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**MADE EASY
WEEKLY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WEEK-4

22nd July - 31st July, 2021

TARGETED EXAMINATIONS

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

22nd JULY 2021

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill

- Lok Sabha passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021 that seeks to strengthen and streamline the provisions for protection and adoption of children.

Key Points

- The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act, in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- The District Magistrates have been further empowered to ensure its smooth implementation, as well as garner synergized efforts in favour of children in distress conditions.
- As per the amended provisions of the Act, any Child Care Institution shall be registered after considering the recommendations of the District Magistrate.
- The DM shall independently evaluate the functioning of District Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, Specialized Juvenile Police Units, Child Care Institutions, etc.
- The eligibility parameters for appointment of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) members have been redefined. Disqualification criteria for the same have also been introduced.

NOTE:

All Child Care Institutions, whether run by State Government or by voluntary or non-governmental organisations are to be mandatorily registered under the Act within 6 months from the date of commencement of the Act.

Akash Missile (Akash-NG)

- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the New Generation

Akash Missile (Akash-NG) and the Man Portable Anti Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

Key Highlights:

- The missile system has been developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.
- It is a New Generation surface-to-air Missile.
- The missile has high manoeuvrability to neutralise aerial threats.
- The missile is objected to to boost the Air Defence capabilities of the Indian Air Force.
- To capture flight data, ITR deployed several Range stations like Electro-Optical Tracking System, Radar and Telemetry.

NOTE:

The Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology. The 5 missiles (P-A-T-N-A) developed under this program are: Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag and Akash.

Historic Urban Landscape Project

- UNESCO has selected Gwalior and Orchha cities of Madhya Pradesh under its "Historic Urban Landscape Project".

Key Highlights

- UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape project for the cities of Orchha and Gwalior was launched through video conferencing by Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Six cities of South Asia, including Indian cities of Varanasi and Ajmer are already involved in this project. Gwalior and Orchha have been included as the 7th and 8th cities of South Asia.

- UNESCO will prepare the management and development of these cities.
- This project will help in boosting the tourism of the state of Madhya Pradesh. Along with this additional employment opportunities will be created.

About the 'Historic Urban Landscape'

Approach:

- It was adopted in 2011 at UNESCO's General Conference.
- UNESCO defines HUL approach as an integrated approach towards managing heritage resources found within dynamic and evolving environments.
- HUL acknowledges the interconnections within a city, which occur between the built and natural environments, the tangible and intangible values, as well as within the cultural and social practices of a community.

23rd JULY 2021

'Norovirus' infection

- The United Kingdom is reporting an outbreak of norovirus. Public Health England (PHE) recently issued a warning after finding a jump in norovirus cases during a routine surveillance. Since the end of the month of May, England has recorded 154 cases of norovirus in the country.

About Norovirus

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), norovirus is very contagious that causes diarrhoea and vomiting. People suffering from norovirus disease can shed billions of virus particles. And to make people sick only a few of them are required.
- A person can contract this virus by coming in direct contact with an infected person. This virus can also be contracted by consuming contaminated water

and food and also touching contaminated surfaces with one's hands and then putting them in the mouth unwashed.

- Symptoms of norovirus are vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain and nausea. This virus can cause inflammation of intestines or the stomach and it is termed as acute gastroenteritis. Other symptoms of this virus are headache, fever and body aches. People generally develop the symptoms within 12 to 48 hours and they can last up to 1 to 3 days.

NOTE:

There is no specific medicine for this virus. Experts have suggested drinking plenty of liquids to replace the fluids lost from diarrhoea and vomiting so as to prevent dehydration.

Essential Defence Services Bill

- The Minister of State for Defence recently introduced the Essential Defence Services Bill in the Lok Sabha.

Key Points regarding the bill

- Essentially, the Essential Defence Services Bill is aimed at preventing the staff of the government-owned ordnance factories from going on a strike. Around 70,000 people work with the 41 ordnance factories around the country.
- The Bill introduced on Thursday mentioned that it is meant to "provide for the maintenance of essential defence services so as to secure the security of nation and the life and property of public at large and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto".
- This will allow the government to declare the services mentioned in the bill as essential defence services. It also prohibits strike and lockouts in any essential defence services of the country.
- This bill will directly affect around 70,000 employees who are currently employed in the 41 ordnance factories across the nation.

