

Daily Current Affairs 02/08/2021

1. First anniversary of National Education Policy 2020 and new initiatives in Education Sector



Why in News

- **The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi** addressed policy makers in the domain of education and skill development, students and teachers, across the country to mark the completion of one year of reforms under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- He also launched **multiple new initiatives in the education sector**.
- He noted the changes brought by the pandemic and how normal online education became for the students. More than 2300 crore hits on portals like **Diksha** and **Swayam** are clear proof of this fact.

Key Points

Academic Bank of Credit:

- It will provide multiple entry and exit options for students in Higher Education.

Engineering Programmes in Regional Languages:

- 14 engineering colleges of 8 states are starting to impart education in 5 Indian languages Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Bangla.
- A tool has been developed for translating engineering courses in 11 languages.
- This emphasis on mother tongue as the medium of instruction will instil confidence in the students from poor, rural and tribal backgrounds.

Vidya Pravesh:

- Vidya Pravesh is a 3 month play based school preparation module for Grade 1 students.

Indian Sign Language:

- Indian Sign language, for the first time, has been accorded the status of language subject. Students will be able to study it as a language also.
- There are more than 3 lakh students who need sign language for their education.
- This will give a boost to Indian sign language and will help the divyang people.

NISHTHA 2.0:

- It is an integrated programme of teacher training designed by **NCERT**.
- It will provide training to teachers as per their needs and they will be able to give their suggestions to the department.

SAFAL (Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning Levels):

- It is a competency based assessment framework for Grades 3, 5 and 8 in CBSE schools.

National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) and National Education Technology Forum (NETF):

- NDEAR and NETF will go a long way in providing a digital and technological framework to the entire country.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) programme:

- It will make the student future oriented and will pave the way for an AI-driven economy.

Previous Initiatives:

- Prime Minister's Research Fellowship
- National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning
- RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan)
- SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration)
- PRAGYATA
- Mid Day Meal Scheme
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- Right To Education Act, 2009

Source: PIB

2. Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange)



Why in News

- **Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology** has released “**Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines**” and launched a website of **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)**.

Key Points

About Biotech-PRIDE:

Need:

- With a large population of over 135 crore and heterogeneous character of the country, India needs its own exclusive database for Indian Research and Solutions.
- The indigenous database will have a huge enabling mechanism for exchange and

adoption of data by young scientists and researchers for the benefit of Indian Citizens.

- Advances in DNA sequencing and other high-throughput technologies along with a steep drop in DNA sequencing cost have enabled government agencies



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to fund research towards generation of large volumes of biological data in various sectors of Biosciences.

- It will contribute to human health on agriculture, animal husbandry, fundamental research and thus will extend to societal benefits.

Guidelines:

- Initially, these Guidelines will be implemented through **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)** at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology supported by the Department of Biotechnology.
- Other existing datasets/ data centres will be bridged to this IBDC which will be called **Bio-Grid**.
- This Bio-Grid will be a National Repository for biological knowledge, information and data and will be responsible for enabling its exchange, developing measures for safety, standards and quality for datasets and establishing detailed modalities for accessing data.

Note: India ranks number 4 amongst the top 20 countries contributing biological databases.

Biotech Schemes and Policies:

- Genome India Project
- Biotech-KISAN Programme
- Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech Mission - Undertaking Nationally Relevant Technology Innovation (**UNaTI**)
- DNA Technology Bill, 2019

Source: PIB

3. Russia's Nauka Module



Why in News

- Russia's uncrewed **Nauka laboratory module** was launched to the International Space Station (ISS).
- The Nauka module was launched using a Proton rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Key Points

About Russia's new Nauka module:

- Nauka means "science" in Russian. It is the biggest space laboratory.
- Russia detached Pirs from the

ISS. In its place, Russia's space agency Roscosmos attached the significantly larger module Nauka, which will serve as the country's main research facility on the space station.



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Significance:

- It will serve as a new science facility, docking port, and spacewalk airlock for future operations.

