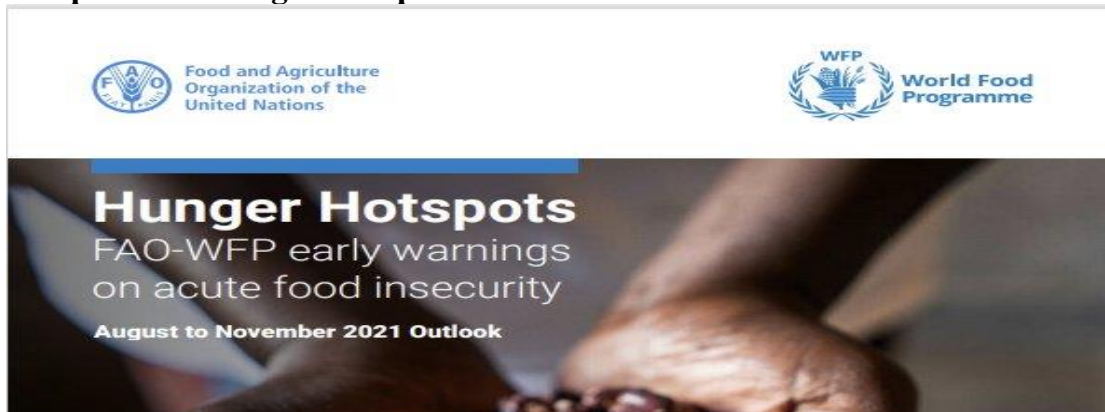


Daily Current Affairs 05/08/2021

1. A report on “Hunger Hotspots”: FAO-WFP



Why in News

- Recently, the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and **World Food Program (WFP)** released a report on “**Hunger Hotspots**” between **August and November 2021**.
- The **2021 Global Food Crises Report** released in May 2021 had already warned of acute food insecurity.

Key Points

Hunger Hotspots:

- The **five countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan, northern Nigeria and Yemen)** are among **23 countries** where acute food insecurity will worsen from August through November, 2021.
- Madagascar and Ethiopia are the world's newest top hunger hotspots.

Food insecurity causing factors:

Pandemic shocks:

- In 2020, almost all low- and middle-income countries were affected by the pandemic-induced economic downturns.

Violence:

- Population displacement, abandonment of agricultural land, loss of life and assets, disruption of trade and cropping and loss of access to markets caused by conflicts can worsen food insecurity.
- Violence is predicted to intensify in Afghanistan, Central Sahel, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia etc.
- Violence is also likely to disrupt access to humanitarian assistance.

Natural hazards:

- Extreme weather conditions and climate variability are likely to affect several parts of the world during the outlook period.

Poor humanitarian access:

- Humanitarian access is limited in various ways, including administrative / bureaucratic impediments, movement restrictions, security constraints and physical constraints related to the environment.
- Countries currently facing the most significant obstacles, preventing aid from reaching those who need it most are



Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali etc.

Suggestions:

- To protect rural livelihoods and increase agricultural production.
- Short-term protective interventions be implemented before new humanitarian needs materialise and immediate actions be taken for addressing existing humanitarian requirements.

India's Step in Ensuring Food Security:

- National Food Security Mission
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
- The National Food Security Act, 2013
- PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana
- One Nation One Ration Card

About Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

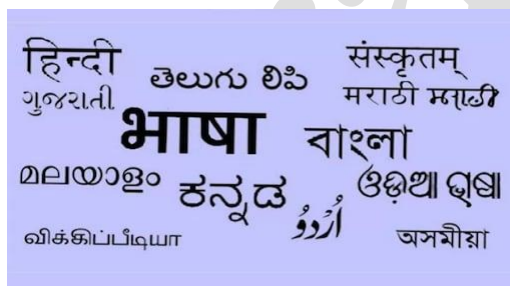
- It is a specific agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve food security and nutrition.
- **Formation:** 16 October 1945
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy

About World Food Program (WFP):

- WFP is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations.
- **Formation:** 19 December 1961
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
- The World Food Programme was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2020**.

Source: DTE

2. Languages in Eighth Schedule



Why in News

- **Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan** has informed in the Lok Sabha about Steps taken by the government to promote the Languages in Eighth Schedule.

Key Points

About Eighth Schedule:

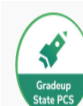
- The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India.
- As per **Articles 344(1) and 351** of the Indian Constitution, the eighth schedule includes the recognition of the **official 22 languages**.

