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India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY  
WEEKLY CURRENT  
AFFAIRS**

WEEK-4

22<sup>nd</sup> August - 31<sup>st</sup> August

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Targeted Examinations:

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

# Current Affairs MADE EASY

(22<sup>nd</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020)

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

## Harit Path

- The National Highway Authority of India has launched the mobile application called “Harit Path”. The application has started creating user IDs for experts.
- The application developed will monitor growth, location, species details and will maintain targets, achievements made by individual plantation projects.
- The application has been launched on Big Data Analytics platform - Data Lake.

## Harit Bharat Sankalp:

- Apart from launching mobile applications, the NHAI has taken up a nation-wide plantation drive called “Harit Bharat Sankalp”. This has been launched to promote environment protection and sustainability.

## Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

- The Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) extended the unemployment benefit scheme Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana till June 2021.
- The Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana is being implemented by Employee State Insurance Corporation. The scheme was approved under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948.

## About Scheme:

- The scheme was introduced in 2018. The scheme provides 25% of average per day earning in the previous four contribution periods.
- The scheme pays cash directly to the bank account of insured persons in case of unemployment.
- Under the scheme, the workers can draw 47% of total contributions towards ESIC after being unemployed for at least three months.

## Natural Gas reserves in Black Sea

- Turkey announced the discovery of a large natural gas reserves in the Black Sea coast.
- Turkey is to start using the discovered natural gas by 2023.

## Natural Gas in India:

- The domestic natural gas in India is supplied from oil and gas fields in south eastern and western areas of Mumbai. It is also found in the North Eastern region (Tripura and Assam). However, India imports 45% of its natural gas.

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020**

### **National Food Security Act, 2013**

The National Food Security Act, 2013 provides subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System. It covers 75% of rural Population and 50% of urban population. Therefore, the act covers two-thirds of Indian population.

Under the Act, the eligible persons receive 5 kgs of food grains per month per person at subsidised price of Rs 1 or 2 or 3 per kg. Rice or Wheat are provided.

The act provides benefits to pregnant and lactating mothers. They are to be provided with maternity benefit of not less than Rs 6,000.

The children up to 14 years of age are to be entitled to nutritious meals.

**Context:** The Union Government has asked the State governments and the Union Territories to include all the disabled persons under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

### **National Council for Transgender Persons**

- The Government of India has constituted National Council for Transgender Persons. The Council is to be headed by the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It comprises members from central departments and community.
- The Council has been formed under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

#### **Functions of Council:**

- To advise the Central Government on formulation of policies, legislation, programmes and projects with respect to transgender persons.
- To monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgenders.
- To review and coordinate activities of all departments.
- To redress grievances of transgender persons.

**24<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

### **OSOWOG Initiative**

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has proposed the One Sun, One Earth, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative.

The OSOWOG initiative aimed at creating a global eco-system of interconnected renewable energy resources that can be easily shared.

## Key Points:

Its objective is to build global consensus about sharing solar resources among more than 140 countries of West Asia and South-East Asia.

The vision of this initiative is 'The Sun Never Sets' and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.

## Rajiv Kumar: New Election Commissioner

The former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as an Election Commissioner. He succeeded Ashok Lavasa who resigned after being appointed as a Vice-President of Asian Development Bank.

### About Election Commission of India

The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.

Article 324 of the Constitution of India applies to rules to protect and preserve the duties of the Election Commission.

The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.

## Swachh Survekshan 2020

The Swachh Survekshan 2020 report was published by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs of the Union (MoHUA).

- This is the fifth edition of the MoHUA Annual Urban Cleanliness Report. It's one of the biggest sanitation assessments in the country.
- This year, the Ministry published rankings focused on the population categorization of towns, instead of releasing overall rankings.
- **Major Categories and Rankings:**
  - Cities with a population of more than 10 lakh:
    - Indore was ranked first, securing the position for the fourth consecutive year, followed by Surat and Navi Mumbai.
  - Cities with a population of 1-10 lakh:
    - Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur has been surveyed as the cleanest city in the country, followed by Mysore and New Delhi.
  - Cities with a population of less than 1 lakh:
    - Karad has been ranked first followed by Sasvad and Lonavala (all three in Maharashtra).

