



CURRENT AFFAIRS



16 MAY, 2022



NATIONAL

1. Skill India International Centre

Why in news – An MoU was exchanged between NSDC International and Hindustan Ports Private Limited (Indian unit of DP World) for the above purpose.

Key Points –

- It would be setup at Varanasi to skill Indian youth for pursuing overseas employment opportunities.
- It would host training facilities as per international demands in countries like United Arab Emirates (UAE), Canada, Australia and other GCC regions.

2. Buddha Purnima 2022

Why in news – It is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Siddhartha Gautama or Gautam Buddha.

Key Points –

- It usually falls on the Hindu month of Vaisakha on the full moon day. This year, it was celebrated on 16th May 2022.

About Buddha (born in 563 BCE) –

- He was born in Sakya clan in Lumbini.
- After 49 days of meditation he attained enlightenment under a pipal tree at Bodhgaya.
- First sermon (Dharma-Chakra-Pravartana)– Sarnath, Varanasi.
- Death (Mahaparinirvana) –Kushinagar, UP in 483 BC.
- He gave the theory of 'Madhyam Marg' or the middle path.
- Philosophy - Four noble truths (Arya satya) and Eightfold path (Astangikamarg).

- Three Pitakas - Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka, Abhidamma Pitaka.

- Schools of Buddhism – Mahayana, Hinayana, Theravada, Vajrayana, Zen.

- 4 Buddhist councils –

| Buddhist Council | Patron | Venue | Chairman | Year |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|--------|
| First | Ajatashatru | Rajgriha | Mahakashyapa | 483 BC |
| Second | Kalashoka | Vaishali | Sabbakami | 383 BC |
| Third | Ashoka | Patliputra | Mogaliputra | 250 BC |
| Fourth | Kanishka | Kundalban (Kashmir) | Vasumitra | 72 AD |

3. Chhattisgarh reinstates old pension scheme

Why in news – Chhattisgarh becomes the first state to restore the old pension scheme.

Key Points –

- It would be effective from 1st April, 2022 (retrospectively).
- Chhattisgarh has asked Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) to release Rs 17,000 crore accrued under the National Pension Scheme since November 2004.
- A similar request by the Rajasthan government was rejected by the Centre.

4. Indian ban of wheat exports

Why in news -The government has prohibited the export of wheat with immediate effect from 14th May 2022.

Key Points –

- India's annual retail inflation reached 7.79% in April 2022.
- Wheat prices have risen to record levels by 6.95% in April.
- Heatwave adversely affected the crop forcing

the government to cut production estimates by 5.7% to 105 million tonnes.

INTERNATIONAL

1. 'Hindi @ UN' project

Why in news - India contributed USD 800,000 towards efforts to continue to expand the use of Hindi at UN.

Key Points –

- India's Deputy Permanent Representative R. Ravindra handed over the cheque to Mita Hosali.
- 'Hindi @ UN' project was launched in 2018 to enhance the public outreach of the United Nations in Hindi language.

ECONOMY

1. Adani Group to buy Ambuja cement and ACC Ltd.

Why in news - The Adani group has agreed to buy Holcim Ltd's Ambuja Cements and ACC Ltd for \$10.5 billion (₹80,000 crores).

Key Points –

- Adani to acquire 63.19% stake in Ambuja Cements and 54.53% in ACC.
- It is India's largest-ever acquisition in the infrastructure and materials space.
- India is the world's second-largest cement market.
- It would make Adani Group the second-largest cement maker in India after Aditya Birla Group's UltraTech Cement Ltd.
- India's per capita cement consumption is just 242 kg (global average - 525 kg per capita).

APPS & PORTALS

1. Gati Shakti Sanchar portal

Why in news - Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched GatiShakti Sanchar portal on 14th May 2022.

Key Points –

- It aims to accelerate approvals for laying of fibre and tower installations ahead of the 5G roll-out in the country.

- It would enable centralised right of way (RoW) approvals.
- The portal is built by the Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation.
- The RoW approval time has already come down to 22 days (earlier - 100 days).

RANKS & INDICES

1. Forbes' Highest-Paid Athletes List 2022

Why in news - Lionel Messi has topped the list of Forbes highest-paid athletes 2022 with a reported income of \$130 million.

Key Points –

- Messi is followed by Basketball player Lebron James (\$121.2 million) and Cristiano Ronaldo (\$115 million).
- Messi had moved from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain in August 2021.

SPORTS

1. Thomas Cup 2022

Why in news - India won the first-ever Thomas Cup title (badminton).

Key Points –

- India defeated Indonesia (14-time champion) by 3-0 in the finals.
- Venue - Bangkok, Thailand.
- Lakshya Sen defeated Anthony Ginting.
- India's doubles pair Satwik and Chirag defeated Ahsan-Sukamuljo.
- In the third game, Kidambi Srikanth defeated Jonatan Christie.

2. Italian Cup 2022

Why in news - Inter Milan defeated Juventus 4-2 after extra time in the Italian Cup final.

Key Points –

- The final match held at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, Italy.
- Ivan Perisic scored in the extra time twice for a 4-2 win.

3. ISSF Junior World Cup

Why in news - Indian pistol pairs Esha Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary clinched the mixed team pistol gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup.

Key Points –

- Venue - Suhle, Germany.
- Palak and Sarabjot Singh won silver medal.
- Ramita and Paarth Makhija won silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team competition.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Manik Saha

Why in news - Manik Saha was sworn in as the chief minister of Tripura on 15th May.

Key Points –

- He succeeded Biplab Deb.
- Saha is also the President of Tripura Cricket Association.

2. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Why in news – The de facto ruler Zayed Al Nahyan was elected as president of UAE on 14th May 2022.

