



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**MAY, 2023**

**Week-2**

**8-14 May, 2023**

★★ Useful for ★★

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

8<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2023

## Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT)

- **Context:** The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) is working to create technical and scientific terminology in 10 Indian languages underrepresented in the learning landscape.

### Key Highlights:

- It aims to bring out fundamental (basic) dictionaries with 5,000 words per language, in three to four months. These will be in a digital, searchable format and free of cost.
- Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) established in 1961 and its nodal ministry is Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- The Commission was established under clause (4) of Article 344 of the Constitution of India as a follow-up of recommendations of a Committee in this regard.
- Its mandate is to evolve technical terminology in all Indian languages.
- Its function is to evolve and define scientific and technical terms in Hindi and all Indian Languages and publish technical glossaries, definitional dictionaries etc.
- To see that the evolved terms and their definitions reach to students, teachers, scholars, scientists, officers etc.
- To encourage technical writings in Hindi and other Indian Languages by sponsoring Seminars/Conferences/Symposia on scientific and technical subjects.
- To coordinate with all states to ensure uniformity of terminology in Hindi and other Indian languages. (Through State Government/Granth Academies/University Cells/ Glossary Clubs or other agencies).
- To encourage the publication of books, magazines and journals in Hindi and Indian Languages to popularize the usage of standard terminology evolved by the Commission.

- This move assumes importance as the National Education Policy 2020 has espoused the use of regional languages as a medium of education in both school and college.

## Arab League

- **Context:** Recently, foreign ministers from Arab League member states have agreed to reinstate Syria's membership after its suspension more than 10 years ago.

### Key Highlights:

- The Arab League is an intergovernmental organization of Arab states in the Middle East and Africa.
- It is formed in 1945 following the adoption of the Alexandria Protocol in 1944.
- Its objective is to draw closer the relations between member states and coordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries.
- The league currently has 22 members which includes countries like Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, and Palestinian Authority among others.
- The observer countries are Brazil, Eritrea, India, Armenia and Venezuela. Observer states have been invited to participate during select Arab League sessions, but do not hold voting privileges.
- Each member state has one vote in the Council of the Arab League, and decisions are binding only for those states that have voted for them.

9<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2023

## Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) Technology

- **Context:** Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) technology has been increasingly integrated into modern vehicles with the aim of improving driver safety and making roads safer for everyone

### Key Highlights:

- ADAS encompasses a variety of technologies that provide drivers with warnings, alerts, and even automatic interventions to help them avoid accidents and prevent potential danger.
- These systems work by using sensors, cameras, and radar to monitor the surrounding environment and provide the driver with visual and audio warnings.
- It includes features such as automatic emergency braking, forward collision warning, blind spot collision warning, blind spot collision-avoidance assist, lane-keeping assist, driver attention warning and adaptive cruise control.
- One of the key benefits of ADAS is that it can help reduce the number of accidents caused by human error as studies have shown that 90% of car accidents are caused by driver error, so it's crucial to have technology that can help reduce this number. For example, a lane departure warning alerts drivers when their vehicle is leaving its lane without the use of a turn signal, while a forward collision warning provides an alert when a potential collision is detected ahead.

### Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana

- **Context:** The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has launched the third phase of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY).

### Key Highlights:

- Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana launched in 2017 and its nodal ministry is Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Its nodal mission is National Health Mission (NHM).
- Its aim is to provide a one-time cure opportunity to underprivileged Thalassemia patients who have a matched sibling donor but do not have the financial resources to cover the cost of the procedure.
- It is supported by Coal India Limited (CIL) as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

- The initiative provides financial assistance for a package cost of 10 lakhs per Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) directly transferred from CIL to the institutions performing HSCT. Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) refers to the transplantation of stem cells from various sources (bone marrow, growth factor-stimulated peripheral blood, and umbilical cord blood) for the treatment of malignant and nonmalignant hematologic, autoimmune, and genetic diseases.
- The program has successfully completed 356 bone marrow transplants for Thalassemia patients across 10 empanelled hospitals in India during the two phases.

### About Thalassemia:

- It is a chronic and genetic blood disorder due to which a patient's body cannot make enough hemoglobin leading to anemia. This disease is passed from parents to children through genes and people suffering from it require blood transfusions to survive.
- India is known as the thalassemia capital of the world with 40 million carriers which means one in eight of thalassemia carriers live in India.

### Jan Suraksha Schemes

- **Context:** Recently, Government celebrated the 8th anniversaries of the three social security (Jan Suraksha) schemes — Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

### Key Highlights:

- PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY were launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 9th May, 2015 from Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The three schemes are dedicated to the welfare of the citizens, recognising the need for securing human life from unforeseen eventualisation and financial uncertainties.

