

Daily Current Affairs

08 July 2023



Important News: National

1. Farmers Distress Index

Why in News:

- The Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture in 2022 released the Farmers Distress Index to anticipate farm distress and minimize its impact.

Key Points:

- The index will identify distress based on 21 questions and map the answers across seven categories – like 1) exposure to droughts, floods, crop failure due to pest attacks, livestock deaths 2) debt 3) adaptive capacity of farmer and local government through different schemes 4) land holding and irrigation facilities 5) sensitivity, mitigation and adaptation strategies like growing of contingency crops if main crop fails 6) triggers for immediate distress like health-related expenditure 7) socio-psychological factors and impacts.
- It will have values from 0 to 1 wherein a lower value will indicate low distress and a higher value will indicate a higher distress.
- The index will be managed by CRIDA and it will also be made available to various state government, local bodies and rural departments.
- The different agencies will carry out the interventions to prevent income shocks to the farmers depending on the severity of distress.



Source: Indian Express



2. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

Why in News:

- The Atal Innovation Mission along with Bayer will launch a unique industry visit initiative under Atal Tinkering labs at Bayer's manufacturing facility in Vapi, Gujarat.

Key Points:

- The initiative will help in creating awareness among the stakeholders about government policies and programmes.
- It will also aid in fuelling the young minds at the Atal Tinkering Labs towards manufacturing which in turn will help India in taking small steps to becoming an economic global powerhouse.
- The Atal Innovation Mission is flagship scheme of the Indian government, launched in 2016, to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The implementing authority of AIM is NITI Aayog.
- There are various components of AIM like - Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres, Atal New India Challenge, Mentor of Change Program, Atal Community Innovation Centre and Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE).



Source: Business Standard

3. Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

Why in News:

- The survey has been released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP).



Key Points:

- India has scored 93.55 per cent in trade facilitation in the UN Global Survey in Digital and Sustainable Trade facilitation 2023.
- The nation is now the best performing country among all the countries of South Asian region.
- India also witnessed a substantial improvement in the indicator for women in trade facilitation from 66.7% in 2021 to 77.8% in 2023.
- The remarkable scores reflect India's commitment to streamline trade processes, enhance transparency and promote cooperation.
- In this regard, India had launched various initiatives like Turant Customs, Single Window Interface for Facilitation of Trade (SWIFT), Pre-Arrival data processing, e- Sanchit, Coordinated Border Management ETC.



UN Global Survey on
Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

Source: Times of India

Important News: States

4. Internationalisation of the rupee

Why in News:

- RBI had formed an inter-departmental group to submit a framework on Internationalisation of the rupee. The group has recently submitted its report.

Key Points:

- The internationalization of the rupee refers to increasing the use of the rupee in cross-border transactions – between residents in India and non-residents.



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- It involves promoting the rupee for import and export trade and then other current account transactions, followed by its use in capital account transactions.
- The advantages of internationalization of rupee are – it mitigates currency risk, reduces the need for holding foreign exchange reserves and will make India less vulnerable to external shocks.
- There are some challenges as well as the government of India however has not permitted full capital account convertibility and there is very little international demand for the rupee in the global foreign exchange market.



Source: Livemint

Important News: Economy

5. UN's Global Crisis Response Group

Why in News:

- By accepting invitation from United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) António Guterres, India has accepted to join the Champions Group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG).

Key Points:

- The Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) was established in 2022 by the UNSG to address issues pertaining to the interlinked crises in food security, energy, and finance and to coordinate a global response.
- The GCRG is overseen by a champions group comprising of the following nations - Bangladesh, Barbados, Denmark, Germany, Indonesia and Senegal.
- It is a group of 32 member countries.
- Within the group, three work streams on Food, Energy and Finance will collate data and generate analysis, policy recommendation and solutions to support decision making of the Steering committee.



Source: The Hindu



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Important News: Science

6. Climate change finds new source of Methane

Why in News:

- In the Arctic region - the groundwater springs have emerged as new source of methane due to the consequences of climate change.

Key Points:

- According to a study published in Nature Geoscience, the Climate change is causing the retreating glaciers to expose groundwater springs to release methane in the Arctic.
- The groundwater springs found in Svalbard, an archipelago in the Arctic, could be emitting over 2,000 tonnes of methane annually, which is equivalent to 10% of Norway's methane emissions from its oil and gas industry.
- The presence of methane near shale rocks suggests a geologic or thermogenic source of gas that moves upward through fractures in the rocks and accumulates beneath the glacier.
- As global warming continues and glaciers retreat further, the release of methane from glacial groundwater springs is expected to increase, highlighting the need to assess the risk and impact of these emissions.



Source: Economic Times



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Important News: Economy

7. Tele-MANAS chatbot

Why in News:

- The first National Tele Mental Health Programme of India, Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) chatbots of India to help people in distress has been launched in Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Points:

- The initiative will provide 24*7 accesses to health counselors, clinical psychologists, and consultants.
- The system has two tier – Tier 1 is State Tele MANAS cells which will include health specialists and consultants while Tier 2 is specialists at District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College resources for physical consultation or audio visual consultation.
- The initiative will go a long way in generating awareness about mental illness among the masses.



Source: Indian Express



Important News: Awards

8. Performance Grading Index (PGI)

Why in News:

- The Indian education system is unique in its own way with 26.5 crores student from various socio-eco background, 95 lakh teachers and approximately 15 lakh schools.

Key Points:

- The Index was devised by the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education to make assessment of school education system at state level. It was first released in 2017-18
- The government has launched PGI 2.0 in order to align with NEP 2020, SDG 4 and replace existing indicator which have achieved optimal targets.
- The PGI 2.0 has 73 indicators with adequate focus on quality as well as quantity assessments including digital initiatives and teachers education.
- The 73 indicators has been grouped under 2 categories i.e. Outcomes, & Governance Management. These are further divided into 6 domains - Learning Outcomes, Access, Infrastructure & Facilities, Equity, Governance Process & Teachers Education and Training.
- The highest achievable Grade is Daksh, which is for State/UT scoring more than 940 points out of total of 1000 points and the lowest grade is Akanshi-3 which is for score up to 460.



Source: Economic Times

