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**MADE EASY
WEEKLY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WEEK-2

08th June - 14th June, 2021

TARGETED EXAMINATIONS

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

8th JUNE 2021

Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan

- NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation recently launched 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyan' in 112 aspirational districts.

Key Points:

- It is a joint initiative of NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation.
- It is launched in 112 Aspirational Districts to assist district administrations in providing home-care support to Covid-19 patients.
- It is part of a special initiative called Aspirational Districts Collaborative.
- Under the Aspirational Districts Collaborative, local leaders, civil societies and volunteers work with district administrations to address emerging problems across key focus areas of the Aspirational Districts Programme.
- It will be led by district magistrates in partnership with over 1000 local NGOs.
- It will enlist and train over 1 lakh volunteers to connect with patients through inbound/outbound calls.

■ NOTE:

The Aspirational Districts Programme was launched in January 2018, the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' Programme (TADP). Aspirational Districts are those districts in India that are affected by poor socio-economic indicators.

G7 deal on Minimum Global Corporate Tax

- A group of the world's richest nations reached a landmark deal to close cross-border tax loopholes used by some of the world's biggest companies.
- The Group of Seven (G7) would support a minimum global corporation tax rate of at least 15%.

Key Points

- The deal aims to end what the U.S. Treasury Secretary has called a "30-year race to the bottom on corporate tax rates" as countries compete to lure multinationals.
- Agreement was signed by finance ministers of the United Kingdom, United States, Germany, Canada, France, Italy and Japan.
- It opens a way for levies on multinational companies in countries where they operate rather than just where they are headquartered.

Minimum Global Tax Rate:

- G7 would back a minimum global corporation tax rate of at least 15%, and put in place measures to ensure taxes were paid in the countries where businesses operate.
- Corporation tax is a direct tax imposed on the net income or profit that enterprises make from their businesses.
- It would apply to companies' overseas profits. Therefore, if countries agree on a global minimum, governments could still set whatever local corporate tax rate they want.
- But if companies pay lower rates in a particular country, their home governments could "top-up" their taxes to the agreed minimum rate, eliminating the advantage of shifting profits to a tax haven.
- Under the new tax system, countries where big firms operate would get 'right to tax' at least 20% of profits.

■ NOTE:

India is likely to benefit from the global minimum 15 percent corporate tax rate deal because, effective domestic tax rate is above this threshold and it would continue to attract investment.

State of India's Environment Report 2021

- According to the State of India's Environment Report 2021 which was released by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), India ranked 117 out of 180.

- India was ranked below four South Asian countries- Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh.
- This report provides comprehensive data on subjects such as Forest, Climate Change, Habitat, Water, Air Pollution, Rural Development, Biodiversity, and Industry.

Key Findings

- The country is all set to host a 'pandemic generation'. 375 million children (from newborn to 14-year-olds) have a long-lasting impact ranging from being underweight, stunting, and increased child mortality.
- The pandemic has its hidden victims. Out of the 500 million children forced out of school globally, India accounts for more than 50%.
- Covid-19 has also turned the world's poor into poorer. 115 million additional people might get pushed into extreme poverty and most of them live in South Asia.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

- UN member states adopted 17 SDGs. Some of the SDGs include:
 - SDG 1- No Poverty
 - SDG 2- Zero Hunger
 - SDG 3- Good health & well-being
 - SDG 4- Quality Education
 - SDG 5- Gender Equality
 - SDG 6- Clean Water & Sanitation
 - SDG 9- Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
 - SDG 10- Reduced Inequalities
 - SDG 13- Climate Action etc.

9th JUNE 2021

MSP for Kharif Crops

- The Central government approved new minimum support price of 14 kharif (summer sown) crops, giving a hike of Rs 72 per quintal to the most popular crop paddy from Rs 1,868 per quintal in 2020-21 to Rs 1,940 per quintal in 2021-22 marketing season.

