



CURRENT AFFAIRS
MAY 21, 2020

NATIONAL NEWS

1. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

News:

- ❖ A report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) says that Movement restrictions owing to the COVID-19 pandemic may lead to an initial statistical reduction in drug seizures, but the Pandemic will not have a real change in terms of supply in the East and Southeast Asia region.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

- ❖ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a United Nations office that was established in 1997.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- ❖ It was established by merging the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.
- ❖ UNODC assists Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.
- ❖ It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

- ❖ UNODC relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from Governments, for 90% of its budget.
- ❖ The World Drug Report is a yearly publication by UNODC that presents a comprehensive assessment of the international drug problem, with detailed information on the illicit drug situation.

Main themes that UNODC deals with:

- ❖ Alternative Development, anti-corruption, Criminal Justice, Prison Reform and Crime Prevention, Drug Prevention
- ❖ Treatment and Care, HIV and AIDS
- ❖ Human Trafficking, Migrant Smuggling, Money Laundering, Organized Crime, Piracy, Terrorism Prevention.

2. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

News:

- ❖ The Cabinet has approved the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME).

- ❖ Both the schemes were announced in the third tranche of the Rs. 20 lakh crore economic package under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- ❖ It has been observed that about Rs. 30,000 crore worth of above schemes will rely on 40% share from states.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:

- ❖ **Aim:** The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was first mentioned during the 2019-20 Budget.
- ❖ It aims to bring a blue revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.
- ❖ It also intends to augment fish production and productivity at an annual growth rate of 9% to achieve a target of 22 million metric tons by 2024-25.
- ❖ It strives to create direct employment to 15 lakh fishers, fish farmers, etc. and about thrice this number as indirect employment opportunities.
- ❖ It also aims to double the incomes of fishers, fish farmers and fish workers by 2024.

Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises:

Aim:

- ❖ The Scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME) intends to increase access to finance and revenue targets for the micro food processing enterprises. It also targets 2,00,000 micro-enterprises to be assisted with credit linked subsidies.
- ❖ It envisages increased access to credit by existing micro food processing entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs in the Aspirational Districts.
- ❖ The project is likely to generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled jobs.
- ❖ It will also help to integrate micro food processing enterprises with the organized markets.
- ❖ Scheme will be implemented over a 5 year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- ❖ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on All India basis with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- ❖ The expenditure will be shared by the Centre and the States in a ratio of 60:40.
- ❖ Scheme will be implemented over a 5 year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

3. NRIDA

News:

- ❖ The National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) has announced that coir geo textiles will be used for construction of rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III).
- ❖ This would give a boost to the Coir industry hit due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ NRIDA is an agency under the Ministry of Rural Development.

PMGSY New Technology Guidelines:

- ❖ The new guidelines encourage locally available materials and use of green technologies for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- ❖ The State Governments are required to propose a minimum 15% of total length of annual road proposals under new technologies such as cement stabilization, Lime stabilization, cold mix, waste plastics, cell filled concrete, paneled cement concrete pavement, fly ash etc.
- ❖ Out of this, 5% roads are to be constructed using Indian Road Congress (IRC) accredited technology. The IRC has now accredited coir Geo textiles for construction of rural roads.

- ❖ Thus, 5% length of the rural roads under PMGSY-III will be constructed using coir geo textiles.
- ❖ 1674 km road will be constructed using Coir Geo textiles in 07 states(Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamilanadu and in Telangana).
- ❖ There will be a requirement of One Crore Sq. mtrs of coir geo textiles, estimated cost of which would come to Rs.70 Crore.

Indian Road Congress:

- ❖ The Indian Roads Congress (IRC) is the apex body of Highway Engineers in the country.
- ❖ It was set up in December, 1934 on the recommendations of the Indian Road Development Committee also known as Jayakar Committee (under the Chairmanship of Shri M.R. Jayakar) with the objective of road development in India.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana – III:

- ❖ The Phase III of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in 2019.

- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy.
- ❖ The National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency works to implement the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana across states.
- ❖ The Ministry of Rural Development along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.
- ❖ Under the PMGSY-III Scheme, it is proposed to consolidate 1,25,000 Km road length in the States.
- ❖ It involves consolidation through routes and major rural links connecting habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.
- ❖ The duration of the third phase is 2019-20 to 2024-25.
- ❖ The funds are shared in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and State for all States except for 8 North Eastern states and Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand for which it is 90:10.

