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**MADE EASY  
WEEKLY CURRENT  
AFFAIRS**

WEEK-2

08<sup>th</sup> June - 14<sup>th</sup> June

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Targeted Examinations:

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Exams,  
SSC and Banking Exams**

# Current Affairs MADE EASY

(8<sup>th</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020)

## 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### Jaya Jaitly Task Force

- The Union Government has constituted Jaya Jaitly Task Force that will work on the issues of women and child development. The task force was constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The task force will work on the following parameters:
  - Lowering Maternal Mortality Rate.
  - Improving nutritional levels.
  - Examining issues that are related to the age of motherhood.
- The task force will also suggest suitable amendments to existing laws and also suggest new legislations to achieve its recommendations.

#### Note:

- The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is the number of registered maternal deaths due to pregnancy related issues or birth per 100,000 registered live births. Maternal death of a woman is included under MMR if she died while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy as well.

### Environment Performance Index

- Yale University has released the biennial Environment Performance Index, in which India placed at 168<sup>th</sup> rank out of 180 countries.

#### Key Highlights

- In the index, around 32 indicators were considered to create the ranking.
- The index provided 10-year observation on environmental performance at national and international level.
- According to the report, India needs to double its sustainability efforts. Besides, India needs to focus widely on sustainability issues with utmost priority towards air and water quality, climate change and biodiversity.

### Magneto-caloric Material

- The scientists from the Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) have recently developed new earth-based magneto-caloric material to treat cancer.
- It's a new material that reduces the side effects in treatment of cancer.
- The Magnetic Caloric materials provide controlled heating. The main advantage of the using the material is that the cells cool down as soon as the magnetic field is removed. This is unlike magnetic nanoparticles where overheating persists.

#### About Magnetic-caloric Materials

- The Magnetic Caloric materials are those materials that get warmer and cooler on the application and removal of magnetic fields respectively.
- Gadolinium, and some alloys made of Gadolinium, Germanium, Silicon, Manganese, Iron, Phosphorus and Arsenic are also magnetic caloric materials.

## Public procurement Norms

- The Union Government has modified public procurement norms. Under the new norms, maximum preference is to be given to those goods and services that have 50% or more local content.
- The new order has introduced Class-I, Class-II and non-local suppliers. The goods and services are to get preferences based on their classes.
  - **Class I:** The goods and service companies that have domestic value addition of 50% and more have been classified under Class I. These goods and services will get the most preference in all government purchases.
  - **Class II:** The goods and service company whose value addition range is between 20% and 50% come under Class II supplier.
  - **Non-local suppliers:** The goods and service company that has less than 20% of domestic content in the products are classified as non-local suppliers. These companies cannot participate in most of the government tenders.

## Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China

- A group of eight democracies have launched the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China. It is an international cross-party group of legislators that are working towards reforms on democratic countries' approach towards China.
- The Alliance was formed by Japan, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Netherlands and USA. The European Union was also present when the representatives from these countries discussed issues related to China.
- The alliance is an international group of legislators that are working towards reforms on how countries approach China. The mission monitors developments and assists legislators to craft strategic approaches on the issues related to China.

## Richard Dawkins Award

- Famous lyricist Javed Akhtar has become the first Indian to receive the Richard Dawkins award.
- The Richard Dawkins Award is presented by the Atheist Alliance of America (an NGO).
- The award is presented to those distinguished individuals that come from the world of scholarship, science, education or environment and proclaim values of rationalism, secularism upholding scientific truth.

## State of India's Environment Report

- The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has released the State of India's Environment, 2020 report.

### Key Highlights

- According to the report, around 19 major events have claimed 1,357 lives in 2019.
- More than 50 lakh internal displacements have occurred in India in 2019. This is the highest in the world according to the report. One on five internal displacements caused by disasters in the world was in India.
- The report observed that India's ranking in terms of Sustainable Development Goals has slipped to 114 in 2019 as compared to 115 in 2018.

