

ENGINEERS' EXCLUSIVE

Current Affairs

MADE EASY

Annual Edition
for
ESE 2021
Preliminary Examination



MADE EASY Publications Pvt Ltd

Corporate Office: 44-A/4, Kalu Sarai, New Delhi-110016

Visit us at: www.madeeasypublications.org

☎ 011-45124660, 8860378007

E-mail: infomep@madeeasy.in

© Copyright 2021

MADE EASY Publications Pvt Ltd has taken due care in collecting the data before publishing this book. In spite of this, if any inaccuracy or printing error occurs then MADE EASY Publications Pvt Ltd owes no responsibility. MADE EASY Publications Pvt Ltd will be grateful if you could point out any such error. Your suggestions will be appreciated. © All rights reserved by MADE EASY Publications Pvt Ltd. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form without the written permission from the publisher.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policy or position of CURRENT AFFAIRS Magazine or MADE EASY Publications Pvt Ltd. They should be understood as the personal opinions of the author/ authors. The MADE EASY assumes no responsibility for views and opinions expressed nor does it vouch for any claims made in the advertisements published in the Magazine. While painstaking effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and authenticity of the informations published in the Magazine, neither Publisher, Editor or any of its employee does not accept any claim for compensation, if any data is wrong, abbreviated, cancelled, omitted or inserted incorrect.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher.

Contents

08 Current Economic Issues



33 Environment & Wildlife



41 National Affairs



91 International Affairs



111 Science & Technology



129 Defence in News



139 Miscellaneous

148 ESE-2020 Toppers' Interview

152 Recent Current Affairs Questions

Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policy or position of CURRENT AFFAIRS Magazine or MADE EASY Publications Pvt Ltd. They should be understood as the personal opinions of the author/ authors.

Green TAX to be levied

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to put additional taxes on old vehicles that are no longer suitable on the road. The action has been taken to minimise pollution. The extra tax is considered as the Green Tax.

Key Highlights:

- The Green Tax would reduce the level of emissions. That would even make the polluter responsible for emissions.
- Under the Green Tax Rules, travel vehicles older than eight years will be paid a green tax at the time of renewal of the health certificate. They will be taxed at a rate of between 10% and 25% of the road levy.
- Public transit buses such as city buses can pay a smaller green fee.
- Revenue collected from the green tax will be kept in a separate account. The amount will be used for tackling the problem of pollution.

MARUTI SUZUKI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd will gain most from a government proposal to levy a green tax on petrol and diesel vehicles

IMPORTANT POINTS

- Maruti is India's top carmaker and has the largest portfolio of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles among all the domestic automakers.
- Under the Green tax norms, the Hybrid vehicles, electric vehicles and those vehicles that run on cleaner alternative fuels like CNG, ethanol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) will be exempted from the green tax. Higher taxes will be implied on the petrol or diesel vehicles.
- The Suzuki Motor Corp. unit has also planned to push its CNG vehicle sales to 200,000 units or more a year by 2022.
- In the financial year 2020, Maruti sold a record 106,443 CNG vehicles. The sales of such vehicles have grown with the average of 15.5% annually.

Green Tax on Vehicles

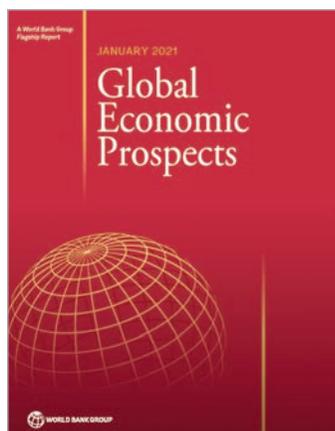
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways announced a green tax on a certain category of vehicles starting from April 1, 2022.
- The government has proposed that a green tax could be levied on personal vehicles at the time of renewal of registration certificate. It will be levied after 15 years equivalent to 10-25% of the road tax of a petrol or diesel vehicle.
- Similar tax would also be levied on transport or commercial vehicles which are older than eight years at the time of renewal of the registration certificate and the fitness certificate.



Green tax is also called the pollution tax or environmental tax. The tax is an excise duty on goods that results into the environmental pollutants.

