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**MADE EASY
WEEKLY CURRENT
AFFAIRS**

WEEK-1

1st July - 7th July

Targeted Examinations:

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

Current Affairs MADE EASY

(1st July to 7th July 2020)

1st July 2020

Accelerate Vigyan

- The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) of Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched 'Accelerate Vigyan' scheme. It aims to provide a single platform that will encourage high-end scientific research through workshops conducted by research scholars and students.
- The scheme consists of two missions:

(i) Mission Samoohan (Bring Together):

- The Accelerate Vigyan scheme to be started with this mission which aims for consolidating all scientific interactions in the country under one common roof.
- This mission has two components, namely Sangoshthi (Seminar & Symposia) and Sayonjia (Chronicle)

(ii) Mission Abhyaas (Skill Development):

- This Mission is launched for the winter season for students looking for career development in the field of research.
- This mission has two components, namely: Karyashala (High-End Workshops) and Vritika (Research Internship).

National Doctor's Day

- Every year on 1st July, India celebrates National Doctor's Day to express gratitude towards the doctors and physicians for their dedicated service to humanity. The date is chosen to observe the birth anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, the great physician and former Chief Minister of West Bengal.
- The First National Doctor's Day was celebrated in the year 1991. The day is organized by the Indian Medical Association (IMA).
- The Theme of 2020 National Doctor's Day was *Lessen the Mortality of COVID-19*.
- **Importance:** During the time of a global COVID-19 pandemic, it is the duty of each and every citizen of the country to acknowledge the important role the doctors have played and will continue to play by offering their round-the-clock services in saving thousands of lives.

Hamara Ghar Hamara Vidyalaya

- The Madhya Pradesh Government has prepared a digital campaign named 'Hamara Ghar Hamara Vidyalaya' for providing a school-like environment to the students of classes 1 to 8 in the state during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For the success of the campaign, the Education Department has urged family members to provide a proper place in the house to the children where they can study without any disturbances.
- As per the timetable, there will be 4 classes of 1 hour each from Monday to Friday. On Saturday, classes related to extracurricular activities such as yoga, listening to stories etc. will be conducted.

2nd July 2020

Constitutional Referendum in Russia

- Russia recently undergone Constitutional Referendum in which as per the votes, 77.95 percent of Russian citizens have voted in support of the amendments to the Constitution of Russia which was adopted in 1993. Only 21.23 percent of the Russian Citizens voted against the amendments.
- Earlier, in the State Duma (Russian Parliament), President Vladimir Putin had submitted the list of 14 draft amendments that will be changed under the 1993 Constitution of Russia. For introducing these amendments, he called for a nationwide referendum.
- As per one of the amendments, the term of the current President Vladimir Putin and former President Dmitry Medvedev (from 2008-2012) will be reset or counted from 0 from 2024 so that either of them can be elected as the President again in 2024.
- At present, a person can serve as the President of Russia for a maximum of two consecutive terms. A term of the President of Russia is of 6 years.
- Vladimir Putin's second consecutive term (from 2012-2018, 2018-2024) would have ended in 2024, but now with a clear majority of the Russian's having opted for the Constitutional Amendments, Putin can remain as the President of Russia until 2036.
- Apart from these in 2020, the 5 new Articles were added and 41 existing Articles have been already been rewritten in the Russian Constitution of 1993.

North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

- A new free trade agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada comes into effect from 1st July 2020 onwards. It replaced the earlier 26 years old free trade agreement between the three countries- North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new free trade agreement has been ratified by all three countries.
- The new initiative which yet to have an official name is not a wholly new agreement; it is a renegotiated version of the earlier NAFTA agreement with certain changes.

Dream Kerala Project

- The Kerala Government to launch Dream Kerala- a project for the rehabilitation of Non-Resident Indians who are returning to the state following the loss of employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Through the Dream Kerala Project, not only rehabilitation will be provided to the returning expatriate but the success of the project will depend on the use of the expertise, skills, and knowledge of the returning migrants who are trained in international job scenario and have an experience of the global market.
- **Key Highlights about the project**
 - Kerala has set a target for the successful implementation of the project within 100 days from 1st July 2020. Within this time period, the State Government will accept proposals and suggestions from the migrants.
 - An expert panel will be formed to decide on proposals submitted. Besides, a panel of young civil servants will be formed for expert opinions.
 - The selected proposals will be then presented in the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020

- Union Government has launched Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020, an initiative to support the drug discovery process.
- The main objective of the hackathon is to identify drug candidates for the COVID-19 virus through computational methods.
- In this, any professional, researchers, faculty, and students can participate from across the globe. The primary focus during the hackathon will be to focus on the computational aspects of the discovery of drugs.

Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao

- Delhi Government to launch a mega tree plantation drive, named 'Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao' to increase the green cover of city. The campaign will begin on 10th July 2020 and will continue until 26th July 2020.
- The initiative is a part of efforts to decrease the high air pollution level in Delhi especially during winter season.
- As per official figure, in 17 days, total of 31 lakh (3.1 million) saplings will be planted under the campaign. Out of the 31 lakh saplings, 20 lakh saplings will be of big trees while the remaining 11 lakh saplings will be of shrubs that will be planted on both sides of the roads.

