



# AIR Discussions (December 2<sup>nd</sup> Week)

**ALL INDIA RADIO SUMMARY (8 DECEMBER TO 15 DECEMBER, 2020)**

## SPOTLIGHT

### Global Climate Summit 2020

**Context:** The **United Nations (UN)**, **United Kingdom (UK)** and **France** co-hosted the Climate Ambition Summit 2020, in partnership with **Chile and Italy** on 12 December, exactly **five years** since the adoption of the **Paris Agreement**.



### Key highlights of summit:

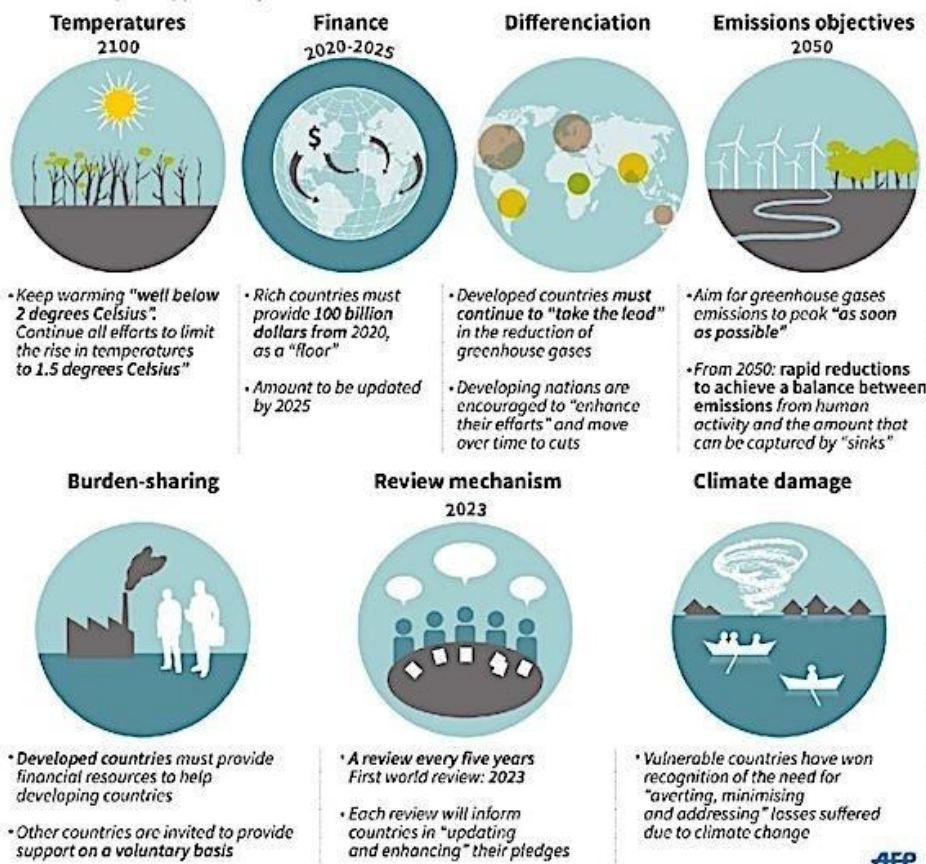
- The Summit was a major step on the road to the next **UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)**, which will be hosted by the **UK** next November in **Glasgow**.



- The Summit provided leaders with a global platform to **showcase commitments to tackle climate change**, which were under the **three pillars of the Paris Agreement**:
  - **mitigation,**
  - **adaptation and**
  - **finance commitments.**
- The Summit heard from about 70 world leaders highlighting new announcements and steps they are taking to reach the **goal of net-zero emissions**.
- The Climate Ambition Summit 2020 marked the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement, and provided a platform for government and non-governmental leaders to **demonstrate their commitment to the Paris Agreement and the multilateral process**.

### The Paris climate agreement: key points

The historic pact, approved by 195 countries, will take effect from 2020



- The Summit **aims to rally momentum and call for much greater climate action and ambition**.
- National governments were invited to present
  - More ambitious and high-quality climate plans, as well as COVID recovery plans,
  - New finance commitments and measures to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
  - New and more ambitious nationally determined contributions (NDCs);
  - Long-term net-zero emissions strategies;
  - Climate finance commitments to support the most vulnerable; and
  - Ambitious adaptation plans and policies.



- UN Urged world leaders to **declare a "climate emergency"** in their countries until **carbon neutrality** is reached, to spur action to **avoid catastrophic global warming**.
- With a hope to galvanize countries into stricter actions on global warming emissions, UN said that current commitments across the globe did not go "far from enough" to limit temperature rises.