24th JULY 2021

National Institutes of Food Technology Bill

- Recently, the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021 was passed in the Lok Sabha.

Key Highlights

- The Bill declares certain institutes of food technology, entrepreneurship, and management as institutions of national importance. These institutes are:
 - National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli
 - Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur.
- These above institutes will be provided Greater Autonomy so that they can start new and innovative courses as well as help them to attract excellent faculty and students.
- These institutes will also have curricular provisions related to food processing areas e.g. cold chain technology, food bio nanotechnology which can help in filling the technological gap.
- They can also now open new centers anywhere in the country and abroad.

About Institute of National Importance:

- The Central Government grants the status of 'Institute of National Importance' to premier higher educational institutions in India through an act of the Parliament.
- According to the Ministry of Education, an institute of national importance is an institute that "serves as a pivotal player in developing highly skilled personnel within the specified region of the country/state".
- Such institutes get special funding and recognition from the Government of India.

Factoring Amendment Bill

- The Lok Sabha passed the Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2020 that seeks to widen the scope of entities that can engage in factoring business.

- The Bill will pave the way for non-NBFC factors and other entities to undertake factoring activities.

Key Highlights

- The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 – aimed at helping MSMEs tide over problems of delayed payments as it seeks to broaden the participation of entities undertaking factoring.
- The bill will also enhance traction on the TReDS platform which was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India in the year 2014 for the entrepreneurs so that they can unlock working capital which is tied to their unpaid invoices.
- TReDS platform is an electronic platform for facilitating financing of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Factoring Regulation Act, 2011 to widen the scope of entities which can engage in factoring business.
- The amendments to the factoring law are based on the recommendations of the U K Sinha Committee.
- In India, factoring credit contributes to only 2.6 % of the total MSME credit whereas in China it is 11.2 %.

About TReDS

- TReDS is an electronic platform introduced by RBI for facilitating the financing and discounting of the trade receivables of MSMEs via various financiers.

'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal

- The Uttar Pradesh Government launched the 'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal. Through this portal, the government will receive feedback from the people and also inform them about the various schemes of the government.

Key Points

- Through this portal, the people of the state can give various feedbacks to the government and the UP government can also inform them about the various schemes of the state.

- The portal will be used efficiently to further enhance the engagement of the common citizens of the state with the Uttar Pradesh state government.
- The 'Meri Sarkar' portal would help the people of the state to communicate their views, suggestions and feedback. This portal would become an innovative platform for public participation and good governance.

25th JULY 2021

Rudreswara (Ramappa) Temple in Telangana

- Rudreswara Temple, (also known as the Ramappa Temple) at Mulugu district, Telangana has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list.
- On 25th July, 2021 this decision was taken at the 44th session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. Ramappa temple was proposed by the government of India as its sole nomination for UNESCO World Heritage site tag, 2019.

About Rudreswara temple:

- The Rudreshwar temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire by Recherla Rudra, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva.
- It is also known as the Ramappa temple, after the sculptor who executed the work in the temple for 40 years.
- The temple complexes built during the reign of Kakatiyas have a distinct style, decoration and technology.
- The Ramappa Temple is an exhibition of this unique style and hence, it stands as a testimonial to the creative genius of the Kakatiyas.
- On a 6 feet high star-shaped platform stands the Ramappa Temple with pillars, ceilings and walls decorated with complex carvings that attest to the unique skill of the Kakatiya sculptors.

Genetically Modified 'Golden Rice'

- The Philippines became the world's first country to approve the commercial production of genetically modified 'golden rice'.
- The government issued a biosafety permit which paves way for this rice which is enriched with beta-carotene the vitamin A-precursor and makes this rice more nutritional.

About Golden Rice

- Golden rice is a genetically modified variety of rice. It is developed by the Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).
- This variety of rice is claimed to be able to fight vitamin A deficiency.
- Vitamin A deficiency is the leading cause of blindness among children and can also lead to death due to infectious diseases such as measles.
- This rice variety will not be more expensive than the conventional variety.
- The presence of beta-carotene pigment is the reason for its golden colour.
 - The conventional rice is naturally low in the pigment beta-carotene.
 - The beta-carotene is used by the human body to make vitamin A.

