



MADE EASY

India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY
WEEKLY CURRENT
AFFAIRS**

WEEK-3

15th June - 21st June

Targeted Examinations:

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

Current Affairs MADE EASY

(15th June to 21st June 2020)

15th June 2020

Global Partnership of Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

- India has joined the Global Partnership of Artificial Intelligence as a founding member which is the first initiative of its kind that will help to understand the opportunities and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) better.
- It will bring opportunities to bridge the gaps between theories of AI and AI supported researches to increase AI-related priorities.
- By joining GPAI, India with its experience will help in global development of AI.
- The other leading member countries that joined along with India are UK, USA, Australia, France, Canada, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Republic of Korea, Singapore, New Zealand, etc.

Indian Gas Exchange

- The Indian Energy Exchange has launched the first gas trading platform, Indian Gas Exchange which will be the first online gas trading platform for physical delivery of natural gas. The trading of natural gas in the platform is to be done in rupees.
- The minimum lot size allotted is 100 million British Thermal Unit (MBTU).
- **Note:** The India Energy Exchange is an electronic system regulated by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. It began its operations in 2008. It comprises of power traders, state electricity board, power producers and open access consumers.

Captain Arjun

- The Railway Protection Force has launched a robot called Captain Arjun, which aims to intensify screening and surveillance at the railway stations.
- The robot will screen the passengers while they board the trains. The robot can be deployed for multiple uses and is an effective element that will operate under the station access controls.
- The robot is equipped with pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) camera, motion sensor and one Dome camera. The cameras installed in the robot uses Artificial Intelligence algorithms to track antisocial activities and suspicious activities. Besides, the robot has an inbuilt motion activated spot light, siren and internal storage to record data during network failures. The robot does thermal screening and also records the temperature of the passengers.
- ARJUN is an acronym for *Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice*.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2020

- The Ministry of Human Resources and Development has recently released the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2020.
- The annual ranking is released in categories namely colleges, universities, law, dental, architecture, management, engineering, pharmacy and medicine.

Key Highlights:

- In engineering domain, IIT Madras has topped the list. It topped in NIRF overall ranking as well.
- In management domain, IIM Ahmedabad has topped the list.
- In medical domain, AIIMS got No. 1 rank.
- In overall College category, Miranda House of Delhi has topped in the list.
- Under pharmacy, the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) have shown great improvements. Out of seven NIPERs in the country, SAS Nagar NIPER at Mohali retained its third position.

16th June 2020

World Investment Report, 2020

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released its World Investment Report, 2020. According to the report, India is the 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019.

Key Highlights

- Report says that FDI in India has increased from 42 billion USD in 2018 to 51 billion USD in 2019. In the region of Asia, India was among the top 5 countries.
- Besides, the investments in Digital sector of India were highly promising. The investors of India in the first quarter of 2020 concluded deals that were worth of 650 million USD and majority of the deals were in digital sector.
- The report says that the global FDI inflows are to decrease by 40% in 2020 as compared to 2019.
- Apart from this, the FDI inflows in South Asia increased by 10%.

World Competitive Index

The Institute of Management Development has released the World Competitive Index, in which Singapore secured the top position in the ranking system. Denmark was at the second position, followed by Switzerland, Netherlands and Hong Kong.

Key Highlights

- India ranked at 43rd position in the ranking out of 63 countries.

- According to the ranking, India has improved in long term employment growth, foreign currency reserves, overall productivity and education. On the other hand, India had declined in taxes, real GDP growth, competition legislation and exchange rate stability.
- China slipped from 14th place to 20th and US moved to 10th place.
- Among the BRICS countries, China topped followed by India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa.

India-Nepal MoUs

- India and Nepal have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) to improve infrastructure of the Pashupatinath temple complex. It was signed between the Federal Affairs ministry of Nepal and Indian Embassy.
- Under the agreement, India has pledged to extend financial assistance of Rs 2.33 crores. The project is to be implemented by Kathmandu Metropolitan city. India is to assist in constructing sanitation facility at the temple complex.
- The Pashupatinath temple is the largest temple complex in Nepal. It is located on the Bagmati river of Nepal. The temple is one of the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Bose-Einstein Condensates (BEC): The Fifth State of Matter

