



IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 19

- SDG INDIA INDEX 2020-2021
- ALL INDIA HOUSE PRICE INDEX
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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR PRELIMS VOL - 19

INDIAN ECONOMY**1) SDG INDIA INDEX 2020-2021**

IN NEWS: - Recently, the third edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 was released by NITI Aayog.

ABOUT SDG INDIA INDEX 2020-2021

- The SDG India Index 2020–21 is developed in collaboration with the United Nations.
- The NITI Aayog launched this index in 2018 to monitor the country's progress on Sustainable Development Goals
- It also promotes competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs.
- The SDG India Index computes goal-wise scores on the 16 SDGs for each State and Union Territory.
- These scores range between 0–100, and if a State/UT achieves a score of 100, it signifies it has achieved the 2030 targets.
- The higher the score of a State/UT, the greater the distance to target achieved.
- States and Union Territories are classified in four categories based on their SDG India Index score: Aspirant (0–49), Performer (50–64), Front-Runner (65–99), Achiever (100).
- The 115 indicators incorporate 16 out of 17 SDGs, with a qualitative assessment on Goal 17, and cover 70 SDG targets.

ABOUT SDGs

- The Sustainable Development Goals agenda was accepted by all members of the United Nations in 2012 at the Rio De Janeiro Council Meet with an aim to promote a healthy and developed future of the planet and its people.

- It was in 2015 when the Sustainable Development Goals were implemented after a successful fifteen-year plan of development called the Millennium Development Goals.
- The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of seventeen pointer targets that all the countries which are members of the UN agreed to work upon for a better future.
- It is a group of 17 goals with 169 targets and 304 indicators, as proposed by the United Nation General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030.
- SDGs is the outcome of the Rio+20 conference (2012) held in Rio De Janerio and is a non-binding document.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements about SDGs

1. The SDG India Index 2020–21 is developed in collaboration with the World Bank
2. The Sustainable Development Goals are a binding document

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - d

2) RBI BIMONTHLY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE SURVEY

IN NEWS:- According to the Consumer Confidence Survey carried out by the Reserve Bank of India, it has been observed that the consumer confidence has seen the lowest-ever level in July with the citizens becoming more pessimistic regarding their jobs, the income and spending and the overall situation of the economy.

ABOUT RBI CONSUMER CONFIDENCE SURVEY

- It is conducted every two months in order to find out how optimistic or pessimistic the consumers are regarding their financial situation.
- This index measures the change in consumer perception on the financial situation in the last year and the future expectations.
- The main parameters are – Economic situation, Employment, Price Level, Income and Spending.
- This is carried out by the Reserve Bank of India.

3) BEED MODEL OF PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA

IN NEWS: - Recently, the Maharashtra Government asked the Prime Minister for state-wide implementation of the 'Beed model' of the crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY).

ABOUT BEED MODEL

- Beed is a district located in the drought-prone Marathwada region. The district presents a challenge for any insurance company because farmers here have repeatedly lost crops either to failure of rains or to heavy rains. Given the high payouts, insurance companies have sustained losses.
- The BEED model is a crop insurance scheme practised in Maharashtra.
- This model is also called 80-110 Formula.
- Under this plan, the insurer's potential losses are restricted.
- The insurance firm does not have to entertain claims above 110% of the gross premium. The state government has to bear the cost of compensation above 110% of the premium collected to insulate the insurer from losses (bridge amount).
- However, if the compensation is less than the premium collected, the insurance company would keep 20% of the amount as handling charges and reimburse the rest to the state government (premium surplus).

- The reimbursed amount can lead to lower budgetary provision for PMFBY by the state for the following year, or help in financing the paying the bridge amount in case of a year of crop loss.

ABOUT PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA

- PMFBY was launched in 2016.
- It provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of the crop
- All food & oilseed crops and annual commercial/horticultural crops for which past yield data is available are covered under the scheme
- The prescribed premium is 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In the case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium is 5%.
- Premium cost over and above the farmer share is equally subsidized by States and GoI.
- However, GoI shared 90% of the premium subsidy for North Eastern States to promote the uptake in the region.