Tokyo Olympics 2020 : Mirabai Chanu won silver medal

- Mirabai Chanu of India has clinched a silver medal in weightlifting. This is the 1st medal in the 49kg category in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Key Highlights

- She has lifted a total of 202kg (87kg+115kg) to win the silver medal
- She has broken the record of Karnam Malleswari who had won a bronze medal in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

- China's Hou Zhihui who lifted a total of 210kg won the gold medal and also Indonesia's Aisah Windy Cantika won the bronze medal with a total of 194kg.
- This is the 1st attempt of Mirabai Chanu, who attempted the 84kg category.
- Gold medal winner Zhihui created a new Olympic record with an effort of 94kg. The Chinese lifter also holds the world record with 96kg in this category.

26th JULY 2021

World Cadet Wrestling Championships

- Indian junior wrestler Priya Malik won a gold medal in the 73-kg category Cadet World Championship held in Budapest, Hungary.

Key Points:

- The Cadet World Championship is a tournament where the best Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Women wrestlers worldwide below the age of 17 compete.
- Priya had won gold at the Khelo India youth games in Pune in 2019.
- She defeated Kseniya Patapovich with a score of 5-0.
- Priya Malik's coach believes that she will be able to represent India in the next Olympics that is to be held in Paris in the year 2024.

Madrid's Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro Park

- Buen Retiro Park and Paseo del Prado of Madrid, Spain have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Key Highlights:

- Madrid's iconic Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro Park have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

- Paseo is a wide tree-lined avenue that's home to prominent buildings such as the Prado Museum. Buen Retiro Park is a 125-hectare green space.
- The addition of Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro Park to the list of World Heritage Sites is recognition of the key role they played in Madrid's history.
- Madrid is Spain's capital and most populous city. Buen Retiro Park is one of the largest parks in Madrid.

Other sites newly inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List

- **Quanzhou:** Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China (China)
- **Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple,** Telangana (India)
- **Trans-Iranian Railway** (Iran)

27th JULY 2021

Dholavira



- Recently, Dholavira the Harappan city which is located in the Kutch district of Gujarat has been named as the 40th Indian site inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage list.
- Dholavira is the first Indus Valley Civilisation site in India that has been included in the list.

Key Highlights

- The decision to induct this site in the covet list was taken at the 44th UNESCO World Heritage Committee session in Fuzhou, China.
- Recently, the Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple in Telangana, was added to the list.
- After Rani ki Vav, the walled city area of Ahmedabad and Champaner, Dholavira becomes the fourth site from Gujarat to be added to this list by UNESCO.
- Dholavira is one of South Asia's most well-preserved urban settlements.

About Dholavira

- Dholavira is located on the Khadir Island in Kutch district of Gujarat. It was discovered in the year 1968 and is spread over 22 hectares. It is Indus Valley Civilisation's fifth largest archaeological site.
- Dholavira dates back to approximately 3000 BC and it is believed that the city was occupied till 1500 BC.
- Its name is taken from the Dholavira village located on the Indo-Pakistan border. Locally this site is known as Kotda Timba (the fort mound).
- This site is divided into three parts. They are the middle town, the citadel and the lower town. The citadel has detailed structures of fortification.

Unique features

- Excavations has revealed that the city houses were constructed using lime stones and all of them were connected to a sewage network.
- Tanks to store fresh or rainwater have also been found.
- Copper smelter remains have been found but no mortal human remains recovered from this site.
- During excavation ornamental beads, red earthenware and microlithic tools were also found.

Project Bold

- The Project Bold was recently launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and BSF

in Jaisalmer to Prevent Desertification and Support Rural Economy. Under this, they have planted 1000 bamboo saplings.

About Project BOLD:

- BOLD stands for Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought. It was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- The initiative has been launched as part of KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival" to celebrate 75 years of independence "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".
- The project has objectives to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones and to reduce desertification and provide livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support.

About Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC):

- KVIC is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Earth System Science Data Portal (ESSDP)

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) recently launched Earth System Science Data Portal (ESSDP), which will make the data regarding the various themes of earth system science available for public usage.
- On this event, a report on 'WMO, Disasters, Climate and COP-26' was discussed along with the issues relating to climate change.

About ESSDP

- It is an integrated digital web portal of the MoES institutes.
- The portal is available at <https://incois.gov.in/essdp> and it has been developed by using the latest technological tools.
- This portal has been aligned with Digital India which aims to transform India into a digitally empowered economy and society.
- This portal will facilitate in the retrieval and search of science data on earth system such as ocean, atmosphere, geosciences, poles, and seismology for benefit of the society.