Key Points:

- Highest absolute increase in MSP over previous year has been recommended for sesamum, followed by tur and urad.
- MSP on groundnut and niger seed was increased by Rs 275 per quintal and Rs 235 per quintal, respectively.
- Differential remuneration was fixed with the aim of encouraging crop diversification.

About Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- MSP is a form of market intervention by the Govt. of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- MSP is price fixed by Gol to protect the producer – farmers – against excessive fall in price during bumper production years.
- MSP is announced at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on recommendations by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices(CACP) and announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the PM of India.
- The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.

MSP crops:

- **Cereals:** Paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, barley, maize and ragi.
- **Pulses:** Gram, arhar or tur, urad, moong and lentil.
- **Oilseeds:** Groundnut, mustard, soyabean, toria, sunflower seed, safflower seeds, sesamum, and niger seed.
- Raw cotton, Copra, Raw jute, De-husked coconut.
- Sugarcane.

El Salvador adopted bitcoin as legal tender

- El Salvador, a small coastal country in Central America has become the first in the world to adopt Bitcoin, as legal tender. Legal tender is the legally recognized money within a given political jurisdiction.

Key Highlights

- Even though there were concerns regarding potential impact of legalising cryptocurrency on El Salvador's program of \$1 billion with the International Monetary Fund, the proposal was passed with a majority of 62 out of 84 possible votes.
- El Salvador has not had its own monetary policy since 2001, when a right-wing government made the US dollar the official currency. Along with Ecuador and Panama, El Salvador is currently among three nations in Latin America to have a 'dollarized economy'.

About Bitcoin:

- Introduced in 2009, it is a type of cryptocurrency that enables instant payments to anyone.
- Cryptocurrency is a specific type of virtual currency, which is decentralized and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques.
- Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple are a few notable examples of cryptocurrencies.
- Bitcoin is based on an open-source protocol and is not issued by any central authority.
- Originally, Bitcoin was intended to provide an alternative to fiat money and become a universally accepted medium of exchange directly between two involved parties.

Anup Chandra Pandey

- The Union government appointed 1984-batch IAS officer Anup Chandra Pandey, the former chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh, as an election commissioner, taking the Election Commission of India to its full strength.
- He was appointed to the position after the retirement of former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora.
- He retired from civil services in August 2019. He had served as Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He also worked as the Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner of UP.

About Election Commission (ECI)

- ECI is an autonomous constitutional authority that administers Union & State election processes in India.
- It was established on January 25, 1950 in accordance with the constitution under article 324.
- It also administers elections to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, President and Vice President.
- CEC and Election Commissioner are appointed by the President for a fixed tenure of six years or till 65 years of age. They have the same status, salary and perks as is available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India.

10th JUNE 2021

UDID card for Co-WIN registration

- For ensuring a smooth and effective Covid-19 vaccination drive, the Central Government has written to the states and UTs to include the Unique Disability Identification (UDID) Card as a Photo ID while registering on Co-WIN 2.0 platform.
- It will ensure a smooth and effective Covid-19 vaccination drive.

Key Points:

- UDID was allowed with the aim of helping disabled persons to access Covid-19 vaccination. Earlier, as per guidelines for Co-WIN 2.0, seven prescribed Photo IDs were specified and prescribed for verification of beneficiaries for vaccination.
- Further, this card is issued to persons with disability by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment comprising features like name, year of birth, gender and photograph. Thus, it meets the criteria for use of identification in Covid-19 vaccination.

Unique Disability Identification (UDID)

- The UDID project was implemented to create a National Database for persons with disabilities (PwDs). It issues a Unique Disability Identity Card to each PwDs.
- The UDID project has been under implementation since 2016.
- It will ensure complete digitization of certification of disability from 01.06.2021, besides providing a viable mechanism for cross-checking genuineness of the certificate to achieve pan-India validity, and simplifying the process for the benefit of Divyangjan.

Confederation of Hospitality, Technology and Tourism Industry (CHATT)

- Airbnb, EaseMyTrip, OYO and Yatra have formed a new industry association Confederation of Hospitality, Technology and Tourism Industry (CHATT). It will help small companies and travel and hospitality technology players.

