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**MADE EASY
WEEKLY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WEEK-3

15th August - 21st August, 2021

TARGETED EXAMINATIONS

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

15th AUGUST 2021

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

- The Prime Minister of India has declared that August 14 will be observed as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' to acknowledge the pain undergone by Indians due to the partition of India in 1947.
- Partition led to the displacement of some 10 and 20 million people on the religious lines, creating a refugee crisis in India and Pakistan.

About Partition in 1947:

- Partition was the division of British India into two independent dominions namely India and Pakistan. These two dominions have gone through further reorganisation. The Dominion of India is called the Republic of India.
- The Dominion of Pakistan was composed of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Partition basically divided two provinces, Bengal and Punjab on the basis of district-wide non-Muslim or Muslim majorities.
- Partition also led to the division of the British Indian Army, Royal Indian Navy, Indian Civil Service, central treasury and railways.

NOTE:

The partition was done in accordance with the Indian Independence Act 1947. The act also dissolved the British Raj in India. Dominions of India and Pakistan legally came into existence on 15 August 1947.

Four new Indian wetlands added to Ramsar list

- Four more wetlands from India get recognition from the Ramsar Secretariat as Ramsar sites.

Key Points:

- These Four sites that have been included are:
 - Thol from Gujarat
 - Wadhvana from Gujarat,

- Sultanpur from Haryana and
- Bhindawas from Haryana.
- These sites are home to endangered Egyptian Vulture, Sociable Lapwing, Saker Falcon, and near threatened Dalmatian Pelican.
- With the latest addition, the number of Ramsar sites in India have reached 46. These 46 sites cover a surface area of 1,083,322 hectares.

Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary:

- It is the largest wetland in Haryana. This human-made freshwater wetland comprises more than 250 bird species. The bird species use the sanctuary throughout the year for resting and roosting. It also supports more than ten globally threatened species such as Steppe Eagle, endangered Egyptian Vulture, Black-bellied Tern and Pallas's Fish Eagle.

Sultanpur National Park:

- This Park from Haryana provides support to more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds.

Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary:

- It lies on the Central Asian Flyway in Gujarat. It supports more than 320 bird species and more than 30 threatened waterbird species like critically endangered white-rumped vulture, Sociable Lapwing, Common Pochard etc.

Wadhvana Wetland:

- It is an internationally important wetland situated in Gujarat. It is famous for its birdlife because it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, migrating on Central Asian Flyway. Some of the species include endangered Pallas's fish-Eagle, vulnerable Common Pochard, and near-threatened Dalmatian Pelican.

About Ramsar Convention

- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (better known as the Ramsar Convention) is an international agreement promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

- It is the only global treaty to focus on a single ecosystem.
- The convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.
- Traditionally viewed as a wasteland or breeding ground of disease, wetlands actually provide fresh water and food and serve as nature's shock absorber.

Ayushman Bharat: PM-JAY Scheme

- Between April 2020 and July 2021, about 20.32 lakh COVID-19 tests and 7.08 lakh treatments were authorised under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the Union government's health insurance plan.

Key Features:

- Ayushman Bharat, a flagship scheme of Government of India, was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Ayushman Bharat is an attempt to move from a sectoral and segmented approach of health service delivery to a comprehensive need-based health care service.
- This scheme aims to undertake path breaking interventions to holistically address the healthcare system (covering prevention, promotion and ambulatory care) at the primary, secondary and tertiary level. Ayushman Bharat adopts a continuum of care approach, comprising of two interrelated components, which are:
 - Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
- It provides cover of 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empaneled hospitals in India.
- Provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.
- This scheme is a Centrally sponsored scheme with some Central sector components.

16th AUGUST 2021

National Hydrogen Mission

- PM Narendra Modi on August 15, 2021, launched the National Hydrogen Mission on India's 75th Independence Day. The Mission aims to aid the government in meeting its climate targets and making India a green hydrogen hub.

