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India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY  
WEEKLY  
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**WEEK-2**

**08<sup>th</sup> April - 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**

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

8<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

## Anamaya: Tribal Health Collaborative

- Recently, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched Tribal Health Collaborative (THC) 'Anamaya' through a video conference.

### Key Features:

- It is an initiative bringing together governments, philanthropists, national and international foundations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/ Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to end all preventable deaths among the tribal communities of India.
- It will converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities of India.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The initiative will also be supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Piramal Foundation.
- The main objective of the initiative is to enhance the health and nutrition eco-system of tribal communities in India.

## G-sec acquisition programme

- The RBI announced a Rs one lakh crore Government Securities Acquisition programme (G-SAP 1.0.). The first purchase of Rs 25,000 crore is to be made on April 15, 2021.

### About GSAP 1.0:

- The RBI periodically purchases Government bonds from the market through Open Market Operations (OMOs).
- The G-SAP is in a way an OMO.
- But there is an upfront commitment by the RBI to the markets that it will purchase bonds worth a specific amount.

- The idea is to give comfort to the bond markets.
- In other words, G-SAP is an OMO with a 'distinct character.'

### NOTE:

- A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.
- It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year- presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).

## Climate Change platform for poor countries

- The World Bank and International Monetary Fund have launched a platform to advise the poor countries on funding for conservation and climate activities.

### Key points:

- According to the World Bank and IMF, twin global problems. They are as follows:
  - The need to restructure or reduce the heavy debt burden of poor countries
  - The need to reduce fossil fuel emissions contributing to climate change
- Therefore, the solution of including climate change into the debt restructuring process will help motivate sovereign lenders to write off a certain percentage of debt of poorer countries.

### About the platform

- The advisors in the platform will include officials from United Nations, private investors and ratings agencies.
- The platform is supported by the G20 economies as well.

- Three countries such as Chad, Ethiopia and Zambia have initiated the negotiations with the creditors under the new platform.

9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

## INS Sarvekshak

- INS Sarvekshak, a hydrographic survey ship, is on a deployment to Mauritius for undertaking joint hydrographic surveys along with their Mauritian counterparts.
- It will also provide training to the Mauritian personnel on advanced hydrographic equipment and practices during the deployment.

### Key Points:

- During the deployment, training of Mauritian personnel on advanced hydrographic equipment and practices will also be undertaken.
- The ship commenced the hydrographic survey of the 'Deep sea area off Port Louis'.
- INS Sarvekshak, a specialised survey ship is fitted with state-of-the-art survey equipment like Deep Sea Multi-Beam Echo Sounder, Side Scan Sonars and a fully automated digital surveying and processing system.
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## ULPIN: Unique Land Parcel Identification Number

- The Centre plans to issue a 14-digit identification number to every plot of land in the country within a year's time.
- The Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) scheme has been launched in 10 States in the year 2021 and will be rolled out across the country by March 2022.

### Key Points:

- It will subsequently integrate its land records database with revenue court records and bank records, as well as Aadhaar numbers on a voluntary basis.
- The scheme will enhance the service deliveries to the citizens of the country and will also function as inputs to the schemes of the other sectors like Agriculture, Finance, Disaster Management etc.
- The ULPIN is described as "Aadhaar for land".
- The ULPIN is a fourteen-digit Alpha Numeric ID.
- The number will be used to identify every surveyed parcel of land.
- The identification number is to be launched based on latitude and longitude coordinates of the land parcel.

## RE-HAB Project

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways recently launched the project of Khadi and Village Industries (KVIC) called RE-HAB has become a huge success.
- Thus, it is to be implemented in other states as well. This includes Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.

### About Project:

- Project RE-HAB is Reducing Elephant Human Attacks using Bees. It was launched at four spots in the Nagarhole National Park of Karnataka.
- The project aims to prevent elephant human conflicts without creating harm to either of them. The project is highly cost effective.
- The project uses bee boxes as fences to prevent elephants from entering human habitation. The buzz of the bees irritates elephants. Also, elephants fear that the bees might sting them in the inner side of the trunk and in their eyes.
- The bee boxes were provided as a part of Honey Mission.

## About Honey Mission

- The KVIC has launched the Honey Mission to provide awareness, training and 'Bee Boxes' along with Bee Colonies to the farmers. The mission was launched in August 2017 in line with the 'Sweet Revolution'.