## **Gairsain: Summer Capital of Uttarakhand**

- The Uttarakhand Government agreed to declare Gairsain as the new summer capital. The Gairsain is also called Bhararisen. The city will have an e-vidhan Sabha.
- The Legislative Assembly of the state is located at Dehradun, the winter capital city.
- The activists in Uttarakhand wanted Gairsain to be the capital of Uttarakhand state after it was carved out of Uttar Pradesh. The reason suggested for Gairsain as the capital as it was falling on the border of Kumaon and Garhwal regions.
- The town is located in the Chamoli district and is 250 km from Dehradun.

## **ARPIT**

- The Indian Air Force has developed the Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT). The pod is to be used to evacuate critical patients that are suffering from COVID-19.
- The Indian Air Force has used indigenous materials to develop ARPIT. This has been done in the intention of boosting Make in India initiative. The system is also light weight as it was made from aviation certified material.
- The ARPIT uses HEPA (High frequency Particulate Air) H-13 filters to support invasive ventilation. The machine also holds monitoring instruments such as pulse oximeter, defibrillator and infusion pumps.

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

## **Colour Bands for BS VI Vehicles**

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued a distinct colour band for the number plate sticker of BS VI vehicles.
- The order makes it mandatory for the BS VI vehicles to carry a green strip of 1 cm width on the top of the existing sticker. The sticker should carry details of registration of BS-VI vehicle and its fuel type. The petrol fuel vehicles should hold orange colour and diesel fuel vehicles should carry a blue colour.

### **Do You Know?**

- The volume of PM 2.5 in BS VI fuel ranges between 20 and 40 micrograms per cubic metres. On the other hand, it is 120 micrograms per cubic metres in BS IV fuel.

## **Global Economic Prospect Report**

- The World Bank in its latest Global Economic Prospect report downgraded its projection of growth of India. The report predicts that the growth of India has slowed by 4.2% in 2019-20.
- The report says that the Government of India has been purchasing government bonds to ease financial conditions. It has increased its spending to contain COVID-19. This has been done through:
  - Wage support
  - Deferral in tax payments
  - Cash transfer to lower-income households
  - Loan and liquidity support to small businesses and financial institutions.
  - The contraction of Indian Economy will find its impact in South Asian region

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

### **COVID BEEP**

- The Union Government has launched COVID BEEP, the first physiological parameter monitoring system for COVID-19 patients.
- COVID BEEP is an acronym for Continuous Oxygenation and Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod. It is the first indigenous wireless cost-effective parameter monitoring system.
- It has been developed by IIT Hyderabad and ESIC Medical College Hyderabad. It will greatly reduce transmission risk as it will help to save resources such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- It has incorporated non-invasive blood pressure monitoring, ECG monitoring and also respiratory monitoring.

### **ANANYA**

- The Pune based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed Nano-Technology based disinfectant spray to fight against COVID-19. The spray has been named ANANYA.
- The spray can be used by common man, health care workers. Also, the spray can be used on a large-scale use as well. It can be also used on masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), elevator buttons, contaminated surfaces such as medical instruments, door knobs, rooms and corridors.
- The spray has been prepared based on Nano-Technology assisted formulation. It will not only stop COVID-19 from entering the body but will also kill the virus that comes in direct contact.

### **Annual Environment Report**

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released the Annual Report 2019-20.
- The report says that around 11,467 hectares of forest lands have been diverted in 22 states in 2019. The diversion has been made under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The diversion was made for 932 non-forestry projects.
- The report also provided category-wise details. The largest forest area land was diverted for mining projects and irrigation.

### **Per Drop More Crop**

- The Per Drop More Crop of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana focuses on water use efficiency through sprinkler and drip irrigation. It also aims at reducing fertilizer use, labour expenses and input costs.

#### **Context:**

- Union Government has allocated Rs 4,000 crores under the Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana for the year 2020-21.
- The Union Government has allocated the funds and the state governments are to identify the beneficiaries.

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

## **Bharatmala Pariyojana**

- The Bharatmala Pariyojana was launched for road construction in India. It gives special importance to projects connecting far-flung areas and rural areas. The scheme will build 4-lane highways, move 80% freight traffic and interconnect logistics parks. It will also connect seven north-east Multi-Nodal Waterway ports.

