



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY, 2022

Week-2

8-14 May, 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

8th MAY, 2022

Direct Seeding of Rice

- **Context:** Punjab government has announced assistance of Rs 1,500 per acre for farmers opting for direct seeding of rice (DSR).

Key Highlights

- Through the incentives, the Punjab government is hoping to double the area under DSR from last year.
- Punjab's groundwater has been declining very fast both in terms of quantity and quality.
- Of the 150 blocks in the state, 117 are categorized as "overexploited" in terms of groundwater use.

About Direct Seeding of Rice

- Direct seeding is a crop establishment system wherein rice seeds are sown directly into the field, as opposed to the traditional method of growing seedlings in a nursery, then transplanting into flooded fields.
- In traditional technique, rice seeds are first grown into new plants in nurseries and then replanted in the field with standing water.
- **Advantages**
 - Saves labor
 - Requires less water
 - Less drudgery
 - Early crop maturity
 - Low production cost
 - Better soil physical conditions for following crops
 - Less methane emission
 - Provides a better option to be the best fit in different cropping systems.
- **Concerns**
 - Seeds exposed to birds and pests.
 - Soil texture needs to be optimum thus not suitable for all kind of soil
 - Difference in nutritional content as compared to rice grown with traditional technique.

- Higher risk of lodging
- Risk of less or non-uniform crop establishment

National Youth Policy

- **Context:** Union Government reviewed the existing draft National Youth Policy, 2014 and prepared a new draft National Youth Policy (NYP).

Key Highlights

- New draft National Youth Policy (NYP) is prepared by the Ministry of Youth affairs and Sports.
- The draft NYP envisages a ten-year vision for youth development that India seeks to achieve by 2030.
- It is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and serves to 'unlock the potential of the youth to advance India'.
- The draft NYP seeks to catalyze widespread action on youth development across five priority area:
 - Education
 - Employment & entrepreneurship
 - Youth leadership & development
 - Health, fitness & sports
 - Social justice

SC Judicial Appointments

- **Context:** Recently, two new judges have been appointed to the Supreme Court.

Key Highlights

- Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Gujarat High Court Judge Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala have been appointed as judges of the Supreme Court.
- After new appointments, the Supreme Court will have its strength of 33 judges.

Appointment of Judges to Supreme Court

- Articles 124(2) and Article 217 of the Constitution governs the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively.

- Under both provisions, the President has the power to make the appointments “after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary”.

Collegium System of SC Judges appointment

- It is a system of appointment and transfer of High court judges to the Supreme Court and in the various High Courts.
- It is a five-member body including Chief Justice of India and four other senior most judges of the Supreme Court.
- The system has evolved through various judgments of the Supreme Court, which include First Judges Case (1981), Second Judges Case (1993) and Third Judges Case (1998).
- The collegium recommends names of Judges to be appointed to the Supreme Court to the government which takes the decision based on the inquiry conducted by the Supreme Court.
- **Criticism around Collegium System**
 - The system is criticized for being opaque and lacking transparency.
 - The system has scope for nepotism and favoritism

9th MAY, 2022

PM MITRA Scheme

- **Context:** A National Conference on PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme was organized by the Ministry of Textiles.

Key Highlights

- The Ministry of Textile announced to set up 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crores.
- These are aimed at helping India to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation".

- PM MITRA Parks will have world-class industrial infrastructure which would attract cutting edge technology and boost FDI and local investment in the textiles sector.

About PM MITRA Scheme

- It is a scheme that aspires to fulfill the vision of building an Atmanirbhar Bharat and to position India strongly on the Global textiles map.
- **Key Features:**
 - **5F vision:** Farm to Fiber to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
 - **PM MITRA Park:** PM MITRA Parks will offer an opportunity to create an integrated textiles value chain right from spinning, weaving, processing/ dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing at 1 location
 - Integrated Textile Value chain at 1 location will reduce logistics cost of Industry
 - Intended to generate 1 lakh direct and 2 lakh indirect employment per park.
 - Sites for PM MITRA Parks will be selected by a Challenge Method based on objective criteria

Khelo India

- **Context:** Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur launched the mascot 'Dhakad' along with official logo and official jersey of the Fourth Khelo India Youth Games.