10<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

## Quasars

- Recently, an international team of astronomers has discovered the most distant 'Radio-Loud' Quasar with the help of European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (ESO's VLT).
- Warping is twisting. With this discovery, the number of known quasars have increased by 25%.

## About Quasars:

- A quasar known as a quasi-stellar object is an extremely luminous active galactic nucleus (AGN), in which a supermassive black hole with mass ranging from millions to billions of times the mass of the Sun is surrounded by a gaseous accretion disk.
- As gas in the disk falls towards the black hole, energy is released in the form of electromagnetic radiation, which can be observed across the electromagnetic spectrum.
- The power radiated by quasars is enormous; the most powerful quasars have luminosities thousands of times greater than a galaxy such as the Milky Way.
- Most active galaxies have a supermassive black hole at the centre which sucks in surrounding objects.
- Quasars are formed by the energy emitted by materials spiralling around a black hole right before being sucked into it.

### NOTE:

ESO's VLT is the Very Large Telescope used to observe the P172+18 is located at Paranal Observatory in the Atacama Desert.

## Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2021

- The Government of India notifies Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2021. The amendment has been made to bring the existing Copyright rules in the country with parity with the other relevant legislations.

## Key Highlights:

- In India, the copyright regime is governed by the Copyright Act, 1957 and the Copyright Rules, 2013.
- The Copyright Rules, 2013 were last amended in the year 2016.
- Objective of the amendments is to bring the existing rules in parity with other relevant legislations.
- Publication of a copyrights journal has been incorporated eliminating the requirement of publication in the Official Gazette.
- The journal would be available at the website of the Copyright Office.
- In order to encourage accountability and transparency, new provisions have been introduced to deal with the undistributed royalty amounts and use of electronic and traceable payment methods while collection and distribution of royalties.

## About Copyright:

- Copyright is an intellectual property. It gives the owner the exclusive right to make copies of his or her creative work. It can be education, artistic, literary or music.
- According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation, Copyright protects two types of rights. They are Economic rights and moral rights.

## Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector

- The Union Education Minister recently launched the world's first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector called the "NanoSniffer".

### About NanoSniffer:

- Nanosniffer has been developed by NanoSniff Technologies, an IIT Bombay incubated startup.
- It is the world's first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD). It can detect explosives in less than 10 seconds. Not only that, but it can also identify and categorize explosives into different classes.
- The NanoSniffer can detect explosives in less than ten seconds.
- It can detect all classes of military, homemade and conventional explosives. It uses the MEMS system. MEMS is a Micro-Electromechanical System. It can detect even nanogram quantities of explosives.

### Significance:

- The device will reduce India's dependency on imported explosive trace detector devices.
- It will also encourage other institutions, startups and medium-scale industries to research and develop products indigenously.

### Tika Utsav

- The Prime Minister of India recently launched a vaccination festival with an aim to vaccinate a maximum number of eligible citizens against Coronavirus.

### Key Points:

- Tika Utsav is a vaccine festival. It is to be held between April 11, 2021 and April 14, 2021. The main objective of the festival is to vaccinate as many people as possible. It will also focus on zero wastage of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Currently, three states are receiving a maximum number of COVID-19 doses. They are Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.
- COVAXIN and COVISHIELD are the two major COVID-19 vaccines that are currently administered in India.

11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

### Freedom of Navigation Operation in IOR

- The US Navy has declared it conducted "freedom of navigation operations" in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) near Lakshadweep earlier, without deliberately seeking New Delhi's prior consent.
- The Freedom of Navigation is an international law according to which ships flying the flag of a sovereign state shall not suffer interference from other states unless otherwise provided in the international laws.

### US Stand on the issue:

- The US Government said that the US forces operate in the Indo-Pacific region on a daily basis. All such operations are designated in accordance with international law. Also, the US Government stated that US Forces will continue such operations in the future.
- Freedom of navigation has been thoroughly practised and refined, and ultimately codified and accepted as international law under UNCLOS, in a legal process that was inclusive and consent-based.
- The drafting of UNCLOS was driven in part by states' concerns that strong national maritime interests could lead to excessive maritime claims over coastal seas, which could threaten freedom of navigation.
- FONOPs are outgrowths of this development of international law, based on sovereign equality and international interdependence.

### NOTE:

Article 87 of the UNCLOS says that the high seas are open to all the states whether landlocked or coastal. It mentions "Freedom of Navigation" as the right for all states.