28th JULY 2021

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

- The Department of Defence Production has recently given its approval for 'Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)', a central sector scheme, which has been allotted budgetary support of Rs. 498.80 crore for the next 5 years starting from 2021-22 to the year 2025-26.
- The primary aim of this scheme is to provide financial support to around 300 MSMEs, Start-ups, and individual innovators as well as around 20 partner incubators through the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).

Criteria

- To avail grants as an iDEX Partner Incubator, certain eligibility criteria have to be followed.
 - (a) The applicant must be registered in India as a legal entity in private, public or PPP mode. They should have received grant or establishment support from the Ministry of the Government of India.
 - (b) The incubator must have been in operation for at least 3 years and should have experience of supporting minimum 25 start-ups.

- (c) In the past 3 years these incubators should have successfully graduated at least 5 start-ups.
- (d) The incubators should have experience of partnering with research and academia.

About Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart (SPARK)

- To avail the grants of Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart (SPARK) under the mechanism of iDEX, some eligibility criteria will have to be followed.
- Any Indian company which has been incorporated under the Companies Act, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which have been defined in the MSME Act, 2006, will be incorporated.
- Individual innovators (research and academic institutions) are also encouraged to apply.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2021

- Recently, Lok Sabha passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2021, which replaces the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2021.
- In April 2021, the Government amended the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 by putting forward an ordinance that provides for pre-packaged resolution process for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) when the Parliament is not in session.
- Insolvency is a situation where a company or an individual are unable to pay their debt.

Key Highlights

- Under this ordinance, a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process (PIRP) was established that provides an alternate MSME insolvency resolution process.
- The government has notified that the threshold of a default which does not exceed Rs 1 crore for the initiation of a pre-packaged resolution process remains unchanged.

- The pre pack is merely an informal way of providing a corporate rescue plan for which approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) will be sought.
- Besides, an MSME not having met its Rs 10 lakh payment obligation, could either initiate a pre-pack bankruptcy resolution scheme on its own with the approval of the lenders or the lenders who are representing the 66% debt of the business could themselves initiate the process.

About Pre-packed Insolvency Resolution Mechanism

- Pre-packed insolvency resolution mechanism is a procedure in which a resolution arrangement is decided upon between the lender and the debtor before approaching the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for receiving an approval.
- Under this pre-pack framework, a debtor will initiate and participate in the resolution proceedings in tandem with the lender.
- This is done through an informal process that helps in avoiding costly and lengthy court procedures.

About Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)

- As stated in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), under the existing corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP), a maximum number of 270 days is provided for the resolution process to be completed.
- Under the new pre-pack scheme, the time limit for the resolution will be reduced and the participants will get 90 days to submit resolution plans and NCLT will approve them in another 30 days.

Deposit Insurance Credit Guarantee Corporation Bill, 2021

- Recently, the Union Cabinet clears changes to the deposit insurance laws, under this, up to Rs 5 lakh of funds will be provided to an account holder within 90 days in the event of a bank being put under moratorium by the RBI.

Key Highlights

- The deposit insurance premium has been raised by 20% effective immediately and maximum premium limit by 50%.
- The current Rs 5-lakh deposit insurance cover has been raised from Rs 1 lakh in the year 2020.
- Depositors normally have to wait for 8 to 10 years for the liquidation of a distressed bank before they receive their fund deposits. With the change in rule, depositors within 90 days will get insurance money without having to wait for the distressed banks to get liquidated.
- With the bank being put under moratorium, in the first 45 days, Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) will collect all deposit accounts related information. Then in the next 45 days, the information will be reviewed and depositors will be repaid within 90 days.
- Currently, as premium for insurance cover, banks pay 10 paisa on every Rs 100 worth of deposits to the DICGC. This is being raised to 12 paisa on every Rs 100.
- DICGC insures deposits in private and public banks, small finance banks, local area banks, cooperative banks, regional rural banks, payment banks as well as Indian branches of foreign banks.

About DICGC

- DICGC is a fully owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and was established in 1978. It insures functioning of all the banks in India.

29th JULY 2021

Earth Overshoot Day 2021

- Earth Overshoot Day 2021 was observed on July 29, almost a month earlier than the year before. It was pushed forward because emissions are on the rise and biodiversity loss is speeding up.

