

**04 MARCH 2018**

## 1. Adopting electric two-wheelers in India

### Why in News?

Cumulative electric vehicles (EVs) on road crossed the four million-mark and the Tesla Model 3 became the best-selling premium vehicle, delivering over 1,40,000 vehicles in the year.

### In brief:

According to the latest **Global Electric Vehicle Outlook** published by the **International Energy Agency**, China has around 250 million electric two-wheelers, with annual sales of 30 million.

Of the total carbon dioxide emissions saved by EVs worldwide, over 80% was due to China's electric two-wheelers alone.

Two factors are highlighted for this success story in China namely

1. Electric two-wheelers were designated as bicycles, exempting them from registration and requiring a driving licence
2. Cities placed severe limitations on the use of petrol two-wheelers in the city centres.

### Scope to India:

In India, it is very important to electrify two-wheelers, which are about three-fourths of the transportation fleet. By electrifying all the two-wheelers in use, India can avoid about 15% of the total transportation emission and more importantly, about 30% of particulate matter, curbing air pollution.

For an electric two-wheeler, with an electricity price of around Rs. 3-6 per unit, it would cost about Rs. 10–Rs. 30 per 100 km, which is significantly lower.

### Challenges for India:

1. If the electric scooter needs to have a range of 100 km, it needs about three kilo-watt hours in its energy source. Lithium-ion batteries cost over Rs. 10,000 for every kilo-watt hour. This means that for a 100-km electric two-wheeler, the battery cost itself will be around Rs. 40,000–50,000.
2. Recharging of an electric scooter can take an hour or more today. Li-ion batteries today cannot be charged safely at faster rates.
3. Charging infrastructure is sparse today and there must be a strong commitment to improving this.

The electrification success story in India hinges on electrifying two-wheelers which will require lowering costs of Li-ion batteries, increasing charging speed and improving the charging infrastructure.

### Note



## 2.SpaceX's capsule docks on ISS

### Why in News?

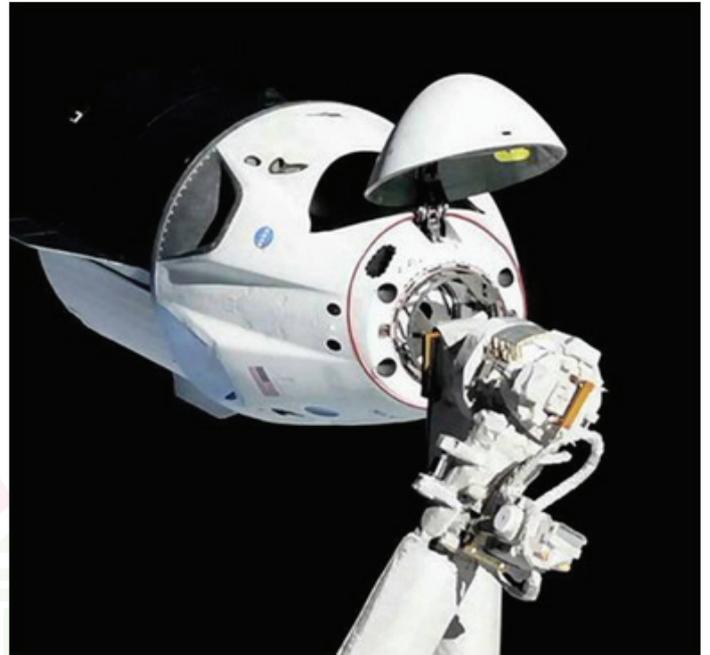
27 hours after the capsule's launch on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral in Florida, new Dragon capsule successfully docked on the International Space Station (ISS).

### In brief:

The Dragon capsule will remain on the ISS for 5 days before detaching to splash down in the Atlantic. It will be slowed by four parachutes, and it is the one of the mission's riskiest stages.

The launch is a key step towards resuming manned space flights from U.S. soil after an eight-year break.

SpaceX has made the trip to the ISS a dozen times before since 2012, but only to refuel the station.



### About SpaceX:

SpaceX designs, manufactures and launches advanced rockets and spacecraft. The company was founded in 2002 by entrepreneur Elon Musk, to revolutionize space technology, with the ultimate goal of enabling people to live on other planets.

It is the only private company capable of returning a spacecraft from low Earth orbit, which it first accomplished in 2010.

The company made history again in 2012 when its Dragon spacecraft became the first commercial spacecraft to deliver cargo to and from the International Space Station.