3rd July 2020

Bharat Bond ETF

- Bharat Bond is India's first Corporate Bond Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF). The Fund provides additional source of money for Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), Central Public Financial Institutions (CPFIs) and other Government organizations to meet their borrowing requirements, apart from bank financing.
- An Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) is a basket of securities that trade on an exchange, just like a stock. It reflects the composition of an Index, like BSE Sensex. Its trading value is based on the Net Asset Value (NAV) of the underlying stocks (such as shares) that it represents.
- ETF share prices fluctuate all day as it is bought and sold. This is different from mutual funds that only trade once a day after the market closes.
- **Context:** The Second Tranche of Bharat Bond ETF will be open for subscription from 14th July to 17th July 2020.
- **Note:** The plan for the Bharat Bond ETF of India was announced by Union Finance Minister during the Union Budget 2018-19.

Swachh Survekshan Survey

- Swachh Survekshan, conducted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) since 2016, is the world's largest urban sanitation and cleanliness survey.
- The primary goal of Swachh Survekshans is to encourage large scale citizen participation and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities better places to reside in.
- **Context:**
 - The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has released dates for Swachh Survekshan Survey 2021 which will be conducted from 4th January to 31st January 2021.
 - **Key Highlights:**
 - The portal of the integrated Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)-Urban Management Information System (MIS) was launched that will help in bringing various digital initiatives under a single platform.
 - Under title 'Prerak Daur Samman' a new category of award was added to the 2021 Swachh Survekshan survey. The award will have five subcategories: Platinum (Divya), Gold (Anupam), Silver (Ujjwal), Bronze (Udit) and Aspiring (Arohi).

Fit Hai to Hit Hai India Programme

- Union Government has launched 'Fit Hai to Hit Hai India' programme under the Fit India campaign, to inspire and motivate the school children about the importance and need to stay fit during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- It was launched by Ramesh Pokhriyal (the Union Minister of Human Resource Development) and Kiren Rijju (the Union Minister of State I/C for Youth Affairs and Sports) in the presence of sportspersons P.V Sindhu and Sunil Chhetri.
- Under the programme, Talk sessions named Fit India Talks will be organized. In this, a total of six sessions will be organized until 14th July. The leading sports celebrities will participate in these Talk sessions to share their life experiences from failures struggles and to success, and also will be sharing fitness tips.

4th July 2020

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

- The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was announced as a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat for supporting the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country. ECLGS ensured the credit that is required by the MSMEs for restarting their businesses.
- Under ECLGS, banks were incentivized so that credit of up to Rs 3 lakh crore can be provided to MSMEs and businesses across the country.
- National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) provides a 100 percent guarantee for the loans sanctioned by the banks under the ECLGS.
- **Context:** As of 1st July 2020, Public Sector Banks and Private Banks across the country have sanctioned loans worth over Rs 1.10 lakh crore under ECLGS.

Jal Jeevan Mission

- Jal Jeevan Mission was launched by the PM Narendra Modi during his address to the nation on the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day on 15th August 2019.
- The target was set to provide every rural household in the country with Household Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024.
- For achieving the target of providing every rural household in the country with an FHTC by 2024, Rs 3.5 lakh crore will be spent.
- During the first quarter of FY 2020-21 (April to June 2020), 19 lakh rural households were provided with FHTC.
- **Context:** Himachal Pradesh Govt. is planning to provide 100 percent coverage of Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) under Jal Jeevan Mission to all rural households in the state by August 2022.

Mangalyaan Mission

- The Mangalyaan Mission was launched by ISRO on 5th November 2013 from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre located in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The mission was launched by the Rocket PSLV-C25. It entered the orbit of Mars successfully in the first attempt on 24th September 2014.
- **Context:** Mars Orbiter has captured the image of Phobos (the largest moon of Mars). The image of Phobos was captured from a distance of 4200 kilometres.
- **Note:** In the image captured by Mars Orbiter, the Stickney Crater is visible along with Roche, Shklovsky and Grildrig craters of Phobos. Stickney Crater is the largest crater on the Phobos.

Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

- Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) was formulated in July 2014, with an aim to identify individuals with medal prospects from across the country, to further groom and to prepare them for the upcoming Olympics and Paralympics.
- **Context:**
 - The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to launch Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for the junior athletes in order to groom them for the upcoming Olympics of 2024 (Paris) and 2028 (Los Angeles).
 - The objective of the scheme is to ensure that the efforts should be made, so that India can be in the top 10 of the overall medals tally at the 2028 Olympics.
 - As TOPS will be implemented for the junior athletes of the country, 10 to 12-year-old talents will be chosen under the scheme through various talent identification programs by the authorities, including Khelo India programme.

App Innovation Challenge

- PM Narendra Modi has launched App Innovation Challenge which is an initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in partnership with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- The objective of App Innovation Challenge is to explore the vibrant tech and start-up ecosystem by identifying existing applications from each respective category those have the potential to become a world-class application.
- It is in-line for building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat using digital technologies.

