



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE, 2022

Week-3

15-21 June, 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

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

15th JUNE, 2022

India's first Display Fabrication Unit

- **Context:** Karnataka based company Elest, will set up the Generation 6 AMOLED display fabrication unit in Telangana.

Key Highlights

- Karnataka based Elest, set up by rajesh Exports, a fortune 500 company will set up the generation 6 AMOLED display fabrication unit with an investment of 24,000 crore.
- The proposed unit will manufacture next generation displays for smartphones, tablet computers and laptops.
- Elest, would be setting up the Display FAB in technological association and with technology inputs from some of the most advanced and finest research centres across the world.
- The display fab would be set up under the India Semiconductor Mission programme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

About India Semiconductor Mission

- Semicon India programme with a total outlay of INR 76,000 crore for the development of semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country has been approved by Government of India.
- The programme aims to provide financial support to companies investing in semiconductors, display manufacturing and design ecosystem.
- 'Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs in India' has been notified under India Semiconductor Mission.
- It is aimed at attracting large investments for manufacturing tft, lcd or AMOLED based display panels.
- The Scheme extends fiscal support of up to 50% of Project Cost (subject to a ceiling of Rs. 12,000 crore per Fab)

- Apart from such fiscal support, Display Fabs set up in India will be supported through purchase preference in procurement of electronic products by the Government under the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order.

Technology Transfer Facility (TTF)

- **Context:** MoA to set up Technology Transfer Facility (TTF) was signed by the BIMSTEC member countries at the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Key Highlights

- The main objectives of the BIMSTEC TTF are to coordinate, facilitate and strengthen cooperation in technology transfer among the BIMSTEC Member States by promoting the transfer of technologies, sharing of experiences and capacity building.
- The TTF shall have a Governing Board and the overall control of activities of the TTF shall be vested in the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall consist of one nominee from each Member State.
- The TTF shall facilitate transfer of technologies among the BIMSTEC Member States, in the following priority areas:
- Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Information and Communication Technology, Space technology applications, Agricultural technology, Food processing technology, Pharmaceutical technology automation, New and renewable energy technology automation, New and Renewable energy technology, Oceanography, Nuclear Technology Applications, E-waste and solid waste management technology, Health Technologies, Technologies pertinent to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.

Expected outcomes of the BIMSTEC TTF

- Databank of technologies available in BIMSTEC Countries
- Repository of information on good practices in the areas of technology transfer management, standards, accreditation, metrology, testing and calibration facilities,

- Capacity building, sharing of experiences and good practices in development, and
- Transfer and use of technologies among BIMSTEC countries.

Startups for Railways

- **Context:** Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched “StartUps for Railways” policy which will bring scale and efficiency in the field of operation, maintenance and infrastructure.

Key Highlights

- Union minister of railways Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the ‘Startups for Railways’ to encourage participation of large and untapped startup ecosystems.
- The policy aims to enhance scale and efficiency in operation, maintenance and infrastructure creation.
- Giving the opportunity to start-ups to connect with Railways will help in the integration of technology into Indian Railways.
- Out of over 100 problem statements received from different divisions, field offices/zones of Railways, 11 problem statements like rail fracture, headway reduction etc have been taken up for phase 1 of this program.

Salient features

- Grant up to an amount of Rs 1.5 crore to innovator on basis of equal sharing with provision of milestone-wise payment
- Entire process from floating of problem statement to prototype development is online with defined time line to make it objective and transparent
- Prototypes’ trials will be done in Indian Railways. On successful performance of prototypes, enhanced funding will be provided to scale up deployment.
- Innovators will be selected by a transparent and fair system which will be dealt through online portal
- Developed Intellectual property rights will only remain with the innovator
- Assured developmental order to innovator

- De-centralization of the complete process of product development at divisional level in order to avoid delays.

16th JUNE, 2022

Bharat Gaurav Train

- **Context:** India’s first private train, aimed at promoting domestic tourism, under the Bharat Gaurav scheme has been flagged off from Coimbatore.