## National Sports Awards, 2020

The Government of India has announced the National Sports Awards, 2020.

**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award:** The prize is awarded over a span of four years to sportspeople for the most excellent results in the area of sports. Subsequent individuals were chosen for the 2020 award: Rohit Sharma (Cricket), Mariyappan Thangavelu (Para-Athlete), Vinesh Phogat (Wrestler) and Rani Rampal (Women's Hockey).

**Arjuna Award:** 27 Sport individuals were nominated for the award this year. The award winners are given a cash prize of Rs 5 lakhs.

**Dronacharya Award:** This award is presented to the coaches for producing medal winners at international sports events. The award is to be presented to the following:

- Dharmendra Tiwary (Archery)
- Purushotam Rai (Athletics)
- Romesh Pathania (Hockey)
- Shiv Singh (Boxing)
- Krishan Kumar (Tennis)
- Om Prakash Dahiya (Wrestling)

**Dhyan Chand Award:** The award is presented for a lifetime contribution to the development of sports. The award is to be presented to the following:

- Kuldip Singh Bhullar and Jincy Philips (Athletics)
- Pradeep Sri Krishna Gandhe and Trupti Murugunde (Badminton)
- N Usha and LAKha Singh (Boxing)
- Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu (Football)
- Ajit Singh (Hockey)
- Manpreet Singh (Kabaddi)
- Satyaprakash Tiwari (Para Badminton)
- P Bal (Tennis)
- Netarpal Hooda (Wrestling)

**Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar:** Given to Lakshya Institute and Army Sports Institute for identifying and nurturing young talents.

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

## NEP-2020: Karnataka set to be the first state to implement

Karnataka will be the first state in India to implement the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The NEP 2020 aims to align itself with the objective of ensuring equal and accessible quality education for everyone in the next 20 years.

### **Key Features of NEP-2020:**

- Education for all children under the age group of 3 to 18.
- Increase in gross enrolment ratio by 2035.
- Budget Allocation of 6% GDP.
- 10+2 system into 5+3+3+4 format.
- Multidisciplinary college in every district by 2030.
- Coding subject from class VI.
- E-course in regional languages.
- Thrust on vocational training.

### **MY IAF**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched a mobile application called 'My IAF' containing career-related information with job details that will be useful for candidates.

#### **Key Details:**

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has developed the mobile app. The app will provide brief information about the history and stories of IAF. The app will serve the candidates by providing information regarding the selection process, training, pay scale, and other important details for the post of officer and airmen. It contains entertaining videos and adventurous games. Real-time updates of IAF will also be visible.

### **ASTROSAT**

The Pune-based Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics has reported that the ASTROSAT satellite has observed extreme ultraviolet (UV) rays. It is far from a galaxy that is 9.3 billion light years away from Earth.

#### **About ASTROSAT:**

ASTROSAT is the first multi-wavelength space telescope launched by ISRO from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in 2015.

It has a set of five unique X-ray and ultraviolet telescopes.

The mission duration was planned for 5 years.

### **India's longest Ropeway Service**

The longest river ropeway of India was inaugurated over the Brahmaputra river connecting Guwahati city and North Guwahati in Assam.

The ropeway has been operated from Kachari Ghat in Guwahati to Dol Govinda temple in North Guwahati.

It passes over the mid-river Peacock Island that houses Umananda, a medieval Shiva temple.

It thus cuts travel time between the two banks to 8 minutes.

## **RBI's new special OMO**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has declared its intention to purchase and sell activities of Government securities under the Open Market Operations for an amount of Rs 20,000 crore in two channels.

### **About Open Market Operation (OMO):**

Open market operation is the practice of the RBI that is concerned with offering or selling liquidity of its currency to banks.

The RBI can either purchase or sell government bonds on an open market.

### **Objectives:**

OMO help to regulate the money supply in the economy.