### **Context:**

- The Bharatmala Pariyojana that was scheduled to be completed in 2021-22 is to be completed by 2025-26.
- The announcement of delay was announced by the rating agency ICRA (Investment Information and credit Rating Agency). The prevailing COVID-19 crisis could delay the asset monetization plan of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).

## **NIRF Ranking**

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development released the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for the educational institutions in the country.
- The IIT Madras topped the list followed by IISc Bangalore. The third place was secured by IIT Delhi. The other institutes that were in the top 100 were IIT Bombay at fourth place, followed by IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, IIT Guwahati, etc.
- The NIRF ranking system was launched in 2015. The first NIRF ranking was released in 2016. The NIRF ranks institutions in 10 categories namely engineering, university, management, college, medical, pharmacy, law, dental and architecture.

## **Guidelines for Import of Exotic Species**

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued an advisory to import of Exotic Live Species.
- The Exotic Live Species are plant or animal species that move from the original range to a new one.
- Under the new guidelines, the “Exotic Live Species” are to be construed to mean only under Appendices I, II and III of the CITES (Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species).
- For species listed under Appendix I of the CITES, no trade can be done. To the species that are listed under Appendix II, trade shall be allowed only with minor permission. In Appendix III, there are a large number of birds and animals that are listed that can be traded.
- The new guidelines have been issued as the global concerns on wildlife trade and zoonotic diseases have increased due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Under the new guidelines, the importer should obtain a No-Objection certificate from the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state. The persons possessing Exotic live species should make voluntary disclosure within a period of 6 months.

## International Religious Freedom Report

- The US Government released the International Religious Freedom Report, 2019.

### Key Highlights about India

- India has raised its concerns over the report. This was because the report alleged India with discrimination and attacks against religious minorities in the country.
- The religious freedom conditions in India are experiencing a downturn.
- The Government has used its majority in the parliament and has instituted national level policies that are violating religious freedom.
- According to the report, India has prohibited several internationally funded NGOs. They were prohibited from operating in India since 2010. This was implemented through the amendment of the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act), 1976. Through the amendment, the Government can shut any of the internationally funded NGO based on national interest.

**12<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

### Jagananna Chedodu Scheme

- The Andhra Pradesh Government recently launched “Jagananna Chedodu” scheme. The scheme is to provide financial assistance to barbers, tailors and washer men.
- The Jagananna Chedodu scheme is to provide Rs 10,000 per person. It is to benefit 2.47 lakhs of barbers, washer men and tailors. The State Government has transferred Rs 247 crores to the bank accounts so far under the scheme.

### SAUNI Scheme

- The Sauni Yojana was launched to divert the excess over flowing flood waters of Narmada that were allocated to Saurashtra region.
- It is basically a linking project under which the waters are to be filled in irrigation dams that already have a good canal network.

#### Context:

- The third phase of Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) scheme was launched by the Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. The scheme is to fill 115 dams with Narmada water by August 15, 2020 and March, 2021.

### Panchvati Yojana

- The Himachal Pradesh Government launched the Panchvati Yojana for senior citizens in the rural areas of the state. Around 100 parks are to be developed in the state under the scheme.
- The scheme aims to help the senior citizens spend their leisure time in these gardens and parks.
- The scheme is to be implemented with the help of local labourers that will receive wages under MGNREGA. The GoI has been boosting the MGNREGA scheme by allocating huge funds. This is done to help migrant workers with employment.

## **NHAI to become digital completely**

- The National Highway Authority of India became the first construction sector to become digital completely.
- The project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to online portal. The platform Artificial Intelligence and cloud-based big data analytics have been used to bring in the transform.
- With social distancing being one of the key methods to prevent COVID-19 infection, the online platform will help NHAI employees to continue their work without physical contact.
- This digitalisation includes contractual decisions, documentation and approvals that are now to be done through an online portal alone. The NHAI e-office module has also been integrated into the system.