Key Highlights

- The fourth edition of Khelo India Youth Games will see more than 8,500 participating players.
- State of Haryana will host the 4th edition of Khelo Games
- The mascot of the games is 'Dhakad'.
- Five traditional games have been introduced- gatka, thang-ta, kalarippayattu, mallakhamb and yogasana in Khelo India Youth Games.

About Khelo India

- Khelo India games are held at school and University level and Khelo India program was started in 2017.

- The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in the country and establishing India as a great sporting nation.
- Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels by the High-Powered Committee are provided annual financial assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.

Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)

- **Context:** The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) will be receiving India's first semi-high-speed train set for Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).

Key Highlights

- The very first train set of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor is ready and it will be handed over to National Capital Region Transport Corporation.
- These state-of-the-art RRTS train sets are being manufactured in India at the Alstom's factory in Savli, Gujarat
- These RRTS trains will be the fastest trains in the country with a design speed of 180 km per hour.

About Delhi-Meerut RRTS

- Between Delhi and Meerut, the NCRTC is establishing India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), which is a "rail-based, high-speed, high-frequency regional commuter transit system".
- Modern RRTS trains will also have features like Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System (HVAC), dedicated wheelchair and stretcher space located near the train doorway for easy access.

10th MAY, 2022

Pulitzer Prize

- **Context:** Recently, the winners' names for Pulitzer Prize 2022 in journalism, books, drama and music were announced.

Key highlights

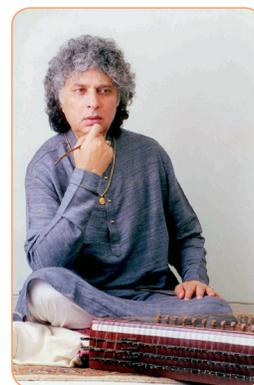
- This year India received four awards for documenting its battle with COVID-19.
- Danish Siddiqui, a photojournalist who was associated with the international news agency Reuters, was awarded posthumously. He was killed while covering the war between Afghan troops and the Taliban last year.
- Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, and Amit Dave were awarded for their images of COVID-19's toll on India.

About Pulitzer Awards

- The Pulitzer Prize is awarded for achievements in different fields- Newspaper, Magazine, Online Journalism, Literature and Music Composition.
- It was established in 1917 by provisions in the will of Joseph Pulitzer.
- Joseph Pulitzer, who was a newspaper publisher, stood out as the very embodiment of American journalism.
- Prizes are awarded yearly in twenty-one categories.
- In twenty of the categories, each winner receives a certificate and a USD 15,000 cash award.

Shivkumar Sharma

- **Context:** Santoor virtuoso Shivkumar Sharma, recently died following a heart attack at the age of 84.



Key facts about him

- Shivkumar Sharma was a Santoor player from Jammu and Kashmir.
- He popularized the folk music instrument of J&K 'Santoor' all over the world.
- He was awarded with Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Academy Award.
- He also collaborated with flutist Hariprasad Chaurasia to compose music for many Hindi films.

Cyclone Asani

- **Context:** Severe cyclonic storm 'Asani' that has formed over the Bay of Bengal, caused the heavy rainfall in south west of India.

About Tropical Cyclone

- Tropical cyclones are also called typhoons or hurricanes.
- These are intense circular storms that originate over warm tropical oceans and are characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds and heavy rains. These draw energy from the sea surface and maintain strength as long as it remains over warm water.
- A tropical cyclone generates winds that exceed 119 km (74 miles) per hour.
- In extreme cases winds may exceed 240 km (150 miles) per hour, and gusts may surpass 320 km (200 miles) per hour.
- Accompanying these strong winds are torrential rains and a devastating phenomenon known as the storm surge, an elevation of the sea surface that can reach 6 meters (20 feet) above normal levels.

