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**MADE EASY  
WEEKLY CURRENT  
AFFAIRS**

WEEK-1

01<sup>st</sup> June - 07<sup>th</sup> June

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Targeted Examinations:

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

# Current Affairs MADE EASY

*(1<sup>st</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020)*

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

## MSMEs Sectors Redefined

- The Union Cabinet has approved the changes made to the definition of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- Earlier under Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Union Ministry of Finance had announced the changes made to MSMEs according to investment and turnover generated.

### **New definition:**

- Any firm with investment up to Rs 1 crore and turnover under Rs 5 crore will be classified as 'micro'.
- A company with investment up to Rs 10 crore and turnover up to Rs 50 crore will be classified as 'small'.
- A company with investment up to Rs 20 crore and turnover up to Rs 100 crore will be classified as 'medium'.

## PM SVANidhi Scheme

- Government of India has launched the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (SVANidhi) Scheme for street vendors. It is a credit facility scheme that will help more than 50 lakh urban and rural street vendors.
- Under the scheme, Rs 10,000 of credit is to be provided to street vendors. The street vendors shall return the amount as monthly instalments within a year.
- The scheme will help the street vendors restart their livelihoods. The scheme was announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman during her announcement of the package of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

## CHAMPIONS

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a technology platform called CHAMPIONS, which stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.
- The portal aims to supporting small units, encouraging, solving their grievances, helping and handholding. It will act as a one-stop shop solution of all entities of the MSME sector.
- The platform is a control room-cum management information system. It is enabled with ICT technology tools. Along with this, the platform also includes telephone, internet and video-conference. It is enabled by Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Data Analytics.
- The platform has been created by the National Informatics Centre.

## Ultra Swachh

- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed a disinfection unit called Ultra Swachh. The unit is used to disinfect articles such as electronic items, Personal Protective Equipment, fabrics, etc.
- The Unit uses an advanced oxidative process called Ozonated Space Technology to disinfect the items. The device also uses Ozone Sealant Technology that involves trapping of Ozone.
- The Ultra Swachh Unit houses a catalytic converter that makes it environment-friendly. It also holds several safety features such as door interlocks, emergency shutdown, delay cycle, dual doors, leak monitors, etc.

### Note:

- Ozone is an oxidizing compound that rapidly oxidizes organic materials, manganese, iron, etc. It is highly unstable and oxidised to form oxygen within 15 to 20 seconds. This property of ozone is used in disinfection.

## THAAD

- THAAD is an anti-ballistic missile system. It is an acronym for Terminal High Altitude Area Defense. It is a transportable and ground-based missile defense system.
- It has been deployed in Israel, UAE, Romania and South Korea.
- THAAD is capable of destroying missiles by colliding with them. It uses Kinetic Kill Technology to achieve this.

### Context:

- China recently expresses concern that the US is exerting its influence over South Korea and Japan. This may interfere with China's long term diplomatic, military and economic interests in the region.
- The US announced that the THAAD missile system operated in South Korean soil is a countermeasure against attacks by North Korea.

## My Life My Yoga

- PM Narendra Modi has launched My Life My Yoga, a video blogging contest, which is being launched to inspire people to participate in the sixth International Day of Yoga (IDY) that is to be celebrated on 21st June, 2020. Any participant from the world can take part in the contest.
- The contest has First, Second and Third prizes of worth Rs 1 lakh, Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000.
- The contest is to be conducted as a joint effort of the Ministry of AYUSH and ICMR (Indian Council of Cultural Research).

## Unlock 1.0

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided the guidelines for unlock 1.0. Under the guidelines, the Centre has extended lock down to all the containment zones. In the rest of the zones, almost all the social facilities are open.
- India is now the seventh worst hit country in the world with more than 2 lakhs cases of COVID-19. In the battle against the virus, India enters into fifth lock down or first unlock on June 1, 2020. This is to remain in order till June 30, 2020.

### **Containment Zones**

- In the zones declared to be contained, there will be strict perimeter control. No movement of people in and out of the containment zones are to be allowed. The containment zones will only have entry of essential goods and medical supply. Intensive contact tracing, house-to-house surveillance and clinical interventions are to be introduced.

### **Jal Jeevan Mission**

- Jal Jeevan Mission, a Union Government initiative under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, aims to ensure access of piped water for every household in India.
- The mission's goal is to provide to all households in rural India safe and adequate water through individual household tap connections by 2024.
- Jal Jeevan Mission aims to supply 55 litres of water to all rural households by 2024. The mission will create necessary infrastructure such as ground water recharge, rainwater harvest and management of household wastewater for reuse.

#### **Context:**

- The Central Government has allocated Rs 1,832 crores to Bihar and Rs 1,407 crores to Assam under Jal Jeevan Mission.

