.
    - ⇒ If the State is not able to pay the subsidies on time, the electricity supply to the consumers may get disconnected.
  - > **Privatisation of distribution companies** by way of sub-licensing and franchisee models. This will allow states to choose a private company for distribution to help it bring down losses of both electricity and finances.
    - ⇒ States are against sub-licensing of power distribution which can also lead to **increase in power rates**.
  - > **Establishing an Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority** (to be appointed by Centre) that will have power of a civil court to settle disputes between power generation companies and discoms.
    - ⇒ States fear that it **takes away the autonomy of states**.

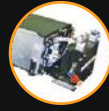
### PAYLOADS



**1. MARS COLOUR CAMERA**  
It will take pictures of Mars' surface. The photos will put the information provided by other instruments on the orbiter into context. It will also give information on the dynamic events on the planet such as weather



**2. LYMAN ALPHA PHOTOMETER**  
It will study the ratio of deuterium and hydrogen. Isotope deuterium is heavier and does not escape from the atmosphere as easily as hydrogen. The data will answer the question if water is present in the planet, or was present in the past



**3. THERMAL INFRARED IMAGING SPECTROMETER**  
It was readied at Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad. It will map the surface composition and mineralogy of the planet by measuring thermal emissions



**4. MARS EXOSPHERIC NEUTRAL COMPOSITION ANALYSER**  
It will study Martian atmosphere. This will be the first in situ map ping of the atmosphere there. It will measure radial, diurnal and seasonal variations in the Martian exosphere



**5. METHANE SENSOR**  
It will scan the entire Martian disc within six minutes and measure very low levels of methane in parts per billion quantities. This is the first time that methane in the atmosphere of the planet will be measured by use of a satellite

# CHINA MAKES NEW CLAIM IN EASTERN BORDER WITH BHUTAN

- For the **first time** China included Bhutan's eastern sectors to the boundary dispute between the two countries.
  - China has attempted to **stop UNDP's Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary** (in eastern Bhutan), claiming it was disputed territory but was overruled.
  - So far, dispute was on Jakarlung, Pasamlung and Doklam plateau. (refer infographics)
- Bhutan has always maintained silence on its boundary negotiations with China, and it **does not have any formal diplomatic relations with China**.
  - So far both countries have held 24 rounds of boundary talks between 1984 and 2016, concentrated mainly on north and west Bhutan regions.
- **India is concerned that Chinese presence in Doklam and other areas near Bhutan would bring China closer to India's vulnerable "chicken's neck" or Siliguri corridor.** Bhutan also serves as a **buffer between India and China**.
  - In 2017, Chinese army had intruded into Doklam plateau which is Bhutanese territory, lying at the trijunction between India, Bhutan and China.
- **India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty of 2007** enjoins both sides to "cooperate closely with each other on **issues relating to their national interests**".



## ALSO IN NEWS

<p><b>AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was launched by <b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</b> in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission – NITI Aayog.</li> <li>• It aims to <b>support and build a strong ecosystem for Indian Apps</b> by offering various <b>cash awards and incentives</b>.</li> <li>• It seeks to <b>identify the best Indian Apps</b> that are already being used by citizens and have the potential to scale and become world class Apps in their respective categories.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Article 164(1A)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It states <b>that total number of Ministers</b>, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State <b>shall not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State</b>.</li> <li>➢ It was inserted as <b>91<sup>st</sup> amendment to constitution</b>.</li> <li>• It is being argued that <b>present strength of Council of Ministers in MP is violative of Article 164(1A)</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Winter diesel</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter diesel is a <b>specialised fuel</b> that was introduced by Indian Oil Corporation <b>specifically for high altitude regions</b> and low-temperature regions such as Ladakh, where ordinary diesel can become unusable.</li> <li>• <b>Benefits of winter diesel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Contains additives to <b>maintain lower viscosity</b> can be used in temperatures as low as -30°C</li> <li>➢ <b>Higher cetane rating</b>-an indicator is the combustion speed of diesel and compression needed for ignition.</li> <li>➢ <b>Lower sulphur content</b>, which would lead to lower deposits in engines and better performance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Rise in (Electronic) e-way bills registration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recently, e-way bill generation has seen a steady rise</b> as more than 4.27 crore e-way bills were generated in June 2020 against average of 5.3 crore per month of the pre-COVID-19 period.</li> <li>• An <b>e-way bill is required to be generated by a registered GST taxpayer</b> when goods are moved inter-state or intra-state if the <b>value of the consignment is more than Rs 50,000</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) forms committee to appoint Investment Manager Board</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idea is <b>to set up a competent entity of experts</b> that can professionally run the Infrastructure Trust to <b>mobilise resources from the market</b> for monetizing completed highway projects of NHAI.</li> <li>• Earlier, Cabinet had authorised National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to launch <b>InvITs to enable it to monetise national highways</b>.</li> <li>• InvITs are investment <b>scheme similar to mutual funds that allow investment from individuals and institutional investors</b> in infrastructure projects to earn a portion of the income as return.</li> </ul>
<p><b>North Eastern Region Community Resource and Management Program (NERCORMP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NERCORMP is a <b>livelihood and rural development project</b> aimed to transform the lives of <b>poor and marginalized tribal families in North East</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Focus areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Social mobilization, organization and capacity building</li> <li>➢ Intervene with economic and social activities and infrastructure with predominant thrust on income generating activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It is being implemented in four States, viz. <b>Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya</b>.</li> <li>• It is a joint initiative of North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER and International Fund for Agricultural Development</li> </ul>
<p><b>Swami Vivekananda (1863- July 4, 1902)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Born as Narendra Nath Datta, he was a <b>monk and chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa</b>.</li> <li>• His <b>teaching and writing focused on Vedanta philosophy</b>.</li> <li>• He also established the <b>Ramakrishna Mission and the Ramakrishna Math in 1897</b>.</li> <li>• He represented Hinduism at the <b>1893 World's Parliament of Religions</b> in Chicago.</li> <li>• His <b>four classics works include:</b> Jnana-Yoga, Bhakti-Yoga, Karma-Yoga, and Raja-Yoga, all of which are outstanding treatises on Hindu philosophy.</li> </ul>

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