



MADE EASY

India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY
WEEKLY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WEEK-1

1st November - 7th November

Targeted Examinations:

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

1st NOVEMBER 2020

Rural Development Fund

Context:

The Union Government recently asked the Punjab Government to explain its utilisation of the Rural Development Fund (RDF) that it gets largely from the Food Corporation of India (FCI)

About Rural Development Fund (RDF)

- Rural Development Fund is the 3% cess imposed on the purchase or selling of agricultural goods under the Rural Development Fund Act of 1987, which is executed by the Punjab Rural Development Board (PRDB) with the Chief Minister as its chairman.
- It comes mainly from the Food Corporation of India (FCI), which purchases about 13 million tonnes of wheat and 16 million tonnes of paddy per year.

Euthanasia

Context:

- Recently in a referendum, New Zealand voted in favor of illegalizing the euthanasia for people with a terminal illness. The referendum asked the public to vote on whether the End of Life Choice Act 2019 should come into force.
- The Act is meant to give certain terminally ill people the option of requesting medical assistance to end their lives and to establish a lawful process for assisting eligible persons who are able to exercise that option.

About Euthanasia

- Euthanasia is the practice of intentionally ending a life in order to relieve pain and suffering (provided

motive should be good and death must be painless as much as possible).

- The term "Euthanasia" has been derived from the two Greek words 'eu' and 'thanatos', which literally means 'good death'. It is also called 'mercy killing'.
- The phrase "euthanasia" was coined by Sir Francis Bacon.

Categories of Euthanasia

- Voluntary Euthanasia:** It is performed with the patients consent. It is legal in some countries like Belgium, Netherlands, etc.
- Non-voluntary Euthanasia:** In this, a person is unable to give their consent (for example –the patient is in a state of coma or are severely brain-damaged) and another person takes the decision on their behalf.
- Involuntary Euthanasia:** It is conducted against the will of the patient is termed involuntary euthanasia. It is also regarded as murder.
- Active Euthanasia:** In this, a person intentionally intervenes to end someone's life with the use of lethal substances or forces. For example- Administering a lethal injection to end life.
- Passive Euthanasia:** In this, a person causes death by withholding or withdrawing treatment that is essential to maintain life. For example- stoppage of medicinal treatment in certain cases where it is necessary for the continuance of life, removal of life support system, etc.

Euthanasia in India

- In March 2018, the Supreme Court of India legalised passive euthanasia as part of the verdict in the light of Aruna Shanbaug, who had been in the Persistent Vegetative State (PVS) until her death in 2015.
- For this, the consent of patient is required through a living will.

2nd NOVEMBER 2020

INS Kora

Indian Navy recently test fired the Anti-Ship Missile (AShM) from INS Kora which is a guided missile corvette. The missile was test-fired in the Bay of Bengal and it hit the target ship at maximum range with the precise accuracy.



About INS Kora

- INS Kora was commissioned to Indian Navy in 1998. The corvette was designed by the Indian Navy under Project 25A. It is equipped with Kh-35 anti-ship missiles. There are three warships of Kora-class- INS Kulish, INS Kirch and INS Karmuk.
- Anti-ship missile (AShM) is a guided missile and has been designed for use against ships and large boats.

Fortified Rice Distribution Scheme

- On the occasion of Statehood Day celebrations on 1st November 2020, the Government of Chhattisgarh initiated the Fortified Rice Distribution Scheme which aims to eliminate state hunger and anemia.
- Under this, Fortified rice to be sold in fair price shops.

About Fortified Rice

- Rice can be fortified by adding a micronutrient powder to the rice that adheres to the grains or spraying of the surface of ordinary rice grains in several layers with a vitamin and mineral mix to form a protective coating.
- This rice comprises Vitamin-B12, iron and folic acid, which helps to control malnutrition and anemia.

3rd NOVEMBER 2020

Public Affairs Index 2020

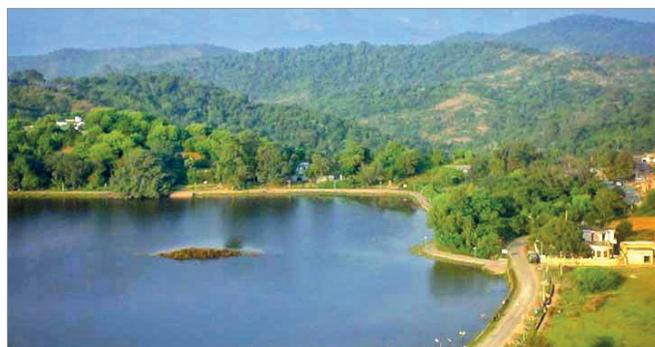
- The Public Affairs Index 2020 has been released recently by the Public Affairs Centre- a data driven not-for-profit research think tank.
- In this, states have been ranked on governance performance on the basis of a composite index. It is prepared in the context of the three pillars including equity, growth and sustainability.