- In order to ensure that the people from the unorganised section of the country are financially secure, the Government launched two insurance schemes — PMJJBY and PMSBY; and also introduced APY to cover the exigencies in the old age.

### About Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):

- PMJJBY is a one-year life insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason.
- Persons in the age group of 18-50 years having an individual bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme. People who join the scheme before completing 50 years of age can continue to have the risk of life covered up to age of 55 years upon payment of regular premium.
- Life cover of Rs. 2 Lakh in case of death due to any reason against a premium of Rs. 436/- per annum.
- Achievements: As on 26.04.2023, the cumulative enrolments under the scheme have been more than 16.19 crore and an amount of Rs. 13,290.40 crore has been paid for 6,64,520 claims.

### About Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):

- PMSBY is a one-year accidental insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to accident.
- Persons in the age group of 18-70 years having an individual bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme.
- Accidental death cum disability cover of Rs.2 lakh (Rs.1 lakh in case of partial disability) for death or disability due to an accident against a premium of Rs.20/- per annum.
- Achievements: As on 26.04.2023, the cumulative enrolments under the scheme have been more than 34.18 crore and an amount of Rs. 2,302.26 crore has been paid for 1,15,951 claims.

### About Atal Pension Yojana (APY):

- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched to create a universal social security system for all

Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector.

- It is an initiative of the Government to provide financial security and cover future exigencies for the people in the unorganised sector. APY is administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the overall administrative and institutional architecture of the National Pension System (NPS).
- APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years who are not income tax payers and the contributions differ, based on pension amount chosen.
- Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 after the age of 60 years, based on the contributions made by the subscriber after joining the scheme.
- The monthly pension is available to the subscriber, and after him to his spouse and after their death, the pension corpus, as accumulated at age 60 of the subscriber, would be returned to the nominee of the subscriber.
- In case of premature death of subscriber (death before 60 years of age), spouse of the subscriber can continue contribution to APY account of the subscriber, for the remaining vesting period, till the original subscriber would have attained the age of 60 years.
- **Achievements:** As on 27.04.2023 more than 5 crore individuals have subscribed to the scheme.

10<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2023

### Petersburg Climate Dialogue

- **Context:** The Petersburg Dialogue on Climate Change was held in Berlin, Germany. It was hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirates, which is hosting the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

## Key Highlights:

- The Petersburg Climate Dialogue is an annual high-level political and international forum held before the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP).
- It was initiated in 2010 by former German Chancellor Angela Merkel following the nearly unsuccessful negotiations at the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15).
- Its central goal is to strengthen trust both in multilateral climate negotiations and between states.
- The focus this year included topics such as climate adaptation, climate finance and dealing with loss and damage, but in particular the first-ever global stocktake
- The UN Secretary-General emphasized the need for cleaning up our economies breaking the world's fossil fuel addiction and driving decarbonisation in every sector to achieve a 1.5-degree global warming pathway.
- He also reiterated his earlier call for an Acceleration Agenda, where all countries hit fast-forward on their Net Zero deadlines.
- The Agenda calls for coal phaseout by 2030 in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, and by 2040 in all others, as well as achieving Net Zero electricity generation and decarbonising major sectors.
- COP28 President called on meeting participants to ramp up renewable energy capacity building. He called for a tripling of renewable energy capacity by 2030 followed by a doubling in 2040, but his address focused on reducing fossil fuel 'emissions.
- Developed countries are "on good track" to deliver the \$100 billion per year they had promised to mobilize by 2020 during the COP15 in 2009. However, recent estimates peg climate finance needs at \$1 trillion per year by 2030 for emerging markets alone. This means that climate finance needs are more than 10 times the amount that developed countries have been able to mobilize, 14 years after committing to the \$100 billion figure.

- 2023 is the year for the Global Stocktake, which is essentially a periodic review of global climate action which aims to assess whether current efforts will enable us to reach the objectives set out in the Paris Agreement.

## Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

- **Context:** The Open Network for Digital Commerce is gradually challenging the dominance of Zomato and Swiggy by offering users cheaper prices for the same food items.

## Key Highlights:

- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
- ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- It is a non-profit initiative of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce.
- Currently, grocery and food items merchants are mostly part of it, but beauty, fashion, personal care products, and electronics, among others, are gradually joining in
- Currently, there are partners like Paytm, Meesho, Magicpin, Mystore, Craftsvilla, and Spice Money, which act as online storefronts, allowing users to order food or any other product from a business listed on the ONDC platform.

11<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2023

## National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)

- **Context:** The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) has started three capacity-building programmes (CBPs) for the civil servants of Bangladesh and the Maldives.