World Bank released Global Economic Prospects Report

- The World Bank recently released the Global Economic Prospects report.



Key findings:

- According to the report, the Indian economy is projected to decline by 9.6% in 2020-21. The Indian economy is set to rebound 5.4% in 2021-22.
- The contraction in the Indian economy would mainly be due to a rapid fall in household consumption and private investment. The informal sector, which accounts for four-fifths of the country's jobs, has been seriously affected.
- On the other hand, the world economy is to expand by 4% in 2021.
- The services and manufacturing sector are gaining Momentum.
- According to the World Bank, India is facing its first technical recessionary phase.

About Technical Recessionary Phase

- When the GDP growth is negative for two consecutive quarters or more than the period it is called the technical recessionary phase.
- In India, the Gross Domestic Product declined by 23.9 percent between April and June quarter. The Gross Domestic Product growth rate contracted by 7.5 % during the July and September quarter.

RBI to conduct auction for Special Long Term Repo Operations (SLTRO)

- The Reserve Bank of India will conduct the first auction for special long-term repo operations (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crore for Small Finance Banks (SFBs).
- The SLTRO will be valid for three years. All the Small Finance Banks shall participate in the SLTRO. However, these banks should make sure that the amount borrowed from RBI should be lent only to specific segments such as unorganised sectors and small business units.

SLTRO for Small Finance Banks:

- RBI would conduct special three-year long-term repo operations (SLTRO) of Rs. 10,000 crore at repo rate for small finance banks (SFBs).
- Long Term Repo Operation is a tool under which the central bank provides one-year to three-year money to banks at the prevailing repo rate, accepting government securities with matching or higher tenure as the collateral.
- The SFBs would be able to deploy these funds for fresh lending of up to Rs. 10 lakh per borrower.
- This is to provide further support to small business units, micro and small industries, and other unorganised sector entities adversely affected during the current wave of the pandemic.

RBI constituted advisory group for Regulatory Review Authority (RRA) 2.0

- Recently, the Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) has constituted an Advisory Group to assist the second Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0).
- It will submit reports periodically to RRA that will provide suggestions and recommendations.



About RRA 2.0

- It will focus on streamlining regulatory instructions, reducing compliance burden of the regulated entities by simplifying procedures and reducing reporting requirements, wherever possible. It will also obtain feedback from regulated entities.
- Regulated entities include commercial banks, urban co-operative banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies. It will make regulatory instruction more effective.
- Also, it will aid in streamlining the reporting mechanism, obviating paper-based submission of returns wherever possible and revoking necessary instructions.

Note

In 1999, RBI set up the Regulatory Review Authority to review circulars, regulations, and reporting systems. The authority reviews these parameters based on feedback from banks, public and financial institutions.

Important Terms used in ECONOMY

Unemployment and its types

Unemployment occurs when a person who is actively searching for employment and is unable to find work.

- **Disguised Unemployment:** It is a phenomenon wherein more people are employed than actually needed. It is primarily traced in the agricultural and the unorganised sectors of India.
- **Seasonal Unemployment:** It is an unemployment that occurs during certain seasons of the year. Agricultural labourers in India rarely have work throughout the year.
- **Structural Unemployment:** It is a category of unemployment arising from the mismatch between the jobs available in the market and the skills of the available workers in the market.
- **Cyclical Unemployment:** It is result of the business cycle, where unemployment rises during recessions and declines with economic growth. Cyclical unemployment figures in India are negligible. It is a phenomenon that is mostly found in capitalist economies.
- **Technological Unemployment:** It is loss of jobs due to changes in technology. In 2016, World Bank data predicted that the proportion of jobs threatened by automation in India is 69% year-on-year.
- **Frictional Unemployment:** The Frictional Unemployment also called as Search Unemployment, refers to the time lag between the jobs when an individual is searching for a new job or is switching between the jobs.
- **Vulnerable Employment:** This means, people working informally, without proper job contracts and thus sans any legal protection. These persons are deemed 'unemployed' since records of their work are never maintained.
- **Unemployment Trap:** It is a situation when unemployment benefits discourage the unemployed to go to work. People find the opportunity cost of going to work too high when one can simply enjoy the benefits by doing nothing.

