



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER, 2022

Week-1

1-7 Sep, 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

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

1st SEPTEMBER, 2022

Delhi become first police force to make forensic evidence mandatory

Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to make collection of forensic evidence mandatory in crimes punishable by more than six years.

Key Highlights

- Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora issued a "standard order" to all police units.
- It said "In order to take conviction rate higher and integrate the criminal justice system with forensic science investigation, it has been decided to use forensic tools mandatorily in all cases where punishment provided is more than six years."
- According to the Delhi police order, the force has its own 'mobile crime team van' in each district and in addition to that, one 'forensic mobile van' shall be allotted to each district to provide scientific and forensic assistance on the spot whenever any need arises.
- These forensic mobile vans shall not be under the administrative control of the police but shall be an independent entity responsible to the court of law. However, they shall visit the scene of crime whenever called by the Station House Officer or any other investigating agency of Delhi Police.

Anti-Radiation Pills

- **Context:** With fears of a nuclear disaster at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant growing, the European Union has decided to pre-emptively supply 5.5 million anti-radiation pills to be distributed among residents in the vicinity.

Key Highlights

- Those being handed out the pills are being told to only take them once a radiation leak has been confirmed.
- Radiation emergency are unplanned or accidental events that create radio-nuclear hazard to humans and the environment. Such situations involve radiation

exposure from a radioactive source and require prompt intervention to mitigate the threat. Dealing with such an emergency also involves the use of anti-radiation tablets.

- Potassium iodide (KI) tablets, or anti-radiation pills, are known to provide some protection in cases of radiation exposure. They contain non-radioactive iodine and can help block absorption, and subsequent concentration, of radioactive iodine in the thyroid gland.

How these pills work?

- Internal exposure, or irradiation, occurs when radioactive iodine enters the body and accumulates in the thyroid gland.
- The thyroid gland, which uses iodine to produce hormones to regulate the body's metabolism, has no way of telling radioactive from non-radioactive iodine.
- Potassium iodide (KI) tablets rely on this to achieve 'thyroid blocking'. KI pills taken a few hours before or soon after radiation exposure ensure that non-radioactive iodine in the medicine is absorbed quickly to make the thyroid "full" and cannot absorb any more iodine – either stable or radioactive – for the next 24 hour.
- Anti-radiation pills do not provide 100% protection. The effectiveness of KI also depends on how much radioactive iodine gets into the body and how quickly it is absorbed in the body.
- Also, the pills are not meant for everybody. They are recommended for people under 40 years of age. Pregnant and breastfeeding women are also advised to take them. While it can protect the thyroid against radioactive iodine, it cannot protect other organs against radiation contamination.

Mikhail Gorbachev

- **Context:** Mikhail Gorbachev, who set out to revitalise the Soviet Union but ended up unleashing forces that led to the collapse of communism, the break-up of the state and the end of the Cold War, recently passed away.



About Mikhail Gorbachev

- Gorbachev took power in 1985 and introduced reforms, as well as opening up the Soviet Union to the world.
- Though in power for less than seven years, Gorbachev unleashed a breathtaking series of changes. But they quickly overtook him and resulted in the collapse of the authoritarian Soviet state, the freeing of Eastern European nations from Russian domination and the end of decades of East-West nuclear confrontation.
- When pro-democracy protests swept across the Soviet Union of communist Eastern Europe in 1989, Gorbachev refrained from using force.
- He recognized the policy of Glasnost or freedom of speech which was severely curtailed during earlier regime.
- Gorbachev also began a program of economic reform called Perestroika or Restructuring which was necessary as the Soviet economy was suffering from both hidden inflation and supply shortages.
- Cultural freedoms were granted to the press and the artistic community during his time.
- He launched radical reforms meant to reduce party control of the government apparatus. Notably, thousands of political prisoners and their dissidents were released during his rule.
- He is accredited with the success of the nuclear disarmament agreement with the United States of America.
- He won the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending the Cold War.

2nd SEPTEMBER, 2022

INS Vikrant

- **Context:** The first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant has commissioned and the new Naval Ensign (Nishaan) also unveiled.

