

PRAYAS KSG NEWSPAPER SPOTLIGHT'S

(14TH JULY, 2020)

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- **AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN TRANSIT TRADE AGREEMENT (APTTA):** Pakistan will allow Afghanistan to send goods to India via the Wagah border from July 15. The decision, part of Islamabad's commitment under the Pakistan-Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement, is expected to boost Afghanistan's exports to India.
- **Technology giant Google will invest \$10 billion (₹75,000 crore) in India over the next five to seven years with a focus on digitising the economy and building India first products and services.**
- **Iran drops India from Chabahar rail project (rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan), cites funding delay.**
- **GREEN RAILWAYS:** Ministry of Railways, with a goal of transforming Indian Railways into Green Railways (Net Zero Carbon Emission) by 2030 has taken a number of major initiatives towards combating climate change.
- **The Navy is expected to start receiving new twin engine aircraft carrier based fighter aircraft being developed by the DRDO by 2032 and it will be a replacement for the Russian MiG29K carrier jets in service.**
- **Poland's conservative President (Andrzej Duda) wins another term (5 Years).**
- **The index for retail inflation quickened to 6.09% in June, mainly on account of higher prices of food items.**
- **Abundant liquidity kept short term rates, soft, 'G-Sec (Govt. Securities) yields fell to lowest in a decade; RBI to restore orderly conditions in financial markets when COVID19 sent financial markets in India and the world into a tailspin.**

WORLD TARIFF PROFILES 2020

Key facts

1. Nearly **18% of various types of manufactured goods** came to India as of 2018 through the duty-free route. This is despite much higher Average tariffs in India.
2. Strengthen the **case for deeper scrutiny into India's existing free-trade agreements.**
3. Different types of tariffs-**Most-Favoured Nation (MFN)** Tariffs are what countries promise to impose on imports from other members of the WTO, unless the country is part of preferential trade agreement.
4. **Preferential Tariffs** are those under which countries promise to give another country's products lower tariffs than their MFN rate.

US REMAINS INDIA'S TOP TRADING PARTNER FOR 2ND CONSECUTIVE YEAR IN 2019-20

Key facts

1. Bilateral trade between US and India stood at **\$88.75 billion in 2019-20**, against \$87.96 billion in 2018-19.
2. Goods dominate the bilateral trade - approximately 62% while 38% in services.
3. Top exports from India - Precious metal and stone, pharmaceuticals, machinery, mineral fuels, and vehicles.
4. Top imports to India - precious metal and stone, mineral fuels, aircrafts, machinery, and organic chemicals.

UNIFIED GAS PRICE SYSTEM

Key facts

1. Aim is **to cut down the cost of transportation** of natural gas.
2. Currently, transport cost accounts for around **10% of final cost of gas.**
3. It is part of larger effort to increase share of natural gas in energy basket.
5. **Unified Price System** - With one price for those transporting gas **within 300 km** and one price for those transporting gas **beyond 300 km.**

UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)

Key facts

1. NITI Aayog presented India's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020.
About:
2. The HLPF is the foremost international platform for follow-up and review of progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. The HLPF meets annually in July for eight days under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN.

MIZORAM QUAKE ZONE

Key facts

1. 8 moderate earthquakes between June 21 and July 9. Presence of **two geological faults - Churachandpur Mao Fault and Mat Fault.**

MP Current Affairs

1. Amid tension with China and PM Call of Atmanirbhar Bharat, Industrialist from Indore have started the initiative to create our own industrial park. Yogesh Mehta have developed such a Industrial-Beta park in gram Jakhya.
2. Under PM Svayojna, MP has started Tola- Muhalla programme to avail loan to street-vendors. CM Shivraj Singh talked to the street vendors through video conferencing and distributed loan of 10 thousand to 317 street vendors.