



**MADE EASY**

India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY  
WEEKLY  
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**WEEK-3**

**14<sup>th</sup> September - 21<sup>st</sup> September**

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**Targeted Examinations:**

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

## 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

### Indian Brain Templates & Brain Atlas

#### Context:

The neuroscientists from National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) have developed Indian brain templates and a brain atlas for five age groups covering late childhood to late adulthood (6 to 60 years).

#### Key Highlights:

- With this, now India will be using its own brain templates instead of Montreal Neurological Index (MNI) template.
- Montreal Neurological Index (MNI) template is based on Caucasian brains, which are different from Asian brains.
- Indian Brain Templates and atlas will provide more precise reference maps for individual patients with neurological disorders like strokes, brain tumours, dementia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), autism, etc.

### Mekedatu Project

#### Context:

The Karnataka government is consulting Union Government to approve the construction of the Mekedatu balancing reservoir that has been proposed to store water for drinking purposes.

#### Key Highlights

- Mekedatu is a location along Cauvery in Ramanagara District of Karnataka.
- The State Government is planning a reservoir to meet water problems of Bengaluru.
- Tamil Nadu has approached the Supreme Court against the project, as the project would affect the flow of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

## 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

### JK-IGRAMS

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration recently launched Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (IGRAMS) to receive, redress and monitor the grievances of the public.
- It has been launched on pilot basis for Jammu, Srinagar, and Reasi districts.
- Jammu and Kashmir is the first UT that will be linked to the central government system CPGRAMS.

### Economic Freedom of the World Report 2020

India witnessed a sharp fall of 26 spots and landed to the 105th position in recently launched Global Economic Freedom Index 2020 report. As per the last year rankings, India was at the 79th spot.

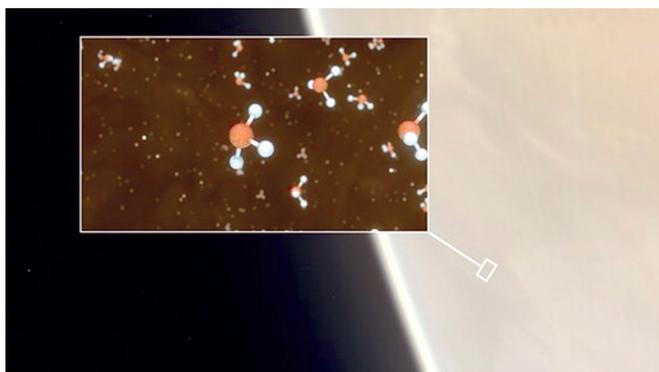
#### About the Report

- It is an annual index created in 1995 by the Heritage Foundation and the Wall Street Journal to gauge the degree of economic freedom in the world's nations.
- The ranking scores countries on an economic freedom scale between 0 to 100 where zero meaning no economic freedom and 100 meaning total economic freedom.
- The main purpose of the report is to measure economic freedom, the economic security of privately owned property, levels of personal choice, the ability for business players to enter markets, rule of law, among other by analyzing policies and institutions of 162 countries and territories.

## Discovery of Phosphine on Venus Atmosphere

### Context:

An international team of astronomers has announced the finding of phosphine (PH<sub>3</sub>) gas in the atmosphere of Venus, triggering excitement about the possibility of presence of life forms on that planet.



### About Phosphine

- Phosphine, a colourless and smelly gas, is known to be naturally made only by some species of bacteria that survive in the absence of oxygen.
- Phosphine can be produced only through biological process, and not through any naturally occurring chemical process. However, there are some other ways in which this chemical might be produced, for example, in the underbelly of volcanoes or meteorite activity, but that would have shown in much lower concentrations.
- The traces of phosphine are found in a concentration of approximately 20 parts per billion.

16TH SEPTEMBER 2020

## International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

- The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, also known as World Ozone Day is observed on September 16 every year to spread awareness among people about the depletion of the Ozone Layer.
- In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed September 16 to mark the date on which Montreal Protocol was signed in 1987.
- The Theme of International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2020 was "Ozone for Life".
- The Ozone (chemically, a molecule of three oxygen atoms) is found mainly in the stratosphere, which is approximately located between 10 and 50 km from the Earth's surface.

## Anti-Satellite Missile (A-SAT)

**Context:** On the occasion of Engineer's Day, the Department of Post released a stamp on India's first Anti-Satellite Missile (A-SAT) launch.

### About A-SAT

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test under 'Mission Shakti' from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha on 27th March 2019.
- It has capability of destroying enemy satellite in space.
- India is only the 4th country to acquire such a specialised and modern capability. Till now, only the US, Russia and China had the capability to hit a live target in space.

## 17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

## Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force (UPSSF)

### Context:

The Uttar Pradesh Government has recently notified creation of the Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force (UPSSF) which can make arrests without warrant or the order of the magistrate.