Capital Receipts

- All those receipts of the government which either creates liability or reduces financial asset are capital receipts. **Examples:** Market borrowings by the government from the public, Borrowings from the RBI, Borrowings from commercial banks or financial institutions through the sale of T-BILLS, loans received from foreign governments or international financial institutions, post office savings, post office saving certificates and PSU's Disinvestment.

Revenue Receipts

- These are receipts of the government incomes which cannot be reclaimed back by the citizens from the government.

Capital Expenditure

- All those expenditures of the government which either result in the creation of physical/financial assets or reduction in financial liabilities. Examples: Purchase of land, machinery, building and equipment's; investment in shares; loans and advances by the central government to state governments and UTs.

Revenue Expenditure

- The expenditure incurred by the government that neither creates any physical/financial asset nor reduces the liability of the government.

Perfect Competition

- Pure or perfect competition is a theoretical market structure in which the following criteria are met:
- All firms sell an identical product (the product is a "commodity" or "homogeneous").
- All firms are price takers (they cannot influence the market price of their product).
- Market share has no influence on prices.
- Buyers have complete or "perfect" information—in the past, present and future—about the product being sold and the prices charged by each firm.
- Resources for such a labor are perfectly mobile.
- Firms can enter or exit the market without cost.

Primary Deficit

- The borrowing requirement of the government includes interest obligations on accumulated debt. The goal of measuring primary deficit is to focus on present fiscal imbalances.

Fiscal Policy

- Fiscal policy means the use of taxation and public expenditure by the government for stabilization or growth of the economy. Some of the major instruments of fiscal policy are as follows: Budget, Taxation, Public Expenditure, public revenue, Public Debt, and Fiscal Deficit in the economy.

Privatization

- The transfer of ownership, property or business from the government to the private sector is termed privatization. The government ceases to be the owner of the entity or business.

2

Environment & Wildlife

Govt. amended Thermal Power Plants Emission Standards

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently amended the rules of thermal power plants emission standards.

Key highlights:

- The new law has extended the deadline for nuclear power plants within ten kilometers of the National Capital Region and in cities with a population of more than ten lakh to meet with the new pollution standards by the end of 2022.
- The CPCB intends to form a task force (Central Pollution Control Board). Based on their venue, the task force would divide thermal power plants into three groups.
- The deadline for "Non-Attainment Cities" thermal power plants to meet emission standards has been extended until December 31, 2023.
- The coal fired power plants in the rest of the areas have to comply with the new standards by December 2024.

Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxide, Carbon Monoxide, Ozone, Suspended Particulate Matter, non-methane hydrocarbons, and lead are among the contaminants emitted from a nuclear power plant. Sulphur Dioxide, on the other hand, is the most significant pollutant emitted from a thermal power plant.



Blue Nature Alliance established

- The Blue Nature Alliance is a national collaboration of five primary members and a few other non-profit organizations.



Key Points:

- The alliance aims to protect 5% of the world ocean in five years.
- The alliance aims to target seven ocean locations. They are as follows:

- Antarctica
- Seychelles
- Canada
- Palau
- Western Indian Ocean
- Fiji
- Tristan da Cunha, an island in the South Atlantic Ocean

Note

- The Marine Conservation Institute published the Marine Protection Atlas in 2012. The atlas was created to provide the most up-to-date material on coastal conservation from around the world.
- This will allow marine conservation groups to collaborate to conserve at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030.

Union Govt. extended timeline of EIA Notification 2020 implementation

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has finally extended the timeline for the public to review an 80-page long draft on Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification 2020.
- The recently released draft is created with the intention of replacing the existing EIA notification 2006.

Background:

- In the year 1984, after the Bhopal Gas leak disaster, the government launched the Environment Protection Act 1986.
- In the Environment Protection Act 1986 itself, it was mentioned that the country will frame EIA norms which finally came into effect in 1994 and later modified by a draft in 2006.
- The EIA framework made a legal framework for regulating any activities which pollute the environment.