## Samuel Hahnemann

- Every year, 10 April is celebrated as 'World Homeopathy Day' all over the world to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann.
- In India, the Homeopathy Day was celebrated under the following theme: 'Homeopathy: Roadmap for Integrative Medicine'.

### Key points:

- Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician, a great scholar, linguist and an acclaimed scientist, is known as the Father of Homeopathy, Father of Human Pharmacology, Father of NanoMedicine and the Father of Infinite Dilution concept in Chemistry.
- There is an imminent need to focus on improving the quality of education and enhancing the success rate of an average practitioner. There is also a need to ensure the production and availability of high quality homeopathic drugs in the market.

### ■ NOTE:

The World Health Day is celebrated on April 7. This year, the World Health Day was celebrated on the following theme: Theme" Building a fairer, healthier world.

## Sangay Volcano erupted

- The Sangay Volcano located in Ecuador recently erupted after decades of inactivity. The volcano forced thousands in the surrounding villages to evacuate.

### About The Volcano:

- Sangay volcano is one of the highest active volcanoes in the world and one of Ecuador's most active ones.
- Sangay is the southernmost stratovolcano (a volcano built up of alternate layers of lava and ash) in the northern volcanic zone of the Andes. It is 5230 m high.

### ■ NOTE:

Ecuador, part of the Pacific Rim's "Ring of Fire" region, has eight volcanoes such as Cotopaxi (5,897m), Cayambe (5,790m), Pichincha (4,784m) etc. in its territory.

12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

## Artemis Programme

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has decided to land a person of colour on the moon as part of an international spaceflight program called Artemis Programme.

### Key Highlights:

- The first cadre of the astronauts of the Artemis programme was announced in December 2020. However, the first two crew members (male and female) of 2024 Artemis III space mission are yet to be announced.
- The initial group of astronauts who are a part of the Artemis Programme comprises 18 very diverse teams of astronauts including both veterans and new ones.
- In a proud moment for India, Indian American Raja Chari is a part of the initial group of Artemis astronauts.
- Acting NASA Chief of Staff, Indian-American Bhavya Lal said, "These are historic moments in advancing equity for all of mankind."

### ■ NOTE:

Artemis Programme is an international human space flight programme funded by the US Government. The main objective of the programme is to launch a manned mission to the south pole region of the moon by 2024..

## Advanced Nuclear Centrifuges

- Iran launched Advanced Nuclear Centrifuges at the Natanz Nuclear Plant. It was launched on April 10, 2021, Iran's National Day on Nuclear Technology.
- The Nuclear Fuel used in nuclear reactors must have a higher concentration of Uranium-235 isotope than that of its natural form, that is, Uranium-238. Uranium-235 is more radioactive than Uranium-238.

### Key Points:

- Iran unveiled more than hundred nuclear industry innovations on the same day. Iran also unveiled the assembly of the first prototype of IR-9S and IR-9-1 B Centrifuges. The capacity IR-9 Centrifuges are more than fifty to sixty times higher than the old centrifuges of Iran.
- A Centrifuge is used to separate particles suspended in a medium. In a Nuclear Centrifuge, Uranium-235 is separated from Uranium-238. It is basically enrichment of Uranium or making it an ideal fuel for the nuclear reactor.

## World's First Gamified Sanskrit Learning Application

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Gamapp Sportswizz Tech Private Limited have launched the "LITTLE GURU" application. It is a dedicated mobile application for learning Sanskrit.

### About "Little Guru":

- Little Guru is a gamified application. It teaches Sanskrit on an interactive platform. This makes learning easier. The application was launched during ICCR's 71st National Anniversary.
- This is the world's first gamified Sanskrit learning app. It will help people learn Sanskrit easily based on matches, games, peer-to-peer interactions, etc. The app is of great help to Indian expats who want to keep in touch with their roots.

- It will also help increase the number of students, faculty and staff related to Sanskrit universities around the world.

### Significance:

- The application is of great help to the Indian Diaspora wishing to stay connected with their roots.
- It will also help the number of students and faculties associated with Sanskrit Universities located all over the world.

13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

## Poshan Gyan

- NITI Aayog, in partnership with the Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, launched Poshan Gyan. It is a national digital repository on health and nutrition.

### Key Points:

- Poshan Gyan is an online resource for any person working in the nutrition sector. It is also accessible for any person seeking information to improve nutritional outcomes.
- It holds communication materials that were created by government agencies and other developmental organisations.
- The materials held by Poshan Gyan cover a wide range of topics such as complementary feeding, antenatal care, adolescent health, anaemia prevention, diet diversity, etc.