Key Points

- The mission seeks to make India a global hub for green hydrogen production and exports.
- India currently imports 85% of its oil and 53% of its gas demand.
- On the occasion, PM stressed that, for India to progress and become self-reliant, it becomes important to become energy independent.
- In the line, India is considering making it mandatory for fertilizer plants and oil refineries to buy green hydrogen under its plans to cut dependence on fossil fuels.

About Green Hydrogen:

- Green hydrogen is produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen with the help of electrolyzer which is powered by electricity from renewable energy sources like wind and solar.
- Hydrogen is a colourless, odourless gas found in Earth's atmosphere. It is used for industrial uses like petroleum refining, manufacturing of chemicals, steel, & ammonia fertilisers and aerospace applications.

Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, prohibiting identified single use plastic (SUP) items by 2022.

The New Amendments:

- Pollution due to single use plastic items has become an important environmental challenge confronting all countries.
- The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022:
- Earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [thermocool] for decoration plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweet boxes, invitation cards and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.
- The thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from fifty microns to seventy-five microns and to one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022.

NOTE:

Single-use plastic is a form of plastic that is disposable, which is only used once and then has to be thrown away or recycled like water bottles, straw, cups etc.

“Gati Shakti” infrastructure plan

- Prime Minister of India announced the launch of ‘PM Gati Shakti Master Plan On India’s 75th Independence Day.

Key Highlights:

- It is a 100 lakh crore national infrastructure master plan for developing ‘holistic infrastructure and give an integrated pathway to the Indian economy
- It will build upon the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).
- Multimodal connectivity of various economic hubs with roads, ports and airports will be part of the Gati Shakti masterplan, which will provide manufacturers faster access to domestic and international markets.

- It will ensure that various economic hubs are able to better utilise the investments in the sector being done by the government and private players.

About NIP:

- National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) is a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens.
- It will improve project preparation, attract investments (both domestic & foreign) into infrastructure, and will be crucial for attaining the target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by FY 2025.

17th AUGUST 2021

Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021

- Vriksharopan Abhiyan – 2021 of the Coal Ministry is all set to be Launched on August 19, 2021. It will be launched as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Key Points:

- The “Go Greening” drive is to be provided the right impetus through launch of the “Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021” on 19th August 2021 by the Union Minister of Coal & Mines.
- It is expected that more than 300 plantation sites in and around coalfields across the country will be connected during the Abhiyan on 19th through live Video Conferencing.
- Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2021 is a key event under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in the coal sector. It will bring environmental sustainability in mining operations.

Financial Inclusion Index

- The Reserve Bank of India has created a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country.
- The Financial Inclusion Index will be used to capture the extent of financial inclusion in India.

About FI Index:

- Financial Inclusion Index has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index comprising the details of banking, insurance, investments, postal and pension sector in consultation with government and sectoral regulators.
- It captures information on different aspects of financial inclusion in a single value in the range of 0 and 100.
- 0 indicates complete financial exclusion while 100 indicates complete financial inclusion.
- It comprises three broad parameters such as Access, Usage, and Quality. Each of these parameters comprises various dimensions that are computed on the basis of different indicators.
- It is responsive to ease of access, availability & usage of services along with quality of services, comprising all 97 indicators.

■ NOTE:

FI-Index has been created without any base year. It reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders towards financial inclusion. It will be published annually in July.

Taliban-Afghanistan Conflict

- Recently, the Taliban has seized Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan, raising questions over the US and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) trained Afghan Forces.

Key Points:

- Taliban had ruled Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001 when US troops toppled.
- This group had sheltered Osama bin Laden as he planned the 9/11 attack of 2001.
- Taliban's control over Afghanistan now poses a new threat to the entire political and social order of the US as well as its allies.

About Taliban

- The Taliban is a Sunni fundamentalist organisation that is involved in Afghan politics. It is also a military group that is involved in an insurgency against the currently elected government in Afghanistan.
- The Taliban controlled almost three-quarters of the country from 1996 to 2001 and was notorious for their strict implementation of the Sharia or Islamic law there.
- The period saw widespread abuse of human rights, especially targeted against women.
- The current head of the Taliban is Hibatullah Akhundzada.