### About UPSSF:

- The Uttar Pradesh Government announced for the setting up of a CISF-like force to guard important institutions and persons.
- The new security force would protect courts, airports, banks, the Metro, industrial units, places of worship, as well as individuals.
- The force will have eight-battalion each comprising about 9,900 personnel.
- A Bill to create the force was passed in the Monsoon Session of the state Assembly.
- The UPSSF will be led by an Additional Director General-level officer.

## Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin

### Context:

- A team of researchers has found methane hydrate deposits in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin that are of biogenic origin.
- Researchers have also predicted the rate of biogenic methane generation in KG Basin hydrates to be significant, resulting in total deposits of methane around 0.56 to 7.68 trillion cubic feet (TCF).

### About Methane

- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is a clean and economical fuel. It is a naturally occurring gas.
- Most of the methane on Earth is produced in biological processes - some of it by microbes, and some occurring as underground natural gas that had been formed by earlier generations of microbial life.

## 18TH SEPTEMBER 2020

## Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)

### Context:

Delhi Police recently arrested an activist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The arrest was made in cases relating to the violence in Delhi in February 2020.

### Key Features of UAPA

- Passed in 1967, the law aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- The Act assigns absolute power to the Central Government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
- It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments.
- Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.

## United Nation's Commission on Status of Women (CSW)

### Context:

- India recently becomes a member of the United Nations' Commission on Status of Women (CSW), which works under Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of United Nations.
- India and Afghanistan managed to win in the elections to become a member whereas China could not.

### Significance

- As a member of the Commission on Status of Women, India will have tenure of four years starting from 2021 to 2025.
- This membership will strengthen the initiatives taken by India on the issue of women's empowerment and promoting gender equality.

## 19TH SEPTEMBER 2020

### The NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2020

#### Context:

The NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2020 is proposed to be introduced in this ongoing Monsoon session of the Parliament.

#### Key Highlights of the Bill:

- The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991 pertaining to the powers and function of the Delhi government and the Lieutenant Governor (LG).
- The new Bill proposes to grant more discretionary powers to the Lieutenant Governor.
- As per the Bill, the validity of any decision taken by LG as per such discretion shall not be questioned.

### Djibouti Code of Conduct

#### Context:

India has joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC) as an observer which will enhance India's efforts for maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

#### About Djibouti Code of Conduct

- Djibouti Code of Conduct has been instrumental in repressing piracy and armed robbery against ships in the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.
- It has broadened its scope to cover other illicit maritime activities, including human trafficking and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- It was adopted on 29th January 2009.
- It was established under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

### Human Capital Index

- The World Bank recently released the annual Human Capital Index, in which India was ranked at 169th position.

- In 2018, India's score was 0.44. It has now increased to 0.49
- The Human Capital Index includes education and health data from 174 countries.
- It covers 98 percentage of the world population.
- It provides a pre-pandemic baseline on the education and health.

## 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

### T-3 Tech Alliance

- India, USA and Israel are collaborating to create next generation technologies under T-3 Tech Alliance.
- This includes a transparent, open, reliable and secure 5G communication network.
- The initiative will open the doors for more tech-savvy democratic countries like Sweden, Finland and South Korea.
- It also becomes a platform for other democracies such as Japan, Germany, the UK, France and Australia. With this, T-3 can easily expand to T-11.

### VAIBHAV Summit

The virtual Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit would be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India on 2nd October 2020.

#### Key Highlights:

- The project aims to build a systematic roadmap to allow the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers to solve emerging and ongoing challenges.
- It is intended to enable analysis of the reasoning process, processes and culture of R&D, along with a problem-solving approach.
- It will reflect the collaboration and cooperation instruments with academia and scientists in India.

**21ST SEPTEMBER 2020**

## Official Secrets Act

### Context:

The Delhi Police has arrested a journalist under the Official Secrets Act (OSA), who was accused of passing vital information to China.

### About Official Secrets Act

- The Official Secrets Act (OSA) has its roots in the British colonial era.
- The original version was The Indian Official Secrets Act (Act XIV), 1889, which was brought in with the main objective of muzzling the voice of a large number of newspapers that had come up in several languages, and were opposing the British Government's policies, building political consciousness and facing police crackdowns and prison terms.
- In 1923, a newer version, The Indian Official Secrets Act (Act No XIX of 1923) was extended to all matters of secrecy and confidentiality in governance in the country.
- It broadly deals with two aspects — spying or espionage. The Secret information can be any official code, password, sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, or information.

- Under the Act, both the person communicating the information and the person receiving the information can be punished.

## Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020

### Context:

The Rajya Sabha has recently passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020.

### Key Highlights:

- Under the new provisions, fresh insolvency proceedings will not be started for the next six months taking the COVID-19 pandemic into account.
- The Bill amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 which provides a time bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals.
- It replaces the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 promulgated in June this year.
- Under the relief measures, the Government of India had increased the threshold for initiating the insolvency process.