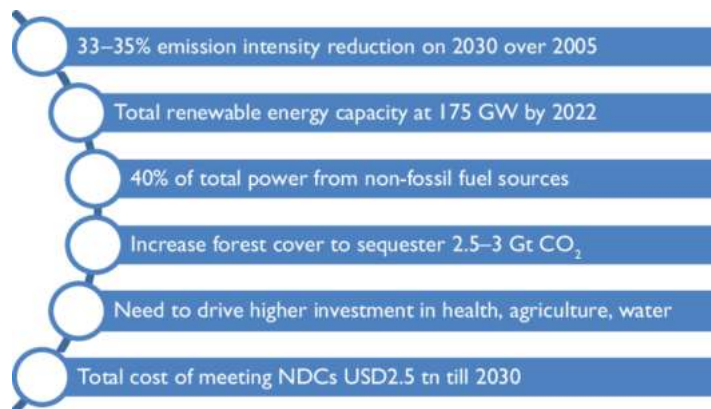
### Fossil Fuel Investment 'Unacceptable'

- The economic recovery packages launched in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic represented an opportunity to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future but so much more needs to be done to ward off catastrophic consequences.
- Members of the **G20 are spending 50% more in their stimulus and rescue packages on sectors linked to fossil fuel production and consumption, than on low-carbon energy.**

### China and India Promises

- **China and India** vowed to advance their commitment to lower carbon pollution at the summit.
- China promised to **boost its installed capacity of wind and solar power to more than 1,200 gigawatts over the next decade**. It will increase its share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25% during the same period.
- India said that it is ramping up its use of clean energy sources and was **on target to achieve the emissions norms set under the 2015 Paris agreement**.
- **India**, the second-most populous nation on Earth and the world's fourth-largest greenhouse gas emitter, is **eyeing 450 gigawatt of renewable energy capacity by 2030**.
- India has **reduced its emission intensity by 21 per cent over 2005 levels**.
- Between 2014 and 2020, **India's solar power capacity** has grown from **2.63 gigawatts to 36 gigawatts**. India's **renewable energy capacity** is the **fourth largest** in the world. It will reach 175 gigawatts before 2022.

### India's INDC targets:



### Way forward:

- To achieve and surpass the goals of the Paris Agreement, we must **engage with all sincere stakeholders** in pursuit of the shared goals of a healthy, prosperous planet.



- **Use market-based policies** can help us **meet critical environmental goals** while catalyzing new technologies and approaches.

<https://www.dnaindia.com/india/news-climate-ambition-summit-2020-india-will-exceed-paris-agreement-targets-says-pm-modi-2861602>

<https://www.ecowatch.com/virtual-climate-summit-2020-2649465278.html?rebellitem=2#rebellitem2>

## OTHER NEWS

### India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine

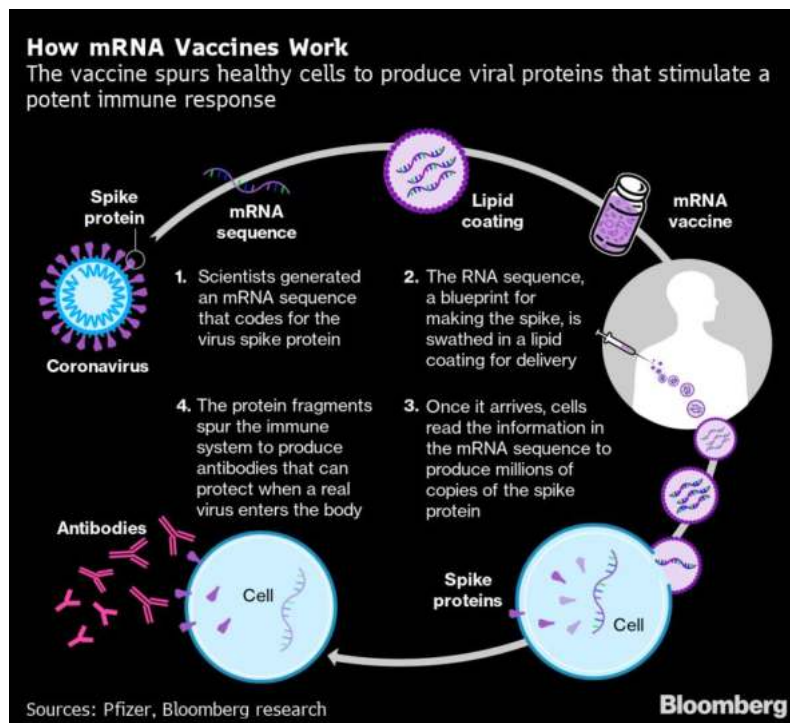
**Context:** India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine candidate has received approval from Indian Drug regulators to initiate Phase one and two human clinical trials.