Key Highlights

- To promote and attract tourism business, the Indian Railways launched Bharat Gaurav Train.
- It will be operated by private players and run-on theme-based circuits.
- Through this policy, which offers operators the “Right of Use” of its rakes and infrastructure, the Railways has liberalized and simplified a part of operations that was otherwise carried out mostly by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- While any entity can run these trains, including state governments, it is implied that the policy is targeted at tour operators.
- The train will make stops at Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Yelahanka, Dharmavaram, Mantralayam Road, and Wadi before ending its journey in the holy town of Shirdi in Maharashtra.

Key Features

- Under this programme, private players and tour operators can procure trains from railways on lease and operate them on any circuit of their choice and decide fares, routes, and quality of services.
- However, the railways will ensure that there is no abnormality in the prices.
- From individuals to societies, trusts, groups, tour operators and even state governments can apply to take these trains and run them on special tourism circuits based on a theme.

- The railways have allocated around 190 trains for these theme-based circuits.
- Unlike the regular train service, the Bharat Gaurav trains will showcase India's rich cultural heritage and historical places to the people of India and the world.
- Under the Bharat Gaurav scheme, the service providers will offer an all-inclusive package to tourists, including rail travel, hotel accommodation, sightseeing arrangement, visit to historical or heritage sites, and tour guides.
- Providers will also have full flexibility to decide package costs based on the level of services being offered.
- Prithvi-2 missile is also capable of carrying nuclear weapons.
- This missile has been tested for surface-to-surface strike.
- The Prithvi-2 missile can carry a weapon ranging from 500 to 1000 kg and is powered by a two-engine liquid propellant.

17th JUNE, 2022

Prithvi-II Missile

- **Context:** India successfully test-fired the short-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile Prithvi-2 from an Integrated Test Center in Odisha.

Key Highlights

- India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed, nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile during night time as part of a user training trial from a test range off the Odisha coast.
- The trajectory of the missile was tracked by radar, electro-optical tracking system and telemetry stations off the Odisha coast of DRDO.

About Prithvi-II Missile

- The Prithvi Missile is an indigenously developed missile by DRDO (Defense Research & Development Organization) under the flagship of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
- India has three Prithvi missiles with Prithvi-1 having a range of 150 km, Prithvi-2 with 250 km range and Prithvi-3 with 350 km range.
- Prithvi-2 is a single-stage missile that falls under the liquid fuelling category.
- It is known to have a maximum warhead mounting capability of 500 kg and a range of 250 km (160 mi).

Mitticool Refrigerator

- **Context:** Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the country's national standards body, has developed an Indian Standard, for a non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay "Mitticool".

Key highlights

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the country's national standards body, has developed an Indian Standard, IS 17693: 2022 for a non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay.
- BIS standard specifies the construction and performance requirements of a cooling cabinet made out of clay, which operates on the principle of evaporative cooling.
- These cabinets may be used to store perishable foodstuff without the need for electricity.

About Mitticool

- Mansukh Bhai Prajapati from Gujarat is the innovator behind the refrigerator which projects an eco-friendly technology.
- It is named as 'Mitticool refrigerator'.
- It is a natural refrigerator made primarily from clay to store vegetables, fruits, milk and also for cooling water.
- It provides natural coolness to foodstuffs stored in it without requiring any electricity.
- Fruits, vegetables, and milk can be stored reasonably fresh without deteriorating their quality.

- It is playing an influential role in reviving the pottery culture, tradition, and heritage.

Renewable Energy Installations Report, 2022

- **Context:** India ranked third in renewable energy installations in 2021, according to a global status report.

Key Findings

- India ranked third in renewable energy installations in 2021, after China and Russia, according to a global status report.
- The report was titled Renewable Energy 2022: Global Status Report published by REN21 (Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century).
- India installed 15.4 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy projects in 2021 according to report.
- It ranked fourth in total solar installations (60.4 GW) for the year – overtaking Germany (59.2 GW) for the first time.
- The world, overall, added around 3,146 GW of total installed renewable power capacity in 2021 – a spike of 11% from the previous year.
- Despite this, the share of renewables in global energy use stagnated in 2021.
- India also ranked third in total installed capacity of wind power at 40.1 GW – after China, the United States and Germany, and for developing hydropower projects – followed by China and Canada.
- As per the report, India was also the second largest market in Asia for new solar PV capacity.
- Globally, India's solar PV capacity addition ranked third with 13 GW of additions in 2021.

