



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY, 2022

Week-2

08-14 July, 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

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

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First Animal Health Summit 2022

- **Context:** India's first India Animal Health Summit 2022 was held at the NASC Complex in New Delhi, recently.

Key Highlights

- The summit was inaugurated by Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala.
- The aim was to understand the importance of animal health to the country's food and nutrition security, rural income and prosperity, and overall economic development.
- In terms of food security, nutrition, and overall sustainability, animals and animal products are critical components of the country's development.
- India has the largest number of cattle and is the largest producer of milk in the world but per-animal productivity remains low. Low productivity can be caused by a variety of factors, the most important of which is animal health, which has a significant impact on productivity.

Livestock population in India

- The total livestock population in the country is 535.78 million (as per 20th livestock census, 2018), a 4.6 percent increase from the 2012 Livestock Census.
- The total bovine population was 302.79 million in 2019, a 1.0 percent increase from the previous census.

G20 Sherpa

- **Context:** Former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has been appointed as India's new Sherpa for the G-20 Summit.

Key Highlights

- Amitabh Kant has replaced Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, who

was appointed as the G-20 Sherpa in September last year.

- India will hold the presidency of G-20 summit from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023, and the need for a full-time Sherpa for this duration is being cited as one of the reasons for the change.
- India is also a part of the G20 Troika – which is formed by the preceding, current, and incoming G20 Presidencies – ending November 30, 2024.

About Amitabh Kant

- Amitabh Kant has completed his extended term at the NITI Aayog after heading the government think tank for about six years.
- He is a retired 1980-batch IAS officer (Kerala cadre).
- He took over as the NITI Aayog CEO in 2016 and last got an extension, by a year, in June 2021.
- Kant was also the chairman of Empowered Group-3, one of the 11 groups set up by the Center to tackle the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

About G-20 Tracks

- The G-20 process is basically divided into the Sherpa track and the Finance track.
- **Sherpa Track:** Under the Sherpa track, about 100 official meetings are expected to be organized in the areas of employment, health, digital economy, trade, investment and industry, environment and climate, energy, anti-corruption, agriculture, tourism, culture, socio-economic development, education, and women empowerment.
- **Finance Track:** Under the Finance track, about 40 meetings are expected to be organized including in the areas of international financial architecture, financial inclusion and sustainable finance, financing for infrastructure, climate finance and tax matters.

World Peace Forum 2022

- **Context:** World Peace Forum 2022 was recently held in Beijing. Over 300 former senior officials, scholars and diplomatic envoys took part in online or offline mode.

Key highlights

- It was the 10th World Peace Forum 2022.
- It was organized by Tsinghua University.
- It was organized under the theme “Preserving International Stability: Commonality, Comprehensiveness and Cooperation.”
- The topics of discussions were preservation of world peace, United Nations, European security order, and world order.

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UK Political Crisis

- **Context:** Boris Johnson announced his resignation as British Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Key factors and Timeline

- The people of United Kingdom voted to leave the EU.
- The debate over the terms of split with EU led to political instability in the UK.
- Debate over whether it was to be purely an economic bloc split from defence and security too. However, the more powerful group of conservative MPs were ferociously opposed to any arrangement that would keep Britain tethered to Brussels defence structures and obligations.
- They felt that defence collaboration with EU would undermine that US and UK-led ‘five-eyes’ global spying network.
- In July 2022- out of 179 government ministers, trade envoys and parliamentary private secretaries, 63 resigned in the Second Johnson ministry. This forced Prime Minister to announce his resignation on July 7.
- After the Chris Pincher Scandal, Rishi Sunak and Sajid Javid resigned as Exchequer’s Chancellor and Secretary of state for Health & social care, respectively. This was followed by resignation of several other members.

Mission Kushal Karmi

- **Context:** Mission Kushal Karmi is a Delhi Govt's scheme to improve construction workers' skills.