- **HGCO19** has been developed by **Gennova**, Pune and supported with seed grant under the **Ind-CEPI mission** of the Department of Biotechnology.

### mRNA vaccines

- The mRNA vaccines do not use the conventional model to produce immune response.
- Instead, they carry the molecular instructions to make the protein in the body through a synthetic RNA of the virus.
- mRNA-based vaccines are scientifically the ideal choice to address a pandemic because of their rapid developmental timeline.
- The mRNA vaccine is considered **safe** as is **non-infectious, non-integrating in nature**, and degraded by standard cellular mechanisms.
- These vaccines can be quickly manufactured in an **inexpensive manner** under cGMP conditions to ensure their availability and accessibility for mass vaccination on a sustainable basis.
- HGCO19 has already demonstrated **safety, immunogenicity, neutralization antibody activity** in animals.
- Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing the **Ind-CEPI mission**-India Centric Epidemic Preparedness through Rapid Vaccine Development and Supporting Indian Vaccine Development which is aligned with the Global Initiative of CEPI.





<http://newsonair.com/News?title=India%e2%80%99s-first-indigenous-mRNA-vaccine-candidate-receives-approval-to-initiate-Phase-1-and-2-human-clinical-trials&id=405933>

### PM SVANidhi scheme

**Context:** Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary launched a programme of Socio-Economic Profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families, as an additional component of PM SVANidhi Scheme.

- Under this, a complete profile of each PM SVANidhi beneficiary and their family members will be prepared.
- Based on the profiled data, benefits of the various eligible Central Schemes would be extended to them for their holistic socio-economic upliftment.
- PM SVANidhi scheme is seen from the perspective of extending loans to street vendors and as an instrument for outreach to street vendors and their families for their holistic development and socio-economic upliftment.
- The profile will identify potential eligibility of beneficiaries and their family members for select Central Government schemes and facilitate linkages.
- Prime Minister Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi, PM SVANidhi Scheme since 1st June this year with an objective to **provide affordable working capital loan up to 10 thousand rupees to Street Vendors for facilitating resumption of their livelihoods adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.**



## PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

### Benefits for repayment of loans by digital platform

- Scheme incentivises digital receipts/ payments using means like UPI, QR-codes of payment aggregators, RuPay debit cards etc. through monthly cash back. It will also improve credit scores
- Payment aggregators like NPCI, PayTM etc. will on-board vendors as merchants and provide QR-code for receiving payments; and
- Monthly cashback is ₹50 on 50 eligible transactions (of ₹25 or more), another ₹25 on 100 and further ₹25 on 200 or more in a month

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Housing-%26-Urban-Affairs-Secy-launches-programme-of-socio-economic-profiling-of-PM-SVANidhi-beneficiaries-%26-their-families&id=405920>

### Handicraft and GI Toys exempted from Quality Control Order

**Context:** Government has exempted handicraft and GI Toys from Quality Control Order.

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, DPIIT has devised a comprehensive action plan.
- Quality Control order has been issued by the Department for standardization and quality adherence of Toys. The order will come into effect from 1st January next year.
- Now, DPIIT has released Toys (Quality Control) Second Amendment Order, 2020.
- It **exempts goods manufactured and sold by artisans registered with Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)**, from use of Standard Mark under licence from Bureau of Indian Standards.
- The Amendment Order also **exempts products registered as Geographical Indications** from following Indian Toy Standards and compulsory use of Standard Mark licence.

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=405966>

### Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure scheme

**Context:** All the states except Tamil Nadu have availed benefits of the newly announced scheme for “Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure”.

- The scheme was announced by the Finance Minister on 12th October as a part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package.