11th MAY, 2022

National Technology Day

- **Context:** The National Technology Day was celebrated on 11 May for the celebration of Technological advancement of India.

About National Technology Day

- National Technology Day is celebrated on 11th May every year to mark the anniversary of the Pokhran Nuclear test.
- The National Technology Day celebrates not only scientists and engineers but anyone who is involved with ideating, innovating and promoting the dissemination of knowledge and ensures that benefits reach grassroot level.
- The government of India also honors those who have significant contributions to the development of technology.

- It was first celebrated in the year 1999 and officially declared by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

About Pokhran Nuclear Test

- India's first nuclear test was conducted in 1974 and it was called Pokhran-I and code name of the test was "Smiling Buddha".
- Second Test of India was conducted between 11th to 13th May in 1998 in Rajasthan's Thar Desert with code name Operation Shakti" and was called Pokhran-II.
- The test was the second successful nuclear test of India and registered India as one of the leading nations in the field of nuclear technology.

PM WANI Scheme

- **Context:** RailTel recently launched Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme-based access to its Public WiFi services.

Key Highlights

- RailTel launched the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme based on access to its fast and free public WiFi services across 100 Indian Railways stations having 2,384 WiFi hotspots.
- These railway stations are spread in 22 states and include 71 Category A1, A railway stations as well as 29 railway stations of other categories.
- To access this WiFi network, an android based mobile application 'Wi-DOT' can be used at present, which is available on Google Play Store.
- This mobile application has been developed in coordination with C-DOT.
- This method of accessing WiFi through 'mobile application' would be in addition to the existing method of accessing WiFi at these railway stations through the conventional way of selecting RailWire Service Set Identifier.

About PM WANI Scheme

- PM-WANI is an ambitious program of the Department of Telecom in order to facilitate ease of use and proliferate broadband usage for the masses.
- CDOT has designed as well as developed the framework of PM-WANI.
- PM WANI also encourages App providers who offer services for registering and authenticating users.
- The small shopkeepers can become Public Data Offices as the last mile access service providers and take services from PDO aggregators for internet and backend services.

World Bank's World Governance Indicators

- **Context:** Recently, Report presented in 2020 by the then Principal Economic Advisor Sanjeev Sanyal said that the making of World Bank's World Governance indicators is arbitrary.

Issue

- The Government of India claimed through the report named "Subjective Factors that impact India's Sovereign Ratings: What can we do about it?" that World Governance Indicators (WGI) are arbitrary and are based on the perceptions and impressions from Western media, few academia or small surveys by NGOs.
- These clearly do not represent India's governance right and also result in downgrading India's sovereign credit rating.

About Sovereign Credit Rating

- It represents the credit worthiness of a country or sovereign entity.
- Sovereign credit ratings can give investors insights into the level of risk associated with investing in the debt of a particular country, including any political risk.

- These ratings may also determine the ability of a country to access funds in the national and international bond markets.
- Some influential Credit rating agencies-Moody's, Fitch Ratings, and Standard & Poor's

About World Governance Indicators

- The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) are a long-standing research project to develop cross-country indicators of governance.
- The WGI consist of six composite indicators of broad dimensions of governance covering over 200 countries since 1996:
 - Voice and Accountability
 - Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism
 - Government Effectiveness
 - Regulatory Quality
 - Rule of Law
 - Control of Corruption.

Rakhigarhi Harappan Site

- **Context:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is conducting new excavations in and around the Harappan city in Haryana's Rakhigarhi.

Key Findings

- During excavation, the officials studied the remains of the Harappan culture and got many new findings which include:
 - Town planning, including streets, pucca walls and multi-storeyed houses.
 - Remains of an almost 5,000-year-old jewelry manufacturing factory.
 - The findings signify that trading was also done from the city.
 - The pottery is similar to Kalibangan and Banawali.

- The techniques which are now being used to build big cities like straight streets, drains, and dustbins placed at corners of streets for garbage, were used in that period.
- The skeletons of two women were found. Along with skeletons, utensils were also buried.
- DNA samples collected from two human skeletons might tell about the ancestry and food habits of people who lived in the Rakhigarhi region thousands of years ago.

