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**MADE EASY  
WEEKLY  
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**WEEK-1**

01<sup>st</sup> July - 07<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

**TARGETED EXAMINATIONS**

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

1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2021

## New TDS Rules from July 1

- The Finance Act 2021 amended rules relating to tax deducted at source come into effect from July 1. A new Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) rule implemented from July 1, 2021.

### Key Points:

- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has introduced a utility tool called Compliance Check for Section 206 AB & 206 CCA, to enforce these new rules.
- This tool will ease compliance burden of tax deductions who will use this functionality to identify non-filers. This functionality is already functioning on the reporting portal of the income tax department.

### About new rules:

- Non-filers of income tax for the previous two fiscal years would face increased taxes under the new regulations. TDS or TCS shall be levied at the rate of 5%, which is double the rate provided in the relevant section of the Income Tax Act.
- TDS deductions on resident payments, such as shareholder dividends and service payment to vendors rent, shall be subject to the provisions of this section.
- It will not apply to salary, lottery or crossword prizes, horse racing winnings, trust income, or cash withdrawals.
- Tax deducted at source (TDS) and tax collected at source (TCS) will be greater for such non-filers (TCS).
- If their tax deductions total Rs 50,000 or more in each of the previous two years, they would face a higher tax rate.

## BharatNet PPP model

- The Union Cabinet has approved the revised implementation strategy of BharatNet through Public-Private Partnership(PPP) mode in 16 States of the country.

## Key Points

- The revised BharatNet Project will be implemented through the Public-Private Partnership(PPP) model with a total cost of ₹29,430 crores. Of this, the Government will provide the viability gap fund of ₹19,041 crores. Viability Gap Fund means a grant to support projects that are economically justified but not financially viable.
- The project which initially aims to connect all the gram panchayats of the country through optic fiber for providing broadband services; it will now have two new components:
  - The first will be that BharatNet will now extend up to all inhabited villages beyond the gram panchayats (GPs) in the 16 states.
  - Second, the project will also now include the creation, upgradation, operation, maintenance, and utilization of BharatNet by the private sector partner who will be selected by a competitive international bidding process.

### States covered:

- States covered under Cabinet approval include Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh. About 3.61 lakh villages including Gram Panchayats will be covered.

### About BharatNet PPP Model:

- BharatNet Project was originally launched in 2011 as the National Optical Fibre Network(NOFN) and renamed as Bharat-Net in 2015.
- It seeks to provide connectivity to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) through optical fibre.
- It is a flagship mission implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL).
- The objective is to facilitate the delivery of e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-banking, Internet and other services to rural India.

## Green Freight Corridor-2

- The Ministry of Shipping inaugurated the loading operation on the maiden voyage of Coastal Shipping Service “Green Freight Corridor-2” from Cochin Port to Beypore and Azhikkhal Ports.

### Key points

- Green Freight Corridor Service is operated by Round The Coast Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, a JM Baxi Group Company.
- This service will connect Kochi-Beypore-Azhikkhal, and later Kollam port will be added to this service.
- Voyage was launched from Cochin port to Beypore and Azhikkhal ports located in north Kerala.
- This step is also aiming to
  - Create intermodal & sustainable customer solutions,
  - Improve use of waterways,
  - Cut road & rail traffic and
  - Cut logistical expenditures.

2<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2021

## 1 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> to be removed by 2025: Report

- As per a report released by “Coalition for Negative Emissions (CNE) & McKinsey”, by 2025, the world must remove 1 Gigatonne, or 1 billion tonnes, of carbon from the atmosphere to keep global warming within the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C. However, projects in development will remove only a fraction of this.

### Key Highlights:

- About 190 countries have signed the Paris agreement which seeks to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

- The report highlights, even with pledges of big reductions in emissions, several scientists believe removal technologies will be needed to meet this goal.
- As per the report, the goal of keeping global warming within the Paris Agreement target cannot be achieved without action to deliver 1 Gigatonne (Gt) of negative emissions globally by 2025.
- Countries are required to remove a billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere by 2025 if the Paris target is to be met.
- This targeted reduction would be further increased by more than one billion tonnes annually.
- The current pipeline of projects in development could only remove about 150 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2025.

