



MADE EASY

India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY
WEEKLY CURRENT
AFFAIRS**

WEEK-1

1st September - 7th September

Targeted Examinations:

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

Current Affairs MADE EASY

(1st September to 7th September 2020)

1st September 2020

China builds missile site at Kailash-Mansarovar

Amidst border tensions at Line of Actual Control (LAC), China has reportedly built a missile launch site at Kailash-Mansarovar in Tibet region.

The Kailash-Mansarovar is revered by four religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Bon) and is linked to high spiritual scriptures in India.

The region is also the origin of four transnational rivers namely Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra and Karnali.

China's intentions:

China is building the missile site in the region for greater militarisation of Tibet.

The Chinese has mounted missile DF-21 in the region. The missile site is also a response to India's recently built road to Lipulekh.

Landslide Susceptibility mapping of Himalayas

The scientists from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology operating under the Department of Science and Technology carried out a study according to which, 15% of the region is highly susceptible to landslides.

The study has found that the very high and high landslide susceptible zone lies in areas that are covered by highly fractured Krol limestone.

The study says that the possible causative factors of the landslides are land use, road cut drainage, curvature and elevation.

Landslide Susceptibility Mapping is a map that identifies areas that are subject to landslides. It also says what creates the landslides in that particular area.

India developed World's Largest Solar Tree

The Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) working under CSIR, has developed the world largest solar tree. The tree has an annual capacity of generating 12,000 to 14,000 units of clean and Green power.

The Solar Tree has been designed in such a way that maximum exposure of each Solar Photovoltaic panel is achieved. There are total of 35 Solar PV panels in each tree. Each panel has a capacity of 330 watt-power.

The Solar tree also has capability to incorporate with Internet of Things based features. This includes wind speed, real-time humidity, rainfall prediction and soil analytics sensors.

2nd September 2020

One Nation One Ration Card Scheme

- It is an ambitious project of Government of India that ensures delivery of food entitlements to the beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, 2013.
- The scheme mainly targeted the help migrants who frequently change their home in search of temporary employment.
- Under the scheme, the beneficiaries can get their quota of food grains from any state.
- **Context:** Recently, UTs of Ladakh and Lakshadweep have been integrated with One Nation One Ration Card scheme. With this, the scheme now connects a total of 26 states and Union Territories with one another.

Defence Ministerial Meeting of SCO and CSTO

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Russia to attend the Defence Ministers joint meet of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an intergovernmental international group that comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).
- The SCO is seen as one of the largest transregional international organizations that accounts to 44% of the world population.
- It aims to maintain stability, peace and security in the region.

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance that comprises Armenia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

South-Western Railways started RO-RO Service

Recently, South Western Railway started its first ever Roll On Roll Off (RO-RO) service from Nelamangala (near Bengaluru) to Bale (near Solapur).

This was the first private RORO train services run on Indian Railways.

About RORO Service:

Roll On Roll Off (RO-RO) is a concept of carrying road vehicles on open flat railway wagons loaded with different goods.

RORO services are a combination of best road and rail transport functionality in the sense that they provide door-to-door operation with direct rail transport handling.

Note: RO-RO train services were first introduced on Konkan Railways in 1999.

3rd September 2020

Mission Karmayogi

The Union Cabinet has approved a National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).

Termed as Mission Karmayogi, the scheme aims to prepare Indian civil servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, proactive, innovative, progressive, professional, energetic, transparent and technology-enabled.

The mission will focus on individual civil servant and institutional capacity building.

The institutional framework will consist of PM HR Council, Capacity Building Commission, Technological platform for online training, and Coordination Unit headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

Global Innovation Index

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has released the Global Innovation Index.

India, for the first time, has ranked among top 50 countries. It has been ranked at 48th position out of 131 countries.

The index was released based on the theme “Who will Finance Innovation?”

Key Highlights:

Along with WIPO, Cornell University and INSEAD Business School were a part in framing the index.

Switzerland acquired the first position followed by Sweden, USA, UK and Netherlands. India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and R&D-intensive global companies.

Jammu and Kashmir Language Bill, 2020

The Union Cabinet has approved the Jammu and Kashmir Language Bill, 2020.

As per the Bill, five languages namely Urdu, Hindi, Dogri, English and Kashmiri will be recognized as the official language of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

About Article 343:

The Article 343 of Constitution of India says that the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script.

About Eight Schedule:

The Eight Schedule of Constitution of India lists the 22 official languages which have been recognised by the Constitution.

These are Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Sindhi (added by 21st Amendment Act, 1967), Konkani, Manipuri, Nepali (added by 71st Amendment Act, 1992), Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali (added by 92nd Amendment 2003).

