Govt approves Health data Management policy for data protection.

Context:

The Centre has approved the **health data management policy** of National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

About National Digital Health Mission:

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has formulated the **National Digital Health Mission** to provide the necessary support for integration of digital health infrastructure in the country.
- It finds its roots in a **2018 Niti Aayog proposal** to create a centralised mechanism to uniquely identify every participating user in the **National Health Stack.**
- Its vision is to create a **National Digital Health Ecosystem** that supports universal health coverage in an accessible and safe manner by a seamless online platform through the provision of a wide range of data and infrastructure services.
- It seeks to provide medical identity documents to Indian people.

About Policy:

- **Health data management policy** sets out the minimum Standard of an individual's **data privacy protection**, that should be followed across the board in order to ensure compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

- The policy acts as a guidance document across the National Digital Health Ecosystem (NDHE)
- Data collected across the National Digital Health Ecosystem (NDHE) will be stored in at the central level, the state or Union Territory level and at the health facility level, by adopting the **principle of minimality** at each point.

About National Health Authority (NHA):

- NHA has been set-up to implement the **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** at the national level.
- It was **founded in 2018.**
- It is t**he apex government agency**
- It will implement the **NDHM (National Digital Health Mission)** across the country.

On Whom It will be Applicable:

- The provisions of this policy will apply to the entities involved in the NDHM(National Digital Health Mission).
- Those who are a part of the NDHE(National Digital Health Ecosystem) that includes:
  - All entities and individuals who have been issued an ID under this policy.
  - Healthcare professionals
  - Governing bodies of the health ministry.
  - The NHA(National Health Authority).
  - Relevant professional bodies and regulators.

'Kamdhenu Chair in Universities and Colleges'

Context:
Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog organized a National Webinar on 'Kamdhenu Chair in Universities and Colleges' in association with UGC, AICTE and AIU.

Objective:

- To educate the youth about agriculture, Health, Social, Economic and Environmental importance of our Indigenous Cows.
- To explore the Potentials of Cows and Panchgavya.
- to bring forth the Science related to Indigenous Cows and our Education system
- To connect Old wisdom and new Technology together for New and Shining India.

"About Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog":

- It was constituted on **21st February, 2019**.
- Is under **The Department of Animal husbandry and Dairying** under the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries .
- An **apex advisory body**, to address the issues related to conservation, protection and development of cows and their progeny, proper implementation of laws with respect to prohibition of slaughter etc.
- To organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines.

Further Target:
After setting up Kamdhenu Chair, Kamdhenu Research Centre, Kamdhenu Study Centre and Kamdhenu Centre of Excellence and ultimately Kamdhenu University.
'Atma Nirbhar India is possible only with Atma Nirbhar Villages.'

NITI Aayog releases 'Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India'

Context:
NITI Aayog released a white paper in the name of "Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India with the vision."

About Vision 2035
- It suggests making individual electronic health records the basis for surveillance.
- Citizen-friendly public health surveillance systems to ensure individual privacy and confidentiality.
- Public health surveillance (PHS) is an important function that cuts across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of care.
- Public Health Surveillance is a work on strengthening health systems.
- To Improve data-sharing mechanism between Centre and states for better disease detection, prevention, and control.
- It lays out India's vision for 2035 for public health surveillance through the integration of the three-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat.

Person in News:

Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini Eswatini Prime Minister died.

Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini	Born: 5th March 1968, Mbabane, Eswatini	Kingdom of Eswatini map(A country inside South Africa)
	Died: 13th December 2020 **He died of Covid 19**	

Who was He?
Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini served as the **tenth Prime Minister of Eswatini**, holding the office from October 2018 until his death on 13 December 2020.

Meghdoot Awards

Context:

- Department of Posts conducted Meghdoot Award Function 2020 on December 15, 2020 in the Conference Hall of MeitY, Electronics Niketan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.

- The Meghdoot award is given every year for excellence in postal service. The meghdoot award 2019-20 was given in the following eight categories:

  - **Category I:** General category for Gramin Dak Sevak

  - **Category II, III, IV, V, VI:** General category for all employees at different levels

  - **Category VII:** Technology Excellence

  - **Category VIII:** Best Woman Employee

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed:

- In a **major step towards providing the citizen centric services**, **a memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Department of Posts with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.**

- This will give a flip to setting a common service centres in more than **10000 Post Offices across the country** for providing various **G2C (Government to Citizen) and B2C (Business to Citizens) services** to citizens in rural and remote areas of the country thus enabling the Government's mandate of a socially, financially and digitally inclusive society.

- **The B2C (Business to Citizens) Services** offered includes **Bharat Bill Payment System Bills (Electric, Gas, Water bills etc.).**

- The services offered also included **Third Party Services such as EMI (Equal Monthly Instalment)** collections for various loans offered by financial institutions and submission of online application forms for loans.

- Travel services such as Ticket booking service would be available for Flight, Train and Bus Tickets.