### Negative Emission Projects

- Bioenergy with technology capture & storage carbon emissions,
- Technology to directly capture & store emissions from air and
- Natural climate solutions such as afforestation.

## NITI Aayog recommends privatising UIIC

- The NITI Aayog has recommended privatisation of state-owned insurer United India Insurance Company as the government aims to move ahead with its new public sector enterprise (PSE) policy for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

### Key Points:

- The policy think tank has suggested that the public sector insurer be considered for privatisation in the banking, insurance and financial services sector, which has been classified as ‘strategic’ in the PSE policy.
- These sectors have been categorized as ‘strategic’ within PSE coverage.

- Coverage proposes for minimal presence of government-owned corporations in strategic sectors and privatisation.
- Decision to privatise United India Insurance company is being criticized by All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA). This is because the Government had earlier decided to merge three public sector general insurance companies. It has given up these plans and now is pushing for privatisation.

### About UIIC:

- United India Insurance Company Limited (UIIC) was incorporated as a Company on February 18, 1938. In India, the General Insurance Business was nationalized in 1972.
- Under the nationalisation process, UIIC subsumed 12 Indian Insurance Companies, 4 Cooperative Insurance Societies, Indian operations of 5 Foreign Insurers and General Insurance operations of the southern region of Life Insurance Corporation of India.

3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2021

## Crocodiles relocated from Panchmuli lake

- The Panchmuli lake, near the 182-metre tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia, called the 'Statue of Unity', had a large number of crocodiles that posed a threat to the visitors.
- Among them 194 crocodiles have been relocated from Panchmuli lake near Statue of Unity in Narmada district, Gujarat.

### Key Highlights:

- Crocodiles were relocated for the safety of tourists doing boat rides in the Panchmuli lake.

- This lake is situated near the 182-metre-tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia.
- Lake has become a major tourist attraction. It had a large number of crocodiles which was a threat to visitors.

### About Panchmuli lake:

- This lake is also known as 'Dyke-3' of Sardar Sarovar Dam. The lake is surrounded by lush green forest, and rich in flora and fauna. It was developed for tourists visiting the Statue of Unity.
- Lake is located about 5 km away from the Statue of Unity. It offers a clear view of Vindhya mountain range and Sardar Sarovar Dam.

## No deal on United Nations Peacekeeping budget

- The 193 member states of the United Nations have thus far failed to agree on a peacekeeping budget for the year beginning July 1, which could lead to "a freeze on all missions" should a deal not soon materialize.
- The budget for the UN's global peacekeeping operations -- about 20 missions worldwide, with nearly 100,000 Blue Helmets mobilized -- amounts to about \$6.5 billion and covers a 12-month period starting each year on July 1.
- This year, the member nations have failed to agree on the budget.

### 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.

- While decisions about establishing, maintaining or expanding a peacekeeping operation are taken by the Security Council, the financing of UN Peacekeeping operations is the collective responsibility of all UN Member States.
- Every Member State is legally obligated to pay their respective share towards peacekeeping. This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.
- The top 5 providers of assessed contributions to United Nations Peacekeeping operations for 2020-2021 are:
  - United States (27.89%)
  - China (15.21%)
  - Japan (8.56%)
  - Germany (6.09%)
  - United Kingdom (5.79%)

## Gaganyaan

- As part of the human spaceflight programme 'Gaganyaan,' the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to launch the first uncrewed mission in December.
- Two uncrewed flights are planned as part of Gaganyaan's mandate to evaluate the manned mission's end-to-end capability.

