

NEWS TODAY

SAANSAD ADARSH GRAM YOJANA (SAGY) HIT BY LACK OF INTEREST, FUNDS

- Findings were part of study commissioned by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) as part of independent assessment of progress of MoRD's various programmes and schemes.
- It observed that **scheme has not made any significant impact** and in current format is not achieving the desired purpose.
 - > In many of SAGY villages, **MPs did not give any significant money** from Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).
 - > Each passing year, **fewer MPs were adopting villages** due to reasons like absence of budget.
 - > Since launch of scheme, **only 1,855-gram panchayats have been selected across five phases**, with only seven in Phase 5.
- **About SAGY**
 - > It was **launched in 2014** with the aim of **developing model villages** with improved basic amenities, higher productivity, enhanced human development, better livelihood opportunities etc.
 - > It aimed to develop **three Adarsh Grams by March 2019** by each MP of which one would be achieved by 2016.
 - ➔ Thereafter, five such Adarsh Grams (one per year) will be selected and developed by 2024.
 - > Gram Panchayat will be identified by MP.
 - > **Scheme has no budgetary allocation** and aims to bring about convergence in government schemes.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY'S (IAEA) BOARD PASSES RESOLUTION AGAINST IRAN

- IAEA adopted a resolution which **called Iran to fully cooperate with IAEA's investigation into two sites in Iran** with possible undeclared nuclear materials and activities.
 - > Iran has been blocking access to these sites for months.
- As a non-nuclear member state to Non-proliferation Treaty, Iran is **required to implement safeguards agreement with IAEA**.
 - > **Under safeguards agreements**, IAEA has right and obligation to ensure that safeguards are applied on all nuclear material for exclusive purpose of verifying that nuclear material is not diverted to nuclear weapons.
- Also, as part of **2015 nuclear deal, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran is adhering to additional protocol**, which expands IAEA access to sites and information.
 - > JCPOA was signed between Iran and P5+1.
 - > However, following U.S. killing of Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani in January 2020, Iran announced plans to halt most of its commitments to deal. US had also earlier withdrawn from deal in 2018. Its status, therefore, remains unclear.
- IAEA is international organisation which works with its Member States **to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies**. It reports annually to UN General Assembly.

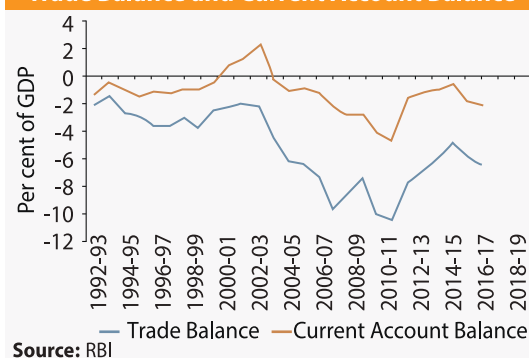
CURRENT ACCOUNT MAY TURN SURPLUS IN THE JUNE QUARTER AFTER A GAP OF 12 YEARS

- It was reported by Finance Ministry that as **stringent lockdown squeezed domestic economic activity**, India's current account may turn surplus in the June quarter.
 - > Last time India's current account turned positive was in **March quarter of 2006-07**.
 - > For the full year, current account was positive for **three consecutive years from 2001-02 to 2003-04**.
- **Few Reasons quoted for this trend to happen:**
 - > **Lower trade deficit and lesser imports** due to lockdown helped by lower crude prices (not by excess exports earnings over imports).
 - > **Rise in net service receipts**.
- **Current Account** represents a country's **current transactions** including exports, imports, interest payments, private remittances and transfers.
 - > Current Account is component of Country's **Balance of Payments (BoP)**, other component being Capital Account.
 - ➔ BoP is **record of transactions in goods, services and assets** between residents of a country with rest of the world for a specified time period.
 - > Current Account = Trade gap + Net current transfers + Net income abroad
 - > A country with rising CAD shows that it has become uncompetitive, and investors are not willing to invest there.

PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES GARIB KALYAN ROJGAR ABHIYAN (GKRA)