About REN21

- REN21, a global collective of renewable energy actors, including scientists, governments such as India's, non-governmental organisations and members of the industry.

- It collated data on renewable energy installations, markets, investments and policies in countries across the world.
- More than 650 experts have contributed to the outcome of the report.

World Competitiveness Index

- **Context:** India's economic competitiveness improved significantly in 2022, jumping six places on the IMD's World Competitiveness Index.

Key Highlights

- India has witnessed the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, with a six-position jump from 43rd to 37th rank on the annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development, largely due to gains in economic performance.
- Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China proved to be the top-performing Asian economies.
- Denmark has moved to the top of the 63-nation list from the third position last year.
- Switzerland slipped from the top ranking to the second position and Singapore regained the third spot from fifth.
- Others in the top 10 include Sweden at the fourth position, followed by Hong Kong SAR (5th), the Netherlands (6th), Taiwan (7th), Finland (8th), Norway (9th), and the USA (10th).

18th JUNE, 2022

Report on Domestic Workers

- **Context:** International Labour Organisation (ILO) released comprehensive report on Domestic Workers.

Key Findings

- According to report, only six per cent of domestic workers worldwide have access to comprehensive social protection.

- This leaves more than 94 per cent lacking access to the full range of protections, covering medical care, sickness, unemployment, old age, employment injury, family, maternity, invalidity and survivors' benefits.
- According to report, about half of all domestic workers have no coverage at all, with the remaining half legally covered by at least one benefit.
- Despite their vital contribution to society, supporting households with their most personal and care needs, most of the world's 75.6 million domestic workers face multiple barriers to enjoying legal coverage and effective access to social security, the report explains.
- They are often excluded from national social security legislation.
- Most of them do not have access to social insurance schemes benefits related unemployment or employment injury.
- As 76.2 per cent of domestic workers (57.7 million people) are women, such social protection gaps leave women particularly vulnerable.
- In Europe and Central Asia, 57.3 per cent of domestic workers are legally covered for all benefits.
- A little more than 10 per cent have such a right in the Americas.
- Almost none are fully covered in the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and Africa
- That was up eight per cent from 2020 and well over double the figure of 10 years ago.
- Food Insecurity and Conflict Driven displacement were pointed out as main reason for displacement.
- In all, 23 countries with a combined population of 850 million faced "medium or high-intensity conflicts.
- Among the 89.3 million globally displaced last year, 27.1 million were refugees.
- Turkiye hosts the largest number of refugees, followed by Colombia, with 1.8 million (including Venezuelan nationals), Uganda and Pakistan (1.5 million each) and Germany (1.3 million).

About UNHCR

- The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is UN body to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, stateless people and voluntary repatriation.
- It was created in 1950, during the aftermath of the Second World War, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes.
- In 1954, UNHCR won the Nobel Peace Prize for its groundbreaking work in Europe.
- Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

West Seti Hydro power Project

- **Context:** India will be taking over an ambitious Seti hydropower project in Nepal.

Annual Global Trends Report, 2022

- **Context:** A staggering 100 million people have now been forced to flee their homes globally as per United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Key Findings

- As per report, today, one in every 78 people on earth is displaced.
- By the end of 2021, the number displaced by war, violence, persecution and human rights abuses stood at 89.3 million.