**Key Highlights:**

- The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) was set up in 2014 by the Government of India as an apex-level autonomous institution under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- The Centre traces its origin to the National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR), which was set up in 1995 by the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA). NIAR was subsequently rechristened and subsumed into NCGG.
- The Centre is mandated to work in the areas of governance, policy reforms, capacity building and training of civil servants and technocrats of India and other developing countries. It also works as a think tank.
- The affairs of the NCGG are managed under the overall superintendence and direction of the Governing Body, which is headed by the Cabinet Secretary. It has Secretaries of 9 ministries/ departments and 5 eminent persons viz. academicians, eminent administrators, specialists, eminent innovators, and heads of reputed institutions as members.

**iDrone Initiative**

- **Context:** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has successfully conducted a trial run of the delivery of blood bags under its iDrone initiative.

**Key Highlights:**

- iDrone Initiative launched by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- Its aim is to assess the feasibility of using drones to deliver vaccines and medical supplies.
- iDrone was first used by ICMR during the Covid-19 pandemic for distributing vaccines to hard-to-reach areas.
- It is now being used to deliver blood and blood-related products which are supposed to be kept at a low temperature.
- Some countries are already using drones to deliver blood products, vaccines, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and even organs to remote, rural areas or areas with poor infrastructure.

- In Ghana, drone delivery of blood both as laboratory samples and as emergency blood and blood product delivery is now available for thousands of health facilities serving millions of people.

**National Medical Commission (NMC)**

- **Context:** The National Medical Commission (NMC) has allowed foreign medical graduates who have passed their screening test to intern at non-teaching hospitals.

**Key Highlights:**

- The State Medical Councils shall not deny allotment of medical colleges for internships to foreign medical graduates (FMG) on the basis of their domicile, and they can complete their internship from a medical college in any State or Union Territory if they are otherwise eligible.
- This has been announced as a one-time measure to help students who are in the last year of their studies and had returned to India due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and so on.
- The National Medical Commission (NMC) has been constituted by an act of Parliament known as the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 which came into force in 2020.
- Mandate of the commission is to improve access to quality and affordable medical education.

12<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2023**Harit Sagar: Green Port Guidelines 2023**

- **Context:** The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has launched 'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines 2023.

**Key Highlights:**

- Harit Sagar are guidelines released with the aim to achieve Green Ports.
- The guidelines envisage ecosystem dynamics in port development, operation and maintenance while aligning with the 'Working with Nature' concept and minimizing the impact on biotic components of the harbour ecosystem.

- The guidelines lays emphasis on use of Clean / Green energy in Port operation, developing Port capabilities for storage, handling and bunkering of Greener Fuels viz. Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Green Methanol / Ethanol etc.
- It also provides a framework for the Major Ports for drawing out a comprehensive action plan for achieving targeted outcomes in terms of quantified reduction in carbon emission over defined timelines, through focused implementation and close monitoring of Green Initiatives and to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- The guidelines' main goals are to reduce trash through the four R's: Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle in order to achieve zero waste discharge from port operations.
- It also includes provisions for adopting the international Green Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard and covers parts of the National Green Hydrogen Mission related to ports, the creation of green hydrogen facilities, LNG bunkering, offshore wind energy, etc.

## Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi Scheme

- **Context:** The Union Ministry for Women and Child Development launched the Centre's flagship programme 'Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi'.

### Key Highlights:

- The programme will focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) at anganwadis across the country. The aim is to make anganwadi centres as nutrition hubs as well as education-imparting centres.
- The ministry has allocated Rs 600 crore for the training of anganwadi workers to implement the ECCE.
- The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) will provide training of Anganwadi workers. NIPCCD is an autonomous organization under the Union Ministry for Women and Child Development.

## Indo-Thai CORPAT

- **Context:** The 35th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted.

### Key Highlights:

- The 35th Indo-Thai CORPAT is another step towards enhancing Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate interoperability and forge strong bonds of friendship between India and Thailand.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari, an indigenously built LST (L) and His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Saiburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate, along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies participated in the CORPAT along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) in the Andaman Sea.
- The exercise was aimed at reinforcing maritime linkages between the two countries and ensuring the safety and security of the Indian Ocean.
- The Indo-Thai CORPAT has been conducted bi-annually since 2005 along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) to enhance understanding and interoperability between the two navies.

13<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2023

## Carbon Credit Trading Scheme

- **Context:** The Government of India is planning to develop a Carbon Credit Trading Scheme for Decarbonisation.

### Key Highlights:

- Carbon Credit Trading Scheme Being developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power along with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- Its aim is to develop the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) with the objective to decarbonise the Indian economy by pricing the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions through the trading of Carbon Credit Certificates.