Official languages:

- Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Meitei (Manipuri), Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu
- Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution.
- Subsequently, Sindhi was added in 1967 by the 21st Constitutional Amendment Act.



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- Konkani, Manipuri (Meitei) and Nepali were added in 1992 by the 71st Constitutional Amendment Act.
- Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali were added in 2003 by the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act.

Classical Languages:

- Currently, **6 Classical Languages: Tamil** (declared in 2004), **Sanskrit** (2005), **Kannada** (2008), **Telugu** (2008), **Malayalam** (2013), and **Odia** (2014).
- Classical language status is given to languages which have a rich heritage and independent nature.

Note:

- **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL)**, Mysore works for the promotion of all Indian languages including Scheduled/Non-Scheduled and Classical languages.
- CIIL works for development of languages through its various schemes like **National Translation Mission, Linguistic Data Consortium of Indian Languages, Bharatavani**, etc.

Source: PIB

3. NITI Aayog releases a Report on Power Distribution Sector



Why in News

- **NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar** released a Report on the Power Distribution Sector.
- The report, titled '*Turning Around the Power Distribution Sector*', is co-authored by **NITI Aayog, RMI and RMI India**.

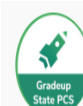
Key Points

Findings of the Report:

- Most power distribution companies (DISCOMS) in India incur losses every year—total losses are estimated to be as high as Rs 90,000 crore in FY 2021.
- Due to these accumulated losses, DISCOMS are unable to pay generators on time, make investments required to ensure high-quality power, or prepare for greater use of variable renewable energy.



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- This report examines many important reforms, such as the role of the private sector in distribution, power procurement, regulatory oversight, integration of renewable energy, and upgradation of infrastructure.
- The report focuses on structural reforms, regulatory reforms, operational reforms, managerial reforms, and renewable energy integration.

Government Schemes to help DISCOMS:

- Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)
- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana
- Integrated Power Development Scheme

Facts about NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog:

- **Formed:** 1 January 2015
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairperson:** Narendra Modi
- **Vice Chairperson:** Rajiv Kumar
- **CEO:** Amitabh Kant

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), an independent non-profit founded in 1982, transforms global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure low-carbon future.

Source: PIB

4. CBIC launches Compliance Information Portal (CIP)



Why in News

- The **Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)** launched the Indian Customs **Compliance Information Portal (CIP)** for providing free access to information on all Customs procedures and regulatory compliance for nearly 12,000 Customs Tariff Items.

Key Points

About Compliance Information Portal (CIP):

- CIP is a facilitation tool developed by CBIC to empower business as well as any interested person with up-to-date information on the legal and procedural requirements of Customs and Partner Government Agencies (FSSAI, PQIS, AQIS, Drug Controller etc.) for carrying out imports and exports.

About Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC):

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (erstwhile Central Board of Excise & Customs) is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It deals with the tasks of formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of Customs, Central Excise duties, CGST and IGST and prevention of smuggling.

Source: PIB

5. West Bengal receives four SKOCH awards

SKOCH AWARD

Why in News

- The **Government of West Bengal** has received **four SKOCH awards** for its schemes under the Ease of Doing Business initiative.

Key Points

- The **State scheme 'Silpasathi'**-the online single window portal won the **platinum award**.
- The **Auto Renewal of Certificate of Enlistment through an online system for urban areas** has received the **gold award**.
- **Online issuance of trade licences in rural areas** and the **E-Nathikaran**: the online system for registration, preparation and submission of deeds have won **two silver awards**.

About SKOCH Award:

- SKOCH Award, independently instituted in 2003, is India's honest civilian honour conferred by an independent organisation as a third party assessment.
- It is the only award in the country that is based on felt-needs assessment and outcome evaluation based on evidence.
- It recognises people, projects and institutions.

Source: newsonair

6. Padma Shri awardee Dogri writer Padma Sachdev passes away



- Noted author and Padma Shri awardee **Padma Sachdev**, the **first modern woman poet of Dogri language**, passed away.
- She authored many books in Dogri and Hindi, and her poetry collections, including 'Meri Kavita Mere Geet', won

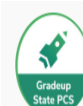
her the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1971.



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- She received the **Padma Shri** award in 2001 and was awarded the **Kabir Samman** for poetry for 2007-08 by the Madhya Pradesh government.

Source: Indian Express

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