Key Highlights

- The State of Kerala topped the index, followed by Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka that bagged the second, third and fourth rank respectively.
- Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar stood at the bottom of the ranking.
- Goa ranked first in the small state's category, followed by Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh.

Mansar Lake Development Plan



- The Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region inaugurated the Mansar Lake Development Plan in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Apart from the Lake Mansar, River Devika of Jammu and Kashmir will also be renovated and rejuvenated.
- Mansar Lake, which was designated as Ramsar site in 2005, is located in Jammu.
- It is a natural freshwater lake where fishing is the major activity.

Contempt of Court

Context:

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal recently declined his consent to initiate contempt case against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy.

Issue:

- The Andhra Pradesh CM had recently written a letter to the CJI S.A. Bobde, alleging the Andhra Pradesh HC was being used to destabilise and topple his democratically elected government.
- Following this, a lawyer had written a letter to AG seeking his consent to initiate contempt proceedings against CM and his advisor.

Contempt of Court

- The basic idea of contempt of court is to punish those who do not respect the orders of the courts and scandalize the courts that lowers their dignity and interferes with the administration of justice.
- **There are two types of contempt of court:**
 - (i) Civil Contempt:** It is the willful disobedience of a court order or judgment or willful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
 - (ii) Criminal Contempt:** It is through the written or spoken words or any act that scandalizes the court or lowers its authority or interferes with the due course of administration of justice.

Constitutional provisions

- Articles 129 and 215 of the Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court and High Court respectively to punish people for their respective contempt.
- Section 10 of the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971 defines the power of the High Court to punish contempt of its subordinate courts.

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There is no requirement of Attorney General's consent for initiating a criminal contempt proceeding in Supreme Court as Constitution of India has given it the wide-range power to issue notice and punish under contempt proceedings.

4th NOVEMBER 2020

INS AIRAVAT

Context:

Recently, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) AIRAVAT entered Port Sudan, under the Phase-II of the Mission SAGAR.



Key Highlights:

- INS Airavat has transported 100 tonnes of food assistance to Sudan.
- Under the Mission Sagar, India has been providing assistance to its friendly foreign countries to help them resolve the COVID-19 pandemic and other natural disasters.

Mission SAGAR:

- The Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) Mission was launched in 2015 under the strategic vision for the Indian Ocean Region.
- Under this doctrine, India seeks to improve its economic and security collaboration with its maritime neighbours.

Accelerator for Electronics technologies (ACE)

- Kerala recently unveiled a state-of-the-art Accelerator for Electronics technologies (ACE).
- The technology is supposed to improve the startups in Kerala that aim to scale up as sustainable businesses.

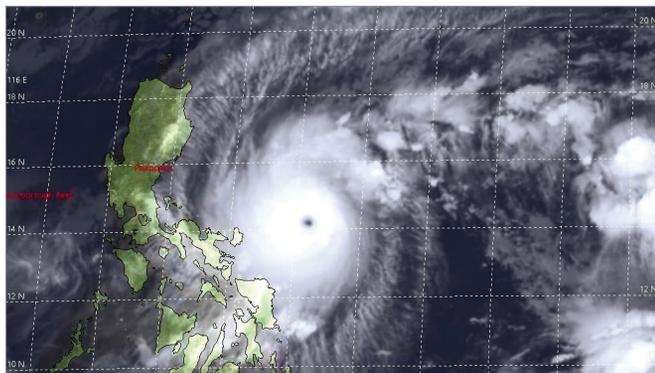
Key Highlights:

- The development of ACE was a joint project of the Centre for Advanced Computing Development (C-DAC) and the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM).
- ACE seeks to establish itself as a leading accelerator in electronic technology in the region.

Super Typhoon Goni

Context:

Typhoon Rolly or Goni, as it is called internationally, recently made landfall in the eastern Philippines having speed of 225 kmph, for which over a million people in the typhoon's projected path had been evacuated.



Difference between Cyclones, Hurricanes and Typhoons

- They are all the same thing: tropical storms. But they are known by different names in different locations.
- In the North Atlantic Ocean and Northeast Pacific, they are called hurricanes.
- In the Northwest Pacific Ocean, they are known as typhoons.
- In the South Pacific and Indian Ocean, cyclone is the correct term.

Formation of Tropical Storms

When heated by warm sea water, the surrounding air rises quickly. As the air cools down again, it is pushed aside by more warm air rising below it. This cycle causes strong winds. Over the sea, a tropical storm can whip up huge waves. When these waves reach land, they can flood large areas, including towns and cities.