PMFBY 2.0

- PMFBY was revamped in the 2020 Kharif Season
- Prior to 2020, the scheme was optional for farmers who did not have loans pending, but mandatory for loanee farmers. Since 2020, it has been optional for all farmers.
- The Cabinet decided to cap the Centre's premium subsidy under the scheme for premium rates up to 30% for unirrigated areas/crops and 25% for irrigated areas/crops.
- The government has given the flexibility to states/UTs to implement PMFBY and given them the option to select any number of additional risk covers/features.
- Insurance companies have to spend 0.5% of the total premium collected on information, education and communication (IEC) activities.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

1. All food & oilseed crops and annual commercial/horticultural crops for which past yield data is available are covered under the scheme
2. The prescribed premium is 2% to be paid by farmers for all crops

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - a

4) ALL INDIA HOUSE PRICE INDEX

- The Housing Price Index is a quarterly report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) based on the all-India price movement from data collected from a few cities.
- The indices are based on official data of property price transactions obtained from the respective state governments' registration authorities.
- The Reserve Bank of India publishes a quarterly house price index (HPI) for ten major cities: Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, and Kochi.
- The base year for calculation of HPI is 2010-2011.
- These indices are based on official data on property price transactions collected from the respective state governments' registration authorities.

PRACTICE QUESTION

With reference to House Price Index, consider the following statements

1. It is released biennially
2. It is released by the RBI

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

INDIAN POLITY

5) RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN

IN NEWS: - The Centre told the Delhi High Court that the “right to be forgotten” is part of the fundamental right to privacy.

ABOUT RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN (RTBF)

- The ‘right to be forgotten’ is the right to have publicly available personal information removed from the internet, search, databases, websites or any other public platforms, once the personal information in question is no longer necessary, or relevant.
- The concept has found recognition in some jurisdictions abroad, particularly the European Union.
- RTBF has been recognised as a statutory right in the European Union under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- In India, there is no law that specifically provides for the right to be forgotten. However, the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 recognised this right.

- The Right to be forgotten falls under the purview of an individual's right to privacy, which is governed by the Personal Data Protection Bill.

ABOUT RIGHT TO PRIVACY

- The Supreme Court described privacy and its importance in the landmark decision of K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India in 2017.
- The right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution.
- The Puttaswamy judgement holds that the right to privacy is protected as a fundamental constitutional right under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

ABOUT PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL 2019

- The Bill derives its inspiration from a previous draft version prepared by a committee headed by retired Justice B N Srikrishna.
- The bill constitutes 3 personal information types: Critical, Sensitive, General
- As per the bill, it is the individual whose data is being stored and processed is called Data Principal
- Social media companies, which are deemed significant data fiduciaries based on factors such as volume and sensitivity of data as well as their turnover, should develop their own user verification mechanism.

- An independent regulator Data Protection Agency (DPA) will oversee assessments and audits and definition making.
- Each company will have a Data Protection Officer (DPO) who will liaison with the DPA for auditing, grievance redressal, recording maintenance and more.
- The bill also grants individuals the right to data portability, and the ability to access and transfer one's own data.
- The bill recognises the Right to be Forgotten
- The Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill 2019 has a contentious section 35, which invokes “sovereignty and integrity of India,” “public order”, “friendly relations with foreign states” and “security of the state” to give powers to the Central government to suspend all or any of the provisions of this Act for government agencies.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements about Right To Be Forgotten

1. The Personal Data Protection Bill recognises the Right to Be Forgotten
2. The Right to be Forgotten falls under the purview of an individual's right to privacy

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - c

6) DRAFT CINEMATOGRAPH AMENDMENT BILL

IN NEWS: - The Standing Committee on Information and Technology has conveyed its discontent to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the “super censorship” clause introduced in the draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2021.