### Key Points:

- The objective of the Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate the capability to send humans to low earth orbit on board an Indian launch vehicle and bring them back to earth safely.
- Four Indian astronaut-candidates have already undergone generic space flight training in Russia as part of the Gaganyaan programme. ISRO's heavy-lift launcher GSLV Mk III has been identified for the mission.

4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

## Cyber Security Index (GCI) 2020

- The United Nations' specialised agency for information and communication technologies — International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has released the Global Cyber Security Index (GCI) 2020.

### About the Index:

- The index is a trusted reference that measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity at a global level.
- Countries are measured along five pillars, namely, legal measures, technical measures, organisational measures, capacity development, and cooperation to generate an overall score.

### Performance of India and its neighbours:

- India is placed on the 10th spot. In 2018, it was ranked on the 47th spot. It was ranked 47 in 2019.
- In the Asia-Pacific region India secured the 4th spot.
- Neighbours China and Pakistan were ranked at 33 and 79, respectively.
- Top 5 Countries:
  - The US.
  - The UK and Saudi Arabia.
  - Estonia.
  - South Korea, Singapore and Spain.
  - Russia, United Arab Emirates and Malaysia.
- India is working on its first Cyber Security Strategy. Computer Emergency Response Teams or CERT is responsible for coordinating and supporting the response to computer security events or incidents on the national or government level.
- A scheme for establishment of Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has been established to handle issues related to cybercrime in the country in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

- Establishment of National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) for protection of critical information infrastructure in the country.

## Grene Robotics designed 'Indrajaal'

- Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called "Indrajaal".

### Key points:

- The drone defence dome has the capability to autonomously protect an area of 1000-2000 sq km against the aerial threats by assessing and acting on aerial threats such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), loitering munitions, and Low- Radar Cross Section (RCS) targets.
- The ANTI-UAV systems will not only provide protection to defence bases but it will be beneficial for linear infrastructures like international borders against advanced weaponry.
- The path-breaking development is imperative because manual weapons and point-based defence systems can't defend modern warfares, which are operated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics.
- The design principles of Indrajaal are based on delivering autonomy to the armed forces.
- The synergic combination of 9-10 modern technologies helped by Artificial Intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and robotics.

## Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat has resigned

- With the six-month window for him to get elected to the Assembly closing and increasing uncertainties, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat has resigned.

- The Election Commission (EC) was yet to take a call on holding bypolls for vacant Assembly seats, which would have given Mr. Rawat a way to carry on as Chief Minister.

### Key Points:

- As per the Constitution, he had six months, till September 10, to become a member of the Uttarakhand Assembly in order to continue in the post.
- Representation of the People Act, 1951, mandates that a byelection for any vacancy should be held within six months of that vacancy arising, provided the remainder of the term is not less than one year or the EC and the Centre do not certify that holding the bypoll in that time frame is difficult.
- The term of current assembly elected in 2017 will expire on 23 March 2022 General elections in the State are less than a year away.

### Eligibility criteria of Chief Minister:

- After general election to the State Legislative Assembly, the party or coalition group which secures majority in this House, elects its leader and communicates his name to the Governor. The Governor then formally appoints him as the Chief Minister and asks him to form his Council of Ministers.
- When no party gets a clear majority in the State Legislative Assembly, the Governor normally asks the leader of the single largest party to form the government.

5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

## Draft anti-trafficking Bill

- The Ministry of Women and Child Welfare has invited suggestions and comments for its Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021.

## Key Highlights:

- The bill proposes stringent punishments for offenders, including hefty fines and seizing of their properties.
- The Bill also extends beyond the protection of women and children as victims to now include transgenders as well as any person who may be a victim of trafficking.
- The draft also does away with the provision that a victim necessarily needs to be transported from one place to another to be defined as a victim.
- **Applicability:**
  - All citizens inside as well as outside India.
  - Persons on any ship or aircraft registered in India wherever it may be or carrying Indian citizens wherever they may be.
  - A foreign national or a stateless person who has his or her residence in India at the time of commission of offence under this Act.
  - Every offence of trafficking in persons with cross-border implications.
  - Defence personnel and government servants, doctors and paramedical staff or anyone in a position of authority.

