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JANUARY - 2020

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JANUARY – 11.01.2020



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NATIONAL NEWS

- **Odisha's High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) approved** a new **greenfield alumina refinery unit**. The project was proposed by Aditya Birla Group-owned Hindalco Industries. This will be Hindalco's second alumina refining complex in Odisha after the Utkal Alumina refining project, also in the Rayagada district.
 - The estimated cost of the new facility is Rs.8,000 crore.
 - **RELATED KEYS**
 - Founded on: 1958
 - Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra India
 - Chairman: Kumar Mangalam Birla
 - Products: Aluminum and copper products
- **Wings India 2020** has been **scheduled** to be held at **Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad from 12-15 March 2020**. The event is expected to boost aviation.
 - The event is organized by **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA)** and **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** to provide a congenial forum to the rapidly changing dynamics of the sector.
 - **RELATED KEYS**
 - Wings India 2020 is an international exhibition and conference on the civil aviation sector.
 - The event focus on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation, and regional connectivity.
- **Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation (GAIC) launched** imported **water-soluble fertilizers in Ahmedabad**. The move aims to encourage the use of high-grade agri-inputs in the state.

- In this move, the role of GAIC will be to import, pack and sell the imported water-soluble fertilizers to the farmers through its network of dealers across the State.
- **RELATED KEYS**
 - GAIC promotes agro-based industries in Gujarat.
 - It imported 300 tonnes of water-soluble fertilizers from China.

BANKING AND FINANCE

- The **World Bank** estimated a **5% growth** rate in **fiscal 2019-2020 for India**. The World Bank's update is in line with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) October policy estimate in which it slashed the Indian economy's expected growth to 5% for the fiscal year 2019-2020.
 - It also estimated the **world economic growth at 2.5% in FY20**
 - **RELATED KEYS**
 - The report estimated that weakness in credit from non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) will linger during the fiscal, but the rate might recover to 5.8% in the next fiscal.

SCIENCE AND TECH UPDATES

- The scientists from the **University of California discovered the smallest clumps of dark matter ever identified called cold dark matter** using a new technique using the Hubble Space Telescope and a feature of general relativity.
 - The Small dark matter clumps act as small cracks on the magnifying glass.
 - **RELATED KEYS**

- Dark matter is formed of particles that do not reflect, absorb, or emit light, so they cannot be detected by observing electromagnetic radiation. Such matters cannot be seen directly.

AWARDS

- **Famous Agricultural Scientist Prof. M S Swaminathan and Dr. Gutta Muniratnam** were chosen as the first recipients of **Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence and Muppavarapu National Award for Social Service** a respectively.
 - The award carried cash prize of Rs.5 lakh and citation.
 - **RELATED KEYS**
 - The National Award for Excellence was instituted by the Muppavarapu Foundation. The award for Social Service was launched by the Swarna Bharat Trust, in Hyderabad.

WORDS OF THE DAY

- **Simultaneous:** occurring, operating, or done at the same time
 - Synonym: concurring, synchronic, coexisting
 - Antonym: separate, preceding, divided
- **Contention:** heated disagreement
 - Synonym: argument, discord, dissention, strife, quarrel
 - Antonym: agreement, harmony, peace, praise, truce