18th AUGUST 2021

Tropical Depression Grace over Haiti

- Haiti was struck by a massive 7.2 magnitude earthquake on August 14, 2021, killing at least 1,297 people.
- It caused torrential rains and high winds ending into flooding in one area.

Key Points

- Tropical depression hit, when Haiti is still scrambling to overcome the effects of a massive earthquake.
- Earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale hit the nation on August 14.
- Tropical depression Grace had a speed of 35mph. It was unlikely to emerge into a tropical storm since it moved westward at a speed of 15mph towards south of Port Au Prince.

About Haiti:

- Haiti is a country on the island of Hispaniola located in the Greater Antilles archipelago of the Caribbean Sea.
- It is located to the east of Cuba & Jamaica and south of The Bahamas, Turks & Caicos Islands. It accounts for western three-eighths of the island and shares it with the Dominican Republic.

Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0

- Third series of Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 (SEP 3.0) was launched recently for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).
- This program was launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) NITI Aayog in collaboration with La Fondation Dassault Systemes.
- Theme of SEP 3.0 is 'Made in 3D – Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program'.

About the SEP 3.0

- It is a joint programme of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and La Fondation Dassault Systems in India.
- The theme of SEP 3.0 is based on the 'Made in 3D - Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program'.
- It was conceptualized and rolled out in France by La Main à la Pate Foundation and La Fondation Dassault Systèmes Europe in 2017.
- As part of this program, a team from each school (6 students and a teacher) will be allocated seed funding towards:
 - Creating their own start-up;
 - Design and prototype their innovation using 3D printing;
 - Prepare marketing campaign;
 - Define product pricing; and
 - Create expansion strategy

RoDTEP Scheme

- The Centre government notified the rates and guidelines for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) export incentive scheme.
- This scheme for zero rating of exports will help in boosting India's exports and competitiveness across the global markets.

About RoDTEP Scheme

- The RoDTEP Scheme allows exporters to receive refunds on taxes and duties that are not exempted or refunded under any other scheme.

- Under the scheme, exporters receive refunds on the embedded taxes and duties previously non-recoverable.
- The chief aim of the scheme is to boost the export of goods that were poor in volume.
- The scheme basically replaces the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS).
- The scheme provides for rebates of Central, State and Local duties/taxes/ levies which are not refunded under any other duty remission schemes.
- The RoDTEP scheme can be said to be a combination of the MEIS and the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL).
- Under this scheme, refund would be claimed as a percentage of the Freight On Board (FOB) value of exports.

19th AUGUST 2021

G7 meet on Afghanistan

- President Joe Biden of the United States and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom have agreed to convene a virtual G7 meeting on Afghanistan.

Key Points

- Both leaders spoke over the phone on recent events in Afghanistan.
- Both praised their military and civilian troops for their courage and professionalism in working jointly in Kabul to rescue their people and Afghan nationals.
- They also exchanged views on the need for continued close coordination among allies and democratic partners on Afghanistan policy along with the ways in which the global community can provide humanitarian assistance and support to refugees and vulnerable Afghans.

About Group of Seven (G7)

- France, Canada, Italy, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States are members of this intergovernmental political forum. The G7 includes the world's largest IMF advanced economies and wealthiest liberal democracies.

- The G7 is based on the ideals of pluralism and representative governance, which are shared by all members. Members account for 60 percent of global net wealth and 32 – 46 percent of global gross domestic product as of 2018.

Arogya Dhara 2.0

- Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched Arogya Dhara 2.0 to increase the reach of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- Arogya Dhara 2.0 also seeks to create more awareness regarding the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- On the occasion, the minister launched three initiatives namely, Adhikar Patra, Ayushman Mitra and Abhinandan Patra.

Key Points:

- Adhikar Patra will be issued to the beneficiaries when they will be hospitalised for treatment under the PM-JAY scheme. This patra will make beneficiaries aware of their rights in a way that they can claim free and cashless health care services.
- Abhinandan Patra is a 'thank you note' and will be issued to the beneficiaries when beneficiaries will be discharged after their treatment under PM-JAY.
- Ayushman Mitra is an initiative launched to encourage citizens to participate in motivating eligible beneficiaries to get verified under the PM-JAY scheme. It also seeks to help beneficiaries to get the Ayushman Cards issued.