4. Health Related Schemes in Haryana

News:

- ❖ The Haryana government has launched 'H1N1 Vaccination Campaign for Healthcare Workers' and Hepatitis-B control programme.
- ❖ India usually witnesses two peaks of H1N1 infection, one during January to March and another in post Monsoon between August and October.
- ❖ Thus, precautions through vaccination for H1N1 is considered to be a better solution.
- ❖ The health workers are already facing the risk of Covid-19 while managing the pandemic, hence focussing on their health safety has become a top priority for the government.
- ❖ In India, since 2016 about 85,000 persons are being infected by the H1N1 virus and 4,900 deaths have occurred in the last few years.

Hepatitis-B Control Programme:

- ❖ The Hepatitis-B control programme has been launched under the National Viral Hepatitis Control programme.

- ❖ The National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme aims at both prevention and treatment of hepatitis which is among the leading causes of liver cancer, cirrhosis of liver and acute liver failure.
- ❖ The programme is a part of the National Health Mission.

Hepatitis B:

- ❖ It is a viral infection that attacks the liver and can cause both acute and chronic disease.
- ❖ The virus is most commonly transmitted from mother to child during birth and delivery, as well as through contact with blood or other body fluids.
- ❖ It is the primary cause of liver cancer.
- ❖ Hepatitis B can be prevented by vaccines that are safe, available and effective.
- ❖ Every year, World Hepatitis Day is celebrated on the 28th of July.

5. Konark Sun Temple

News:

- ❖ The Government of India has launched a scheme for 100% solarisation of Konark sun temple and Konark town in Odisha.
- ❖ The scheme will meet all energy requirements of Konark town with solar energy.

Objectives:

- ❖ To take forward the Prime Minister's vision to develop the historical Sun temple town of Konark in Odisha as 'Surya Nagri'.
- ❖ To convey a message of synergy between the modern use of solar energy and the ancient Sun Temple and the importance of promoting solar energy.

Konark Temple:

- ❖ Konark was built by King Narasimhadeva I of the Ganga Dynasty (1238-1264AD) in the 13th century and is located in Eastern Odisha near the sacred city of Puri.
- ❖ The temple is designed in the shape of a colossal chariot. It is dedicated to the sun God.

- ❖ There are two rows of 12 wheels on each side of the Konark sun temple.
- ❖ The seven horses are said to symbolize the seven days of the week.
- ❖ The temple was used as a navigational point by European sailors.
- ❖ They referred to it as the 'Black Pagoda' due to its dark colour and its magnetic power that drew ships into the shore and caused shipwrecks.
- ❖ It is the culmination of Odisha temple architecture.
- ❖ It was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. National Anti Terrorism Day 2020

- ❖ National Anti Terrorism Day 2020 will be celebrated on May 21 which also marks the death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.
- ❖ May 21 marks the death anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi. The day is also observed as Anti-Terrorism Day.
- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi was the sixth PM of India after his mother Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984.
- ❖ He served the nation as the prime minister from the year 1984 to 1989. Rajiv Gandhi was campaigning for the Congress as the party leader for the

national elections when he was assassinated in Sriperumbudur region of Tamil Nadu, in May 1991.

- ❖ The seventh Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on 21 May 1991.
- ❖ He was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by the terrorist. Following this tragedy, under the V.P. Singh government, the Centre has decided to observe 21 May as Anti Terrorism Day.
- ❖ On this day Anti Terrorism pledge is taken in all the government offices, public sector undertakings and other public institutions etc.

Rajiv Gandhi:

- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi in 1984 became the youngest and seventh Prime Minister of India after the assassination of his mother. He was born on 20 August, 1944 and was the eldest son of Feroz Gandhi and Indira Gandhi.
- ❖ In 1966, Rajiv Gandhi came to India and till then his mother Indira Gandhi had become the Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi contributed greatly to the development of the country. He announced a National Policy on Education in 1986 to modernise and expand higher education programs across India. He founded a central

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY

government based institution namely Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya System in 1986 for the upliftment of the rural section of the society providing them free residential education from 6th till 12 class

- ❖ In 1991, Rajiv Gandhi was posthumously awarded the Country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna by the Indian Government.