Key changes in EIA norms:

- EIA 2020 draft if implemented is going to increase the pressure of legal paperwork while making a minimalistic change on the ground.
- A huge list of projects has been excluded from the view of public consultation in the new policy, some being, gas and shale exploration, offshore and onshore oil, irrigation projects, small and medium mineral beneficiation units, hydroelectric projects up to 25 MW, small foundries involving furnace units, small and medium cement plants, acids other than phosphoric or ammonia, small clinker grinding units, Sulphuric acid, micro, MSMEs in dye and dye intermediates, synthetic rubbers, bulk drugs, all inland waterway projects, medium-sized paint units, aerial ropeways in ecologically sensitive areas, specified building construction and area development projects and expansion or widening of highways between 25 km and 100 km with defined parameters.
- Since these activities will be carried out without oversight. There is apprehension that the exemption from EIA and public consultation for these activities will seriously affect the environment.

Cheetah to be re-introduced in India

- The world's fastest land animal, Cheetah which was declared extinct in India in 1952, has been expected to be re-introduced in India in November 2021 at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points:

- India had spotted its last Cheetah in Chhattisgarh in 1947. After the death of the last Cheetah, it was declared extinct in 1952.
- Kuno is located in Chambal region. It is spread across an area of 750 sq km. Park has a conducive environment for cheetahs.
- It is a protected area which has a considerable population of four-horned antelopes, nilgai, chinkara, spotted deer and wild boar. Thus, the park has a good prey base for cheetahs.



The fastest land animal is native to Africa and central Iran. It can attain a running speed of 80 to 128 km/h.

Cheetah is listed in the "vulnerable category" of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list of threatened species.

Central Vista Redevelopment project started

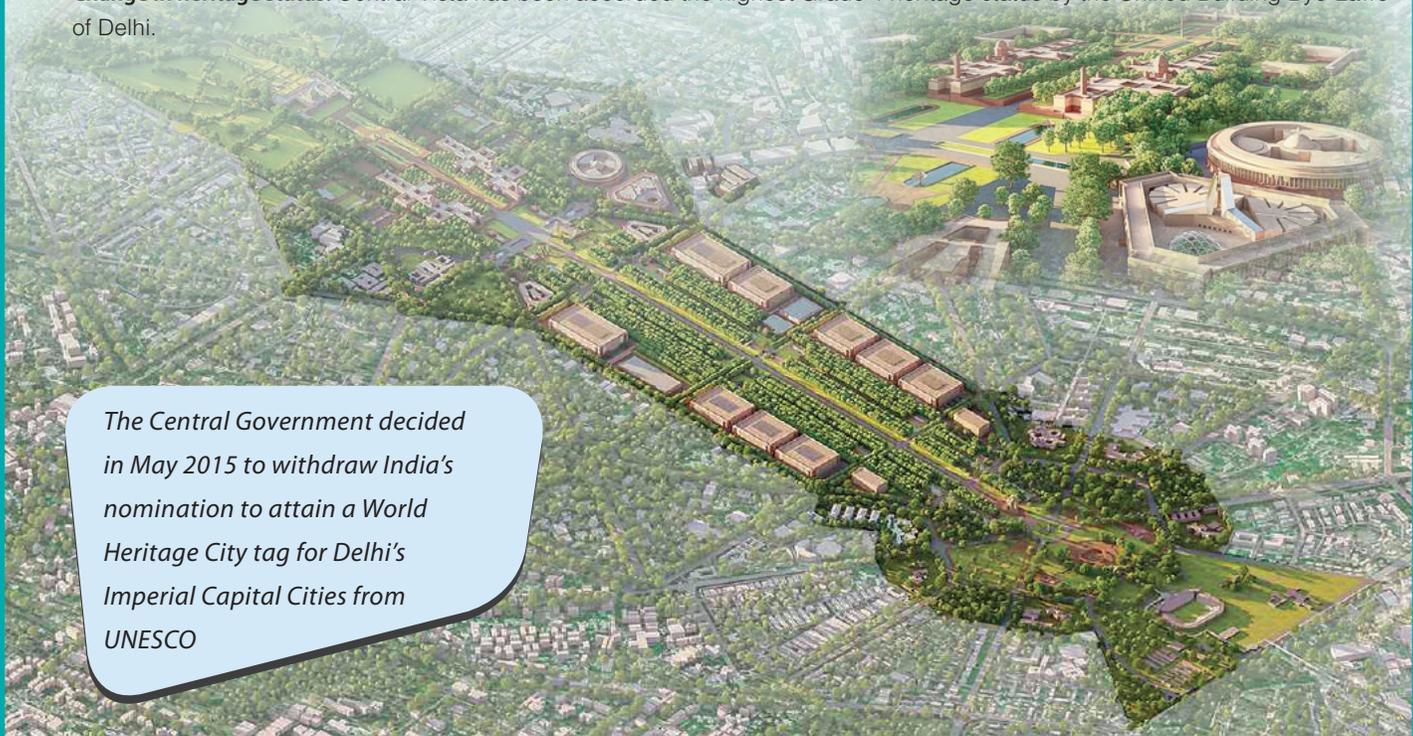
- The Supreme Court of India recently allowed Central Vista redevelopment project whose foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under this a new Parliament building will be constructed along with other buildings. A new residential complex, will be the house of the Prime Minister and the Vice President besides several new office buildings including the North and South Block buildings.
- It will cover a 3-km stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate in Lutyens' Delhi.
- The new complex is likely to have a triangular shape and would be complete by 2022.
- Tata Projects Limited won the bid to construct the new parliament building at a cost of Rs 861.90 crore.