Key Highlights

- India's National Hydro Power Corporation has already begun preliminary engagement of the site in far-western Nepal, after nearly four years after China withdrew from it.
- The 51st meeting of the Investment Board Nepal (IBN) chaired by Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has decided to award the company with the contract as per the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

- The project has been in limbo for 29 years as it has not been able to formulate the modalities and investment structure.
- There is an obligation to meet the domestic demand by importing electricity from India when there is an energy crisis in winter.
- The Australian company Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation (SMEC) did nothing but hold the West Seti hydropower project's license for 17 years.
- Listed as a project of national pride, this project has been neglected for three decades.
- Earlier, the West Seti Hydropower Project was estimated to cost Rs 165 billion.
- CIL is aiming to mine coal through punch entry in those opencast mines which have reached their ultimate pit level.
- This could be done through a mix of technologies.
- CIL plans to identify and implement five such mines through punch entry in a phased manner till FY24. So that mineable coal assets can be extracted with economic viability.

Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

- **Context:** The Union finance ministry is working to expand and relaunch the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) by bringing in more representatives from the insurance sector.

19th JUNE, 2022

Green Mining

- **Context:** Coal India Ltd (CIL) said it is taking a look at green mining options with a view to minimizing adverse environmental impact by leveraging a slew of eco-friendly technologies in both underground mining and opencast method.

Key Highlights

- In a statement, Coal India said it is exploring ramping up its underground production by four-fold to 100 million tonne by FY2030 from 25.6 MT in FY22.
- Underground output is environmentally clean, minimally invasive on land degradation, society friendly.
- Around 70% of the country's coal reserves are conducive for UG mining.
- The aim is to make UG production sizably supplement the opencast output.
- At current rate, mineable coal reserves at existing OC will slowly start lowering.
- The locked-up coal assets left out earlier due to techno-commercial and safety concerns can now be unearthed through new technologies.

Key Highlights

- The finance ministry, over the next couple of months, is planning to identify new members, restructure the bureau, and recommend new names to the appointments committee of the cabinet
- The move aims to legally empower the body to recommend candidates for public sector insurers, and accelerate top-level hiring at all state-run financial institutions.
- The restructured BBB, which will have a remit over a wider set of financial institutions, may also get a new name.
- After revamp, the board will be able to recommend full-time appointments at financial institutions, where currently the executives are given additional roles through interim arrangements.

About Bank Board Bureau

- The Bank Board Bureau was set up in 2016 by the government with the aim to select executive directors and managing directors and chief executives of PSBs and financial institutions.

- The board has been recommending appointments for directors, chairpersons, and MDs for PSU general insurers firms since 2018.

Solidarity-2023 Border Operation

- **Context:** India and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) have extended their support to China-led initiative “Solidarity-2023”, in a bid to organise a joint border operation in 2023.

Key highlights

- This was announced after concluding the eighth meeting of heads of border authorities of SCO member states. This meeting was held in Delhi, under the chairmanship of India.
- India had assumed the chair of SCO-RATS (anti-terrorist structure of the SCO) on October 28, 2021 for a one-year period.
- Member countries also “approved” work plan of expert group of the border services of competent authorities for 2023.
- The member states also discussed the results of joint border operation, ‘Solidarity-2019-2021’, which were carried out in 2021 by border services of competent authorities of SCO member states. They also reviewed and approved the plan for preparations and conduct of joint border operation called “Friendship Border – 2022”.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- SCO is a security and an influential economic bloc. It has become the largest trans-regional international organisations.
- Members of the SCO include- Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
- Afghanistan is one the observer states of this bloc.
- It was created in 2001.

HomoSEP

- **Context:** Indian Institute of Technology Madras has developed a robot called to clean septic tanks and eliminate manual scavenging in India. It is all set to be deployed in field.

Key highlights

- A total of ten robots are planned to be deployed across Tamil Nadu.
- Researchers are in touch with sanitation workers for identifying locations.
- Some locations in Maharashtra and Gujarat are also being considered.
- HomoSEP robot has been developed by a team from IIT Madras.

Working Mechanism

- HomoSEP Robot homogenizes the hard sludge in septic tanks by using custom-developed rotary blade mechanism and then pumps the tank slurry by an integrated suction mechanism. Sanitation workers can operate the robot on their own with relevant training and appropriate guidance.