Purchasing government securities injects the money supply in the economy.

Selling government securities flows out liquidity from the system.

OMO reduces the impact of liquidity on the interest rate and inflation rate.

**26<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

## **KVIC's Honey Mission**

The Uttar Pradesh Government handed over 700 bee boxes to 70 migrant workers of two districts of the state of Uttar Pradesh which provided them the livelihood opportunity through the "Honey Mission" program.

The Honey Mission was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission in 2017. It aims at employment generation for the farmers, Adivasis, women, and unemployed youth by associating them with beekeeping activities and increasing the overall honey production in India.

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body of the Government of India. It was formed in 1957 under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'. It is headquartered in Mumbai.

## **PM-KISAN Scheme**

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a scheme to provide minimum income support of Rs. 6,000 per year. It was announced during the presentation of the 2019 Interim Union Budget of India.

It aimed at providing financial assistance to the Small and Marginal Farmers in procuring various substances to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields.

It provides protection to the farmers from the corrupt practices of moneylenders in the matter of meeting agricultural expenses.

**Context:** The Union Government is planning to crack down on those farmers who are unlawfully receiving payments from the PM-KISAN scheme by concealing important details required.

**27<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

## **Export Preparedness Index 2020**

NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index of 2020 has been released in which Gujarat topped the list followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

As per the report, six of eight coastal states secured their places in the top 10 rankings.

### **Key Points:**

Rajasthan topped among the landlocked states.

Uttarakhand topped among the Himalayan states.

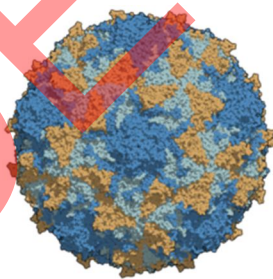
Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have improved their rating.

India's per capita exports is 241 USD.

### **Note:**

NITI Aayog has set up a partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness to release the Export Preparedness Index, in which four key parameters are: Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem and Export Performance.

## **WHO declared Africa Wild Polio-free**



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared Africa polio-free. The disease is now found only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Nigeria is the last African country to be declared free from wild polio.

As more than 95% of Africa population have now been immunized, therefore Africa met a condition set by the WHO to declare the continent polio free.

### **About Polio Virus**

Polio virus spreads from person to person through contaminated water and surroundings. It can attack nervous system and lead to paralysis.

### **Pulse Polio Programme**



It is the flagship programme of the Indian Government to eradicate Polio, launched in 1995.

India was officially declared polio-free along with the rest of the South East Asian region in 2014.

## **‘BRICS Innovation Base’ on 5G**

China is going to establish a BRICS innovation base for strengthening the cooperation among the five-member countries group including India in technical sectors like 5G, Artificial Intelligence, and digital economy, industry, and information technology.

### **About BRICS:**

BRICS group is composed by the five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS). It was formed in 2009.

The group together represents about 42% of the population of world, 30% of the territory, 18% of the global trade and 23% of the GDP.

Every year the member countries meet at the annual BRICS summit held by member states turn by turn to discuss the recent progress and happenings across the world.

**28<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

## **Schedule VI of Constitution**

- Arunachal Assembly passed a resolution for the entire state to be included in the Sixth Schedule of the constitution. It provides protection of tribal people's rights in the Northeast states.

### **About Schedule VI:**

- The Sixth Schedule of the constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.
- It safeguards the rights of tribal populations in these states. It was included based on the reports of the Bordoloi Committee that was formed by the Constituent Assembly of India.
- **Autonomous District Councils:** The Schedule gives tribes to exercise executive and legislative powers in their districts through these councils. the state government cannot interfere with the decisions taken by these councils within their powers.

## **RCS- UDAN 4.0**

- Under the fourth version of the Government's regional connectivity scheme UDAN 4.0, a total of 78 additional routes have been approved by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. It will further boost regional connectivity in remote areas of the country.

