

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Week I, July 2020



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A promotional banner for the Gradeup Green Card. On the left, there is a small image of a person sitting at a desk with a laptop. The background is green with white and red accents. The text reads: "Gradeup Green Card", "Unlimited Access to All Mock Tests of State PCS Exams", and a red button with the text "CHECK HERE".

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Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

Why in the news?

- Recently **Prime Minister** has announced the **extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** till the end of **November 2020**.



About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

- **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** was announced as **part of the first relief package** during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **Scheme was announced for three months and ended on June 30**.
- The Scheme aims to ensure sufficient foods with the **poor and needy amid the coronavirus crisis**.

Silent Features of the Scheme

- The Scheme covered **80 crore ration cardholders** in the country.
- The **foodgrains** were to be **distributed to all the beneficiaries** under the targeted public **distribution system (TPDS)** for **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** and **priority household (PHH) ration cardholders**.
- The eligible individuals were to **receive 5kg of foodgrains and 1 kg Gram per month** for three months **between April and June 2020**, which has now been extended for **five more months**.

Topic- GS Paper 2–Governance

Source- PIB

Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in the news?

- Amid its ongoing **border dispute with India**, **China** has now claimed that the **Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary** situated in **Bhutan** is a **"disputed" territory**.



About Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary

- Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary is located mostly in **Trashigang District** and just **crossing the border** into **Samdrup Jongkhar District, Bhutan**.
- It also makes bordering with the **Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It is one of the **country's protected areas**. It is listed as a **tentative site in Bhutan's Tentative List for UNESCO inclusion**.

Topic- GS Paper 3–Environment

Source- Zee news

[Micro Food Processing Enterprises \(PM FME\) Scheme](#)

Why in the news?

- **Union Minister for Food Processing** has recently launched the **PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME)** scheme as a part of “**Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**”.

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES



About PM FME scheme

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** which is to be **implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25**.

Fund Sharing

- The **expenditure under the Scheme** would be shared in **60:40 ratios** between **Central and State Governments**, in **90:10 ratios** with **North Eastern and the Himalayan States**, **60:40 ratio** with **UTs with the legislature** and **100% by Centre** for other **UTs**.

Objective

- To provide **financial, technical, and business support** for **upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises**.

Impact

- The **Scheme** would **generate a total investment of Rs 35,000 crore** and **generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled employment** and **benefit 8 lakh units** through access to **information, training, better exposure and formalization**.

Implementation strategy:

- The **Scheme** adopts **One District One Product (ODODP) approach** to reap the benefit of scale in terms of procurement of **inputs, availing basic services and marketing of products**.
- The **Scheme** also **place focus on waste to wealth products, minor forest products and Aspirational Districts**.

Topic- GS Paper 3–Important Scheme

Source- PIB

[State of World Population Report 2020](#)

Why in the news?

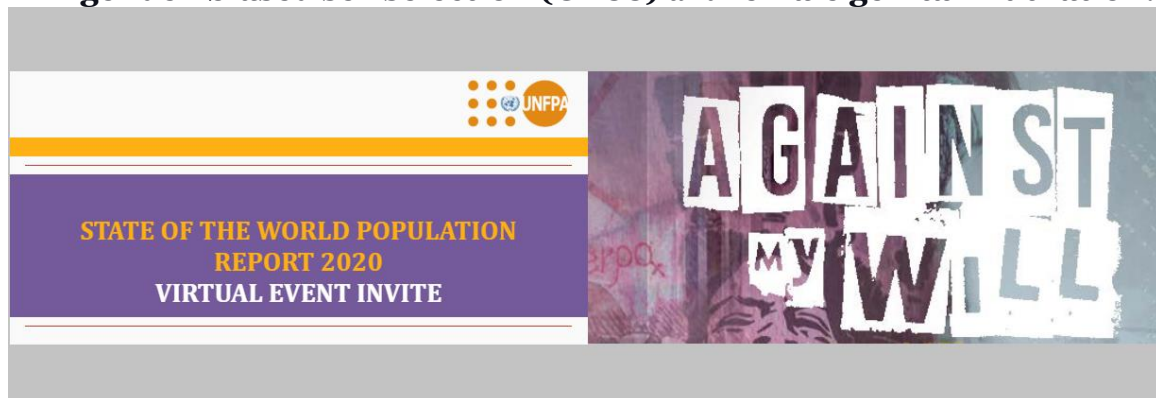
- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** has recently released the **State of World Population Report 2020**.