Need of new project:

- The present Parliament building is 85-year-old and suffers from inadequacy of space to house members and their staff.
- It suffers from structural issues and the building needs to be protected because of its heritage, it is a major attraction for the tourists who visit the country.

Major concerns:

- **Lack of transparency:** In the 're-development' of the Central Vista, the entire matter has been formed in secrecy and opacity.
 - Several key approvals for the proposed Parliament building have been pushed during the lockdown which led to allegations of a lack of transparency.
- **Environment clearance:** Many opposition and environmentalists point out concerns related to lack of studies to ascertain the need for the project and its impact on the environment, traffic and pollution.
- **Financial burden:** The ambitious project, costing Rs 20,000 crore and It came when the country is in the midst of battling the COVID-19 pandemic and is staring at a serious economic crisis.
- **Change in heritage status:** Central Vista has been accorded the highest Grade 1 heritage status by the Unified Building Bye-Laws of Delhi.



The Central Government decided in May 2015 to withdraw India's nomination to attain a World Heritage City tag for Delhi's Imperial Capital Cities from UNESCO

World's Highest Arch Bridge completed



- The Indian Railways recently completed the arch closure of the world's highest railway bridge, Chenab bridge. The bridge is a part of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project. The Chenab bridge is located in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

About Arch Closure

- It is the world's highest railway bridge and is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project (USBRL).
- The Project was declared as a Project of National Importance in March 2002.
- This bridge is 1,315-metre long and is the highest railway bridge in the world being 359 metres above the river bed level.
- The completion of the steel arch is a major leap towards the completion of the 111 km long winding stretch from Katra to Banihal.
- The Arch consists of steel boxes. To improve the stability of the arch, concrete is to be filled in the boxes. The two main benefits of using concrete filling are as follows:
 - The filled in concrete assists in controlling wind induced forces.
 - Also, using concrete filling removes the necessity of internal painting.

Union Govt. notified new guidelines for Social Media Regulation

- The Union Government recently notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021. The new guidelines are aimed at regulating social media and OTT platforms.



Key Highlights:

- The new Rules on digital media and OTT aim to empower ordinary users of social media, embodying a mechanism for redressal and timely resolution of their grievance.
- The proposed framework is progressive, liberal and contemporaneous and seeks to address peoples' varied concerns while removing any misapprehension about curbing creativity and freedom of speech and expression.
- The rules have been framed keeping in mind the difference between viewership in a theatre and television as compared to watching it on the Internet.
- The rules focus more on in-house and self-regulation mechanisms whereby a robust grievance redressal mechanism has been provided while upholding journalistic and creative freedom.

