



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE, 2023

Week-2

8-14 June, 2023

★★ Useful for ★★

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

8th JUNE, 2023

Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)

- **Context:** The Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR) is a significant initiative launched by the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Key highlights

- It aims to leverage emerging technologies in the power sector through indigenous development and collaboration.
- MAHIR is funded through a pooling of resources from the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and Central Public Sector Enterprises under these ministries.
- Any additional funding required will be mobilized from the budgetary resources of the Government of India.
- This pooling of financial resources ensures comprehensive support for research and development activities under MAHIR.
- MAHIR operates through a two-tier structure comprising a Technical Scoping Committee and an Apex Committee.
- It recommends potential technologies for development, outlines research plans, and monitors approved projects.

Amrit Generation Campaign: Naye Bharat Ke Sapne

- **Context:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched an inspiring initiative called the Amrit Generation campaign.

Key highlights

- This campaign aims to empower and engage the youth of India by providing them a platform to express their aspirations and dreams for the future.
- The Amrit Generation campaign encourages young individuals from all corners of the nation to demonstrate their creativity and express their dreams

by crafting Reels on popular social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook.

- Through these platforms, participants can visually express their ambitions and what they aspire to become when they grow up.
- This campaign fosters a sense of community among the youth and serves as an inspiration to others.
- Meta India, a leading company in the digital space, has partnered with the Ministry of Women and Child Development for this significant campaign.

Spinoza Prize

- **Context:** Indian-origin scientist Joyeeta Gupta has been honored with the prestigious Spinoza Prize, also known as the 'Dutch Nobel Prize', for her remarkable contributions to science and her commitment to creating a just and sustainable world.

Key facts

- The Spinoza Prize is widely regarded as the highest distinction in Dutch science.
- It recognizes outstanding researchers who have made significant advancements in their fields and have demonstrated exceptional scientific contributions.
- This coveted award serves as a testament to their groundbreaking work and profound impact on society.

9th JUNE, 2023

Air Defender-23

- **Context:** The multinational exercise, Air Defender-23, is set to make history as the largest air force deployment exercise conducted by NATO.

Key highlights

- This joint endeavor involves 25 nations coming together to train in the airspace above Europe in a display of transatlantic solidarity.
- Air Defender 23 is expected to witness the participation of approximately 10,000 servicemen and women from 25 nations.

- With a fleet of 250 aircraft, including 23 different types, this exercise showcases the diverse capabilities and cooperation among allied air forces.
- Germany has assumed the role of the logistical hub for the operation, facilitating the coordination and smooth execution of the exercise.

Participating Nations

A total of 25 nations are actively participating in Air Defender 23. These include Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Andhra Pradesh's Guaranteed Pension Scheme (GPS)

- **Context:** In a significant policy decision, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet announced its approval to replace the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) with the Guaranteed Pension Scheme (GPS) for government employees.

Key highlights

- This move aims to provide enhanced financial security and benefits to pensioners.
- Under the GPS, pensioners will now receive 50% of their last drawn salary as pension, a substantial increase compared to the 20.3% they received under the CPS.
- This transition is a positive step towards prioritizing the welfare of retired government employees and acknowledging their dedicated service.
- The government has also made provisions under the GPS to adjust for inflation.
- Under the CPS, employees who joined service after September 1, 2004, contributed 10% of their basic salary towards the pension, with the government matching the amount. After retirement, employees were able to withdraw 60% of the pension corpus, while the remaining 40% was annuity investment subject to market fluctuations.

- In contrast, under the GPS, pensioners will receive 50% of their basic salary in the last drawn salary as pension, with the same 10% contribution rate.

10th JUNE, 2023

Parker Solar Probe

- **Context:** The Parker Solar Probe, a pioneering solar mission, has ventured closer to the sun to unravel its mysteries. This groundbreaking mission has made a remarkable discovery—the source of the solar wind.