## **Shahakar Mitra Scheme**

- The Ministry of Agriculture launched the Shahakar Mitra scheme. The scheme has been launched to assist the cooperative institutions to access innovative ideas of young professionals.
- The Scheme is an internship programme for the youths in the country. It is an initiative of the National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC).
- The professional graduates in Agriculture, IT and allied areas are eligible for the internship. Also, persons that have completed MBA degrees in finance, agriculture, forestry, business, project management, international trade, rural development are also eligible to apply.

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

## **World Food Prize**

- The Indian American soil scientist Dr Rattan Lal won the World Food Prize for mainstreaming and developing soil centric approach in order to increase food production.
- Dr Lal's strategy of restoring soil health has been adopted by three United Nations Climate Change Conferences.
- He has transformed and explored techniques such as no-tillage, over cropping, mulching and agroforestry. These techniques improved long term sustainability of agro ecosystems and minimized risks of floods, drought and effects of climate change.

## **iFLOWS**

- The Maharashtra Government has launched iFLOWS, which is an Integrated Flood Warning System.
- The system provides all information related to flood prone areas. The details include height the flood water could attain, vulnerability and risk elements exposed to floods and location-wise problematic areas across the wards.
- The warning is provided 6 to 72 hours in advance.
- The iFLOWS comprises seven modules namely Flood, Inundation, Data Assimilation, Vulnerability, risks module, decision support system and Dissemination module.



### **P K Mohanty Panel**

- The Reserve Bank of India constituted an internal working group to review guidelines of ownership of private sector banks.
- The panel constituted by the apex bank is to examine regulations to hold financial subsidiaries through non-operative financial holding companies. The group is to be headed by the Executive Director of RBI, P K Mohanty.
- The Group is to examine the existing regulation and guidelines on ownership of private sector banks. Besides, the panel will suggest appropriate norms to address the issue of concentration of control and ownership of banks. The group will also review the eligibility criteria of the individuals to apply for a banking license.

### **GermiKlean**

- The Defence Research and Development Organization has developed 'GermiKlean' which is a sanitising chamber that can be used to sanitise uniforms of security and police personnel.
- The DRDO developed the sanitizing chamber after the Delhi Police raised their requirement of sanitizing their helmets, uniforms, cane shields, etc.
- GermiKlean is capable of sanitizing 25 pairs of uniforms within 15 minutes using dry heat treatment. Dry heating of an article is accomplished by conduction. Heat is absorbed by the exterior surface of the article and passed inward. Dry heat kills microorganisms by causing denaturation of proteins.

### **Ghar Ghar Nigrani**

- The Punjab Government launched "Ghar Ghar Nigrani" mobile application to undertake house to house surveillance to eliminate COVID-19 pandemic.
- The application is to be used as a tool for early detection and testing of COVID-19 and prevent community spread.
- With the help of the application, the Punjab Government is to cover all the persons that are below the age of 30 years. The survey will cover persons that have influenza like illness.

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

### **Arogya Path**

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched National Health Supply Chain portal called "Arogya Path" to provide real-time availability of health care supplies for COVID-19 related issues.
- The Arogya path will serve suppliers, manufacturers and customers. It will act as an integrated platform to provide information about key health care goods that help customers to tackle following issues

- The portal helps suppliers and manufacturers to reach a wide network of customers filling in gaps of connectivity between them. Also, it will help to create opportunities of business expansion and identify requirements of new products.
- The portal will serve as a platform to generate awareness about the demand for new technologies. It will also help reduce wastage of resources.

### **India's First Infectious Disease Diagnostic Lab**

- India's first disease diagnostic laboratory is ready to be launched. The mobile laboratory was constructed under the scheme Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The laboratory aims to promote and support the idea of becoming self-sufficient in difficult times. It was constructed in a record time of 8 days. The laboratory was built with the assistance of the Department of Biotechnology.
- The Lab is the first infectious disease diagnostics lab in India. It is constructed with a safety level of BSL-2 (Biosafety Level 2). It has RT-PCR (Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction) machines, bio-chemistry analyzers and on-site Elisa.

**Note:**

- The RT-PCR is an in-vitro method that has a crucial role in biomaterial fields and medical science. It uses RNA material to detect pathogens.