### **SpaceX**

- SpaceX is the first space private company in the world to return rockets back to the Earth.

#### **Context:**

- SpaceX has become the first private rocket company to send astronauts to space. The company sent Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken to space initiating a new business model for NASA.
- According to the US Government, the mission will end the reliance of NASA on Russian space rockets.

#### **Do You Know?**

- The Suits worn by the astronauts are called the Starman suits. They are designed only to be worn inside Crew Dragon and are not meant for spacewalks.

**2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**

### **Delhi Corona App**

- The Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched the Delhi Corona App, to provide all required information that are related to ventilators and hospital beds in the city. The Application mainly aims at providing real time information.
- The application is being launched as there were complaints that there are not enough ventilators and hospital beds in Delhi to treat severely ill COVID-19 patients.

### **Kisan Credit Card Campaign**

- The Government of India has launched the Kisan Credit Card campaign to help dairy farmers. The Kisan Credit cards are to be provided to around 1.5 crore dairy farmers.

- Under the Scheme, the Government of India is to provide Kisan Credit Cards to farmers that are associated with milk producing companies.

### **Significance**

- The Kisan Credit Card campaign that provides KCC cards to 1.5 crore dairy farmers is a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The scheme will also provide additional liquidity of worth Rs 5 lakh crore to farmers that are suffering from COVID-19 economic crisis.

### **COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP)**

- The World Health Organization and Costa Rica have launched C-TAP. It will act as a one-stop shop for information, scientific knowledge and intellectual property for the global community.
- Around 30 countries, institutions and international partners have signed to support the C-TAP. It is an initiative that aims to make vaccines, tests, health technologies and treatments.
- C-TAP is acronym for COVID-19 Technology Access Pool.

### **Khelo India: Community Coach Development Programme**

- The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijju has inaugurated the India Community Coach Development Programme, which is a 25-day long programme for community coaches and PE teachers all over the country.
- The programme has been launched to give more importance to Physical Education in schools. Both the Ministry of HRD and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports are to work together to take the programme to every school.

### **Fit India Movement**

- The Fit India Movement was launched to highlight the need to stay healthy amidst the modern lifestyle disorders. It was announced to celebrate the National Sports Day.

### **Schemes to boost electronics sector**

- Govt. has launched three new schemes to boost the electronics sector. They are Production linked incentive scheme, cluster scheme (EMC 2.0) and component manufacturing scheme (SPECS). The schemes were approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2020.

#### **Production Linked Incentive Scheme**

- The scheme will provide an incentive of 4% to 6% to the goods manufactured in India.

#### **SPECS**

- The Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) will provide an incentive of 25% on the capital expenditure. This is extended to certain identified lists such as semiconductor devices, electronic goods, display fabrication units, etc.

#### **EMC 2.0**

- The Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) will support in creating world class infrastructure. The scheme will help in attracting global electronics manufacturers and their supply chains.

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**

### **SWADES Initiative**

- The Government of India is to conduct SWADES initiative to map the skills of Indians returning from abroad. SWADES is an acronym for Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support.
- The SWADES initiative has been begun under the Vande Bharat Mission. The initiative aims to generate a database of Indians returning from abroad based on their skill sets and experience.
- SWADES initiative is to be conducted by Ministries of Civil Aviation, External Affairs, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

### **Vande Bharat Mission**

- The Vande Bharat Mission aims at bringing Indians from all over the world. Under the mission, the non-scheduled commercial flights will carry people from Singapore, USA and London.
- Currently, the mission is working in bringing around 80,000 Indians from Gulf countries.

### **Essential Commodities Act**

- The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to Essential Commodities Act. Under the amendment, the regulatory environment has been liberalized for farmers.

#### **The Farmers Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020:**

- The amendment has been made through this ordinance. The ordinance will allow farmers to engage with aggregators, processors, exporters and large retailers as well. Under the amendment to Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the agricultural commodities such as pulses, cereals, onions oil seeds and potatoes have been deregulated.
- Also, the amendment will allow clamping of stock limits only under very extreme circumstances. This includes famines and natural calamities. The stock limit is not applicable to processors and value chain participants.

### **Make in India**

- Make in India initiative was launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2014.
- The main aim of the scheme is as follows
  - To increase indigenously produced goods
  - To attract foreign investments for new industrialization
  - To develop already existing industries in India by surpassing China
  - To create 100 million additional jobs by 2022
  - To promote export-led growth
  - To increase the share of the manufacturing sector in India's GDP from 16% to 25% by 2022.

#### **Context:**

- The Ministry of Defence placed indents on OFB (Ordnance Factory Board). This has been done to boost Make in India initiative. The indents have been placed for the supply of 156 BMP Infantry Combat Vehicles to be used for mechanized forces of Indian Army.