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- The title of the report is: ‘**Against my will: defying the practices that harm women and girls and undermine equality**’.
- The report focuses on the **problem of child marriage, son preference, gender-biased sex selection (GBSS) and female genital mutilation.**



Highlights of the Report

- **India** accounts for **45.8 million** of the world’s **142.6 million missing females** over the past **50 years** due to **gender-based sex selection** and preference for sons.
- The report identifies **19 harmful practices against women** out of which **3 are most widespread and persistent**: Female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage and son preference.
- Globally, **one in five girls is married by age 18.**
- In 2020, an estimated **4.1 million girls** will be subjected to **female genital mutilation.**

About United Nations Population Fund

- It is the **United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.**
- It aims to **deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe,** and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.
- Its **headquarters** is located in **New York, United States.**

Topic- GS Paper 3–Important reports

Source- The Hindu

[RBI announces special liquidity scheme for NBFCs and HFCs through SPV](#)

Why in the news?

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently said that **State Bank of India’s SBICAP unit** would set up a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).**
- It is aimed to **assist NBFCs and HFCs in improving their liquidity** following the **Centre’s approval of a Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS)** for the purpose.



About the Special Liquidity Scheme

- The aim of the Scheme to improve the liquidity position of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs).
- RBI will provide funds for the Scheme by subscribing to government-guaranteed special securities issued by the Trust.
- The total amount of such securities issued outstanding shall not exceed Rs. 30,000 crores at any point in time.
- Government of India will provide an unconditional and irrevocable guarantee to the special securities issued by the Trust.

Eligibility of the Scheme

- i. The Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFCs), including Microfinance Institutions that are registered with the RBI, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, excluding those registered as Core Investment Companies
- ii. Housing Finance Companies that are registered under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987
- iii. CRAR/CAR of NBFCs/HFCs should not be below the regulatory minimum, i.e., 15% and 12% respectively as on March 31, 2019
- iv. The net non-performing assets should not be more than 6% as on March 31, 2019
- v. They should have made a net profit in at least one of the last two preceding financial years (i.e. 2017-18 and 2018-19)
- vi. They should not have been reported under the SMA-1 or SMA-2 category by any bank for their borrowings during last one year before August 01, 2018
- vii. They should be rated investment grade by a SEBI registered rating agency
- viii. They should comply with the requirement of the SPV for an appropriate level of collateral from the entity, which, however, would be optional and to be decided by the SPV.

Topic- GS Paper 3–Economics

Source- The Hindu

World's first-ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science

Why in the news?

- The **Union Minister of HRD** has virtually **launched World's first-ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science**.

About the Programme

- The programme has been **prepared and offered by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)**, which is **ranked No.1 in India Rankings 2020 by NIRF**.
- This **unique online offering** will be offered in three different stages –
 1. Foundational Programme
 2. Diploma Programme
 3. Degree Programme
- At each stage, students will have the **freedom to exit** from the program and receive a **Certificate, Diploma or a Degree**, respectively,



Eligibility

- This programme is **open to anyone who has passed Class XII, with English and Maths at the Class X level and enrolled in any on-campus UG course. Note:**
- **Data Science** is one of the **fastest-growing sectors** that are **predicted to create 11.5 million jobs by 2026**.

Topic- GS Paper 2–Governance

Source- PIB

Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter- Matsya Sampada

Why in the news?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying** has released the **first edition of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter-"Matsya Sampada"**.



About Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter-Matsya Sampada

- The Newsletter 'Matsya Sampada' is an **outcome of the endeavours of the Department of Fisheries, to reach out to the stakeholders, especially fishers and fish farmers** through various means of communication.

Aim

- It **aims to communicate the governmental initiatives** in the fisheries sector, including the good works being done both by **the government as well as the private sector.**

Objective

- Its objective is to **inform and educate stakeholders** about the latest developments in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

It would be **published every quarter** starting from the **first quarter of the year 2020-21.** Topic- GS Paper 2–Governance
Source- PIB



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