Key highlights

- It was started by Manish Sisodia, the deputy chief minister of Delhi.
- According to a formal press release, the Delhi government developed this programme with assistance from the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship university (DSEU) and Delhi building and other construction workers welfare board.
- Mission Kushal Karmi programme has been started with the objective of providing on-the-job skill development training to around 2 lakh registered construction workers in a year.
- Workers will be trained for industry demand-driven job roles in construction sector. Training would be provided for 15 days or 120 hours at their workplaces.
- Under the programme, productivity of the workers will be enhanced by 40%. It will enhance product quality by 25 % while reducing the material wastage by 50%.
- The Programme will enhance the domain skills and soft skills of workers. This will make them more confident and proficient.
- The Programme will help in enhancing the worker's understanding of standard safety norms. Thus, their work longevity social security will increase.

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Sikkim-West Bengal Reciprocal Transport Agreement

- **Context:** Recently, a fresh “Reciprocal Transport Agreement, 2022” was signed between Sikkim and West Bengal.

Key Highlights

- The signing of the Agreement was held between the Transport Secretaries of the two States.

- As per the agreement, both the States have agreed to grant All Bengal and All Sikkim countersignature permits (except restricted and protected areas).
- Thus an 'All-Bengal' permits for Sikkim vehicles and 'All-Sikkim' permits for Bengal vehicles will be issued to facilitate vehicular movement along both the states.
- However, it has been agreed that the local sightseeing shall be done by the local tour operators of both the States as per the practice prevalent in the past.
- The State of West Bengal has also agreed to grant the corridor facility for vehicles plying within Sikkim through the Rangpo Melli corridor in West Bengal without a countersignature permit.
- The quota for separate goods carriage permits for Darjeeling district, Jalpaiguri district and All Bengal have been merged into a single permit to be issued from the State Transport Authority office in Siliguri.

Pivot Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tool

- **Context:** The AI-based tool developed by the scientists at IIT Madras will assist clinicians in developing individual-specific treatment plans for patients based on their DNA profiles

Key Points:

- The tool is based on a machine learning model that divides genes into tumour suppressors, or genes that prevent the development of cancer, cancer causing oncogenes or neutral genes.
- The model is to analyse information such as the frequency with which a gene mutates, its characteristics, the types of mutations, and the quantity of detrimental mutations to find the gene that causes cancer in a person, essentially to find uncommon genes that cause cancer.
- The model is mainly fed with genomic data of cancer patients sourced from the International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC) as well as The Cancer Genome Atlas Programme (TCGA).

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Interpol's ICSE Initiative on Child Sex Abuse

- **Context:** India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has joined the Interpol's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) initiative.

Key Highlights

- The initiative will allow CBI to collaborate with investigators in other countries for detecting child sex abuse online and identifying abusers, victims, and crime scenes from audio-visual clips using specialised software.
- India is the 68th country to have access to this database and software.
- Interpol's website said that on average, the database helps identify seven child victims everyday globally.
- The ICSE database uses video and image comparison to analyse Child Sex Exploitation Material (CSEM) and make connections between victims, abusers and places. As of July 2022, over 30,000 victims of child abuse and over 13,000 criminals have been identified by the Interpol using this database and software.
- Using the image and video comparison software, the investigators attempt to identify locations of markers visible in a piece of media. This can be through the signage nearby, the kind of artwork, photos on a wall, etc. The detectives in all 68 countries of the grouping can further exchange information across the world.
- The database avoids duplication of effort and saves precious time by letting investigators know whether a series of images has already been discovered or identified in another country, or whether it has similar features to other images.

India's efforts to combat online child sex abuse

- India reported over 24 lakh instances of online child sexual abuse from 2017 to 2020, with 80% victims

being girls below the age of 14 years, according to Interpol data.

- In 2019, the CBI set up a special unit called the 'Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention/ Investigation (OCSAE)', for tracking and monitoring posting, circulation and downloads of CSEM online.