### ■ NOTE:

Trafficking in Human Beings or Persons is prohibited under the Constitution of India under Article 23 (1). The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) is the premier legislation for prevention of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

## Istanbul Convention on violence against women

- Turkey quits Istanbul Convention on Violence Against Women.

### Key Points:

- It said the convention demeans traditional family structure, promotes divorces and encourages

acceptance of LGBTQ in the society. Besides, it said, it has enough local laws to protect women's rights.

- The move comes at a time when domestic violence against women and girls has intensified across the world amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.
- People are also concerned that now even basic rights and protections of the Turkish women will come under threat.

### About Istanbul Convention:

- It is also called as the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.
- The treaty is the world's first binding instrument to prevent and tackle violence against women.
- It is the most comprehensive legal framework that exists to tackle violence against women and girls, covering domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, female genital mutilation (FGM), so-called honour-based violence, and forced marriage.
- When a government ratifies the Convention, they are legally bound to follow it.
- The convention was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 7 April 2011.
- The Convention sets minimum standards for governments to meet when tackling violence against women.

## US Child Soldiers Prevention Act (CSPA)

- The US adds Pakistan, along with 14 other countries, to the list of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act.
- The list identifies foreign governments with government-supported armed groups that recruit or use child soldiers and subjects them to certain restrictions.

### About the Child Soldiers Prevention Act, 2008:

- It identifies foreign governments having government-supported armed groups that recruit or use child soldiers.

- The Act requires publication in the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, a list of foreign governments that have recruited or used child soldiers during the previous year.
- Designation under this act could result in restrictions on certain security assistance and commercial licensing of military equipment.

#### ■ NOTE:

The term child soldier means any person under 18 years of age who takes a direct part in hostilities or who has been compulsorily recruited into governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces.

6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

## Project BOLD

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) recently launched Project BOLD to form the tribal village Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

### Key Points:

- 5000 saplings of special bamboo species – BambusaTulda and BambusaPolymorpha specially brought from Assam – have been planted in vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.
- BOLD stands for Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought. The initiative has been launched as part of KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival" to celebrate 75 years of independence "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".
- Its objective is to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones, To reduce desertification and provide livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support.

### About KVIC:

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.

- The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

## "Unity 22" mission

- "Unity 22" will be Virgin Galactic's next rocket-powered test flight of its SpaceShip- VSS Unity. Unity 22 will focus on testing the cabin and customer experience.

### Key Points:

- As part of the mission, the crew will be flying to the edge of space on July 11 on board the 'Unity' rocket ship developed by Virgin Galactic.
- This will be the 22nd mission for VSS Unity.
- This will be Virgin Galactic's fourth crewed spaceflight.
- It will also be the first to carry a full crew of two pilots and four mission specialists in the cabin, including Virgin Group Founder Richard Branson, who will be testing out the private astronaut experience.

#### ■ NOTE:

- Sirisha Bandla, an astronaut born in India, will be a part of the crew.
- This is significant as she will be the third woman of Indian origin to go to space after Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.

## Heat Dome

- Parts of Canada and USA are reeling under severe heat waves caused due to a heat dome. A heat dome occurs when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air like a lid or cap.

### Key Points:

- The scorching heat is ensnared in what is called a heat dome. This happens when strong, high-pressure atmospheric conditions combine with influences from La Niña.



- The main cause is a strong change (or gradient) in ocean temperatures from west to east in the tropical Pacific Ocean.
- High-pressure circulation in the atmosphere acts like a dome or cap, trapping heat at the surface and favoring the formation of a heat wave. This creates vast areas of sweltering heat that gets trapped under the high-pressure “dome”.
- It is also known as ‘State Emergency’ or ‘Constitutional Emergency’. Upon the imposition of this rule, there would be no Council of Ministers.
- The state will fall under the direct control of the Union government, and the Governor will continue to head the proceedings, representing the President of India.
- A proclamation imposing President’s Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.