Major Indus Valley Civilization Sites

- Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan)
- Dholavira (Gujarat, India)
- Lothal (Gujarat, India)
- Rakhigarhi (Haryana, India)
- Mohenjo-daro (Sindh, Pakistan)
- Kalibangan (Rajasthan, India)
- Banawali (Haryana, India)

12th MAY, 2022

Royal Gold Medal

- **Context:** Architect Balkrishna Vitaldas Doshi has recently been conferred with the prestigious Royal Gold Medal 2022.

Key Highlights

- The president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Simon Alford presented Doshi the medal in person.
- This makes B.V. Doshi only Indian and very few globally to have been awarded both the Royal Gold Medal and the Pritzker Architecture Prize, in their lifetime.

About Royal Gold Medal

- The Royal Gold medal is one of the most prestigious awards in the world in the field of architecture.
- It is presented by Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).
- The prestigious medal is approved personally by the UK's Queen Elizabeth and is given in recognition of a

lifetime's work that had a significant influence on the advancement of architecture.

About B. V. Doshi

- Balkrishna V Doshi is a renowned Indian architect who has designed some of the iconic buildings such as Cept University in Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, and Aranya Low-Cost Housing, Indore among many other.
- Doshi was conferred Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India.
- He has also won the Pritzker Architecture Prize which is often referred to as the Nobel Prize in architecture.
- Doshi is also the recipient of the French 'Global Award for Lifetime Achievement for Sustainable Architecture' by the Institut Francais d'architecture, Paris.

AIM PRIME Playbook

- **Context:** The AIM-PRIME Playbook was recently launched by NITI Aayog.

About AIM PRIME Program

- This is an initiative of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
- The AIM PRIME (Program for Researchers in Innovation, Market Readiness and Entrepreneurship) program is aimed at promoting early-stage science-based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months using a blended learning curriculum.

About AIM PRIME Playbook

- It is a guide for science-based entrepreneurs and ventures.
- The PRIME Library is a curated resource shared by the faculty and expert mentors associated with the program.
- The PRIME Video is an open-access video collection of the lectures delivered as part of the PRIME Classroom.

Yoon Suk Yeol

- **Context:** Yoon Suk Yeol was recently sworn in as President of South Korea.



About Yoon Suk Yeol

- Yoon Suk Yeol belongs to a conservative party called the People Power Party.
- Yoon is a newcomer to politics and practices as prosecutor for 27 Yeras.
- He began his political career after leading high-profile investigations into corruption scandals that plagued Moon's aides.
- Yoon in his inauguration speech emphasized on the need for North Korea to denuclearize.

Katalin Novak

- **Context:** Katalin Novak has been elected as Hungary's first female president.



About Katalin Novak

- Katalin Novak is the first female president of Hungary and is 44 Years old.
- Novák is a loyal supporter of current ruling Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and has formerly served as Hungary's youth and family minister.
- She received 137 votes from MPs against her opposition rival, economist Péter Róna, with 51.

13th MAY, 2022

First organic waste powered EV charging station

- **Context:** India's first organic waste-powered EV charging station was inaugurated in Mumbai.

Key Highlights

- The station, a first-of-its-kind, will generate 220 units of electricity.

- It is powered by biogas generated from food waste collected from nearby areas.
- Biodegradable kitchen waste like fruit/vegetable peels, tea leaves, coffee powder, egg shells, meat and bones, food scraps, leaves and flowers are composted, which are categorized as wet waste.
- Along with powering street lights, this energy plant will now charge electric vehicles too.
- This project is a partnership between the municipal government and AeroCare Clean Energy.
- The government is planning to start such charging stations preferably on highways.

Experience studio on drones

- **Context:** An experience studio on drones was launched recently by NITI Aayog.