**4<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

### **TULIP**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry of Human Resource Development have launched an internship learning programme called “TULIP”.
- The programme has been launched for fresh engineering graduates. Under the programme, they will get opportunities to work with 4,400 urban local bodies and 100 smart cities in India.
- The internship will be held for one year. The areas of interests included in the programme are financing, urban planning, environmental planning, sanitation and infrastructure and environmental engineering.

### **Note:**

- Along with the portal, an online portal of TULIP was also launched. The interested graduates shall apply for internship through this portal.

### **A Unique Twin Summit**

- The World Economic Forum announced that it is to host its next summit in Davos under the theme “The Great Reset”. The forum has named the summit as “A Unique Twin Summit”.
- The 51<sup>st</sup> annual summit of the World Economic Forum is to bring together global leaders, civil society and multi-stakeholders from 400 cities.
- The plan of the summit is to draw thousands of young people all around the world and keep them interconnected through a powerful virtual hub to interact with the leaders.

### **World Economic Forum**

- The World Economic Forum was established in 1971. The motto of the forum is “committed to improving the state of the world”. It was formerly called the European Management Forum.

### **Pharmacopoeia Commission**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Pharmacopoeia Commission. The Cabinet has approved to re-establish the commission for Indian Medicine and Homeopathy under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- The commission has been set up by merging Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine and Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory. The two central laboratories were established at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh in 1975.
- The commission is an autonomous body that operates under the Ministry of AYUSH.

### **Global Economic Prospects Report, 2020**

- The World Bank has launched the Global Economic Prospects Report, 2020. The report highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on countries.
- The report says that the Emerging Market and the Developing Economies are highly vulnerable. They face health crises, external shocks, restrictions, tourism, falling trade, capital outflows and commodity prices. These countries according to the report are expected to have 3% to 8% output loss.

**The report makes the following key recommendations:**

- The report suggests making better policy choices. It includes greater debt transparency, major expansion of cash safety and faster advances in digital connectivity.
- Along with addressing health emergencies, policies to boost long term boost should also be considered. This includes improving the environment for business, enhancing outcomes of education and improving governance.

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways Campaign**

- The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched the United Nations Development Programme campaign called “Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on highways”.
- Government has taken several road safety measures to reduce accidents. This includes Rectification of Black spots, Crash barriers, Traffic barriers, road safety audit, rehabilitation and reconstruction of narrow bridges and highway patrolling.
- Government has also spent good amounts in creating infrastructure that is safer to animals. The Nagpur-Jabalpur Highway is one such example. Similar successful steps have been taken in Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, etc.

**Payment Infrastructure Development Fund**

- The Reserve Bank of India has created a Payment Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs 500 crores. It has been created to increase point of sale infrastructure and other digital payment infrastructure in the country.
- The funds are being allocated in line with the measures proposed in the vision document on payment and settlement systems in India 2019-21.

**Note:**

- The funds are to be governed through an advisory council. However, the funds will be administered and managed by RBI.

**Nagar Van scheme**

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the “Nagar Van” scheme. The scheme was launched to mark the International Environment Day, 2020.
- The scheme emphasises on urban forestry. Under the scheme, around 200 urban forests are to be developed all over the country in the next five years. Also, a film was played that narrated about the initiatives of Punaikars along with the Department of Forests.

**Note:**

- India has apprx. 8% of world biodiversity with only 2.5% of world land mass. It should also carry 16% of humans and cattle as well. Also, the fresh water availability in the country is now at just 4%.



## **GAVI Alliance**

- PM Narendra Modi has participated at the Global Vaccine Summit that was led by the United Kingdom. At the summit, the PM announced that India will pledge 15 million USD to GAVI Alliance.
- The world leaders have come together to find a vaccine to the COVID-19 with GAVI as an integrating platform.
- The Global Vaccine Summit organized by the UK discussed collecting funds for GAVI. Over 50 countries participated in the programme.
- India has now become a big supporter of the alliance. This saved GAVI 400 million USD in the past five years. Earlier India was only a beneficiary. Since 2014, India has become a donor.

## **Solar Corona**

- The researchers in the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy have studied the interplanetary space of the sun called solar corona.
- The charged particles that are radiating from the surface of the sun, called solar wind. These particles expand and fill the entire solar system.
- The properties of solar corona are completely dependent on the magnetic field of the sun. The magnetic field is produced in the interior and extends outward.
- The Solar Corona can be easily seen during a solar eclipse. The magnetic field lines of solar corona were recorded for over 14 eclipses that occurred in 2 decades.