### Impact:

- Lead to a sudden rise in fatalities due to extreme heat like conditions.
- Damage crops, dry out vegetation and result in droughts.
- Rise in energy demand, especially electricity, leading to pushing up rates.
- Leads to wildfires, which destroys a lot of land area.

7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

### President’s Rule

- The Supreme Court agreed to hear a plea seeking directions to the Centre to impose President’s Rule in West Bengal over alleged incidents of post-poll violence in the state.
- During the violence, the government and administration remained silent spectators and no protection was provided to the victims by them.
- No appropriate action was taken against the culprits, due to which the life, liberty, dignity of the women and children are in peril and the future of Hindu residents is in jeopardy.

### About President’s Rule:

- Article 356 of the Constitution of India gives the President of India power to suspend state government and impose President’s rule of any state in the country “if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution”.

### NOTE:

Under Article 356, President’s Rule is imposed if the President, upon receipt of the report from the Governor of the State or otherwise, is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

### OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal

- India joined the G20-OECD inclusive framework deal that seeks to reform international tax rules and ensure that multinational enterprises pay their fair share wherever they operate.
- 130 countries and jurisdictions, representing more than 90% of global GDP, have signed the deal.
- India will have to roll back the equalisation levy that it imposes on companies such as Google, Amazon and Facebook when the global tax regime is implemented.

### Two pillars of framework:

- Dealing with transnational and digital companies. This pillar ensures that large multinational enterprises, including digital companies, pay tax where they operate and earn profits.
- Dealing with low-tax jurisdictions to address cross-border profit shifting and treaty shopping. This pillar seeks to put a floor under competition among countries through a global minimum corporate tax rate, currently proposed at 15%.

**About Equalisation levy:**

- India first introduced an equalisation levy in 2016, when it charged 6 percent of consideration for online advertisement services, earned by non-residents from an Indian resident carrying on business. The 2020 Budget substantially extended the scope of the equalisation levy.
- The government expanded its scope from April 1, 2020, by imposing a 2% equalisation levy on digital transactions by foreign entities operating in India or having access to the local market.

**NOTE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) refers to tax planning strategies used by multinational enterprises that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to avoid paying tax.

**Green Hydrogen**

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is investing Rs 75,000 crore in its new business focused on clean energy, which includes solar and green hydrogen.
- The company will build four giga factories focusing on solar, storage battery, green hydrogen and a fuel cell factory, which can convert hydrogen into mobile and stationary power.

Grey hydrogen	Blue hydrogen	Green hydrogen
Split natural gas into hydrogen and CO <sub>2</sub>	Split natural gas into hydrogen and CO <sub>2</sub>	Split water into hydrogen by electrolysis powered by water or wind
CO <sub>2</sub> emitted in the atmosphere	CO <sub>2</sub> stored or reused	No CO <sub>2</sub> emitted

**About Green Hydrogen:**

- The technology for green hydrogen is based on the generation of hydrogen through electrolysis.
- It is a universal, light and highly reactive fuel. Using this method, electrical current is used to separate the hydrogen from the oxygen in the water.
- In case the electricity is produced through renewable sources of energy, the hydrogen would be green hydrogen.

**Significance:**

- Green hydrogen energy is vital for India to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) Targets and ensure regional and national energy security, access and availability.
- Green Hydrogen can act as an energy storage option, which would be essential to meet intermittencies (of renewable energy) in the future.
- It is a clean-burning molecule, which can decarbonize a range of sectors including iron and steel, chemicals, and transportation.

**Applications:**

- Green Chemicals like ammonia and methanol can directly be utilized in existing applications like fertilizers, mobility, power, chemicals, shipping etc.
- Green Hydrogen blending up to 10% may be adopted in CGD networks to gain widespread acceptance.