### National Nutrition Mission

- The National Nutrition Mission or the Poshan Abhiyan aims to improve nutritional outcomes in children, lactating mothers and pregnant women.
- The mission aims to reduce undernutrition, stunting, anaemia and low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% respectively. This is to be achieved by 2022.

## Aahaar Kranti

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare recently launched a new initiative called 'Aahaar Kranti'. The initiative aims to spread awareness about a nutritionally balanced diet in India. It will also promote the importance of accessibility to local fruits and vegetables.

### About Aahaar Kranti

- The initiative 'Aahaar Kranti' will focus on addressing the problem of hunger and diseases in abundance across India and the world.
- The initiative will shine a light on the richness and value of India's traditional diet, the miracles of local fruits and vegetables, and the healing powers of a balanced diet.
- The motto of the mission is "Good Diet-Good Cognition".
- The mission will train the teachers. The teachers in turn will pass on the message to students.

### NOTE:

India has been ranked at 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020. With a score of 27.2, India has a level of hunger that is "serious".

## eSanta: Platform for Marine Products

- The Union Commerce and Industry Minister launched a platform called "eSanta" for marine products. The main aim of the platform is to empower aqua farmers.

### About eSanta

- The Union Minister informed that the e-commerce platform will help in empowering farmers as they will be able to sell their products through this portal.
- The advanced platform will enable the farmers to do spot as well as forward sales.
- The eSanta portal eliminates the necessity of middlemen completely.

- National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) is an extension arm of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- It will raise income, lifestyle, self-reliance, quality levels, traceability, and provide new options for our aqua farmers.
- The platform will change the traditional way of carrying out business from a word of mouth basis to become more formalized & legally binding.

### About NaCSA:

- National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) is an extension arm of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry Govt. of India.
- The objectives of NaCSA are to encourage and uplift the small and marginal farmers through organization of clusters and maintaining Best Management Practices in shrimp culture.

14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

## MANAS Application

- The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India launched the "MANAS" App to promote wellbeing across age groups.

### About MANAS app:

- MANAS is a scalable, comprehensive, and national digital well-being platform and app that has been developed to promote the mental well-being of Indian citizens.
- The app integrates the health and wellness efforts of various government ministries of India as well as scientifically validated indigenous tools with gamified interfaces which are developed by various research institutions and national bodies.



- The MANAS app was jointly executed by NIMHANS Bengaluru, C-DAC, AFMC. However, it was mainly developed by C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing).
- The app is supported with tele consultation especially for mental health related problems.
- The app was launched during the 34th Foundation celebrations of C-DAC.

### ■ NOTE:

A report published in The Lancet Psychiatry in February 2020 indicates that in 2017, there were 197.3 million people with mental disorders in India. The top mental illnesses were depressive disorder (45.7 million) and anxiety disorder (44.9 million).

## eFuel by 2022

- Porsche has teamed up with Siemens Energy to produce 130,000 litres of climate-neutral eFuel by 2022. The project of eFuel production is called the Haru Oni project.

### About eFuel:

- eFuels are essentially complex hydrocarbons that have been created by man, rather than the lengthy natural and man-made process it takes to create fossil fuels.
- Water is separated into hydrogen and oxygen using wind-generated electricity and then CO<sub>2</sub> filtered from the air is combined with 'green hydrogen' to form methanol.
- It's then turned into usable fuel by Methanol to Gasoline (MTG) technology.
- This hydrogen is then combined with the carbon dioxide filtered from the air to form methanol.

- The methanol is then converted into gasoline using ExxonMobil licensed technology.
- The eFuel shall be used in any car.

## Online Grievance Management Portal of NCSC

- The Union Minister for Communication and IT and Law and Justice recently launched the "Online Grievance Management portal of NCSC". NCSC is the National Commission of Scheduled Castes.

### About the Portal:

- The Online Grievance Management Portal will allow submission of complaints about atrocities against the Scheduled Castes.
- The portal also allows users to track the progress of their complaints.
- The portal was developed in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics(BISAG-N), a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology(MeitY).

## National Commission for Scheduled Caste

- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) was set up under the Article 338 of the Constitution of India with the objective to investigate and monitor all issues pertaining to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes under any law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government of India.
- The Commission consists of a chairperson, vice-chairperson and three other members. All the members of the commission are appointed by the President of India.

