



**MADE EASY**

India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY  
WEEKLY  
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**WEEK-4**

**22<sup>nd</sup> November - 30<sup>th</sup> November**

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**Targeted Examinations:**  
**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Exams,  
SSC and Banking Exams**

## 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

### Sentinel Satellite

- NASA launched the Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite to monitor oceans.
- The satellite was launched in a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The satellite launch was a part of the Mission Jason Continuity of Service.
- The satellite was jointly developed by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, European Space Agency and European Organization for the Exploration of Meteorological satellites and French National Centre for Space Studies.

### Objectives:

- The satellite will make sea level observations and will provide measurements on global sea level rise.
- To measure the sea surface height, the satellite will send pulses to the Earth's surface and will measure the returning signals.
- The satellite will also measure water vapour in the earth's atmosphere. It will also collect data supporting oceanography.

### SIMBEX 2020

- Recently, the Indian and Singapore Navy are to hold maritime exercise SIMBEX-20 in the Andaman Sea.

### Key Points:

- The exercise has been conducted between the countries since 1994.
- The Indian Navy ships to participate in the exercise are destroyer Rana along with **Chetak helicopter, corvettes Kamorta and Karmuk**. Also, submarine Sindhuraj and P81 reconnaissance aircrafts are to participate in the exercise.
- India and Singapore hold a strong long standing cultural, economic relation. Singapore is a part of **Greater India**.

### NOTE:

Greater India refers to the Indian subcontinent and the region surrounding India that has adopted Indian language and religions.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

### IRNSS Satellite Constellation of India

#### Context:

- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) has been accepted as a component of the World-Wide Radio Navigation System by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for its operation in the Indian Ocean Region.

#### Key Points:

- This will enable the vessels to use IRNSS to obtain position information similar to GLONASS and GPS.
- The navigation system up to 1,500 km in the Indian Ocean waters can now replace GPS. This means that the ships in the Indian Ocean can obtain information from IRNSS for their position at sea.

#### About IRNSS:

- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) is an independent regional navigational satellite system that was developed by India.
- Its operational name is NAVIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).
- It was developed in India by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and its commercial wing ANTRIX.
- It consists of 8 satellites located at a distance of approximately 36,000 Km. Currently, 7 satellites are active.
  - 3 satellites are in Geostationary Orbit (GEO)
  - 5 satellites are in inclined Geosynchronous Orbit (GSO)

**NOTE:**

- The GPS is a Global Positioning System owned by the United States.
- GLONASS is the Global Navigation Satellite System of Russia. The GLONASS satellite was completed in 1995.

**SITMEX 2020**

- The trilateral Naval exercise, SITMEX-20 between India, Singapore and Thailand was held in the Andaman sea.

**Key Points:**

- The SITMEX-20 Naval exercise was scheduled in a “non-contact at sea only format” due to covid-19 restrictions.
- The main objective of the exercise is to increase the interoperability between the three navies. The exercise will also enhance multifaceted Maritime operations.
- The Indian Navy was represented by **INS Karmuk and INS Kamorta**.

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

**Project Kirana**

- Mastercard and the United States Agency for International Development launched “Project Kirana”.
- The programme will enable women entrepreneurs to grow, launch and thrive.

**Key Points:**

- Under Project Kirana, a two-year programme is to be rolled out in selected cities such as Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh.
- The project will work to increase revenue, digital payments and expand financial inclusion.
- The project aims to build digital literacy and financial literacy of the women in the state. It will improve business management skills of women.

**Booker Prize 2020**

- The Booker Prize of the year 2020 was won by Douglas Stuart for his debut novel “Shuggie Bain”.
- The shortlist of Booker Prize consisted of five more titles such as Burnt Sugar.
- The Burnt Sugar was published in India as “Girl in White Cotton”.

**About Booker Prize:**

- The Booker Prize is a literary prize awarded annually for the best novel.
- The prize is awarded to novels written in English and published in Ireland or the UK.
- It was formerly known as “Booker-McConnell Prize” (1969-2001) and Man Booker Prize (2002-2019).