Key Highlights

- It is said to be an imperative to boost the usage of drones in different industrial- and defense-related sectors to leverage the benefits of drone technology.
- The Union Minister also announced the launch of the following challenges, which will be held by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA):
 - (a) 'Drones for Social Impact Competition': For the start-up community to showcase their capabilities to solve critical problem statements in various use cases.
 - (b) 'Robotics Workshop and Competition': For students of Atal Tinkering Labs to foster the spirit of innovation and problem-solving.

Objectives

- Working towards making drone services easily accessible.
- Promote various applications of drone technology to public and private stakeholders.

- Help stakeholders to fast-track adoption of drone technology within their organizations and aid in building a robust drone industry in India.
- Promoting manufacturing and Drones-as-a-Service.
- Providing impetus to innovation.
- Government as an adopter.

Association of Asian Election Authorities

- **Context:** India has been elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA).

Key Highlights

- India has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024.
- The meeting of the Executive board and General Assembly was recently held at Manila, Philippines.
- The new members in the Executive Board now include Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan and Philippines.

About Association of Asian Election Authorities

- The Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) was established in 1998.
- It was established in pursuance of the resolution passed by participants of the Symposium on Asian Elections in the Twenty First Century held from January 26-29, 1997 in Manila, Philippines.
- The mission of the Association of Asian Election Authorities is to provide a non-partisan forum in the Asian region for sharing experiences and best practices among election authorities to discuss and act upon ways to promote open and transparent elections with the objective of supporting good governance and democracy.
- Currently 20 Asian EMBs are members of AAEA.
- ECI is a founding member of the AAEA.

14th MAY, 2022

Rajiv Kumar

- **Context:** Former Finance secretary Rajiv Kumar has been named as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).



Key Highlights

- Rajiv Kumar, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service officer, joined the Election Commission of India (ECI) in September 2020.
- He took charge as an election commissioner on September 1, 2020.
- He will oversee the 2024 national polls as well as the assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) during his tenure.

About Election commission of India

- Election commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- The body administers elections to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and offices of the President and Vice President in the country.
- It is constituted under the Article 324 of India constitution.
- It consists of three members- One Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- The office term is 6 years or until they attain 65 years, whichever happens first.

India's contribution for Hindi at United Nations

- **Context:** India has contributed USD 800,000 to the United Nations as part of the initiative to enhance public outreach of the organization in Hindi.

Key Highlights

- India has contributed \$800,000 towards efforts to continue to expand the use of Hindi in the United Nations.
- India has been partnering with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) since 2018 by providing an extra-budgetary contribution to mainstream and consolidate news and multimedia content of DGC in Hindi language

About Hindi @ UN

- Hindi @ UN project, in collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information, was launched in 2018.
- The objective is to enhance the public outreach of the United Nations in Hindi language, and to spread greater awareness about global issues among millions of Hindi-speaking people around the world.
- Since 2018, the UN News in Hindi has been disseminated through the UN's website and social media handles and a UN Facebook Hindi page.
- A UN News-Hindi audio bulletin (UN Radio) is released every week.

Northern Ireland Protocol

- **Context:** The Northern Ireland Protocol has become a bone of contention between the European Union and Britain.

Key Highlights

- EU leaders warned the Prime Minister not to attempt to break away from the Northern Ireland Protocol arrangement agreed with the bloc in 2019.
- The British government has indicated that it is considering pulling out of a deal the country had reached with the European Union (EU) over post-Brexit trade arrangements for Northern Ireland.

About Northern Ireland Protocol

- The Northern Ireland Protocol - is an agreement which requires checks on some goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK.
- This was designed to prevent checks along the border between Northern Ireland (in the UK) and the Republic of Ireland (in the EU), following Brexit.
- Instead of checking goods at the Irish border, the protocol agreed that any inspections and document checks would take place between Northern Ireland and Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) instead.
- Special arrangements were needed for Northern Ireland after the UK voted for Brexit in 2016. A new system was needed because the EU has strict food rules and requires border checks when certain goods, such as milk and eggs, arrive from non-EU countries.
- The only part of the UK with a land border with an EU country - the Republic of Ireland.