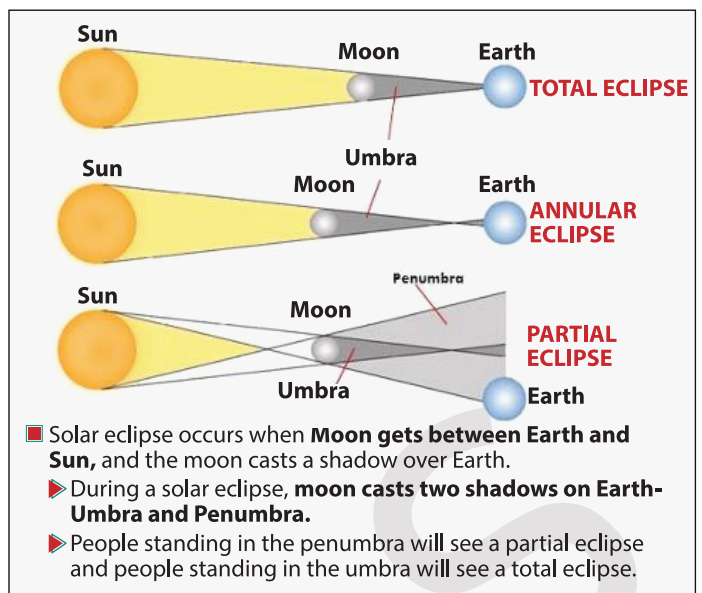
- GKRA is **employment-cum-rural public works Campaign** to empower and provide livelihood opportunities in areas/villages witnessing large number of returnee migrant workers affected by COVID-19.
- **Coverage:**
 - > **116 Districts across six States** (Bihar, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand).
 - > These districts are estimated to cover about 2/3 of returnee migrant workers.
- **Features:**
 - > **Public works worth ₹50,000 crore** would be carried out under this.
 - > **Saturating villages with public infrastructure** and create livelihood opportunities.
 - > It will **continue for 125 days and 25 works have been identified** under it to ensure each migrant worker get an employment opportunity according to his skill.
 - ➔ **25 works include** rural housing for the poor, Plantations, provision of drinking water through Jal Jeevan mission, Panchayat Bhavans, community toilets etc.
 - > Program will also prepare for **expansion and development of livelihoods over a longer term**.
 - > Out of an **estimated 1 crore migrant workers** who have returned to their villages, 67 lakh workers are expected to benefit from this scheme.
- **Implementation: Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry** and it will be a convergent effort between different Ministries/Departments and State Governments.

Trade Balance and Current Account Balance



ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE OCCURRED ON SUMMER SOLSTICE (JUNE 21)

- The first solar eclipse of this year took place on summer solstice, which is the **longest day in the Northern Hemisphere**.
 - Amount of incoming energy Earth received from Sun on summer solstice is **30% higher at the North Pole than at the Equator**.
- **Annular solar eclipse** happens when Moon covers Sun's center, leaving Sun's visible outer edges to form a "ring of fire" or annulus around the Moon.
 - It can only take place when Earth, Moon, and Sun are aligned in a straight line and **Moon is farthest from Earth** because of which, Moon looks smaller.
- **Other types of solar eclipses:**
 - **Total solar eclipse:** It is only visible from a small area on Earth. For a total eclipse to take place, sun, moon and Earth must be in a direct line.
 - **Partial solar eclipse:** This happens when sun, moon and Earth are not exactly lined up. Sun appears to have a dark shadow on only a small part of its surface.
 - Of all solar eclipses, about 28% are total; 35% are partial; 32% annular; and 5% are hybrids (involving partial, total and annular eclipses).



ALSO IN NEWS

International Yoga Day (IYD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2014, UN declared June 21 as IYD. This year theme: Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home. • WHO mentions yoga as a means to improve health in its Global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030. • Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Yoga comes from the Sanskrit word "yuj" which means to unite or integrate. ➢ It was first propounded by Maharshi Patanjali.
Galwan Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the land between steep mountains that buffet Galwan River. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Galwan river has its source in Aksai Chin, on China's side of Line of Actual Control (LAC), and it flows east to Ladakh, where it meets the Shyok river on India's side of LAC. • Valley is strategically located between Ladakh in the west and Aksai Chin in the east. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ At its western end are Shyok river and the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulet Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road. • Traditionally, Galwan Valley area has been part of the winter trade route that linked Leh with Yarkand and Kashgar across the Karakoram Pass.
Waterfall mechanism under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This mechanism under IBC gives priority to secured financial creditors over unsecured financial creditors. • It says that if a company is being liquidated, these secured financial creditors must be first paid the full extent of their admitted claim, before any sale proceedings are distributed to any other unsecured creditor.
Extreme Helium Star (EHe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHe is low-mass supergiant star that is almost devoid of hydrogen, and has abundance of surface helium. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ This is in contrast to majority of Stars (including Sun) which contain some 70% hydrogen (by mass) throughout their lives. • EHe stars are much larger and hotter than Sun despite being less massive. • Recently, presence of singly ionised fluorine was detected in the atmospheres EHe that makes a strong case that the main formation of EHe involves a merger of a carbon-oxygen and a Helium (He) white dwarf.
Salinity ingress/ Seawater incursion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the movement of seawater into fresh water aquifers due to natural processes or human activities. • It is caused by decrease in groundwater levels or by rise in seawater levels. • Some of the coastal states like Gujarat and Kerala are facing issue of salinity ingress.
Periyar Tiger Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It falls in Idukki, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts of Kerala. • It is situated in the Cardamom Hills and Pandalam Hills of the Southern Western Ghats. • Major portion of the Reserve forms catchment of the river Periyar and the rest that of river Pamba. • Species found here includes the Asian Elephant, Bengal Tiger, Indian Bison, Sambar Deer, Indian Wild Dog, Barking Deer, Smooth-Coated Otter etc.
Chaolung Sukapha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a 13th-century ruler who founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries. (1228–1826). • Sukapha's significance lies in his successful efforts towards assimilation of different communities and tribes. He is widely referred to as the architect of "Bor Asom" or "greater Assam". • Ahoms had their own language and followed their own religion. Over the centuries, Ahoms accepted Hindu religion and Assamese language. • Today, Ahom community is estimated to number between 4 million and 5 million.

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