Dhamma Chakra Day

- The Dhamma Chakra Day is celebrated all over the world to commemorate the first sermon that Gautama Buddha gave to his five ascetic disciples at the Deer Park in Sarnath. Gautama Buddha gave his first sermon on the day of the full moon in the month of Asadha (the month of July).
- Dhamma Chakra Day is the second most sacred day in Buddhism after Vesak Day (Buddha Purnima).

- **Context:** Ram Nath Kovind, the President of India, virtually inaugurated Dhamma Chakra Day from Rashtrapati Bhawan. It was organised by Ministry of Culture in partnership with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

5th July 2020

Elyments Application

- M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Vice President of India has launched Elyments app, an indigenously developed social media platform under Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign.
- The homegrown app has been made keeping in mind Indian audiences as it is available in eight different regional languages. The application is developed by Sumeru Software Solutions Private Limited.
- As Data security has been an issue with various foreign and local apps, the company has claimed that it will never share the user data with any third party without the consent of user, and the data of users will be stored in India only.

Intzaar Aap Ka campaign

- The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has started a social media campaign, named 'Intzaar Aap Ka' in order to attract tourists in the state.
- The campaign is being conducted by describing the characteristics of the tourism destinations in Madhya Pradesh through photographs and videos.
- Through the campaign, the tourism board aims to establish the confidence back in the tourism sector by offering tour packages to the tourists that are specially designed by keeping in mind safe travel, stay, and excursion for prevention from COVID-19 infection.
- **Do You Know?**
Madhya Pradesh was the winner of the Best Tourism State National Award for three consecutive years from 2015 to 2017 and has religious (Ujjain, Sanchi Stupa, etc.) to natural (Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pachmarhi, etc.) tourism places.

6th July 2020

Dehing Patkai

- Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts of Assam and covers an area of 111.19 km² rainforest.
- It was declared as an Elephant Reserve under the Project Elephant in 1992. Later, it was declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 2004.
- **Context:** The Assam Government has decided for the upgradation of the status of the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to National Park.

Nekar Samman Yojane

- The Karnataka Government has launched a scheme for the weaver's community in the state, named 'Nekar Samman Yojane', which means Weaver Samman Yojana.
- For becoming a beneficiary of the scheme, silk, cotton, woollen and other handloom weavers in the state of Karnataka have to register themselves at the Seva Sindhu portal (an initiative to deliver the various schemes and services of the Karnataka State Government at the doorstep of the citizens).
- Under the scheme, the state government is transferring Rs 2000 of financial support to all weavers in the state registered with the Seva Sindhu portal.

Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana

- The Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana was launched in May 2018 for providing LPG gas connection to households that were left out under the Ujjwala Yojana of the Central Government.
- All households in the state of Himachal Pradesh were eligible under the Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana, except for households having pensioner, or any member of the household employed with the state or central government and households with income taxpayers.
- **Context:** Himachal Pradesh became the first state in the country to have access to LPG gas connection for every household.

Balaram Yojana

- The Odisha Government has launched a scheme named Balaram Yojana, under which loans will be provided to around 7 lakh landless farmers or sharecroppers in the state, who are facing hardships due to the impacts of nationwide lockdown against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The loans under the Balaram Yojana will be disbursed through joint liability groups. For this, 1,40,000 groups of farmers have been formed. In the current financial year, 70,000 such groups of farmers will be able to avail the credit while the remaining will be covered during the next financial year. Each of these groups will comprise of 5 landless farmers.
- A loan of Rs 1.6 lakh will be provided to each of the farmer's groups.
- The scheme has been prepared in collaboration between the Department of Agriculture and Farmers of the Odisha Government, and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

7th July 2020

Yotta NM1

- Yotta NM1, the Asia's largest and World's second largest Uptime Tier-IV Designed Data Centre was inaugurated virtually at Mumbai. It has been developed by Yotta Infrastructure Solutions LLP.
- It has received certification from the United States-based Uptime Institute as the largest Tier-IV Designed Data Centre in India and Asia, and the World's second largest. This certification is valid up to 27th April 2022.
- Tier I to IV data center is a standardized methodology used to define uptime of data center. This is useful for measuring:
 - a) Data center performance
 - b) Investment
 - c) ROI (return on investment)

Tier-IV data center considered as most robust and less prone to failures. It is designed to host mission critical servers and computer systems, with fully redundant subsystems (cooling, power, network links, storage etc) and compartmentalized security zones controlled by biometric access controls methods.

Ofek-16 Satellite

- Israel has successfully launched its optoelectronic reconnaissance (intelligence) satellite 'Ofek-16' into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which will be used by the Ministry of Defence of the Israel Government.
- This is the 12th Satellite launched by Israel under its Ofek family of satellites. The Ofek-16 Satellite was launched as a payload of the rocket- Shavit 2.
- The new intelligence satellite Ofek-16 will be used for monitoring the developments by Iran's Armed Forces and its nuclear program. Besides, Ofek-16 will also be used for closely monitoring the developments along its Lebanon and Syria borders.