### **Key Features:**

- The prime focus of the latest round will be on the North Eastern Region, states with hilly areas, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Islands.
- The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) provision will be revised for the aircraft with more than 20 seats.
- The revision of VGF will also be done in the case of the aircraft with a total seat less than 20, for further incentivization of the operation under the scheme.

### **UDAN scheme:**

- Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Scheme was launched in 2017 as a flagship program of the Union Government to start air connectivity operations on the unserved routes in the country.
- Its main objective was the promotion of balanced regional growth and affordable flying for the masses. This is a key component of the National Civil Aviation Policy.

**29<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

### **NDC-TIA**

The NITI Aayog has launched Nationally Determined Contributions Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA).

It has been launched to decarbonize transport and provide technical support on Greenhouse Gas emission reduction measures.

The main objective of the programme is to support and regulate policies to promote electric vehicle charging infrastructure and smooth wide-scale adoption of electric vehicles in India.

The project will include three countries namely India, China and Vietnam for a period of 2020 to 2024.

### **Marieke Lucas Rijneveld**



The Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld has become the youngest person to receive the International Booker Prize. He received the award for his debut novel "The Discomfort of Evening."

The author is to share the award with the translator of the novel, Michele Hutchinson.

### **About International Booker Prize:**

It is an international literary award hosted in the United Kingdom. The award was presented every two years from 2005.

Since 2016, it has been presented annually.

The prize carries cash of 64,000 USD or 50,000 pounds.

**30<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

### **CHUNAUTI**

Union Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) recently launched a Startup Challenge Contest "CHUNAUTI" to promote startups indulged in software products.

CHUNAUTI is an acronym for "Challenge Hunt Under NGIS for Advanced Uninhibited Technology Intervention".

#### **Key Points:**

The objective of CHUNAUTI is to find the products as well as solutions to address the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The programme is looking at the solutions which can support Government, industries and public at large for their seamless operations and enabling them to face the varied difficulties & bottlenecks in a pandemic situation.

### **AGRIOTA**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Government has launched AGRIOTA, a new technology driven agricultural commodity trading platform that will connect rural farmers from India and the food industry of UAE.

The platform will also help to improve the Global Food Security Index of UAE.

#### **About Global Food Security Index**

The Global Food Security Index (GFSI) is an annual assessment measuring food security through affordability, availability, and quality and safety.

India ranked 72nd out of 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index in 2019. Singapore was ranked the first followed by Ireland, United States, Switzerland and Finland.

### **Jal Jeevan Mission**

The Union Government has decided to provide a smart rural water supply system under Jal Jeevan Mission.

The village level smart systems will collect data and send it to district, the districts to the states and the states to the national level committee.

This will help to analyze the demand pattern.

### **Key Points:**

The Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented in the country with the aim of providing clean tap water connection to every rural household by 2024.

Under the programme, the 55 litres of water is to be provided per day on a long-term basis.

It is being implemented under National level, state level, district level and village level committees.

**31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

### **Delimitation Commission**

- Delimitation is the act of fixing limits to the boundaries of territorial constituencies. It is essential to provide fair division of geographical areas to prevent advantage of one - political party over the other.
- Article 82 states that the Parliament shall enact a Delimitation Act after every census.
- The Delimitation Act was enacted in 1952. So far, four delimitation commissions have been set up in 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002. There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 census.
- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India in consultation with the Election Commission of India.
- The members of Delimitation Commission are a Retired Supreme Court Judge, Chief Election Commissioner and the respective State Election Commission.

### **Context:**

- The Delimitation Panel has been set up to redraw constituencies of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Delimitation Panel will redraw the constituencies based on the 2011 census. It will also work on increasing the assembly seats of Jammu and Kashmir based on its Reorganization Act.

### **ASEAN-India Forum**

- The ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations was held virtually.

- The meeting was attended by the commerce ministers of the 10 ASEAN countries. This included Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia and Philippines.
- The ASEAN-India Business Council report was submitted during the meeting. The report had recommended reviewing the AITIGA.

**About AITIGA:**

- The ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) is a free trade agreement between the ten ASEAN members and India. It was signed in 2010.

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