## **Annual Report of Periodic Labour Force Survey**

- The National Statistical Office has launched the Annual Report of Periodic Labour Force Survey.
- The Survey is the first computer-based survey of India.
- It provides estimates of unemployment indicators such as worker population ratio, labour force participation rate, unemployment rate in rural households, proportion unemployed.

### **Key Highlights**

- According to the survey, the worker population ratio increased to 35.3% as compared to 34.7% in 2017-18.
- The unemployment rate fell to 5.8% in the period July 2018 to June 2019 as compared to 6.1% in the same period 2017-18. The Labour Force participation rate increased to 37.5% as compared to 36.9% in 2017-18.
- In Urban India, the unemployment rate fell to 7.7% in 2018-19 from 7.8% earlier. Also, the female participation rate improved in both rural and urban India from 17.5% to 18.6%.

## **SUMERU PACS**

- The Defence Research and Development Organization has developed the SUMERU PACS that helps to reduce sweating of Personal Protective Equipment wearers. In order to solve this problem, a personal air circulation system was developed.
- The system is to be used inside the PPE as a small backpack of 500 grams. This has been named SUMERU PACS. They keep the wearer away from sweats.

- The system draws outside air and the moist air goes out through a front face opening. This cools the neck and head area. The system is highly helpful for doctors and medical staff who are forced to wear PPEs for more than six hours in hospitals.

## 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### **Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS)**

- The scientists and researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences operating under the Department of Science and Technology have invented a low cost effective way to generate hydrogen from water using Molybdenum dioxide.
- The study says that Molybdenum dioxide can act as an efficient catalyst to reduce energy used in splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen. The process is called electrolysis.

#### **Note:**

- Molybdenum Dioxide has the potential to replace the Platinum, catalyst that is being used currently. Platinum is highly expensive and also is available as limited resource on the earth.

### **Swachh Bharat Mission**

- The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014 which aimed to make India Open Defecation Free and also make urban India manage their waste through scientific methods.
- The mission has achieved its Open Defecation Free target of 100%. In terms of solid waste management, only around 18% of the cities implemented it in 2014. However, today there are more than 65% implementing solid waste management.

#### **Context:**

- The Ministry of Urban Affairs released a series of advisories on Effective waste management. The advisories were issued as a part of the World Environment Day celebration.
- The three advisories released are as follows
  - Advisory on Material Recovery Facilities for Municipal Solid Waste
  - Advisory on Landfill Reclamation
  - On-site and Off-site Sewage Management Practices
- A Tool Kit for communication campaign called “Malasur-the Demon of Defeca” was also launched.

### **ITBP Twin Commands**

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has launched twin commands in Guwahati and Chandigarh to supervise its deployment of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- The recent standoff between India and China in the regions of Ladakh and also in other parts of LAC is the main reason for the initiation commands. The western regions of the LAC are to be administered from the Chandigarh headquarters and the eastern from Guwahati.
- The commands deployed will administer movement of ITBP personnel. The commands will also streamline deployment, operations, intelligence and administrative movements of ITBP personnel in the region.

## #iCommit Initiative

- The Ministry of Power launched the '#iCommit' initiative on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- The initiative was launched to encourage stakeholders to continue providing efficient renewable power and resilient energy systems in the future. The initiative is driven by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESFSL).
- Under the initiative, EESFSL is to unite a diverse set of players such as corporates, think tanks, multilateral and bilateral organizations, governments, etc.
- The initiative has been launched to build a resilient future. It aims to enrich the stakeholders about the importance of creating flexible and agile power systems.

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

## Spandan Campaign

- The Chhattisgarh Government recently launched the Spandan Campaign, which aims to contain fratricide and suicide involving police personnel.
- Under the campaign, the superintendents of police associated with the Chhattisgarh Government will start a parade in their districts every Friday.
- After the event, the grievances of the personnel are to be addressed. Also, the campaign has made medical treatment and counselling of depressed officers mandatory.
- The campaign will also make arrangements for yoga classes for the police personnel at all the district headquarters. Cooperation of local yoga teachers have been sought to conduct these classes.

## G20 Funds

- The G20 countries have pledged over 21 billion USD to fight against COVID-19. The countries have so far injected 5 trillion USD in March 2020 to help fight the global economic crisis. The 21-billion USD commitment was made only by the invited members.
- The G20 countries had already injected 5 trillion USD into the global economy in order to help their members take steps in targeted fiscal policies, guarantee schemes, economic measures and counteract economic, social and financial impacts of the pandemic.
- The G20 members had also asked the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to support the countries that are in need of instruments required in the fight of COVID-19.

### Note:

- It is to be noted that when the G20 leaders met in March 2020, they framed a global response to fight COVID-19 and adopt measures to safeguard the global economy. They also planned to minimise trade disruption by enhancing global cooperation.