Key Points:

- CHATT will promote domestic tourism, help it in digital transformation, act as a thought leader and run training programmes.
- Every member will be able to access all CHATT resources and benefits, including participation in year-round programmes, signature business events, access to the travel-tech ecosystem, including the experts and regional leads among others.

About CHATT association:

- It will promote domestic tourism and help in the digital transformation of domestic tourism.
- It will act as a thought leader to run training programmes.
- Every member will have access to CHATT resources and benefits.
- It provides for participation in year-round programmes, access to travel-tech ecosystem, signature business events, inclusion of experts & regional leads among others.

CORPAT Exercise

- India and Thailand started the 31st edition of Coordinated Patrols or CORPAT Exercise. It aims to reinforce maritime links between two countries and to keep Indian Ocean safe and secure for international trade.

About CORPAT Exercise

- This is the first biannual exercise in which Saryu, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel called Saryu from Indian Navy and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Krabi along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies are participating.
- CORPAT biannual exercise builds up understanding and interoperability between both the navies.
- It facilitates institution of measures to prevent & suppress unlawful activities such as Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, maritime terrorism, drug trafficking, armed robbery and piracy.

11th JUNE 2021

Early Cyclone Detection Technique

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, have developed a technique that could be useful in the early detection of development or strengthening of tropical cyclones in the atmospheric column prior to satellites over ocean surface in the North Indian Ocean region.

Key Points:

- Researchers have devised a novel method using Eddy detection technique to investigate the formative stages and advance detection time of tropical cyclogenesis in the region.
- Early detection of tropical cyclones has wide socio-economic implications. So far, remote sensing techniques have detected them the earliest. However, this detection was possible only after the system developed as a well-marked low-pressure system over the warm ocean surface.

- The method aims to identify initial traces of pre-cyclonic eddy vortices in the atmospheric column and track its spatio-temporal evolution. They used a coarser grid resolution of 27 kilometers for identification and a finer resolution of nine km to evaluate the characteristics of eddy vortices.

Miraculous mosquito hack

- According to scientists, dengue fever cases have been cut by 77% in a "groundbreaking" trial that manipulates the mosquitoes that spread it.

Key Points:

- Scientists used mosquitoes infected with "miraculous bacteria" and released them across the cities. These bacteria reduce the insect's ability to spread dengue.
- The trial took place in Yogyakarta city, Indonesia, and is being expanded in the hope of eradicating the virus.
- The World Mosquito Programme team says it could be a solution to a virus that has gone around the world.
- Few people had heard of dengue 50 years ago, but it has been a relentless slow-burning pandemic and cases have increased dramatically.
- The technique is successful and mosquitoes have been released across the whole city. This project is targeting to cover more areas with the aim of eradicating dengue.

NOTE:

Dengue is also known as "break-bone fever" as it causes severe pain in muscles and bones. It is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by dengue virus (DENV).

ILO- UNICEF Report on Child Labour

- For the first time, the International Labour Organization and UNICEF jointly published a report Child Labour: 2020 global estimates, trends, and the road forwards to end child labour.

Key Findings:

- As per the report, there has been a 38 per cent decrease in child labour in the last decade, however, 152 million children are still trapped in child labour. World has marked rise in child labour in two decades.
- Report highlights, coronavirus crisis might push millions more youngsters toward child labour.
- As of 2020, number of child labour stands at 160 million. It has increased by 8.4 million in four years.
- Number started increasing before covid-19 pandemic hit, marking dramatic reversal of downward trend where numbers decreased by 94 million in between 2000 and 2016.
- Number of children, between ages 5 and 17 doing hazardous work, has increased. About 79 million children were considered to be engaged in hazardous work. This could affect a child's development, education or health.

NOTE:

World Day Against Child Labour was launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002 on 12 June with an aim to raise awareness and end child labour on a global scale.