The **new guidelines on social media** were framed in accordance with the section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. These guidelines were released after having an elaborate consultation with the public as well as the stakeholders.

Need of new rules:

- The government has notified the new rules on digital media and OTT with the aim of empowering the ordinary users regarding social media.
- With the new rules, the government wants to set up a mechanism for redressal and timely resolution of their grievance.

National Green Tribunal gave nod to Kaleshwaram Irrigation Project



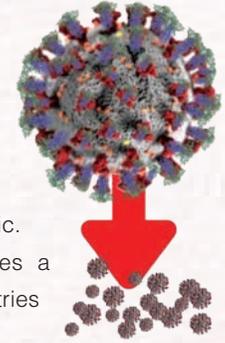
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) granted environmental clearance to the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project in Telangana.
- The NGT have also formed a committee to assess the extent of damage that the project has caused and to identify the restoration measures.

About Project:

- Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project is a multipurpose irrigation project of the Telangana government.
- The project is being constructed on the meeting point of River Godavari and River Pranahita.
- The project will provide irrigation and drinking water to backward areas of Telangana.

A new strain of **COVID-19** that shut the World

In **January, 2020**, China reported the first death in the country due to pneumonia caused by a new virus in the city of Wuhan. The Chinese scientists discovered that the new strain of virus is that of the coronavirus family.



Coronavirus

Coronavirus causes an infectious disease with symptoms like flu and gastro intestinal problems in human. They have great genetic variability, meaning, they can overcome barriers between different species. Coronaviruses were first found in human in 1960s.



The virus has protrusions on its surface. This makes the virus look like an emperor's crown and hence the name Coronavirus.

The protrusions are made of proteins. Apart from human, the coronavirus can also infect cattle, dogs, pigs, camels, birds and hedgehogs apart from humans.

COVID-19

On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a new name for this new strain of Coronavirus- "COVID-19". WHO has chosen the name with no reference to a particular geographical location. According to WHO, the name was chosen in such a way that it does not affect normal lives of a country.

Pandemic

An epidemic disease spread over a large region is pandemic. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines a pandemic as "an epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting a large number of people."

Phases of Pandemics

At the first phase, the virus affects animals in larger scale and does not affect humans. In second phase the animal flu virus begins its infections in humans.

At the next phase the infections begin to occur in clusters. This is when mass gatherings are avoided, schools are shut down, etc.

In stage 4, pandemic increases but its increase cannot be confirmed. It then begins to occur in more than one country. In the last stage, community level outbreaks begin.



Earlier outbreaks

In 2002-03, the flu-like SARS virus that belongs to Coronavirus family, killed more than 700 people in the world. The virus originated in China. The other deadly virus of the corona virus is the MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome). There is no specific vaccine for the virus as of 2019. The virus was first identified in 2012 in Saudi Arabia. Most of the cases have occurred in Arabian peninsula.

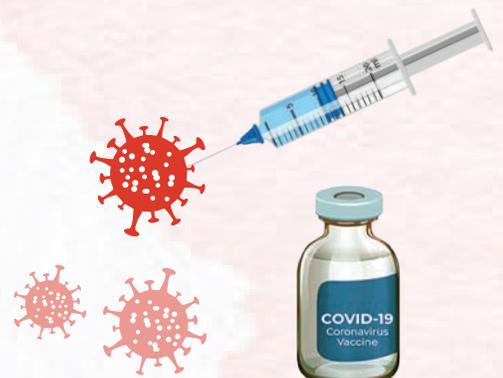


COVID-19 Vaccine Development

- Fast forward to the 21st century, the dissemination of COVID-19 mandated the development of a new vaccine. The main challenge is to produce a healthy vaccine in a minimum of time.

Stages in the development of a vaccine:

- According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are six stages of vaccine development: exploratory, pre-clinical, clinical development, regulatory review and approval, manufacturing and quality control.
- **Exploratory:** This is the research-intensive phase of the vaccine development process which is designed to identify "natural or synthetic antigens that might help prevent or treat a disease."





Bills & Acts

GNCTD (Amendment) Act

- The Government of National Capital Territory (GNCT) of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, which gives primacy to the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) over the elected government in the city, has come into force.