Key Points –

- He was elected by the Federal Supreme Council.
- UAE was founded by his father on 2nd Dec 1971.

OBITUARY

1. Andrew Symonds

Why in news - The Australian cricketer died in a car accident on 14th May 2022 in Queensland, Australia

Key Points –

- Symonds was a part of Australia's World Cup-winning team in 2003 and 2007.
- He featured in 198 ODIs, 26 Tests and 14 T20s.

2. Dr Rama Kant Shukla

Why in news - Eminent Sanskrit and Hindi scholar Dr Rama Kant Shukla passed away.

Key Points –

- He was the founder and editor of “Arvacinasamskrutam”, a quarterly journal in Sanskrit.
- His titles - Sanskrit Rashtrakavi, Kaviratna and Kavi Siromani.
- He was honoured with Padma Shri in 2013 and Sahitya Academy Award in 2018.

STATES/UTs

1. Madhya Pradesh's start-up policy

Why in news – PM Narendra Modi launched the Madhya Pradesh government's Start-Up Policy 2022 and a start-up portal virtually.

Key Points –

- If a start-up is working from a rented place, Rs 5,000 pm would be paid for rent.
- It would also get Rs 5,000 pm per head for a salary of up to 25 employees.

BIHAR

1. Price of land for industries in Bihar to be reduced by 50%.

Why in news – Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA) to lower the price to provide big relief to the entrepreneurs.

Key Points –

- The cost of land in Patna's Patliputra industrial area is Rs 17.89 crore per acre.

2. Master plan for 20 cities of Bihar

Why in news – To start work on master plan, Planning Authority has been constituted.

Key Points –

- The authority would have the responsibility of preparing the master plan as well as the preparation, implementation and other necessary action.
- The DM of the district concerned would be the president while Secretary would be the chief executive officer.
- 20 cities are - Bhabua, Jamui, Bagaha, Araria, Madhubani, Sheohar, Forbesganj, Aurangabad, Dehri, Sitamarhi, Hajipur, Lakhisarai, Motihari,

Khagadia, Sasaram, Katihar, Bettiah, Siwan, Kishanganj and Buxar.

- Work is underway on master plans for 44 cities including 18 district headquarters in the state.

3. Cocoon bank

Why in news – Industries Minister Syed Shahnawaz Hussain inaugurated Cocoon Bank in Banka at 4.89 crores.

Key Points –

- It would make it easier for people to make silk thread.
- In Amarpur, he inaugurated a 'Dyeing House' for dyeing of yarn and fabrics at a of 50 lakhs.

4. Special committee for safety of factory workers of Bihar

Why in news – A special committee would be formed for the safety of more than 200000 workers working in more than 8000 registered factories of the state.

Key Points –

- Along with factory management, employees would also be represented.
- In factories where there would be more than 500 workers, a safety committee would be formed compulsorily.
- If the committee makes any recommendation, then the factory operators would have to comply within 15 days.
- The committee would be constituted for three years and meeting to be held every three months.
- The committee would also have the responsibility of reviewing whether the recommendations given by the committee have been implemented or not.

5. Green field corridor

Why in news – Green field corridor would be built from Patna to Ara-Buxar-Hardiya-Ballia.

Key Points –

- It would have a length of 118 km in four lanes and will cost Rs 8500 crore.
- It would also be connected with Purvanchal Express.

6. Koilwar Bridge

Why in news – on 14th May 2022, Union Road and Transport Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated Koilwar Bridge.

Key Points –

- This six-lane bridge is one and a half kilometer long and 30 meters wide.
- Rs 266 crore has been spent on the construction of this bridge.
- The upstream line of this bridge was inaugurated on 10th December 2020.

7. New scheme to increase greenery in Bihar

Why in news – The Department of Environment and Climate Change has come up with a good plan to increase the green cover in the state.

Key Points –

- Its objective is to increase the income of farmers by connecting them with the Agro-Forestry (Other Species) Scheme.
- Farmers would be given the plant at a safe deposit of Rs 10 per plant. This deposit would be returned to them after three years.
- After 3 years, if more than 50% of them survive, then 60 rupees per plant would be given to them separately.
- In the year 2012, the Hariyali Mission was started in Bihar and a target of planting 24 crore saplings was set, in which about 22 crore saplings were planted.
- With this, the green cover of the state has now exceeded 15%. Now it is targeted to 17%.



CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINERS

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PERFECTION IAS

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- According to a recent report, the foreign exchange reserves have come down to how many billion dollars - **595.954 billion dollars.**
- Which Union Minister has inaugurated the National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (NCFL) in Hyderabad - **Amit Shah.**
- Which bank has recently launched its online platform “Trade Nxt” - **Union Bank of India.**
- Which has approved the “Digital Anti-skid Brake Management System” developed for SARAS Mark 2 - **National Aerospace Laboratory.**
- Brokerage firm Morgan Stanley has recently reduced India's FY2023 projected growth rate to what percent - **7.6%.**
- Which Union Minister inaugurated the country's first Amrit Sarovar located at Patwai on 13th May 2022 – **Abbas Naqvi.**
- Which chairman and chief executive officer of IBM has been elected to the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York – **Arvind Krishna.**
- Under which of the following ministry Ravinder Singh Dhillon has been appointed as CMD of Navratna Company “REC Limited” recently - **Ministry of Power.**
- Who has started the Girl Child Empowerment Mission to uplift the lives of underprivileged girls - **NTPC.**
- Recently who has been appointed as the new chairman of CBSE - **Nidhi Chhibber.**

NEW BATCHES FOR BPSC IS SCHEDULED ON 18th MAY 2022.

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