4th September 2020

World University Ranking 2021

- The Times Higher Education (THE) has announced the World University Rankings, 2021.
- In the 2021 ranking, India has recorded its highest ever number of universities (63) in the list. However, none of Indian Universities could make it to the top 300.
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru has been placed in the 301-350 category in overall global rankings.

Key Highlights:

- The University of Oxford was at the top position followed by Stanford University, Harvard University, California Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology being in top 5.
- China's Tsinghua University was the first Asian university to make it to the top 20.

Question Hour in Parliament

- The Lok Sabha Secretariat has issued the schedule for the Monsoon session of Parliament beginning from September 14, without the Question Hour.
- The Government has cited COVID-19 pandemic as the reason of suspending Question hour. However, it has created controversy as opposition parties have accused Government to muzzling people's voice.
- In the past too, the Question Hour had been suspended, but they were suspended during national emergencies.

About Question Hour

- The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for the Question Hour.
- During this one hour, Members of Parliament (MPs) ask questions to ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.
- The questions can also be asked to the private members (MPs who are not ministers). It is regulated according to parliamentary rules.

India attended BIMSTEC meet

- India recently attended Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of BIMSTEC and discussed ways to expand cooperation among its member countries.
- It further discussed ways to expand cooperation to deal with the current COVID-19 challenges.

About BIMSTEC:

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional multilateral organisation. It was established in 1997.
- It mainly aims to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development; accelerate social progress; and promote collaboration on matters of common interest in the region.
- BIMSTEC group comprises India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
- The grouping accounts for 22 per cent of the global population, and has a combined Gross Domestic Product of USD 2.8 trillion.

5th September 2020

Germany launched Indo-Pacific Strategy

Germany has recently launched its Indo-Pacific strategy with India in focus. Germany is expected to play a key role in the region where China's aggressive foreign policy has triggered countries to oppose it.

Key Highlights:

The strategy has several indirect references to Chinese behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.

Germany has also suggested a key role in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

It will work on maritime safety and disaster risk management.

Apart from this, Germany has also exhibited its willingness to cooperate with India and Japan in United Nations Security Reforms.

Karnataka approved New Information Technology Policy 2020

Karnataka Cabinet has approved a new Information Technology Policy, 2020.

The main goal of the policy is to enable the IT industry to contribute 30% to India's goal of becoming a trillion-dollar economy.

The new policy will boost IT penetration and innovation, distributed labour force and evolve a Cyber security policy.

The policy is to be executed between 2020 and 2025.

6th September 2020

State of Young Child in India Report

- The Vice President of India launched the “State of Young Child in India” report. The report was prepared by the Mobile Creches, a policy advocacy organization.
- The report is framed in two indices namely: Young Child Outcome Index (It measures health, cognitive growth and nutrition) and Young Child Environment Index (It relates to environment that influence a child wellbeing).

Key findings:

- There are 159 million children aged below 6 years in India. Of these, 21% are undernourished, 36% are underweight and 38% do not receive full immunization.
- The top five high performing states according to the Environment Index are Kerala, Goa, Punjab, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh.
- Kerala, Tripura, Goa, Mizoram and Tamil Nadu are the top five states that support the well-being of children to a larger extent.

Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) Ranking

- The Union Government has announced the 4th edition of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states.
- Andhra Pradesh retained its top position in Ease of Doing Business category.
- The lowest 3 ranks in the list belong to Odisha, Sikkim and Tripura.
- The top five states under State Reform Action Plan 2019 are:
 1. Andhra Pradesh
 2. Uttar Pradesh
 3. Telangana
 4. Madhya Pradesh
 5. Jharkhand
- The ranking of various States of India on the basis of implementation of Business Reform Action Plan had started in 2015.

7th September 2020

First World Solar Technology Summit

The first World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) to be organised by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) from 8th September virtually.

Key Highlights:

The summit has five sessions focusing on the following:

- Global CEO Session
- Vision 2030 and beyond
- Towards a decarbonised Grid
- Disruptive Solar Technologies
- Solar Beyond power sector

About International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The ISA has 121 countries mostly located between Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, that work to tap benefits of solar power and promote clean energy applications. It was proposed at the Paris Climate Change Conference that was held in 2015.
- The first ISA assembly was held in 2018.
- It is headquartered at Gurugram, Haryana.

Rashtriya Poshan Maah

- The 3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah is being celebrated during the month of September 2020. Every year the Poshan Maah is celebrated under POSHAN Abhiyaan, which was launched in 2018.

Key Points:

- Ministry of Women and Child Development, being the nodal Ministry for POSHAN Abhiyaan, is celebrating the Poshan Maah in convergence with partner Ministries and departments, at National, States/UTs, Districts, and grass root level.
- The objective of the Poshan Maah is to address malnutrition amongst young children, and women and to ensure health and nutrition for everyone.