Key highlights

- Researchers from the University of California-Berkley, utilizing data collected by the Parker Solar Probe, have shed light on the origin of the solar wind.
- This stream of particles, originating from the sun's corona, constitutes an essential component of space weather that can impact our planet.
- The discovery of the solar wind's source is a breakthrough moment for scientists. It enables more accurate predictions of space weather and solar storms, which can have profound effects on Earth's technological infrastructure and communication networks.
- By understanding the mechanisms behind the sun's wind, scientists can anticipate and mitigate the potential risks associated with these space phenomena.

India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise

- **Context:** The first-ever India-France-UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise recently took place in the Gulf of Oman.

Key highlights

- This exercise marked a significant milestone in strengthening trilateral cooperation among the navies of India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- With the objective of improving joint strategies and ensuring maritime security, the exercise witnessed the participation of several naval assets and the execution of various operations.

- The exercise unfolded in the Gulf of Oman, a strategic maritime region known for its crucial trade routes and geopolitical significance.
- Indian Navy's INS Tarkash, a powerful frigate, played a pivotal role in the exercise alongside the French Navy's Surcouf.
- Rafale fighter jets were also deployed to demonstrate the airpower capabilities of the participating nations.
- The District Good Governance Index, is a comprehensive assessment developed jointly by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- This index signifies a leap towards next-generation administrative reforms by providing a standardized framework for evaluating governance practices.
- Arunachal Pradesh has taken the lead in embracing the DGGI as the first state in the northeast region to implement this initiative.
- The index benchmarks governance across the state's 25 districts, covering various sectors and indicators, with a total of 65 indicators used to assess the districts' performance.

11th JUNE, 2023

Atlantic Declaration

- **Context:** The United States and the United Kingdom recently forged a new strategic pact Atlantic Declaration, to address pressing global challenges.

Key highlights

- It was adopted by US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.
- The focus of this agreement is to tackle the rising influence of China, the aggressive actions of Russia, and economic instability that threatens both nations.
- The Atlantic Declaration explicitly recognizes the challenges that threaten international stability.
- The agreement acknowledges the rise of authoritarian states, the disruptive influence of advanced technologies, the impact of non-state actors, and the transnational challenges posed by climate change. By addressing these concerns head-on, both nations aim to foster a more stable and secure global environment.

District Good Governance Index (DGGI)

- **Context:** Arunachal Pradesh has launched District Good Governance Index (DGGI)- a significant tool in assessing and benchmarking governance at the district level.

Key highlights

- Arunachal Pradesh has implemented this innovative approach to evaluate the effectiveness of governance in its 25 districts.

12th JUNE, 2023

RBI Guidelines on Default Loss Guarantee

- **Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step by allowing a 'first loss default guarantee' (FLDG) arrangement between regulated entities and lending service providers.

Key highlights

- It aims to enhance the digital lending sector and mitigate credit risks associated with it.
- Regulated entities, such as banks and NBFCs, can now enter into default loss guarantee (DLG) arrangements with lending service providers or other regulated entities.
- These arrangements offer a credit-risk sharing agreement where a third party guarantees to compensate up to a certain percentage of default in the loan portfolio of the regulated entity.
- The guidelines issued by the RBI specify various forms of default loss guarantees allowed for regulated entities. These include cash deposits with such entities, fixed deposits maintained with a lien marked in favor of the entity, and bank guarantees in favor of the entity.

Tactical LAN Radio

- **Context:** The Indian Army has recently signed a contract with Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd, a Bengaluru-based company, to procure the indigenously-developed tactical LAN radio.

Key highlights

- This state-of-the-art high-bandwidth backhaul wireless radio equipment is aimed at providing reliable communication for the armed forces.
- The primary purpose of the “tactical LAN radio” is to provide reliable communication for the Indian Army.
- With its state-of-the-art features, it offers an enhanced range of communication, ensuring seamless connectivity in critical situations.
- The “tactical LAN radio” incorporates several cutting-edge features. One such feature is its embedded frequency hopping mechanism, which helps prevent interception and ensure secure communication channels.
- The system also boasts enhanced safety features, prioritizing the confidentiality and integrity of the transmitted data.

13th JUNE, 2023

Sagar Samridhhi

- **Context:** The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has launched the ‘Sagar Samridhhi’ online dredging monitoring system.