**China's Chang'e-5 Lunar Mission**

- Recently, China launched the Change-5 Lunar Mission to carry back rock samples from the moon from its previously unexplored portions.
- Change-5 is the first probe to land at the far side of the moon.
- As the rotation and revolution time of the moon is the same, only one side of the moon is continuously apparent to the earth. The other half of the moon to date remains unexplored and is considered the other side of the moon.

**About Change-5 Mission:**

- The mission is named after the goddess of the Chinese moon. It was launched from the Long March-5 carrier rocket, the largest carrier rocket in China.
- If the mission succeeds, China will become the third country to gather lunar samples from the USA and the Soviet Union.
- The change-5 consists of a lander, a lunar orbiter and a probe of ascent. It has a coring drill, a robotic arm, and a sample chamber to position the samples gathered.
- It is also fitted with radar penetration, sensor and spectrometer. The spacecraft is scheduled to return to Earth by 15 December 2020.

- When the spacecraft enters the orbit of the earth, a pair of vehicles will be placed on the surface of the moon, namely the ascending and the lander.

### Other Lunar Samples

- Previously, the Apollo 11 spacecraft obtained lunar samples. The rocks found on the moon are older than those found on the surface.
- In 1970, Luna 16 of the Soviet Union carried 101 grammes of rocks back from the moon. Other Soviet missions, such as Luna 24, later gathered samples weighing 170 grammes.

### Air India One

#### Context:

- President of India recently boarded the Air India one-B777 aircraft. The aircraft is carrying its first VVIP official.

#### Key Points:

- Air India One is going to be a call sign for the VIP. The aircraft shall be used by the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister of India. The aircraft is fuel-efficient.
- Air India One is to be run by the Indian Air Force Communications Headquarters Squadron, which is located at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.

#### Key Features:

- It is fitted with Large Aircraft Infrared Counter-Measurement (LAIRCM) self-protection missile defence systems.
- LAIRCM consists of missile warning sensors, control interface unit, lower transmitter assembly and processors for tracking, detecting, jam and counter-incoming infrared missiles.

25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

#### Context:

- Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has accepted seven proposals submitted under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana.
- The proposals were sent under the Scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro Processing Cluster of PMKSY.

#### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana:

- It was introduced in 2016 as SAMPADA, Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development Agro-Processing Cluster. Later in 2017, it was renamed as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana.
- Seven components are included in the system, namely Mega Food Parks, Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Added Infrastructure, Development/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacity, Creation of Back and Forward Links, Human Capital and Organizations, Food Protection and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, Infrastructure for Agro-processing.

### Varunastra: a heavy weight Torpedo

- The DRDO recently flagged off the first Varunastra, the heavyweight torpedo. The torpedo was designed and developed by the BDL, Visakhapatnam Unit of Indian Navy.

#### Key Points:

- Varunastra is an electrically powered, heavyweight, anti-submarine torpedo ship that is capable of attacking silent submarines.
- It can be found in both shallow and deep-water settings. Varunastra is India's first heavy torpedo.

- It was first introduced into the Indian Navy in 2016. The torpedo is 1500 kilogrammes in weight. The operational radius is 40 kilometres. Also, Varun Astra is the only torpedo in the world to have GPS-based location assistance.

#### NOTE:

Torpedo is an underwater weapon with an explosive warhead that is designed to detonate when in proximity to the target or on contact with the target.

## 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

### Har Ghar Nal Yojana

- Prime Minister of India has launched the 'Har Ghar Nal Yojana' (Tap Water to Every Household) for the residents of Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra and Mirzapur district.
- The scheme was launched to provide tap water to every Household.

#### Objectives

- The main objective of the scheme is to provide tap water for every household.
- The water of lakes and rivers will be purified and supplied to the families in Sonbhadra.