About International Space Station (ISS):

- ISS is a modular space station (habitable artificial satellite) in low Earth orbit.
- It is a multinational collaborative project involving five participating space agencies: NASA (United States), JAXA (Japan), Roscosmos (Russia), ESA (Europe) and CSA (Canada).

Note: Recently, China has launched an unmanned module ‘Tianhe’ of its permanent space station that it plans to complete by the end of 2022.

Source: Indian Express

4. 'INDRA NAVY – 21'



Why in News

- The **12th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY**, a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between **Indian Navy and Russian Navy** was held in the **Baltic Sea** from 28 to 29 July 2021.

Key Points

- INDRA NAVY exercise was undertaken as part of

the visit of INS Tabar to St Petersburg, Russia to participate in the 325th Navy Day celebrations of the Russian Navy.

- The Indian Navy was represented by the stealth Frigate INS Tabar whilst the Russian Federation Navy was represented by Corvettes RFS Zelyony Dol and RFS Odintsovo of the Baltic Fleet.
- The exercise included various facets of fleet operations such as anti-air firings, underway replenishment drills, helicopter ops, boarding drills and seamanship evolutions.

Background:

- Initiated in 2003, Ex INDRA NAVY epitomises the long-term strategic relationship between the two navies.

Note: The 12th Edition of **Indo-Russia joint military Exercise INDRA-2021** is being conducted at Volgograd, Russia from 01 to 13 August 2021.

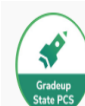
Source: PIB



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5. Cabinet approves DICGC (Amendment) Bill, 2021



Why in News

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) (Amendment) Bill, 2021**.

Key Points

About DICGC (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

Insurance Cover:

- The Bill provides account holders security of their money by allowing access to up to **Rs 5 lakh within 90 days** of a bank coming under a moratorium.
- Earlier, account holders had to wait for years till the liquidation or restructuring of a distressed lender to get their deposits that are insured against default.

Note: In 2020, the Finance Minister had increased its limit from 1 lakh to 5 lakh. **DICGC** was formed because bank depositors faced problems while withdrawing their money from banks if the RBI imposed a moratorium.

Coverage:

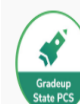
- Under the latest amendment in the DICGC Bill, 98.3% of all deposits will be covered and in terms of deposit value, 50.9% of deposits will be covered. While the Global deposit value is only 80% of all deposit accounts and covers only 20-30% of the deposit value.

About Deposit Insurance Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC):

- It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.
- It provides deposit insurance that works as a protection cover for bank deposit holders when the bank fails to pay its depositors.
- It protects depositors' money kept in all commercial and foreign banks located in India; central, state, and urban co-operative banks; regional rural banks; and local banks, provided that the bank has opted for DICGC cover.
- The agency's operations are performed as per the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 and The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation General Regulations, 1961.



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Source: The Hindu

6. August 1, Muslim Women's Rights Day



Why in News

• The **Union Ministry of Minority Affairs** announced that Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed across the nation on August 1 to celebrate the enactment of the law against **triple talaq**.

Key Points

- The central government enacted the law on August 1, 2019, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence.
- The legislation, which outlaws instant triple talaq, sets forth three years jail for violations and also make the violator liable to pay a fine.

History:

- The Supreme Court in August 2017 declared the practice of triple talaq or a form of divorce based on the husband pronouncing divorce thrice in quick succession as 'unconstitutional'.
- In December 2017, citing the Supreme Court judgment and cases of triple talaq in India, the government introduced the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill** in Parliament.
- The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha but was stalled by the opposition in the Rajya Sabha.
- The bill was reintroduced and passed by both the Houses of Parliament in July 2019. Consequently, the bill received assent from President Ram Nath Kovind.

Note: Egypt was the first country to ban triple talaq back in 1929 followed by Pakistan, Sudan (1956), Malaysia (1969), Bangladesh (1972), Iraq (1959), Syria (1953). UAE, Morocco, Cyprus, Iran, Jordan, Brunei, Algeria, Qatar had banned it several years ago.

Source: HT



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