Parts of Cyclone

- Eye:** The eye of the storm is the centre. It is a relatively calm space. When the eye passes over an area, winds slow down and everything feels like it has cleared up. The part that comes after the eye usually inflicts the most damage.
- Eyewall:** The eyewall houses extremely high wind speeds, causing damage to both lives and property. It is a ring of thunderstorms, and changes in the eye or the eyewall affects the storm's intensity.
- Rainbands:** These are the outer parts of a cyclone where sudden bursts of rain happen.

5th NOVEMBER 2020

Luhri Hydro Power Project

The Union Government recently approved the proposal for investing in Luhri Stage-I Hydro Power Project.



Key Highlights

- The Luhri hydro power project would be constructed on River Sutlej.
- The project will be implemented by the Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited in Build-Own-Operate-Maintain mode.
- Sutlej River is the easternmost tributary of the Indus River. On this river, the Bhakra dam is built in order to provide irrigation and other facilities to the adjoining areas.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana

Context:

During the first seven months of this fiscal period (up to Oct 31st), pharmaceutical products worth Rs 358 crore were sold through Jan Aushadhi stores.



About Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana

- It is a campaign initiated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, working under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers'.
- It aims to provide the masses with quality drugs at reasonable rates through special kendras known as Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
- The scheme, first launched in 2008, was rechristened in 2015.

Paris Climate Agreement



Context:

- The US has become the first nation in the world to formally withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement.
- The US President Trump announced the move in June 2017, but UN regulations meant that his decision only takes effect the day after the US election.

About Paris Climate Agreement

- The Paris deal was drafted in 2015 to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. It aims to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degree Celsius.
- At COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future.
- The agreement also aims to increase the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change, and at making finance flows consistent with a low GHG emissions and climate-resilient pathway.
- The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.
- There will also be a global stock-take every 5 years to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement and to inform further individual actions by Parties.
- The Paris Agreement opened for signature on 22 April 2016 – Earth Day – at UN Headquarters in New York.
- It entered into force on 4 November 2016, 30 days after the so-called “double threshold” (ratification by 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions) had been met.



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21-CMP11

6th NOVEMBER 2020

Pinaka Rocket



- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) recently test fired the advanced version of Pinaka rocket successfully from Chandipur, Odisha.]
- Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket launcher system called the “Shiva’s bow”. It can fire 12 rockets in 44 seconds.

Key Highlights:

- In order to reach a longer range compared to the earlier version, the upgraded version of Pinaka was launched.
- The new version will replace the existing version of the Pinaka Mk-1 system that has been deployed along the India-Pakistan and India-China border control lines.

Data Maturity Assessment Framework (DMAF)

- Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has released the 'Data Maturity Assessment Framework (DMAF)' which seeks to test city data ecosystems and City Data Officer Training Programs (CDOs) for 100 Smart Cities.
- Under the 'DataSmart Cities' project of the Smart Cities Mission, it will assist cities in the creation of data culture.

- Under the DMAF, the government aims to enable cities to determine their own data maturity in the light of a structured system that covers aspects of enabling policies, governance mechanisms, data management, capacity development and city-level involvement of stakeholders.

7th NOVEMBER 2020

National Monsoon Mission

Context:

According to the report prepared by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the National Monsoon Mission and High-Performance Computing programmes will provide a 50-fold benefit on the funds allocated for farmers.

Key Highlights

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) launched the National Monsoon Mission in 2012.
- Under the National Monsoon Mission, the active implementation of a Global Ensemble Forecast Method for short and medium-range forecasts at 12 kilometres was made possible.
- For short, medium, and long-range predictions, it seeks to establish a state-of-the-art, dynamic monsoon prediction method.

Ghogha-Dahej Ro-Ro ferry

- The roll on, roll off (“ro-ro”) ferry service to be started in Gulf of Khambhat between peninsular Saurashtra and South Gujarat.
- Ghogha in Saurashtra’s Bhavnagar district lies 17 nautical miles, or 32 km, across the gulf from Dahej in Bharuch district.
- The ferry, the first of its kind in India, will be able to transport up to 100 vehicles (cars, buses and trucks) and 250 passengers between the two ports.

Great Barrier Reef

Context:

Scientists have recently uncovered a huge coral reef in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia. It's the first to be discovered in 120 years.

Key Highlights:

- The reef was discovered by Australian scientists at the Schmidt Ocean Institute.
- The base of the blade-like reef is around 1.5 km wide.
- The recently discovered reef adds to the world's seven other tall, disconnected reefs. It covers the island of Raine.



ROV SuBastian is the underwater robot that the team is deploying in the recently discovered coral.

