

NEWS TODAY

US SANCTIONS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) OFFICIALS FOR INVESTIGATING WAR CRIMES IN AFGHANISTAN

- Claiming that ICC's investigation poses a national security threat, President Trump issued an executive order in June, 2020 effectively criminalizing certain ICC officials.
 - > According to UN, a war crime is a serious violations of international humanitarian law committed against civilians or enemy combatants during an international or domestic armed conflict.
 - > As Afghanistan is an ICC member country, ICC has a mandate over crimes committed there.

	International Criminal Court (ICC)	International Court of Justice (ICJ)
Subject Matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial criminal offenses i.e. genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes of aggression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settle the legal dispute i.e. sovereignty, boundary disputes, maritime disputes, trade, natural resource etc.
Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 123 countries are States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC. • India and US are not members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only states either member of United Nation or ICJ or both. • India is a member.
Authorized Statute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow Rome Statute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow ICJ Statute
Composition of Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composed of eighteen judges elected to nine-year terms and not re-elected for further terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composed of fifteen judges elected to nine-year terms and may be re-elected
Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal prosecution of individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two types of jurisdiction- Contentious Jurisdiction, Advisory opinion
Appeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeal is instituted by appeal chamber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No appeal provision for ICJ.

GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REVIVE DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS (DFIS) FOR BIG INFRA FUNDING

- A DFI or "development bank" is an institution promoted by Government mainly to **provide development finance to various sectors of economy.**
 - > In post liberalisation era, government support to DFIs was declining either for fiscal reasons and in favour of building market efficiency.
- Now, government plans to revive the DFIs **due to rising non-performing assets in the banking sector**, which dominated infrastructure funding.
 - > Proposed DFI will be used to **finance both social and economic infrastructure projects** identified under National Infrastructure Pipeline.
- **Government is exploring two options to revive DFIs**
 - > whether DFI should be promoted by government or,
 - > Whether it should be given a private sector character with government restricting its holding to 49%.
- If DFI is **fully held by government**, fund-raising would become easier, but there would be **concern of scrutiny by bodies** like CBI, CVC and CAG.
 - > DFI with a private sector character can **work without fear of such scrutiny.**
- A DFI with a private sector character will require the government to trust private sector and extend such benefits to institution as it would normally to a state-owned DFI.

DRDO SUCCESSFULLY FLIGHT TESTS HYPERSONIC TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATOR VEHICLE (HSTDV)

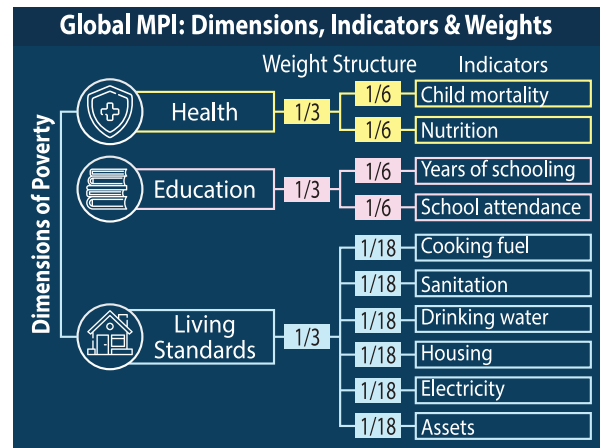
- With the flight test of HSTDV, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) **has successfully demonstrated the hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology.**
 - > India became the fourth country **after US, Russia and China to develop such technology.**
- HSTDV is an **unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft for hypersonic speed flight.** Hypersonic flight means a **speed greater than five times the speed of sound (Mach 5).**
 - > Ramjets are a variant of a category of **jet engines called the air breathing engines.** A ramjet engine does not have any turbines unlike the turbojet engines. It achieves compression of intake air just by the forward speed of the air vehicle.
 - **Most missiles use ramjet technology**, which are efficient at supersonic speeds of around Mach 3 but their performance drops when vehicle hits hypersonic speeds.
 - **Scramjet engine** is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it efficiently operates at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion. Thus it is known as Supersonic Combustion Ramjet, or Scramjet.
- **Benefits:** Besides its utility **for long-range cruise missiles** of the future, technology will have multiple **civilian applications, including launching satellites at low cost.**