20th AUGUST 2021

Committee For Reform In Criminal Law

- A national level group for criminal law reform has been established by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Ranbir Singh and several other members have been appointed to the committee.

- The committee would gather information for its report to the government by meeting with experts and collecting information online.

Previous committees:

- Madhav Menon Committee: It submitted its report in 2007, suggesting various recommendations on reforms in the Criminal Justice System of India (CJSI).
- Malimath Committee Report: It submitted its report in 2003 on the Criminal Justice System of India (CJSI).

Gujarat anti-conversion law

- Gujarat Government has defended its new anti-conversion law in the High Court saying marriages cannot be a tool for "forceful conversion"..
- The HC is hearing two petitions that have challenged the newly enacted amendment in the law, which deals with forcible religious conversion through marriages.

Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021:

- It proposes punishment of 3-10 years in jail for forcible or fraudulent religious conversions through marriage.
- It amends the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003.
- The amendment aims to reduce the "emerging trend" where women are "lured to marriage" for the purposes of religious conversion.
- The amended law has vague terms which are against basic principles of marriage and right to propagate, profess and practice religion as enshrined in the Article 25 of the Constitution.
- The law even allows distant family members to file a criminal complaint.

UNITE Aware

- External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar has announced the rollout of a technological platform in partnership with the UN — 'UNITE Aware' — to help enhance the safety of UN peacekeepers. The platform has been used in four UN missions.

About UNITE AWARE:

- UNITE AWARE is a mobile tech platform developed by India to provide terrain-related information to the UN peacekeepers so as to ensure their safety.
- India in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- UNITE Aware is a technology platform that utilises modern surveillance technology for real-time threat assessments to UN peacekeepers and helps them enhance their security.
- The UNITE Aware platform will initially be rolled out in four UN Peacekeeping Missions: MINUSMA (Mali), UNMISS (South Sudan), UNFICYP (Cyprus) and AMISOM (Somalia).

About UN Peacekeeping

- United Nations Peacekeeping is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the Security Council.
- UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.
- Peacekeeping forces are contributed by member states on a voluntary basis.

21st AUGUST 2021

Multiple projects in Somnath

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple projects in Somnath, Gujarat, via video conferencing.
- The projects inaugurated by PM Modi in Gujarat's Somnath included Somnath Exhibition Center, Somnath Promenade, reconstructed temple precinct of Old (Juna) Somnath. He will also lay the foundation stone of Shree Parvati Temple. It comprises construction of a temple in Sompura Salats Style, development of Garbha Griha and a Nritya Mandap.

About Somnath temple:

- Somnath temple is situated in Veraval (Somnath City), Saurashtra on the western coast of Gujarat. This temple is believed to be the first of twelve Jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.
- The temple is an important pilgrimage and tourist spot of Gujarat. It has been reconstructed multiple times in the past following repeated destruction by Muslim invaders and rulers. Temple in its present form was reconstructed in Chalukya style of Hindu temple architecture.
- Its construction was completed in May 1951. Its construction was started on the orders of Home Minister of India Vallabhbhai Patel. Current chairman of Somnath Mandir trust is Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Three-Child Policy of China

- China's National Legislature has formally accepted the ruling Communist Party's proposed three-child policy.

Key points

- Chinese officials claim that the one-child policy, which has been in place for almost three decades, has averted roughly 400 million births.
- The third child policy is a significant policy move aimed at averting a sharp drop in birth rates in the world's most populated country (China).
- Chinese couples can now have three children under the amended Population and Family Planning Law.
- It was passed by the Standing Committee of National People's Congress (NPC).

Need of Policy:

- This decision was taken following the census data that showed that the population in China grew at the slowest pace to 1.412 billion. According to new census figures, the demographic crisis was expected to deepen because the population of people above 60 years increased by 18.7% to 264 million.