- The Indian Carbon Market will develop methodologies for the estimation of carbon emissions reductions and removals from various registered projects, and stipulate the required validation, registration, verification, and issuance processes to operationalize the scheme.
- Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) guidelines for the emissions scheme will also be developed after consultation.
- A comprehensive institutional and governance structure will be set up with specific roles of each party involved in the execution of ICM.
- By accelerating the transition to a low carbon economy, the ICM will facilitate the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) goal of reducing the Emissions Intensity of the GDP by 45 percent by 2030 against 2005 levels.
- The contest is open to the citizens of India within the age group of 18 to 40 years.
- The fusion of millets in this competition provides a unique opportunity for participants to showcase their creativity and innovation in cooking with healthy and sustainable ingredients, promoting awareness about their versatility.

## Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

- **Context:** Recently, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 27th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) for the first time after the announcement of the Budget 2023-24.

### Key Highlights:

- The council discussed the policy and legislative reform measures needed to develop the financial sector further and increase financial access for the people.
- The union Finance Minister Smt. Sitharaman advised that regulators should maintain a constant vigil as ensuring 'financial sector stability is a shared responsibility' of the regulators.
- Regulators must take appropriate and timely action to mitigate any vulnerability and strengthen financial stability.
- Regulators should adopt a focused approach to reduce the compliance burden further and ensure a streamlined and efficient regulatory environment. The progress achieved in this regard shall be reviewed by the Union Finance Minister with each regulator in June 2023.
- The regulators need to be proactive and ensure cyber-security preparedness of the information technology systems to reduce the risk of cyber-attacks, protect sensitive financial data, and maintain overall system integrity, thus safeguarding the stability and resilience of the Indian financial ecosystem.

### About Carbon Markets:

- Carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought.
- Companies or individuals can use carbon markets to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions

## YUVA PRATIBHA: Culinary Talent Hunt Initiative

- **Context:** MyGov in collaboration with the Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa will launch YUVA PRATIBHA Culinary Talent Hunt.

### Key Highlights:

- YUVA PRATIBHA Culinary Talent Hunt is a initiative for citizens across India to display their culinary talent and skills and gain national recognition.
- The aim of this initiative is to bring out lost recipes and promote the culinary talent of Indian youth, create awareness of the contribution of nutri-cereals (millets) for food security and nutrition.
- To promote national outreach of millets and to incorporate millets in food preparation.



- Regulators should conduct a special drive to facilitate the settlement of unclaimed deposits and claims in the financial sector across all segments, such as banking deposits, shares and dividends, mutual funds, insurance, etc.

### About Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC):

- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was constituted by an Executive Order of the Union Government as a non-statutory apex body under the Ministry of Finance in 2010.
- The Raghuram Rajan Committee (2008) on financial sector reforms first proposed the creation of FSDC.

14<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2023

### Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum 2023

- **Context:** India recently hosted the third edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum in the form of the first-ever physical event in New Delhi.

#### Key Highlights:

- The event was organized by Startup India, the Department of Promotion for Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce.
- The forum aimed to expand startup interactions among SCO Member States and encourage innovation, employment generation, and talent building.
- This engagement focused on the spirit of collaboration and entrepreneurship. It aimed at promoting innovation development, particularly through the creation of common platforms and the facilitation of ideas and best practices among the SCO Member States. Various startup-to-startup bilateral meetings were conducted in promoting and achieving this agenda.

- Previously, Startup India had organized various initiatives for SCO Member states including:

1. **SCO Startup Forum 2020:** The SCO Startup Forum laid the foundation for multilateral cooperation and engagement for startups among the SCO Member States.
2. **SCO Startup Forum 2021:** The two-day Forum was held virtually through a customized platform representing the Indian culture in augmented reality. SCO Startup Hub, a single point of contact for the SCO startup ecosystem, was launched in this forum.
3. **Focused Mentorship Program:** A 3-month long virtual mentorship series 'Starting-Up' was organized for the nominated startups, to build capacity among the SCO Startup founders.

### Mpox no longer a global health emergency: WHO

- **Context:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that Mpox (formerly monkeypox) no longer constitutes a global health emergency.

#### Key Highlights:

- Mpox (monkeypox) is a viral illness caused by the monkeypox virus, a species of the genus Orthopoxvirus.
- Common symptoms of mpox are a skin rash or mucosal lesions which can last 2–4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy and swollen lymph nodes.
- Mpox can be transmitted to humans through physical contact with someone who is infectious, with contaminated materials, or with infected animals.
- Mpox is treated with supportive care. Vaccines and therapeutics developed for smallpox and approved for use in some countries can be used for mpox in some circumstances.
- Mpox can be prevented by avoiding physical contact with someone who has pox. Vaccination can help prevent infection for people at risk.