20th JUNE, 2022

Single-use Plastic

- **Context:** Union government has banned the use of ‘single-use plastic’ from July 1, 2022.

Key highlights

- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have announced to ban items like earbuds, candy, balloon sticks, and ice-cream sticks. Cutlery items including plates, glasses, cups, spoons, knives, forks, trays will also be banned. It has also notified to ban sweet boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packs, PVC banners under 100 microns as well as polystyrene for decoration.

- Polythene bags under 75 microns was already banned in September 2021. From December 2022, polythene bags under 120 microns will also be banned.
- Gazette notification was issued by Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2021, and announced the ban.
- It has now defined a list of items, that will be banned from July 2022.

About Single-use Plastic

Single-Use plastic refers to plastic items which are used once and discarded. It makes the highest shares of plastic manufactured and used, ranging from packaging of items, to bottles, polythene bags, coffee cups, face masks, trash bags, cling film, food packaging etc.

Extension of Telecom PLI scheme

- **Context:** The Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has amended the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for promoting telecom and networking products manufacturing.

Key highlights

- DoT has extended the scheme by one year.
- It has announced an additional 1% incentive rate, over and above the existing rates.
- Existing PLI beneficiaries will have an option to select either financial year 2021-22 or financial year 2022-23 as first year of incentive.
- 11 new telecom and networking products has been approved to the existing list, on the basis of suggestions of stakeholders.
- Allocation for MSMEs has been increased from Rs 1000 crore to Rs 2,500 crore.
- Investment by successful applicants in India from April 1, 2022 to Financial Year 2025-2026 shall be eligible. Eligibility is subject to qualifying incremental annual thresholds.

Operation Sankalp

- **Context:** Stealth Frigate of Indian Navy, INS Talwar, is currently deployed for "Op Sankalp".

Key highlights

- Indian Navy has recently launched the Operation Sankalp in the Gulf region in the aftermath of deteriorating security situation in the region, following attacks on merchant ships in Gulf of Oman.
- It was started to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels passing through Strait of Hormuz.
- The operation is run in close association with stakeholders including Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

About INS Talwar

- INS Talwar is the lead ship, belonging to Talwar-class frigates of Indian Navy. Its name means "Sword".
- The ship was built in Russia.
- It was commissioned into Indian Navy in 2003.

21st JUNE, 2022

International Day of Yoga 2022

- **Context:** The International Day of Yoga was observed on June 21. It is celebrated every year starting since 2015.

Key facts

- The idea to have an UN-mandated day for celebrating Yoga was put forward by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2014. Later, this proposal was backed by 177 nations which led UN to declare June 21 as "International Day of Yoga".
- June 21 was selected as "Yoga Day" because it is the longest day of year in Northern Hemisphere. It also shares a special significance in different parts of the world.

- The International Day of Yoga 2022 was observed under the theme “Yoga for Humanity”.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a commemorative coin of 10 rupees, in 2015 to mark the International Day of Yoga.
- The NIPUN Project will provide trainees with ‘Kaushal Bhima’, 3-year accidental insurance with coverage of Rs 2 lakhs, digital skills like BHIM app and cashless transactions, among others.

NIPUN Initiative

- **Context:** An Innovative project called “National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers (NIPUN) was launched recently.

Key highlights

- The NIPUN Project will be implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), which is the nodal agency under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- The agency would be responsible for overall execution of training, candidate tracking and monitoring.
- Around 14,000 candidates will receive fresh skilling through infrastructure Sector Skill Council (SSC) and plumbing in trades having promising placement potentials.

About NIPUN Initiative

- The NIPUN Initiative was launched for skill training of 100,000 construction workers.
- It has been launched under the flagship scheme of “Deendayal Antyodaya-Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)”.
- Under the scheme, construction workers will be trained through fresh skilling and upskilling programs. This move will provide work opportunities to them in foreign countries also.
- Implementation of NIPUN project has been divided into three parts:
 - Training by means of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at construction sites
 - Training through Fresh skilling by Plumbing and Infrastructure SSC
 - International Placement through builders, industries, and contractors.