Artificial Intelligence in Defence (AIDef)

- **Context:** Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched 75 newly developed Artificial Intelligence products/technologies during the first ever 'AI in Defence' (AIDef) symposium and exhibition, organised by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, in New Delhi.

Key highlights:

- 75 newly-developed AI products/technologies, having applications in defence were launched, as part of the celebrations marking 75 years of Independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and to promote 'Aatmanirbharta' initiative in Defence.
- The products are in the domains of automation/unmanned/robotics systems, cyber security, human behaviour analysis, intelligent monitoring system, logistics and supply chain management, speech/voice analysis and Command, Control, Communication, Computer & Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems and Operational Data Analytics.
- Besides the 75 products being launched, another 100 are in various stages of development.
- The event also witnessed panel discussions on 'Deploying AI in Defence', 'GenNext AI solutions' and 'AI in Defence – Industry Perspective', with active participation from the Services, academia, students, research organisations and Industry.
- A 'GenNext AI' Solutions Competition has been organised to get bright innovative ideas from students on futuristic AI solutions.

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Global Gender Gap Index, 2022

- **Context:** The Global Gender Gap Index for 2022 was recently released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and India ranks at 135 out of 146 countries.

Key Findings

- Iceland, Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden are the best performing countries.
- In 2021, India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries and when the report was started in 2006, India ranked 98th among 115 countries.
- The country has improved the rank from the previous year but is still under the worst performing country.
- In 2022, India scores 0.629, which is its seventh-highest score in the last 16 years.
- **Primary and tertiary Education:** India was ranked the top globally in terms of gender parity for primary education enrolment and tertiary education enrolment.
- **Head of state:** The country is in eighth place for the position of head of state.
- **Labor-force participation (LFP):** LFP shrunk for both men (by -9.5 percentage points) and women (-3 percentage points) since 2021.
- **Women legislators, senior officials and managers:** The share of women legislators, senior officials and managers increased from 14.6% to 17.6%, and the share of women as professional and technical workers grew from 29.2% to 32.9% as compared to 2021.
- **Estimated earned income:** The gender parity score for estimated earned income improved while values for both men and women diminished.
- **Sex ratio, health and survival:** Two main reasons for poor rank of the country-As per the report, India ranks fifth from the bottom when it comes to the sex ratio at birth and it ranks as the bottommost country in terms of health and survival, ranking at bottommost position.

- **Political Empowerment:** In the political empowerment subindex, India ranks relatively higher at 48th.
- **Wage Equality:** India ranks 122nd when it comes to wage equality.

About Global Gender Gap Index Report

- The report was started in 2006 by World Economic Forum.
- It benchmarks countries on their progress towards gender parity in four Key dimensions with Sub Metrics:
- Economic Participation and Opportunity
- Educational Attainment
- Health and Survival
- Political Empowerment
- Each sub-indices provide score between 1 to 0. 1 shows full gender parity and 0 is complete imparity.

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- **Context:** The National Statistical Office (NSO) recently released data on retail inflation in India and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Key points

- In June 2022, the retail inflation was more than the upper tolerance limit of RBI for the sixth consecutive month.
- Inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased marginally to 7.01 per cent in June 2022, as compared to 7.04 per cent in May 2022.
- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) increased by 19.6 per cent in May 2022, against 6.7 per cent in April.
- Consumer food price inflation was 7.75 percent, against 7.97% in May 2022.
- CPI for vegetables increased to 17.37 per cent while for spices it increased to 11.04 per cent. Footwear recorded a rise of 11.92% while fuel & light recorded a rise of 10.31 per cent.

About National Statistical Office (NSO)

- The National Statistical Office was created by amalgamating the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), and Central Statistical Office (CSO).
- Creation of NSO was first proposed by C. Rangarajan Commission, in order to implement and maintain statistical standards and coordinate statistical across India.
- NSO is headed by Secretary of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

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POP-FAME

- **Context:** Researchers from US Lawrence-Berkeley Lab recently developed "POP-FAME", which is a fuel from a bacterium.