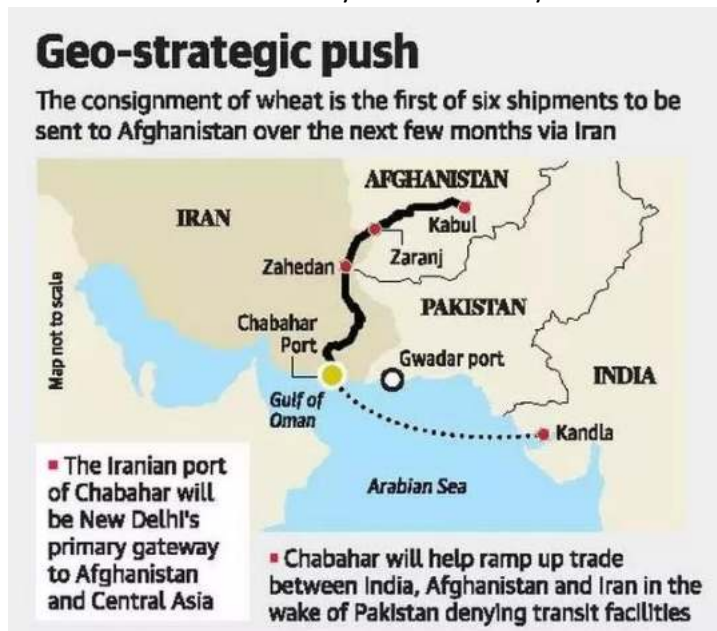
- The Scheme is aimed at **boosting capital expenditure by the State Governments** who are facing a difficult financial environment this year due to the shortfall in tax revenue arising from the COVID 19 pandemic.
  - Capital Expenditure has a higher multiplier effect, enhancing the future productive capacity of the economy, and results in a higher rate of economic growth.
- Therefore, despite the adverse financial position of the Central Government, it was decided to extend a special assistance to the State Governments in respect of capital expenditure in 2020-21.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=All-states%2c-except-TN%2c--availed-benefits-of-%e2%80%9cSpecial-Assistance-to-States-for-Capital-Expenditure%e2%80%9d-scheme&id=405961>

### Joint use of Chabahar Port

**Context:** The first Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on the joint use of Chabahar Port was held virtually.

- All sides also noted the significant role played by Chabahar port for the region to deliver humanitarian assistance during the COVID pandemic.
- All sides also welcomed India's proposal to hold "Chabahar Day" on the sidelines of the International Maritime Summit scheduled to be hosted by India in January 2021.



<http://newsonair.com/News?title=1st-TWG-Meeting-between-India%2c-Iran%2c-Uzbekistan-on-joint-use-of-Chabahar-Port-held-virtually&id=406006>

### Indian Coast Guard Interceptor Boat

**Context:** Indian Coast Guard Interceptor Boat got commissioned at Hazira.



- This Interceptor boat is **built indigenously by M/s L&T Jetty, Hazira** and is **capable of high speed of 45 knots having capability to operate in shallow waters.**



- Vessel is fitted with latest state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment designed for high speed interception, close coast patrol, low intensity maritime operations, Search and Rescue and maritime surveillance.
- Interceptor Boat will operate from Gujarat under administrative and operational control of the Commander Coast Guard Region (NW) and is a part of ongoing efforts of Indian Coast Guard to strengthen coastal security of Gujarat maritime borders.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Indian-Coast-Guard-Interceptor-Boat-gets-commissioned-at-Hazira&id=406148>

### DakPay

**Context:** Department of Posts (DoP) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) unveiled a **new digital payment app 'DakPay'** at virtual launch.

- The App is launched as part of its ongoing efforts to **provide Digital Financial inclusion** at the last mile across India.
- DakPay is not just a digital payment app but 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), Scan QR code and make payment for services/merchants digitally (Virtual debit card & with UPI), enabling cashless ecosystem through biometrics, providing interoperable banking services to the customers of ANY BANK (AePS) and Utility Bill Payment services.
- This innovative service will not only give access to banking services and postal products online, but also is a unique concept where one can order and avail postal financial services at doorsteps.
- It is postal department another big leap towards Prime Minister's vision of a financially inclusive and an AatmaNirbhar Bharat.
- Dak Pay brings **simplified payment solutions to all by offering all customers access to the banking and payments products and services either through an App or in assisted mode** with the help of the trusted Postman.





- Dak Pay is truly an Indian solution designed to address the financial needs of every Indian.