#### Eligibility

- All households are eligible to claim the benefits of the scheme.
- What are the main components of the scheme?
- The following are the main components included in the scheme
- Development of drinking water sources, bulk water transfer, treatment plants and distribution network to every rural region.

### Brahmos supersonic Cruise Missiles

- India successfully launched the Brahmos supersonic missile variant of the ground attack drill. The research was shot in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- The range of missiles has been extended from 290 km to 400 km. Its speed has been boosted to 2.8 Mach, which is almost three times the speed of sound.

#### About Brahmos missile

- The missile can be launched from ships, submarines, aircraft and from land platforms. Brahmos was a joint venture of DRDO and Russia.
- It was developed based on the Russian P-800 Oniks Cruise missile.
- The name of Brahmos missile was coined from the two rivers Brahmaputra of India and Moscow of Russia.
- It is the fastest anti-ship cruise missile in the world. Brahmos-II is currently under development with a speed of Mach 7-8.

### India Climate Change Knowledge Portal

- Union Minister for Ecology, Forestry and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar has recently unveiled India's Climate Change Knowledge Portal.
- The platform will provide valuable information on the steps taken by the Government at both the national and international levels to resolve climate change concerns.
- It will serve as a single point source of knowledge and provide information on numerous government climate policies.

#### About the portal

- The portal offers adaptation and mitigation steps to be implemented by various Ministries. It also provides up-to-date reports on the execution of these acts.
- The eight main components of the portal are India's climate profile, India's NDC priorities, the National Policy Structure, adaptation action, bilateral and multilateral coordination, monitoring and publishing, mitigation measures, and international climate negotiations.

## Nationally determined contributions of India

- The following are the three national determined contributions of India:
  - To reduce emission intensity of GDP by about one-third by 2030
  - To achieve 40% of installed capacity of electricity from non-fossil fuel sources
  - To achieve additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent forest cover for tree cover by 2030.

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

## Climate Emergency

- The New Zealand Government will shortly decide on the declaration of a climate emergency. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is expected to table a resolution shortly in Parliament.
- If the motion is passed, it will be a historic step in getting climate change to the forefront of decision making.

### What is Climate Emergency?

- Greenpeace New Zealand encourages the New Zealand government to announce a climate emergency as a result of devastating loss of life and residents facing more severe weather conditions in the world as a result of climate change.

#### ■ NOTE:

- Recently, Japanese lawmakers have proclaimed a climate emergency. They also set a timeframe for net zero pollution in the sense of the climate emergency.
- In the case of a climate emergency in New Zealand, other nations, such as France, Canada and Britain, will join in taking crucial steps to combat climate change. The nations that have passed the Climate Emergency are Portugal, France, Canada and the United Kingdom.

## RE-Invest 2020

- The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the 3rd Global Initiative in Renewable Energy, called RE-Invest.
- The 3rd Global RE-Invest Renewable Energy Investors Meeting & Expo was arranged by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India.
- **Theme:** Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition

### Objective:

- RE-Invest would help investors develop awareness of renewable growth. The Re-INVEST partner countries are Australia, France, Denmark, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Maldives, the European Union and the United States.
- The partner countries are Gujarat, MP, HP, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

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

## SDG Investor Map for India

- Invest India and the United Nations Development Program have released a Sustainable Development Goal Investor Map for India.
- There are 18 Investment Potential Zones. These investment prospects are part of the six crucial sustainable development objectives initiated by the United Nations.

### Sustainable development goal investor map

- The map has been developed into six sustainable development priorities, enabling sectors such as health care, education, financial services, agriculture and allied practises, clean energy and the alternative and sustainable climate.
- Ten out of 18 listed Investment Potential Areas have active venture capital and private equity operations.

## Sustainable development goals

- The priorities of sustainable development have been set by the United Nations to resolve the immediate political, environmental and economic problems facing the world.
- There are 17 sustainable development goals that seek to end land, fix climate change and address inequality.