Key Provisions:

- The Act basically gave more power to the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and diminished the elected government's power. The Act also seeks to bring in some clarity on certain subjects in the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.
- The Act makes amendments to the Government of National Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.
- It gives more power to the LG in some respects while ensuring the Delhi Legislative Assembly's accountability.
- As per the Act's objects and reasons, it is aimed at ending the absence of clarity on what matters or proposals are needed to be submitted to the LG before orders could be issued.
- It also aims to "further define the responsibilities of the elected government and Lieutenant Governor (LG) in Delhi".

Note

The Delhi Legislature was constituted under Article 239AA of the Constitution. By law, the Delhi Legislature has all powers to make laws in matters except public order, land and police.

Tribunal Reforms Ordinance, 2021

- Recently, the President promulgated Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021 through which the Appellate authorities under nine laws have been replaced with High Courts.
- The Ordinance has amended the Finance Act 2017 to include provisions related to the composition of search-cum-selection committees, and term of office of members in the Act itself.

Key Highlights:

- The ordinance seeks to dissolve certain existing appellate bodies and transfer their functions to other existing judicial bodies.
- It seeks to empower the Central Government to make rules for qualifications, appointment, term of office, salaries and allowances, resignation, removal and other terms and conditions of service of Members of Tribunals.
- It provides that the Chairperson and Members of the Tribunals will be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of a Search-cum-Selection Committee.
- It also provides the composition of the Committee, to be headed by the Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him.
- Chairperson of a Tribunal shall hold office for a term of 4 years or till he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. Other Members of a Tribunal shall hold office for a term of 4 years or till he attains the age of 67 years, whichever is earlier.

Note

The Article 123 of the Indian Constitution provides powers to the president to promulgate an ordinance. An ordinance laid under the act has the same effect as that of an act.

Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2021

- The Government of India notifies Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2021. The amendment has been made to bring the existing Copyright rules in the country with parity with the other relevant legislations.

Key Highlights:

- In India, the copyright regime is governed by the Copyright Act, 1957 and the Copyright Rules, 2013.
- The Copyright Rules, 2013 were last amended in the year 2016.
- Objective of the amendments is to bring the existing rules in parity with other relevant legislations.

Recent

Current Affairs Questions

- Which of the following institutions has set up a portal 'CovAid' to track aid coming from individual organisations?
 - Ministry of Science and technology
 - DRDO
 - ICMR
 - NITI Aayog
- Bucharest Nine (B9) is a group of nine countries from which of the following international organisations?
 - G 20
 - UNESCO
 - NATO
 - NAM
- Consider the following statements regarding 'FASTag':
 - It can be used only for identifying the types of vehicles passing through highways.
 - It employs Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) technology and is affixed on the vehicle's windscreen after the tag account is active.
 Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following statements with reference to Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH):
 - It is a skill development scheme of the Union Ministry of Textiles.
 - it covers only Spinning & Weaving in the organised Sector.
 Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- The Indian armed forces have launched which operation to support anti-COVID-19 efforts of the country?
 - Operation Hindustan
 - Operation Sahyog
 - Operation COJEET
 - Operation COVID
- Consider the following statements regarding One Nation-One Ration Card scheme:
 - It will allow portability of food security benefits which will be available across the country.
 - For availing the benefits under the scheme, it is not mandatory to link ration cards to Aadhaar.
 - This means poor migrant workers will be able to buy subsidised rice and wheat from any ration shop in the country.
 Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
- Project Sashakt, which was recently seen in the news, is aimed to:
 - Improve e- governance in public distribution system
 - Enhance transparency and accountability in coal distribution.
 - A project to accelerate deep ocean mining
 - Resolve the problem of stressed assets with public-sector banks
- "Net-Zero Banking Alliance" is convened by which of the following organisations?
 - BRICS BANK
 - United Nation Development Programme
 - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
 - International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Consider the following statements about Project Manav:
 - Project Manav is a new human atlas initiative launched to create a unified database network of all the tissues in the human body.
 - The project has been launched by the Department of Biotechnology.
 Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (c) 6. (b) 7. (d) 8. (b) 9. (c)