- The NASA scientists in the International Space Station unveiled the first results of Bose-Einstein Condensate (BEC) experiments under which the particles can be manipulated free from Earthly constraints.
- Bose-Einstein Condensates were predicted by Indian Mathematician Satyendra Nath Bose and Albert Einstein almost a century ago.
- When a group of atoms are cooled to absolute zero temperature ((the temperature at which the entropy and enthalpy of cooled gas reach their minimum value), the atoms clump together behaving as a one big super atom. This state is called the fifth state of matter and is referred to BEC.
- There are four state of matter namely solid, liquid, gas and plasma. The fourth state of matter called the plasma was described by the chemist Irving Langmuir. It consists of gas of ions in which orbital electrons are removed and positively charged nuclei roam freely.

17th June 2020

Galwan Valley, UT of Ladakh

- The Galwan valley refers to the land that sits between steep mountains that buffet the Galwan River. The river has its source in Aksai Chin, and it flows from the east to Ladakh, where it meets the Shyok river on India's side of the LAC.

- The valley is strategically located between Ladakh in the west and Aksai Chin in the east, which is currently controlled by China as part of its Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.



- **Context:**
 - A violent clash broke out between the Indian and Chinese soldiers recently in the Galwan Valley of Ladakh region. Around 20 Indian soldiers were killed in the face-off.
 - The Armies of India and China are currently engaged in standoff in Galwan valley, Pangong Tso, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie in Ladakh.
 - The stand-off between the countries has increased in recent weeks as India is building a strategic road through the Galwan valley that is close to China. The road connects the region to an airstrip. This improves military access of India to the region.
- **Background**
 - The stand-off in the Galwan area was one of the biggest flashpoints in the 1962 war. China till date opposes to Indian constitutional provisions in the area. India, in 2019, abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution ending the special status to Jammu and Kashmir.
 - China was one of the countries that condemned the move. China even tried to raise the issue in the international forum including United Nations Security Council.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- Every year, the United Nations observes World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17. This year, the day is observed under the theme ***Food, Feed Fibre-The links between consumption and land.***
- The day is observed focusing on changing public attitudes towards land degradation and desertification.

- The day was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1995 after the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was drafted.
- According to the United Nations, the world population is to reach 10 billion by 2050. In order to fulfil the needs of such huge population an additional 593 million hectares of agricultural land is needed by 2050 as compared to 2010 levels.
- **Note:** The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes protecting the Earth from degradation. The SDG 15 aims to halt and reverse land degradation.

18th June 2020

National Employment Policy

- The Ministry of Labour is planning to frame the National Employment Policy. The main idea of framing the National Employment Policy is to lay out a roadmap that will provide incentives for employment generation.
- The National Employment Policy is to be framed focusing on twin objectives as follows:
 - To attract new enterprises and industries to generate employment opportunities.
 - To improve the skill set of existing work force and make them employable.
- The policy will aim at absorbing additional 5 million workforce every year. Also, the policy will focus on formalizing 500 million workforce in the country. It will also ensure social security and job security for them.
- The policy will also focus on the challenges thrown by the COVID-19 crisis.

Schizothorax sikusirumensis

- A new fish species called *Schizothorax sikusirumensis* has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh. The name of the species has been derived from the names of the rivers Sirum and Siku where the fish was found.
- The *Schizothorax* species fish is found in western and southern China, Central and Southern Asia. They are mainly found in lakes, streams, rivers and highland. There are more than 65 species that are recognized under this genus.

19th June 2020

Satyabhama

- The Ministry of Mines has launched a portal named 'Science and Technology Yojana for Atmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA)'.
- The portal aims to emphasize the need for promoting the role of digital technology in the mineral and mining sector of the country.

- The Portal will help in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of various schemes of the Government in this sector, optimum utilization of funds allocated to institutions in this sector for various research and development based projects, and in ensuring proper usage and conservation of mineral resources of the country.
- The Mines Informatics Division of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) is the implementing agency of the portal.
- The portal is also being integrated with the NITI Aayog portal- NGO Darpan.

