

24 June

1) India is trying to make **Chabahar Port in Iran** operational by 2019 despite a threat of renewed US sanctions against Tehran.

The Indian-backed Chabahar port complex in Iran is being developed as part of a new transportation corridor for land-locked Afghanistan that could potentially open the way for millions of dollars in trade and cut its dependence on Pakistan, its sometimes-hostile neighbour.

The first and foremost significance of the Chabahar port is the fact that ***India can bypass Pakistan in transporting goods to***

Afghanistan. Chabahar port will boost India's access to Iran, the key gateway to the International North-South Transport Corridor that has sea, rail and road routes between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.

2) **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2018 report**

The U.N. has released its ***annual checkup report on the SDGs***, accompanied by a call from U.N. Chief António Guterres that, "***we must inject a sense of urgency***" in making good on the ambitious 2030 development agenda. The SDG Report presents an overview of progress toward achieving the Goals, which were unanimously adopted by countries in 2015.

3) Union Power Ministry has launched a campaign to promote energy efficiency in the area of air-conditioning. ***This initiative is launched on voluntary basis*** to increase awareness and encourage consumers to adopt the guidelines. It will save energy and reduce greenhouse gases.

4) **Unispace+50:**

UNISPACE+50 was held recently to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful

Uses of Outer Space and highlight past and future Agency activities in support of the UN's space-related actions.

UNISPACE+50 was celebrated at the Vienna International Centre, bringing together the international community, and reflecting on the past and future of space activities around the world.

5) ***Space2030' agenda:***

The event aimed at shaping the UN's comprehensive 'Space2030' agenda. The Space2030 agenda will map out how spaceflight and space-related activities can help achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing overarching, long-term development concerns, through the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space.

6) NASA has released a report outlining the federal government's response in the event that an asteroid or comet flying through space should ever impact Earth.

"The National Near-Earth Object Preparedness Strategy and Action Plan" shows how the U.S. federal government would protect and prepare the planet for such an event, and outlines five strategic goals for reducing the risk of an impact.

7) **SKOCH Award:**

Ministry of Women & Child Development has received the 'Best Performing Social Sector Ministry' SKOCH Award for its Achievements and Initiatives.

Key facts:

- The Skoch Awards celebrate human excellence and agents of change in Indian society. They are the highest independently instituted civilian honours in India.
- Only end-user departments and domain ministries may apply

including State undertakings.

- The Skoch Awards have become the only independent benchmark of best practices in India in the fields of governance, finance, banking, technology, corporate citizenship, economics and inclusive growth.

8) Bharat 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF):

The government has announced the first Further Fund Offer (FFO) of Bharat 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). This is in pursuance of its disinvestment policy targeting an initial amount of Rs.6,000 crore. Bharat 22 consists of 22 stocks of CPSE's, PSB's & strategic holding of SUUTI. Bharat 22 is a well Diversified portfolio with 6 sectors (Basic Materials, Energy, Finance, FMCG, Industrials & Utilities).