RBI CONSTITUTED KV KAMATH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 26 SECTORS FOR RESTRUCTURING

- **KV Kamath committee** was formed last month, to make recommendations on the required financial parameters to be factored in the resolution plans under '**Resolution Framework for Covid19-related Stress**' along with sector specific benchmark ranges for such parameters.
- **Identified sectors for loan restructuring include-** power, construction, iron and steel, roads, real estate, consumer durables, aviation, logistics, mining etc.
 - > Sectors were identified based on **its analyses of financial parameters that include aspects related to leverage, liquidity and debt serviceability.**
- **Committee suggestions**
 - > Bucketing of the accounts under **mild, moderate and severe stress** for quick turnaround.
 - > **Simplified restructuring** for mild and moderate stress and comprehensive restructuring for severe stress cases
- **Loan restructuring** is a process that will enable borrowers:
 - > to reschedule their loan payment, or
 - > get a limited loan repayment holiday, or
 - > lower interest rates on their existing loans depending on the agreement they reach with their bank(s).
- **Benefits of current loan restructuring**
 - > **Support to the firms** adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - > Banks will be able to **check the rise in NPAs** to a great extent.

NITI AAYOG TO LEVERAGE MONITORING MECHANISM OF GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI)

- Government has decided to **monitor the performance of country in 29 select Global Indices** through "Global Indices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG)" exercise.
 - Global MPI is part of this and NITI Aayog as the nodal agency of MPI has been assigned the responsibility of leveraging monitoring mechanism of MPI to drive reforms.
 - It has also set up **MPI Coordination Committee (MPICC)** in this regard.
- Objective of GIRG** exercise is to
 - Measure and monitor **India's performance on various important social and economic parameters.**
 - Use these indices for self-improvement, bring about **reforms in policies, improving last-mile implementation of government schemes etc.**
- About Global MPI**
 - It is an international measure of multi-dimensional poverty covering 107 developing countries. It identifies both who is poor and how they are poor.
 - It is computed by **scoring each surveyed household on 10 parameters** in three equally weighted dimensions- health, education and standard of living (see infographic).
 - It utilises the National Family Health Survey (NFHS).
 - According to Global MPI 2020, **India is ranked 62nd** and also accounted for **largest reduction in multi-dimensional poverty between 2005/2006–2015/2016.**



ALSO IN NEWS

Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCRGA was setup by Centre on direction of Supreme Court (SC) to look into Content Regulation of Government funded advertisements in all media platforms. It is empowered to address complaints from the general public and can take suo- moto cognizance on violation of the Supreme Court guidelines on 'Content Regulation of Government Advertising' and make recommendations. Recently, it said that states not setting up similar committees for content regulation as mandated by SC, can be contempt of Supreme Court's order.
13th Amendment to Srilankan Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It mandates a measure of power devolution to the provincial councils established to govern the island's nine provinces. It is an outcome of the Indo-Lanka Accord of July 1987 in an attempt to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was aimed at finding a way forward on devolution of political powers to the then North-Eastern province, comprising the Tamil dominated areas.
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to lead global procurement, supply of COVID vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF will lead this effort on behalf of COVAX Facility for 92 low- and lower middle-income countries. It will also serve as procurement coordinator to support 80 higher-income economies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVAX is a global initiative to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are available worldwide to both higher-income and lower-income countries. UNICEF is the world's largest single vaccine buyer, procuring more than 2 billion doses of various vaccines annually for routine immunisation and outbreak response on behalf of nearly 100 countries.
Silicosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silicosis is a lung disorder caused by inhalation of silica dust while working in factories processing sand, rock or mineral ores such as quartz. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous exposure can cause silica to build up in lungs and breathing passages. It can be fatal. National Human Rights Commission recently questioned West Bengal government for inaction in compensating silicosis-affected people in Minakhan.
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) says 'no' to unhealthy food in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FSSAI notified new regulations to ensure availability of safe and balanced diets for school children. It stated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Packaged food companies will no longer be able to advertise or sell products that are high in saturated fat, added sugar, sodium or trans-fat inside school campuses or within 50 metres from the school gate in any direction. Companies will also not be able to promote unhealthy food products by offering free samples, toys, trading cards, apparel, club memberships etc.
Hutti Gold Mines, Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mine is located in Karnataka's Raichur district. Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (owned by Karnataka Government) is the only producer of primary gold in the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working gold mines in India are Kolar, Hutti and Uti in Karnataka, The Hirabuddini mines in Jharkhand and Ramgiri Gold Field in Andhra Pradesh. First commissioned in 1902, the Hutti mine is one of the most ancient mines in the world. Researchers have found that the mining activity in this region is approximately 1900 years old.
Indian Merchants' Chamber (IMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 114th Foundation Day ceremony of IMC Chamber of Commerce of Industry was held. It is the oldest Chamber of Commerce in the country, of which Mahatma Gandhi was also a member. It was setup in 1907, in the wake of the 'Swadeshi Movement' to represent Indian businesses. Headquarters: Mumbai