- The date is announced annually by the Global Footprint Network, the global organisation calling for urgent climate action and sustainable consumption.

About Earth Overshoot Day

- Each year, Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when we have used all the biological resources that the Earth can renew during the entire year.
- This means humanity has again used up all biological resources that our planet regenerates during the entire year by 29th July, 2021.
- The concept of Earth Overshoot Day was first conceived by Andrew Simms of the UK think tank New Economics Foundation, which partnered with Global Footprint Network in 2006 to launch the first global Earth Overshoot Day campaign.
- Earth Overshoot Day is computed by dividing the planet's bio capacity (the amount of ecological resources Earth is able to generate that year), by humanity's Ecological Footprint (humanity's demand for that year), and multiplying by 365, the number of days in a year.

■ DO YOU KNOW: _____

Ecological Footprint is a metric that comprehensively compares human demand on nature against nature's capacity to regenerate.

Raja Mircha

- Raja Mircha, also known as Naga King Chilli, was exported to London for the first time from the state of Nagaland.

About Raja Mircha

- In the year 2008 Raja Mircha received Geographical Indication certification.



- It is among the top five hottest chillies in the world based on Scoville Heat Units.
- It has a distinct flavour as well as aroma.

About Scoville Heat Units

- Scoville Heat Units is the measurement that is done to measure the hotness of a pepper or a hot sauce.
- It is generally done by checking the number of times capsaicin needs to be dissolved in water filled with sugar.
- The number of Scoville Heat Units (SHU) in hot sauce or a pepper indicates the amount of capsaicin present in the pepper or the hot sauce. The higher the rating the hotter the pepper.

Global Education Summit

- The United Kingdom and Kenya have co-hosted a Global Education Summit in London with the objective to raise 5 billion USD for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) which funds public education in up to 90 territories and countries.

Key Highlights

- The summit was held as the governments are facing huge challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has caused disruptions. Due to the pandemic schools have closed abruptly in most countries.
- Many closures happened without any response plan and this has led to serious gaps in the various governments' delivery of learning via online platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The disruption towards the education of children has highlighted the need for the governments of various countries to devote more resources and attention to address this longstanding inequality in the education system of the countries which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.
- To tackle these challenges which are being faced, education ministries of the countries should deliver

funding that will help in achieving the international targets and protect their respective education budgets from possible cuts.

- These countries which require public education funds are home to more than 80% of the world's children who are out of school.

30th JULY 2021

Secured Logistics Documents Exchange

- The Union Government has launched the Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE) which aims to digital transformation which can be done in the logistics sector of the country to achieve the targets of improving the country's ranking in Logistics Performance Index.

Key Highlights

- The initiative has been launched to reduce logistics cost, improve logistics efficiency and sustainability and promote multi-modality in a big way.
- These digital initiatives have been launched by the government to fill the gaps where no action has been taken either by the government or the private players of the country.
- More than 75 participants from the Banks, Central Ministries, IT companies, industry bodies, international organizations and the logistics sector stakeholders were present during the launch event.
- Besides, a Green House Gases (GHG) emissions calculator has also be launched.

About GHG emissions Calculator

- It is a user-friendly tool that provides for comparing and calculating GHG emissions across different modes.
- This calculator allows for a comparison which will be made commodity wise of GHG emissions, total cost of transportation, including the environmental cost, between movement by rail and road.

About SLDE platform

- SLDE platform for the digital exchange of logistics related documents and a Calculator for GHG emissions have been developed.
- The SLDE platform will look to replace the present manual process of exchange, generation and compliance of the related logistics documents with a secure, digitized and a seamless document exchange system.
- This will enable the storage, generation, and interchange of logistics-related documents digitally using Blockchain and Aadhaar based security protocols for data authentication and security.
- It will also help in lowering shipping cost and reducing carbon footprint.

INDRA NAVY Exercise

- The 12th edition of INDRA NAVY exercise was recently held in the Baltic Sea. It is a biennial bilateral maritime exercise that is conducted between the Indian Navy and Russian Navy.
- It was initiated in the year 2003.
- This exercise further strengthens the long-term strategic relationship between the navies of the two countries.