Initiatives of Department of Posts:

- **Dak Pay:**

    ○ **DakPay** is a suite of digital financial and assisted banking services provided by India Post & IPPB through the trusted Postal ('Dak') network across the nation to cater to the financial needs ('Pay') of various sections of the society – be it **sending money** to the loved ones (Domestic Money Transfers – DMT), **making payment for services/merchants digitally** (Virtual debit card) & UPI, enabling cashless ecosystem through biometrics, **providing interoperable banking services** to the customers of ANY BANK (AePS) and **Utility Bill Payment services.**

- **DakPay UPI app**

    ○ It allows users to create UPI ID and link multiple accounts across banks in a single mobile app. The app facilitates instant money transfers, QR based payments in merchant stores and

online shopping on e-commerce websites.

- **"India Post meets Covid-19 Challenge"**

  - **Department of Posts** also launched an eBook named **"India Post meets Covid-19 Challenge"** encapsulating the challenges faced and the solutions offered by India Post in the delivery of essential services to the remotest corner of the country during the ongoing pandemic in the country.

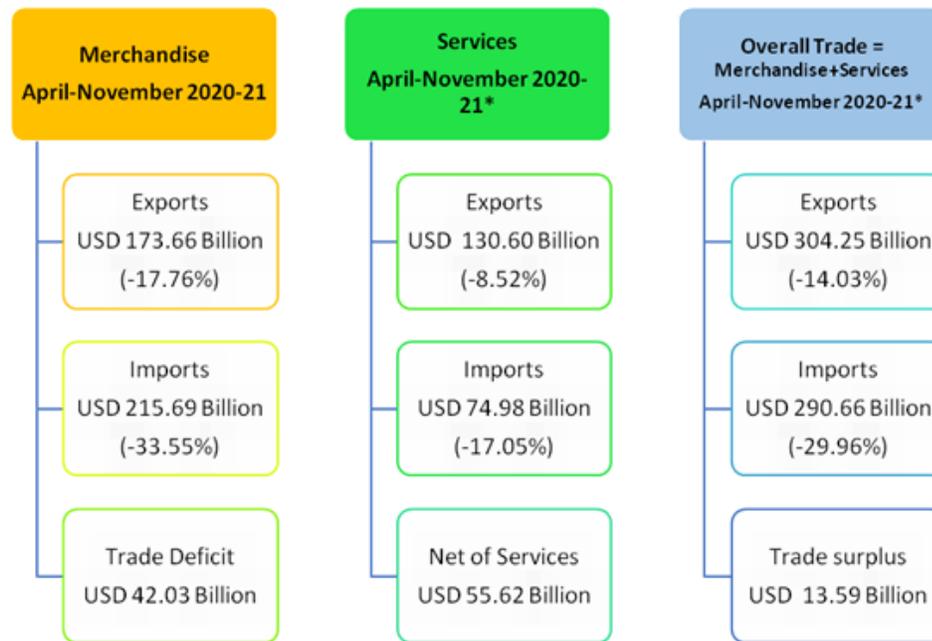# INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE: November 2020

Context:

- Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has published data of India's foreign trade for the period of March-November 2020-2021.

The published data:

- **India's overall exports** (**Merchandise and Services combined**) in April-November 2020-21 are estimated to be USD 304.25 Billion, exhibiting a **negative growth of (-) 14.03 per cent** over the same period last year.

- **Overall imports** in April-November 2020-21* are estimated to be USD 290.66 Billion, **exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 29.96 per cent** over the same period last year.

  The following infographic shows the sector wise/overall trade data of India's foreign Trade:

Merchandise April-November 2020-21	Services April-November 2020-21*	Overall Trade = Merchandise+Services April-November 2020-21*
Exports USD 173.66 Billion (-17.76%)	Exports USD 130.60 Billion (-8.52%)	Exports USD 304.25 Billion (-14.03%)
Imports USD 215.69 Billion (-33.55%)	Imports USD 74.98 Billion (-17.05%)	Imports USD 290.66 Billion (-29.96%)
Trade Deficit USD 42.03 Billion	Net of Services USD 55.62 Billion	Trade surplus USD 13.59 Billion

Swarnim Vijay Mashaal

Context:

- **In December 1971, the Indian Armed Forces secured a decisive and historic Victory over Pakistan Army**, which **led to creation of a Nation - Bangladesh and also resulted in the largest Military Surrender after the World War – II.**

About the Swarnim Vijay Mashal Ceremony:

- From 16 December, the Nation will be celebrating **50 Years of Indo-Pak War,** also called 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'. Various commemorative events are planned across the Nation.

- Inaugural event will be held at the **National War Memorial (NWM) in New Delhi** tomorrow which will be attended by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. On his arrival, the Prime Minister will be received by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at the venue.

- **Four Victory Mashaals (flames)** will be lit from the **Eternal Flame of NWM**. These Mashaals will be carried to various parts of the country

including to villages of **Param Vir Chakra and MahaVir Chakra Awardees of 1971 War.** Soil from the villages of these Awardees and from areas where major battles were fought in 1971 are being brought to the NWM.

- **Various commemorative events will be conducted pan-India** wherein war Veterans and Veer Naris will be felicitated and events like band displays, seminars, exhibitions, equipment displays, film festivals, conclave and adventure activities are planned.

- Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Shripad Yesso Naik and other senior civil & military officials of the Ministry of Defence will also be present on the occasion.

Export of Organic Basmati Rice

Context:

- Considering the potential and prospects of export of Basmati rice, **APEDA** recently organized a **Workshop on Opportunities in Export of Organic Basmati Rice, Value Addition and Product Diversification'** in New Delhi to discuss and deliberate on the promotion of Basmati Rice, Organic Basmati rice, product diversification and value addition in Basmati Rice.

Efforts of APEDA:

- **APEDA** has been continuously making efforts to ensure that the reputation attached to the name Basmati is maintained throughout the supply chain right up to the retail level in the domestic market as well as at a global level.

Followings are the key areas for possible expansion of rice exports from India:

  I. Development of innovative products from rice to provide nutritional and health benefits which can have a good share in the global market as well in the domestic market.

II. The products to be developed in a diversified and nutritionally enhanced manner to cater for the preferences

Export of Basmati Rice:

- **Basmati rice continues to be one of the major agro-products of export from the country.** The quantity of export has gone up by about 17.5 % during the period April-October 2020 compared to the same period last year. The export prices of Basmati rice and accordingly of the paddy for farmers are influenced by overall global food price trends and increase or decrease in supply.

- **In the last one decade**, **the volume of Basmati Rice Exports has more than doubled.**

- **During 2019-20, India exported 4.45 million tonne (MT) of Basmati Rice with a value of US $ 4331 Million.**

- **During 2009-10**, the export of Basmati Rice was of the order of 2.17 Million MT. The major destinations for India's basmati rice exports include Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iran, European Union and the United States.

- Overall exports of Basmati rice from the country continue to do well.

- **APEDA proposes to undertake a campaign in major markets to promote the export of Basmati rice in Indian Brands** in retail packs, aiming at higher unit value realisation and it was decided to prepare a Strategy for product diversification and value addition in Basmati Rice.

- However, continuous development of new varieties released by the Research Institutions like **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI),** Pusa, Delhi, **Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF)** and the Agriculture Universities in the key Basmati growing states have helped farmers in terms of higher productivity and greater resistance to lodging with stronger stems.

- **At present,** there are 34 approved varieties of Basmati Rice being cultivated in the country. Huge export potential exists for value-added products from rice.

- In the workshop, Dr. M. Angamuthu Chairman APEDA, Shri Diwakar

Nath Misra, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ms Shubhra, Trade Advisor, MOA&FW and Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, IARI addressed the participants during the inaugural session.

● Presentations were made by the technical experts from **Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF**) on importance of judicious use of **Pesticide and PhytoSanitary Issues in Export of Basmati Rice**, **Export Scenario of Basmati Rice** by **All India Rice Exporters Association (AIREA)**, Industry perspective on Product Diversification.

● Scientists, IARI made the presentation on **Potential of Value Addition in Basmati Rice** and an expert from Association of Indian Organic Industry made the presentation on **Export Potential of Organic Basmati Rice** and detailed discussions were held thereafter.

Sustainable Mountain Development Summit

Context:
The ninth edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit commenced in virtual mode on the occasion of International Mountain Day in Dehradun.

About the Summit:
● It has been organised by Indian Mountain Initiative (IMI).
● The summit seeks to deliberate on issues such as migration,water security, climate resilience and innovative solutions for the farm sector, and disaster risk reduction in the Indian Himalayas.
● The theme of the summit is Emerging Pathways for building a resilient post COVID 19 Mountain Economy,Adaptation,Innovation & Acceleration.

International Mountain Day:

Mountain Day refers to three different and unrelated events:

(1) Mountain Day, a student celebration in some colleges in the United States in which classes are cancelled without prior notice, and the student body heads to the mountains or a park
(2) International Mountain Day, held each year on 11 December, which was established by the UN General Assembly in 2003 to encourage sustainable development in mountains
(3) Mountain Day, a national holiday in Japan as of 2016.

Indian Himalayas:

- The Indian Himalayas, which constitute about 12% of the country's landmass, is home to about 30.16% of its fauna.
- Spread across six States — from Jammu and Kashmir in the west through Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and West Bengal's Darjeeling to Arunachal Pradesh in the far east
- The Indian Himalayas are divided into two biogeographic zones — the Trans-Himalaya and the Himalaya, based on physiographic, climatic and eco-biological attributes.
- The entire region is home to 280 species of mammals, 940 species of birds, 316 species of fishes, 200 species of reptiles and 80 species of amphibians. This put together accounts for 27.6% of the total vertebrate diversity of the country.

Major Threat to Indian Himalayas:
- Climate change is the major threat as far as mammals and birds are concerned. The impact is visible in the shifting distribution of sensitive species like the Asiatic Black Bear, the Snow leopard, and the Himalayan Marmot.
- Carnivores and their habitats are threatened by ever-increasing human-wildlife conflict in the region.

- Habitat loss due to land use change, illegal wildlife trade, forest fires and increasing anthropogenic activities pose threats to this Himayalan biodiversity.