India to become Non-Permanent Member of UNSC

- India recently became a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a period of 2 years. India's term will begin on 1st January 2021. India secured 184 out of the total 192 votes casted.
- Apart from India, Norway, Kenya, Ireland, and Mexico were also elected for a period of 2 years as non-permanent members.
- Previously, India was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the years 2011 and 2012.
- **United Nations Security Council:**
 - The Security Council is one of the principal organs of United Nations. It mandates for ensuring peace and security across the world.
 - It has a total of 15 member states of which 5 are permanent members, viz. United States, France, China, Russia, and the United Kingdom. this 5 permanent members only have the right to use the power of veto against any resolution.
 - The remaining 10 non-permanent members are elected among the other member states of the United Nations for a period of 2 years.

I-Lab

- The Union Ministry for Health & Family Welfare has launched the I-Lab (Infectious disease diagnostic laboratory) in New Delhi. This is the first-ever I-Lab in India that was launched to scaling up the testing for COVID-19 across the country.
- It will be deployed by the Department of Biotechnology in one of its COVID testing hubs.
- It is a mobile testing facility that will be used for collecting samples and testing for COVID-19 across inaccessible areas in the rural regions of the country.

Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the massive rural public works scheme- Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan, which aims to reduce the economic impact faced by the rural parts of the country due to nationwide lockdown by providing livelihood support to the rural citizens, especially for the migrant workers.
- The scheme will work in a mission mode in 116 districts across these six States (Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh) where the maximum numbers of the migrant workers have returned.

- The various schemes for house construction, safe drinking water through tap connection to households, road construction, etc have been merged in this scheme. The returning migrant workers who require a job will be hired based on their skillset under the scheme.

20th June 2020

India Ideas Summit 2020

- The 45th annual meeting of the United States India Business Council (USIBC) is to be marked with the India Ideas Summit 2020, which is conducted to showcase the importance of the positive outcome of the India-United States economic partnership and the overall bilateral relationship between the two nations.
- The summit is an outcome of the joint efforts of the United States Chambers of Commerce and USIBC.

NavRakshak

- NavRakshak, a user-friendly Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kit is expected to be available soon in the Indian market as the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved it for mass production and use in the country.
- The PPE Kit was developed by a naval doctor at the Innovation Cell of the Institute of Naval Medicine located at INHS Asvini in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The entire kit will consist of face mask, headgear and a mid-thigh level shoe cover. The specialty of the Kit will be its enhanced breathability factor as compared to other PPEs available in the market. This will provide health workers working in the frontline against the pandemic a much-needed comfort while working for long hours.

21st June 2020

Favipiravir

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has approved manufacturing and marketing of oral antiviral drug 'Favipiravir (Fabiflu)' for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 positive patients across the country. The Mumbai-based Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has got license to manufacture and sell of the medicine.
- The drug has shown notable efficacy as per results from Russia and Japan. Both countries have already approved the drug for COVID-19 treatment on 15th March and 1st June 2020 respectively.
- Favipiravir is an antiviral drug that was approved first in the year 2014 in Japan. Tokyo based Toyama Chemicals was the first to develop and manufacture the drug. The drug has been used to treat a number of viral infections over the years, especially for influenza.

International Day of Yoga 2020

- The International Day of Yoga is observed on 21st June every year with aim to raise global awareness about the benefits of practicing yoga.
- The Day was adopted in 2014 under its resolution by the United Nations General Assembly following the proposal given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2014. The day was first observed in the year 2015.
- The theme of International Day of Yoga 2020 was *Yoga for Health- Yoga at Home*.
- This year's theme focuses on the importance of yoga at the time of COVID-19 pandemic. As most nations across the world are practicing lockdown and social distancing norms, many economic activities have come to a halt which had a negative impact on both the mental and physical well-being of individuals as a result of stress due to job insecurity, financially, etc.

World Hydrography Day 2020

- The World Hydrography Day is observed on 21st June to marks an opportunity for the governments of the member states to reaffirm their commitment towards promoting safe navigation across the water bodies on the earth by increasing the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis.
- The theme of 2020 World Hydrography Day was *Hydrography- Enabling Autonomous Technologies*.
- Hydrography plays one of the most important roles in today's world by describing the physical feature of the navigable portion of the water covered area on the Earth's surface through maps and nautical charts. Without a hydrographic survey, navigation for ships or fishing boats would have been much difficult.
- To highlight the importance of hydrography, the Oceans and the Law of the Sea was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, under which 21st June was recognized as World Hydrography Day.
- The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) was founded on 21st June 1921. IHO has a total of 93 member states.