ABOUT DRAFT CINEMATOGRAPH AMENDMENT BILL

Key Provisions in the draft bill

- **Age-based certification:** It seeks to introduce age-based categorisation and classification. It proposes to divide the existing categories (U, U/A and A) into further age-based groups: U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+.
- **Provision against piracy:** At present, there are no enabling provisions to check film piracy. Violation shall be punishable with imprisonment and fine.
- **Eternal certificate:** It proposes to certify films for perpetuity. Currently a certificate issued by the CBFC is valid only for 10 years
- In the draft, there is a provision which allows the government to order recertification for a film already certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). This has raised concerns. The government says the

clause would only be invoked if the content of a film impinged on security and integrity of the nation.

SHYAM BENEGAL COMMITTEE

- Shyam Benegal committee was tasked to look holistically into the functioning of the censor board and revamp the film certification nuances by Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
- It was constituted by the Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry.

Recommendations

- Shift from Censorship to certification (by increased categorisation into suitable age-groups)
- Restoring to censorship in the extreme case with proper justification.
- CBFC should only be a film certification body and its scope should be restricted to categorizing the suitability of the film to audience groups on the basis of age and maturity.
- The board can refuse certification when a film contents contravenes the provisions of Cinematograph Act.
- It can also refuse certification when content in a film crosses the ceiling laid down in the highest category of certification.
- The applicant for certificate must specify the category of certification being sought and the target audience.

- The categorisation of films should be more specific and apart from U category, the UA Category can be broken up into further sub-categories – UA12+ and UA15+. The A category should also be sub-divided into A and AC (Adult with Caution) categories

CENTRAL BOARD OF FILM CERTIFICATION

- The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), commonly known as the Censor Board, is an important body that handles film certification in India
- It is a statutory body under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.
- It regulates the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952.
- Films can be exhibited to the public only after they have been certified by the CBFC.

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PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements about Central Board of Film Certification

1. The Central Board of Film Certification is an executive body
2. It works under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

MISCELLANEOUS

7) AKASH NG AND MAN PORTABLE ANTI TANK GUIDED MISSILE

IN NEWS: - The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG) and the Man Portable Anti Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

ABOUT AKASH NG

- Akash - New generation abbreviated as Akash-NG is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile defense system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Bharat Electronics (BEL).
- This missile is a successor to the Akash and Akash-1S series of missiles
- It can strike targets at a distance of around 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5.
- The missile is unique in the way that it can be launched from mobile platforms like battle tanks or wheeled trucks. It has nearly 90% kill probability.
- The missile is supported by the indigenously developed radar called 'Rajendra'.
- The missile is reportedly cheaper and more accurate than US' Patriot missiles due to its solid-fuel technology and high-tech radars.

- The Akash missile system has been designed and developed as part of India's 30-year-old Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

MAN PORTABLE ANTI TANK GUIDED MISSILE

- The MPATGM, or Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile, is an Indian 3rd Generation Fire-and-Forget Anti-Tank Guided Missile
- It is indigenously developed by DRDO.
- It has strike range of 2.5 km. It weighs around 14.5 kg to maintain man portability. It is capable of being fired from shoulder and can be used during day and night.

ANTI TANK GUIDED MISSILE

Anti Tank guided missile is a medium or long-range missile whose primary purpose is to destroy tanks and other armoured vehicles.

DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- DRDO works under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- It is working to establish world class science and technology base for India and provides our Defence Services decisive edge by equipping them with internationally competitive systems and solutions.
- DRDO was established in 1958 after combining Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical

Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).

INTEGRATED GUIDED MISSILE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IGMDP)

- IGMDP was brain child of renowned scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- It was intended to attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology.
- After keeping in mind the requirements of various types of missiles by the defense forces, the program recognized the need to develop five missile systems.
- The IGMDP formally got the approval of Indian government on July 26, 1983.
- The missiles developed under IGMDP are Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Akash and Nag

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My association with CivilsCafe stemmed out of my personal friendship with Tojin Sir. During my personality test preparation, the one on one session with Remya mam & Arun Sir was really fruitful and it gave me immense confidence to attend the same.

Thank Civils Cafe for all your support & guidance. Wish you good luck for future endeavours.

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