12th JUNE 2021

Dihing Patkai National Park

- The Assam Government has notified Dihing Patkai as a National Park which was the last remaining stretch of the Assam Valley tropical wet evergreen forests.
- Assam now has the third most National Parks (7) in India. Madhya Pradesh with 12 national parks maintains the top slot and it is followed by Andaman & Nicobar Islands having 9 national parks.

National Parks of Assam:

- Kaziranga National Park
- Manas National Park
- Nameri National Park

- Orang National Park
- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- Among them, Kaziranga & Manas are UNESCO World Heritage Sites and tiger reserves. Nameri and Orange are also designated tiger reserves.

About Dihing Patkai:

- Dehing Patkai National Park is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam and covers an area of 231.65 km² (89.44 sq mi) rainforest. It was declared a wildlife sanctuary on 13 June 2004.
- It is a major elephant habitat. It has recorded 310 species of butterflies. Park also comprises 47 species of reptiles & mammals, including tiger and clouded leopard. It will be administered by Soraipung Range of Digboi Forest Division & Jeypore Range of Dibrugarh Forest Division.

China Passes Law against Foreign Sanctions

- China's Parliament passed the Anti-foreign Sanctions Law. This law provides a comprehensive legal cover for blocking foreign sanctions against Chinese officials and entities and protecting them against the long-arm jurisdiction, especially from the US.

Key Points:

- The law was passed in the backdrop of the US and EU countries slapping sanctions against a number of Chinese entities and officials over allegations of human rights violations against Muslim Uyghurs in Xinjiang and the imposition of China's national security law in Hong Kong.

Countermeasure provisions in law:

- Refusal to issue visas, denial of entry & deportation.
- Sealing, seizing, and freezing property of individuals and businesses which is attached to foreign sanctions against Chinese businesses or officials
- Restrictions can also be applied to family members of individuals who fall foul of China.

- It allows Chinese courts to punish companies complying with foreign laws that damage national interests.

India to add 20 GW of Wind Energy Capacity by 2025

- According to analysis from the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and MEC Intelligence, India is expected to install just over 20GW of wind power capacity between 2021 and 2025, a growth rate of nearly 50%.

Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)

- GWEC was established in 2005. It provides a credible and representative forum for the entire wind energy sector at international level.
- Its mission is to ensure that wind power is established as the leading energy source in the world, providing several environmental and economic benefits.

NOTE:

India's total installed wind power capacity was 38 GW, as of February 2021. It has the fourth largest installed wind power capacity worldwide.

13th JUNE 2021

New Atlantic Charter

- President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently inspected documents related to the Atlantic Charter, a declaration signed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in August 1941.

What is the New Atlantic Charter?

- The Atlantic Charter was a joint declaration issued during World War II (1939-45) by the United States and Great Britain that set out a vision for the postwar world.

- First announced on August 14, 1941, a group of 26 Allied nations eventually pledged their support by January 1942.
- Among its major points were a nation's right to choose its own government, the easing of trade restrictions and a plea for postwar disarmament.
- The document is considered one of the first key steps toward the establishment of the United Nations in 1945.
- It will also try to maintain collective security & international stability even against cyber threats. It prioritises climate change across all international action.

Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and UAE elected to UNSC

- Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates were elected unopposed to the powerful UN Security Council on Friday as non-permanent members for the 2022-23 term.
- All the five nations were elected unopposed to the 15-member UN body. They will replace- Vietnam, Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tunisia, whose terms ended this year.

Regional distribution of seats in UNSC

- As per regional distribution for the 2021 election, three seats were available from African & Asian States. Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates won these three seats. Apart from that, one Latin American and Caribbean Group seat was available for which Brazil was elected. Albania won Eastern European Group seat.

■ NOTE:

Election for the non-permanent members of UNSC is held by secret ballot. Candidates require a two-thirds majority in UNGA to be elected as a non-permanent member. Five countries are elected to the Council of 15-member (UNSC) as non-permanent members for a two-year term.

UNDP report on Aspirational Districts Programme

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India has released an independent report and lauded Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) as 'a successful model of local area development'.