Key Highlights

- This exercise was undertaken as INS Tabar's visit to St Petersburg in Russia to participate in the Russian Navy's 325th Navy Day celebrations.
- The primary aim of this year's exercise was to further strengthen the inter-operability which has been built up by the Navies of both the countries and also to enhance procedures and understandings of various maritime operations.
- This edition of the exercise includes diverse and wide-ranging activities which have been stretched across the broad spectrum of maritime operations.
- INS Tabar represented the India Navy whilst the Russian Federation Navy was represented by Corvettes RFS Odintsovo and RFS Zelyony Dol of the Baltic Fleet.

'AI For All' Initiative

- Intel has collaborated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Ministry of Education to announce the launch of the 'AI For All' initiative. This initiative has been launched with the aim of creating a basic understanding of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for everyone in the country

Key Points

- NITI Aayog's 'National Strategy for AI' focuses on leveraging AI for inclusive growth and also to develop AI solutions for the various societal needs.
- The National Education Policy 2020 of India also emphasizes in preparing the students of the country for an AI driven economy.
- India is striving to build a digital-ready foundation so that it can be used by a broader section of the population and will also help them to understand about how AI can impact their lives in a positive manner.

About AI For All

- Intel's AI For All is a 4-hour, learning programme. It can be accessed by all and is as much applicable to a student as to a stay-at-home parent or a professional in any field and even a senior citizen of the country.
- The programme aims to introduce Artificial Intelligence, its usage and function, to 1 million citizens in the first year of the program.
- This 4-hour program is divided into two sections: AI Appreciation (2.5 hours) and AI Awareness (1.5 hours).
- AI Awareness: The segment on AI Awareness provides an elementary understanding of AI, misconceptions about AI and the potential of application of AI.

- AI Appreciation: The AI Appreciation segment will help the learners understand the domains of AI as well as the impact it has across the various industries.
- This program is available in 11 vernacular languages. The content has also been made compatible with various talkback applications so that it can also be accessed by visually impaired people.

31st JULY 2021

NISAR Satellite

- The ISRO-NASA Joint Mission NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite, which aims to measure changes in the earth's surface globally using advanced radar images, is scheduled to be launched in early 2023.
- NISAR is a joint Earth observation mission between ISRO and NASA, used for global observation of the entire earth, including the polar cryosphere and the Indian Ocean region.
- This is a dual-band (L-band and S-band) radar imaging mission with full polarimetric and interferometric modes of operation for observing small changes in land, vegetation, and cryosphere.
- NASA is developing L-band SAR and related systems, while ISRO is developing S-band SAR, spacecraft bus, launch vehicle, and related launch services.

Objectives of NISAR:

- The main scientific goal of this mission is to improve understanding of the effects of climate change on the planet's changing ecosystems, terrestrial and coastal processes, land deformation, and the cryosphere.
- Earlier, India and the United States agreed to this mission during then US President Barack Obama's visit to India in the year 2015.

Global Conservation Assured/ Tiger Standards

- Recently, India's 14 Tiger Reserves have received the Global Conservation Assured I Tiger Standards (CAITS) accreditation.
- The 14 tiger reserves are: Orang, Manas and Kaziranga in Assam; Kanha, Panna and Satpura in Madhya Pradesh; Pench in Maharashtra; Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar; Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh; Sunderbans in West Bengal; Parambikulam in Kerala; Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka; and Annamalai and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

About Global Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) accreditation

- CAITS is a conservation tool which is accepted globally. This tool sets best standards and practices to manage the tiger population of the world and encourages their assessments for benchmarking of progress.
- It is being implemented in around 125 sites in seven tiger range countries. India has the highest number of 94 sites, out of which assessment of 20 tiger reserves were completed this year.
- Currently, India has 51 tiger reserves which are spread across 18 states.

Samajik Adhikarita Shivir

- The 'Samajik Adhikarita Shivir' for the distribution of assistive devices and aids to 'Divyangjan', held in Madhya Pradesh.

Key Highlights

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) along with District Administration Chhindwara and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) organized this 'shivir' under the Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- This 'shivir' was organized in Chhindwara which is located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- In view of the COVID 19 pandemic, a total of 8,291 assistive devices and assistive devices worth Rs 4.32 crore to be distributed to 4146 Divyangjan at the Block/Panchayat level for free.

About Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)

- MoSJE is responsible for the well-being, social justice and empowerment of socially disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including Other Backward Classes (OBC), Scheduled Castes (SC), transgender and LGBTQ people, the disabled, the elderly and drug abuse victims.
- Dr. Virendra Kumar is the current minister of MoSJE.