In 2018, SpaceX began launching Falcon Heavy, the world's most powerful operational rocket

## 3. NitiAayog to draw up list of non-core assets of CPSEs

### Why in News?

The NITI Aayog has been tasked with drawing up a list of non-core assets of various CPSEs, both healthy and sick ones. This is part of the overall plans of the government to lay down procedure and mechanism for monetisation of non-core assets.

### In brief:

Cabinet approval for asset management framework would be needed for sale of non-core assets of CPSEs identified for strategic disinvestment, sale of immovable enemy property land which are not under litigation.

### Note



The nine CPSEs whose non-core assets have been identified for hiving off are Pawan Hans, Scooters India, Air India, Bharat Pumps & Compressors, Project & Development India Ltd (PDIL), Hindustan Prefab, Hindustan Newsprint, Bridge and Roof Co and Hindustan Fluorocarbons.

So far the disinvestment process was confined to corporate level. Now, it will go one step down and monetise non-core assets of CPSEs.

In 2016 NitiAayog was also asked to draw up a list of CPSEs which could go in for strategic sale. It has already identified about 35 CPSEs which could go in for outright sale.

So far this fiscal, the government has raised over Rs. 56,064 crores by disinvestment. In the current financial year, the government has set a disinvestment target of Rs. 80,000 crores, which includes strategic and minority stake sale in CPSEs.

The government already had already given in-principle approval for strategic sale of 24 state-owned companies.

These include Dredging Corporation of India, HLL Lifecare, Bharat Earth Movers Ltd, Units/JVs of ITDC, Bhadrawati, Salem and Durgapur units of SAIL, Nagarnar Steel Plant of NMDC, Central Electronics and Ferro Scrap Nigam.

## 4. MUDRA: Rs. 1 lakh crore more to be lent

### Why in News?

According to the data from the Finance Ministry, with less than one month left in the current fiscal, banks will have to meet the MUDRA loan lending target of Rs. 3 lakh crore, as only about Rs. 2 lakh crore has been disbursed till February 22.

### About MUDRA Yojana:

- Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme for providing loans **upto 10 lakh** to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises for business purpose, capacity expansion, modernization.
- Launched on April 8, 2015.
- These loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks, MFIs and NBFCs. The borrower can approach any of the lending institutions mentioned or can apply online through MUDRA portal.
- There is no minimum loan amount for Mudra loans.
- Maximum loan amount: Upto Rs. 10 lacs
  - **SHISHU**- Upto Rs. 50,000
  - **KISHORE**- Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 500,000
  - **TARUN** - Rs. 500,001/- to Rs.10,00,000/-
- One of the key benefits of a Mudra loan is that borrowers are not required to provide security or collateral. Additionally, there are no processing charges on Mudra loans.
- The loans under Mudra Scheme are guaranteed by Credit Guarantee for Micro Units (CGFMU).

### Note



## 5. Trend of recycling gold by retail users on the rise

### Why in News?

The quantum of recycled gold in the system is on the rise in India on account of an increase in gold prices. It helps to curb imports, thus saving foreign exchange.

### In brief:

India is the second-largest consumer of gold and the largest importer, importing about 700-800 tonnes annually. In 2017-18, India's gold imports increased by 22.3% to \$33.65 billion and the current account deficit (CAD) jumped to \$48.7 billion, or 1.9% of the GDP.

According to estimates, temples and households in India have more than 24,000 tonnes of gold.

## 6. Sampriti - 2019

### Why in News?

The eighth edition of Exercise Sampriti, commenced at the Bongobondhu Cantonment, Tangail Bangladesh on 03 March 2019.

### In brief:

The Bangladesh contingent was represented by 36 East Bengal Battalion, while Indian side was represented by 9th Battalion the Rajputana Rifles.

The aim of the exercise is to increase mutual cooperation, friendliness and mutual trust between the two armies through interoperability and joint tactical exercises.

It was started in 2009 as a platoon level exercise and graduated to company level exercise in 2015



### Note

### Prelim Bits . . .

CISF set a Guinness world record in 'single line bicycle parade' to mark 50 years of the paramilitary force at the Yamuna Expressway in Noida. The record was created when personnel rode 1,327 bicycles "non-stop with uniform distance between bicycles in a single line."

PM laid the Foundation Stone and dedicated the Joint Venture of Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt Ltd, for Kalashnikov Assault Rifle (of the newest 200 series) Production in Kauhar, Amethi in Uttar Pradesh.

