

## Daily Current Affairs for State Exams 26.08.2020

### Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- As per the **CRISIL report**, the **average income of MGNREGA workers doubled** during coronavirus lockdown.
- The average income per month for unskilled workers under MGNREGA nearly doubled to **around 1,000 rupees per month** during the first four months of the current fiscal.
- **CRISIL (formerly Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited)** is an **Indian analytical company** providing **ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services** and is a **subsidiary of American company S&P Global**.

#### Highlights

- The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**, also known as **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS)** is Indian legislation **enacted on August 25, 2005**.
- The **MGNREGA** provides a **legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year** to **adult members of any rural household** willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.
- It has been a **key mechanism** of providing **employment to the rural labour force**.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India** monitors the implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.

#### FASTag

- Government has made **FASTag mandatory** to allow users avail any discount at the highway toll plazas across the country.
- The **Ministry of Road transport and highways** amended the **National Highways Fee Rules, 2008** to allow discount for users making a return journey within 24 hours and other local exemptions only in cases where vehicle carries a valid functional FASTag.
- The decision has been taken to **promote digital mode of payment** and **ensure seamless travel on the National Highways**.

#### Highlights

- FASTags are **operated** by the **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)**.
- It is **affixed on the windscreen** of the vehicle and enables to drive through toll plazas without stopping for transactions.
- An activated FASTtag works on **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology**.
- These FASTags **do not have any expiry date**, that is, they can be used as long as they are readable at the toll plaza and are not tampered.
- On **15 December 2019**, FASTag became **mandatory** throughout India.

### National Testing Agency (NTA)

- The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** is conducting the JEE-Mains and NEET-UG exams as scheduled in compliance of the corona guidelines.
- Candidates have also been issued advisory guiding them about "Do's and Don'ts" for proper social distancing.

#### Highlights

- **National Testing Agency (NTA)** is an Indian government agency that has been approved by the Union Council of Ministers and established in November 2017 to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.
- **It is an autonomous and self-sustained testing organization** to conduct entrance examinations for **admission/fellowship in higher educational institutions.**
- **Vineet Joshi** as the first **Director-General of the agency.**
- NTA is responsible for conducting the **Joint Entrance Examination Main (JEE Main), National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET UG), National Eligibility Test (NET), Common Management Admission Test (CMAT) and Graduate Pharmacy Test (GPAT).**

### 'e-auction portal' launched for GI-tagged 'Kashmir Saffron'

- **Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture department** has created an **e-auction portal** to promote trading of **GI-tagged 'Kashmir Saffron'.**

#### Significance

- The Saffron growers of Kashmir valley and buyers across India have been requested to register themselves as sellers and buyers for E-trading on [www.saffroneauctionindia.com](http://www.saffroneauctionindia.com), so that hassle free e-Trading between registered growers and buyers is ensured.

#### GI tag

- A **geographical indication or GI** is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin** and **possess qualities** or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- Geographical Indications are **part of the intellectual property rights** that comes under the **Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.**
- In **India**, Geographical indications **registration** is administered by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.**
- GIs are **used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.**

### Chhavni COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana

- The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the **Chhavni COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana**, a group life insurance scheme through Life Insurance Corporation.
- He also highlighted the **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives of the Ministry of Defence** such as bringing out **an import negative list.**

- He also reviewed the improve implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in **62 cantonments** around the country.
- He emphasized the implementation of Ayushman Bharat, Pradhana Mantri Awas Yojana, Smart Cities Mission and Mid-day meal scheme for school children.

### Centrally Sponsored Schemes

- The category of centrally sponsored schemes comprises programmes that have a **national character or a regional character**.
- These schemes are aimed at supplementing the efforts made by state governments since the central government has more resources at its disposal.

**Note:** While the Union government fully funds the central sector schemes, centrally sponsored schemes are jointly funded by the Centre and states.

### National Food Security Act (NFSA)

- The **Department of Food & Public Distribution** advised all **States and UTs to ensure that all disabled persons**, who are **eligible as per identification criteria of beneficiaries** under NFSA, are covered under the **National Food Security Act 2013** and they get their **entitled quota of food grains under NFSA & PMGKAY as per provisions of the Act**.
- The **National Food Security Act** mandates that the **Central Government** may from **time to time give directions to the State Governments for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act**.

### Highlights

- The **National Food Security Act, 2013** is also regarded as the **Right to Food Act**.
- The National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 is being implemented in **all the States/UTs**, on an all India basis.
- The Act legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System.
- About two thirds of the population therefore is covered under the Act to receive highly subsidised foodgrains. The National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 is being implemented in **all the States/UTs**, on an all India basis.

### Women Equality Day

- The Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar greeted entire women community on Women's Equality Day.

### Background

- Women's Equality Day commemorates 26th August 1920 when votes to women officially became part of the US constitution.
- This day marks a turning point in the history of the struggle for equal treatment of women and women's rights.

### Van Mahotsav

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** celebrated **Van Mahotsav** with planting a Neem sapling in the President's Estate.
- Van Mahotsav is an **annual one-week tree planting festival** which is celebrated in the country.

- The unique festival was **started in the year 1950** by **Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi** by planting a tree at **Rajghat in Delhi**.
- **K.M Munshi** is also known as the **father of van mahotsav**.

### Gujarat Land Grabbing Prohibition Act

- The Gujarat Government is all set to come up with a bill called 'Gujarat Land Grabbing Prohibition Act' in the upcoming monsoon session of the state assembly.

#### Highlights

- The **proposed act** will have **provision of setting up special courts** that shall clear the **cases pertaining to land grabbing crimes in maximum six months**.
- The proposed act will have **provision of 10 to 14 years imprisonment**, in addition to **fine equal to Jantri value of the land**.
- The Government will **appoint one public prosecutor** in each such special court that shall take **legal actions against land grabbers in suo moto manner**.
- As per the proposed act, the **burden of proof** will be on the person who is **accused of land grabbing crime**.
- **Police officers not below the level of Deputy SP** will probe land grabbing related crimes.

### Jagdish Chaudhary, 'Dom' King of Varanasi passed away

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** expressed **deep grief over the demise of 'Dom' King of Varanasi, Jagdish Chaudhary**.
- Mr. Chaudhary was an active participant of the Sanatan tradition and was a staunch believer of the rich culture of Kashi.

### James Anderson

- England pacer **James Anderson** became the **first fast bowler in history** to take 600 Test wickets.
- Though the match ended in a draw, **England won the series 1-0**, with its three-wicket victory in the first test in Manchester followed by two drawn tests in Southampton.

#### Record holders

- **Muttiah Muralitharan** with 800, **Shane Warne** with 708 and **Anil Kumble** with 619 wickets are the only other bowlers - all spinners - who **remain ahead of Anderson** on the all-time list of wicket-takers.