Key facts

- POP-FAME fuel has more energy than even the rocket fuels have.
- POP-FAME fuel name stands for "Polycyclopropanated Fatty Acid Methyl Ester". It was produced through a series of synthetic reactions with toxic by-products and explosive & unstable intermediate.
- POP-FAME have higher energy densities, as compared to Syntin. Thus, even a small quantity of fuel can have considerable energy. Thus, it can be considered as an ideal rocket fuel. However, one challenge is to remove the two oxygen atoms with each molecule, in order to avoid weight in the rocket.

Shinzo Abe

- **Context:** The Government of Japan decided to honour former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum, posthumously. Shinzo Abe was assassinated on July 8, 2022, while he was campaigning for election in the city of Nara.

Key facts

- Shinzo Abe was the longest-serving PM of Japan.
- He is the fourth former Prime Minister to get the Japan's highest order, under post-war Constitution.

About Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum

- It is the highest order in Japan.
- Emperor Meiji of Japan had established the Grand Cordon of the Order in 1876.
- Till date, only 7 Japanese citizens have been given this order, apart from Imperial Family.
- Last order was given to former Prime Minister Saionji Kinmochi in 1928.

Anti-cervical Cancer Vaccine

- **Context:** Recently, the Serum Institute of India (SII) announced company's plans to roll out its indigenously-developed vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer among women.

Key highlights

- It will be the first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) in India, to prevent cervical cancer.
- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has accorded the market authorisation to SII for manufacturing the vaccine for cervical cancer.
- DCGI accorded the market authorisation to SII, following the recommendation of Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) on COVID-19 vaccine.

Data on Cervical Cancer in India

- Cervical cancer is the second most common cancers among women in India, even though it is preventable. This cancer is commonly diagnosed among women aged 15 to 44 years of age.
- According to Globocan 2020, cervical cancer stood at 9.4% of all cancers and 18.3% of new cancer cases in 2020.

- During 1990-2016, cervical cancer was the second main factor of cancer deaths for women across 12 Indian states.

About National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP)

- National Cancer Control Programme was started in India in 1975.
- Under the programme, priorities were given to equip existing cancer hospital and institutions.
- Then, Central assistance of Rs 2.50 lakhs was provided to each cancer institution, in a bid to purchase cobalt machines for radiotherapy.

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I2U2 Leaders' Summit

- **Context:** The first India-Israel-UAE-USA (I2U2) Leader's Summit was organised, in virtual mode.

Key highlights

- I2U2 will focus on ensuring continuity. Four countries are holding "Sherpa-level interactions on regular basis, to discuss the possible areas of cooperation.
- It will encourage joint investments across six non-securities areas viz., food security, health, water, space, transportation and energy.

About I2U2 Grouping

- I2U2 is a new partnership involving governments of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States. It represents the first letters of English names of the four countries.
- I2U2 grouping was first assembled in October 2021, through a foreign ministers' meeting in virtual mode.
- I2U2 grouping emerged as a result of rapidly increasing cooperation among its member countries.

Sea Guardians-2 Maritime Exercise

- **Context:** Sea Guardians-2 Maritime Exercise was recently held at military port in Wusong, Shanghai.

Key highlights

- The exercise was held in waters and airspace in Shanghai. It comprised of two phases viz., Port planning and maritime exercise.
- During the Port planning phase, navies of China and Pakistan conducted onshore activities like professional expertise exchanges and operational planning.
- During the Maritime exercise phase, training courses were features such as strikes against maritime targets, joint anti-submarine warfare, tactical maneuvering, and joint support for damaged vessels.

About Sea Guardians-2 Maritime Exercise

- It was organised by Pakistan Navy and Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy.
- The navel exercise focuses improving joint response towards maritime security threats.
- It is aimed at promoting the defence cooperation and enhance naval capabilities of navies from both the country.