Key highlights

- This state-of-the-art system, developed by the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of dredging operations in the country’s ports.
- This system marks a substantial improvement over the previous Draft and Loading Monitor (DLM) system, offering advanced capabilities and functionalities for dredging operations.

- The ‘Sagar Samridhhi’ monitoring system processes various reports, including daily dredging reports and pre- and post-dredging survey data.
- By integrating multiple input reports, it produces real-time dredging reports, bringing greater synergy and efficiency to the monitoring process.
- The system allows for visualizations of daily and monthly progress, dredger performance, downtime monitoring, and location track data, contributing to enhanced project management.

About National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC)

- The NTCPWC, which played a crucial role in the development of the ‘Sagar Samridhhi’ system, was established under the Sagarmala Programme of MoPSW.
- With a focus on research and development, the center contributes to the growth and optimization of the marine sector in India.
- Equipped with world-class capabilities, the NTCPWC enables research in various areas such as ocean modeling, coastal engineering, autonomous platforms, and more.

Gaula River Mining

- **Context:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has given permission to the Uttarakhand government to continue mining activities in the Gaula River in Nainital district.

Key highlights

- The extension allows mining work to be carried out until June 30, extending the previous deadline of May 31.
- This decision is expected to have significant implications for the state’s economy and local communities.
- With the approval to continue mining operations in the Gaula River, the Uttarakhand government anticipates a profit of up to Rs. 50 crores.
- This additional revenue will contribute to the state’s income, providing a much-needed economic boost.

- In addition to the economic benefits, the extension of mining activities in the Gaula River will ensure the availability of construction materials at a lower cost.
- The mining operations will provide access to essential resources needed for construction projects, contributing to the development and infrastructure growth of the area. This will not only benefit the government but also benefit the community by making construction materials more affordable and accessible.

About Gaula River

- The Gaula River, also known as the Gola River, originates in the Paharpani Village of Uttarakhand.
- It stretches for approximately 500 kilometers, making it a significant water source for Haldwani and Kathgodam.
- Ultimately, the Gaula River joins the Ramganga River in Uttar Pradesh, which is a tributary of the Ganges.

14th JUNE, 2023

General Consent to CBI

- **Context:** In a significant development, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to withdraw the general consent accorded to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct probes in the state.

Key highlights

- The general consent accorded to the CBI allows the agency to seamlessly investigate corruption cases involving central government employees.
- It facilitates the agency's access to conduct investigations without seeking specific permission for each case.
- The purpose of this consent is to expedite and ensure smooth proceedings in corruption-related investigations.

About Delhi Special Police Establishment Act

- Under the provisions of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, the CBI is required to obtain prior permission from the concerned state government before initiating an investigation in a state.

- This provision ensures a cooperative framework between the CBI and state authorities, respecting the state's autonomy in matters of investigation and law enforcement.

States that have Withdrawn General Consent

The Tamil Nadu government joins a growing list of states that have withdrawn the general consent accorded to the CBI. This list includes West Bengal, Rajasthan, Kerala, Mizoram, Punjab, Telangana, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Meghalaya.

Developing Nation Status Act

- **Context:** The US Senate Foreign Relations Committee has recently approved bipartisan legislation known as the Developing Nation Status Act, which seeks to remove China's "developing country" status.

Key highlights

- The legislation has significant implications for China's position in international organizations and treaties.
- The legislation, officially called the Developing Nation Status Act, was unanimously passed by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
- Its main goal is to constitute a US policy against granting China the "developing country" status in future treaties and international organizations. The act directs the Secretary of State to actively pursue changing China's status to that of a "developed country" in relevant agreements.
- China's developing country status currently affords it certain privileges within specific organizations and treaties. These privileges include market access, loans, and technical assistance.
- While the United Nations and certain other international organizations still regard China as a developing country, the US legislation aims to challenge this perception. However, China's foreign ministry asserts that it is not up to the US to decide its status, emphasizing that China's position as the world's largest developing country is grounded in facts and international law.