Key findings:

- As per the report, ADP should serve as a best practice for other countries where regional disparities are persisting with respect to development.
- A total of 117 Aspirational districts have been identified by NITI Aayog based upon composite indicators.
- These include Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure which have an impact on the Human Development Index.
- As per the report, more than 9.6% home deliveries are attended by skilled birth attendants. About 5.8% more pregnant women with severe anaemia, and 4.8% children diagnosed with diarrhoea are treated. In the first trimester, 4.5% pregnant women register for antenatal care.

Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

- Launched in January 2018, the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.
- The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a Mass Movement or a Jan Andolan.
- With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.
- It is a part of the government's effort to raise living standards of its citizens and ensure inclusive growth for all under his vision of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'.

14th JUNE 2021

TRAI released a new framework for broadcasting & cable services

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday released an amendment to interconnection regulations of 2017 which provides for a framework for technical compliance of conditional access system (CAS) and subscriber management system (SMS) for the broadcasting and cable sector.

New Technical Framework

- The framework is incorporated as schedule IX in the Interconnection Regulations, 2017. The operationalisation and oversight of the framework shall be carried out throughout a testing and certification agency, which shall be prescribed by the authority later.
- The TRAI said the technical framework is the first step to define an indigenous set of specifications in line with international standards, and it is expected to bring “several important benefits” to the television broadcasting sector as well as the consumers.
- Working of CAS and SMS will be tightly synchronized, which will enable factual reporting of subscriber base.
- It will also help in reducing revenue loss to stakeholders on account of erroneous subscription reporting.
- Framework will usher in better content security across the distribution value chain which will pave the way for high-definition content to Indian television viewers.
- It will improve end-to-end compliance and reduce litigations across service providers.

NOTE:

CAS is a digital mode of transmitting TV channels using a set-top box. These transmission signals are encrypted and viewers are required to buy a set-top box to receive and decrypt the signal.

India-Kuwait MoU on Domestic Worker Recruitment

- India and Kuwait signed an MoU that brings Indian domestic workers in the Gulf nation within a legal framework that provides them with the protection of the law and streamlines their recruitment.

About MoU:

- The MoU will provide a structured framework for cooperation on domestic workers related matters.
- It provides for strengthened safeguards for Indian domestic workers including female workers deployed in Kuwait.
- Initially valid for five years, it has a provision for automatic renewal.
- The MoU also proposes setting up of a joint committee that will be set up to follow up the implementation.
- The MoU will benefit around 3 lakh Indian workers deployed in Kuwait, including about 90,000 female domestic workers and promotes bilateral cooperation in domestic workers-related matters between the two countries.

NOTE:

Community of Indians in Kuwait comprises of Indian expatriates in Kuwait and Kuwaiti citizens of Indian origin or by descent. As per Indian ministry of external affairs, about 10 lakh Indians are residing in Kuwait as of 2020.

'Medicines from the Sky' Project

- The Telangana government has selected 16 primary healthcare centres (PHCs) spread around Vikarabad area hospital for pilot testing the ambitious 'Medicine from the sky', the first-of-its-kind project involving delivery of medicines through multiple drones.

About Medicines from the Sky project

- The project involves delivery of medicines through multiple drones. The project is being launched following the approval granted by the Civil Aviation Ministry.
- Consortium has been tasked with development and execution of drone deliveries of medical supplies to remote areas under the project.
- Drone delivery of supplies will be complemented with technologies like geo mapping, trace of location and routing of shipments.
- Technologies have been developed by Flipkart over years in serving millions of customers across India.
- These technologies will be used to conduct 'Beyond Visual Line of Sight' (BVLOS) deliveries in remote areas in Telangana where road infrastructure is not conducive to deliver vaccines faster.
- This project is conceived by World Economic Forum and Healthnet Global Limited which outlines the requirements for drone delivery and assesses proposals.

What is Beyond Visual Line of Sight?

- BVLOS is a term relating to the operation of UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) and drones at distances outside the normal visible range of the pilot.
- BVLOS drone operations provide numerous advantages over regular line-of-sight flying.