## TX2 International Award

- The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve and the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department bagged the first international award TX2. It was awarded for doubling its number of tigers in four years.
- TX2 stands for "Tigers times two", signalling the goal to double the population of wild tigers by 2022.
- A 1,500-sq. km. the conservation area straddling the India-Bhutan border has received the TX2 Conservation Excellence Award for 2020. The recognition was for the Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA) comprising the 500 sq. km. Manas National Park in Assam and the 1,057-sq. km. Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.

## Tx2 programme

- It was launched by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) at the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit held in Russia. Under it, 13 tiger range countries had agreed to double the world tiger population by 2022, which is the year of the tiger in Chinese calendar.
- It aims at driving political momentum to ensure tigers remain top priority for world leaders, professionalise wildlife protection by training rangers, developing conservation standards (CAITS) and technology (SMART) to achieve zero poaching, tackle illegal wildlife trade through partnership with TRAFFIC, focus efforts in key tiger landscapes and ensure there is space for both tigers and people in future.

### NOTE:

The tiger is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List.

29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

## UAE: First Arab Country to generate electricity from coal

- The United Arab Emirates has recently been the first and potentially the last Arab country to produce coal-fired electricity.

### Key Points:

- Hassyam, a coal plant, is to be set up in Dubai at USD 3.4 billion. The plant would have a capacity of 600 MW. Later, the plant's capacity is to be expanded to 2,400 MW by 2023.
- In spite of the fact that it is the dirtiest power plant, UAE is opting for coal-based power plants because the Hassyam standards for pollution is to be based on guidelines for Natural Gas Power Plant.
- This way the new coal-based power plant will emit less carbon. It is to be lesser than that of the standards set by the World Bank and European Union.

### NOTE:

The country is the sixth largest carbon dioxide emitter in the world. It has set a target of generating half of its electricity from solar and nuclear sources by 2050..

## National Portal for Transgender Persons

- The Government of India has opened the National Portal for Transgender People. The platform will help the transgender people register online for identification cards and certificates.

- It was created in compliance with the guidelines on the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020.
- The biggest advantage of the platform is that the portal can allow transgender people to receive a credential without any physical device.

### **Key Features of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**

- According to the Act, transgender people are identified as persons whose gender does not conform to the gender assigned to them at birth.
- The act forbids discrimination against transgender people in education, jobs, health care, housing and other facilities.
- It demands that people be recognised as transgender people on the basis of identification cards. Identity cards shall be issued by the District Magistrates.
- It enforces a small right of residency. This forces transgenders under 18 years of age to cohabit with their spouses.
- According to the act, it is the right of transgender people to undergo sex reassignment surgery. It is also their right to qualify for other health services.

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

- The Council shall advise the central government on the formulation of services, strategies, regulations and initiatives.
- It tracks and measures the effect of legislation and services intended for the complete participation of transgender people.

30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

## **India's First Green Energy Convergence Project**

- India's first convergence project to generate green energy for rural and agriculture consumption is set to come up in Goa.
- Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, and Goa government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the same.

### **Key Highlights:**

- It focuses on energy solutions that lie at the confluence of renewable energy, electric mobility and climate change.
- It seeks to connect seemingly independent sectors like Solar Energy, Energy Storage and LED lights to provide solutions, which can enable in decarbonisation and affordable energy access.
- EESL is offering convergent interventions, which solve multiple gap areas in the energy ecosystem.

## **Shahtoot dam**

- Union Foreign Minister Shri S Jaishankar recently declared at the Geneva Donors Conference that India is constructing the Shahtoot Dam across the Maidan River, a tributary of the Kabul River in Afghanistan. Negotiations for the building of a river-wide dam started in 2016.

### **About the dam**

- In 2016, India sponsored the Salma Dam across Afghanistan's Hari River (Herat Province). The dam is also known as the Afghan-India Friendship Dam.
- The Shahtoot dam is to be constructed in Kabul river basin, one of the five river basins of Afghanistan.