### About India Post Payments Bank

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with **100% equity owned by Government of India**.
- IPPB was launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on September 1, 2018.
- The bank has been set up with the **vision to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man** in India.
- The fundamental mandate of India Post Payments Bank is to **remove barriers for the unbanked & underbanked and reach the last mile leveraging the Postal network** comprising 155,000 Post Offices (135,000 in rural areas) and 300,000 Postal employees.
- IPPB's reach and its operating model is built on the **key pillars of India Stack – enabling Paperless, Cashless and Presence-less banking in a simple and secure manner at the customers' doorstep, through a CBS-integrated smartphone and biometric device**.
- Leveraging frugal innovation and with a high focus on ease of banking for the masses.
- IPPB delivers simple and affordable banking solutions through intuitive interfaces available in 13 languages.
- IPPB is committed to provide a fillip to a **less cash economy and contribute to the vision of Digital India**.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Dept-of-Posts-%26-India-Post-Payments-Bank-unveil-new-digital-payment-app-%e2%80%98DakPay%e2%80%99&id=406144>

### Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

**Context:** Finance Minister chaired the 23rd Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council.

- The meeting reviewed the major macro-economic developments and Financial Stability issues with special reference to vulnerability related issues.
- It noted that the policy measures taken by the Government and the financial sector regulatory authorities have ensured faster economic recovery in India as reflected in the reduced contraction of GDP in second quarter of 2020-21.

### Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

- It is an apex-level body constituted by the government of India.
- The idea to create such a super regulatory body was **first mooted by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008**.
- Finally in 2010, the then Finance Minister of India, Pranab Mukherjee, decided to set up such an autonomous body dealing with macro prudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India.
- An apex-level FSDC is **not a statutory body**.
- It envisages to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism of maintaining financial stability, financial sector development, inter-regulatory coordination along with monitoring macro-prudential regulation' of economy.
- No funds are separately allocated to the council for undertaking its activities.
- **Chairperson:** The Union Finance Minister of India

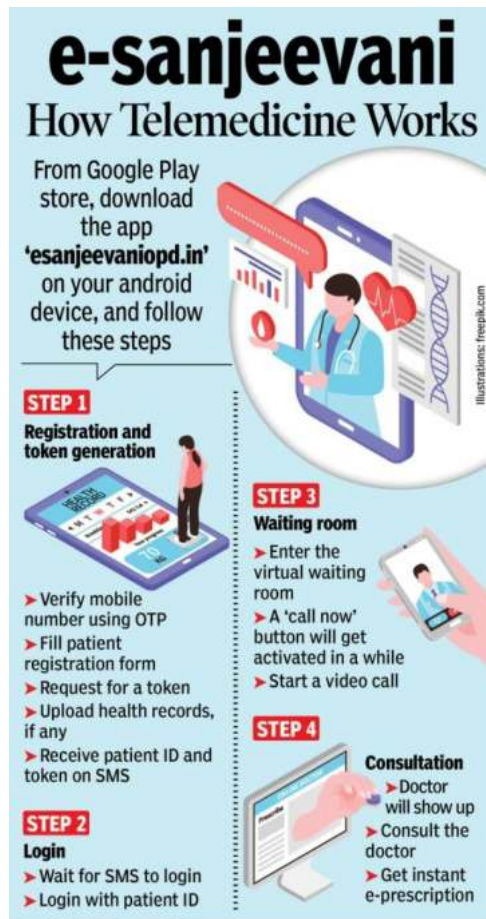


<http://newsonair.com/News?title=FM-Nirmala-Sitharaman-chairs-23rd-Meeting-of--FSDC-through-video-conference&id=406143>

### eSanjeevani telemedicine service

**Context:** India has crossed a landmark milestone in its eHealth journey.

- eSanjeevani telemedicine service of the Health Ministry has crossed 10 lakh tele-consultations.
  - Telemedicine entails **delivery of health services from a distance using internet and it not only extends the reach of health services but also improves quality of health services** besides saving time and money.
- The roll out of eSanjeevani is supposedly the first of its kind of digital transformation in the delivery of health services at national scale by a developing country.
- eSanjeevani has brought about a huge digital transformation in the delivery of health services and boosted the digital health ecosystem in the country.
- eSanjeevani is being used by patients in over 550 districts of India. Over 10 per cent of the users of eSanjeevani are aged 60 and above.
- Close to around one fourth of the total patients have used eSanjeevani more than once.
- These stands as a testimony to the fact that public has started preferring telemedicine over visiting hospital OPDs for consulting a doctor.



<http://newsonair.com/News?title=eSanjeevani-telemedicine-service-of-the-Health-Ministry-crosses-10-lakh-tele-consultations&id=406119>



### MoU for development of sludge management framework

**Context:** Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research has signed an MoU with cGanga, a think-tank of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) for development of sludge management framework in India.

- NMCG is also trying to promote organic farming, natural farming and zero budget farming.

#### **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**

- It was **registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act 1860.**
- It acted as **implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority(NGRBA)**, which was constituted under the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986.**
- NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to constitution of **National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council).**

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Norway-Research-Institute-signs-an-MoU-with-Clean-Ganga-Mission-for-development-of-sludge-management-framework&id=406115>