Key Highlights:

- INS Vikrant is a significant punctuation in India's pursuit of self-reliance .
- At 45,000 tonnes, Vikrant is the largest naval ship to be designed and built in India, and with this accomplishment, the country joins the band of nations that have demonstrated such capability with major countries like United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), France, Russia, Italy, and China.
- With the commissioning of INS Vikrant, India have now two operational aircraft carriers (the other one is INS Vikramaditya), which will bolster the maritime security of the nation.

India becomes fifth largest economy of world

India has leaped past the United Kingdom to become the fifth-largest economy in the world. International Monetary Fund said, India took a lead in the final three months of 2021 to become the fifth-biggest economy.

Key highlights:

- India's economy is projected to grow 7% this year while that of the UK struggles with high energy prices and rising consumer inflation.
- India overtook Britain to emerge as the world's fifth-largest economy, according to Bloomberg.
- India's 'nominal' GDP on an adjusted basis using the dollar exchange rate on the last day of the March quarter stood at \$854.70 billion, while that of Britain was \$816 billion.
- At 13.5%, India's GDP grew at its fastest clip in a year in April-June quarter aided by a favourable base, a robust growth in the farm, services, construction and private consumption
- In the previous quarter (January-March of FY22), the country's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.1%, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

India-United Arab Emirates bilateral trade

India and UAE have reiterated their commitment to achieving the goal of 100 billion US dollars of bilateral trade in the next five years.

Key Highlights:

- The governments of India and the UAE have reiterated their commitment to achieving the goal of 100 billion dollars of bilateral trade in the next five years.
- Both countries have also noted the possibility of linking instant payment platforms, such as through the United Payment Interface of India.
- The issues were discussed in the 14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting which was co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and the Foreign Minister of UAE.
- Another MoU was also signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of UAE and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations on the establishment of the India-UAE cultural Council Forum.

3rd SEPTEMBER, 2022

Vaccine for Cervical Cancer

- **Context:** Recently, Serum Institute of India (SII) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched indigenously developed quadrivalent Human Papilloma Virus (qHPV) vaccine called Cervavac for prevention of cervical cancer.

Key Highlights

- India's first indigenously developed vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, CERVAVAC, will likely cost 200-400 a shot and be commercially available later this year.

- The most promising intervention for preventing cervical cancer is vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV).
- It is estimated that HPV types 16 and 18 (HPV-16 and HPV-18) together contribute to approximately 70% of all invasive cervical cancer cases worldwide.
- HPV vaccines are given in two doses and data has shown that the antibodies that develop after both are administered can last up to six or seven years.
- Cervical cancer ranks as the 2nd most prevalent cancers in India and accounts for nearly one-fourth of the world's cervical cancer deaths despite being largely preventable.
- Despite being largely preventable, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally, according to the WHO. In 2018, an estimated 570,00 women were diagnosed with the disease and it accounted for 311,000 deaths across the world
- Current estimates indicate that every year approximately 1.25 lakhs women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and over 75 thousand die from the disease in India, and 83 % of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18 in India, and 70% of cases worldwide.
- Screening and vaccination are two powerful tools that are available for preventing cervical cancer. Still, there is little awareness among women about the prevention of this cancer and less than 10% of Indian women get screened.

Delhi Model Virtual School

- **Context:** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the "country's first virtual school", Delhi Model Virtual School (DMVS), and said students from across India will be eligible for admission.

Key Highlights

- The platform will also provide students access to a huge digital library, and the content will available 24x7, said the CM. He said that apart from regular online classes, students will also be provided coaching for competitive exams, such as JEE and NEET, in classes 11 and 12.
- Specialists from various sectors will be engaged. Recordings of every class will also be uploaded on the website, so if any student misses it, they can watch the recording. Students will also be provided skill-based training for professional courses so they can do part-time jobs and continue their studies.
- DMSV will be affiliated to the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) and will follow its curriculum. The mark sheets and certificates will also be awarded by DBSE.
- DBSE mark sheet and certificate are equivalent to that of other boards and therefore, students will be eligible for undergraduate admissions.
- Admissions for class IX for the academic year 2022-23 are open for children aged between 13 and 18.
- The classes will be conducted through an exclusive schooling platform built by SchoolNet and Google.

4th SEPTEMBER, 2022

IMF's loan to Sri Lanka

- **Context:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Sri Lankan government have reached a staff level agreement to provide about \$2.9 billion to help the country.

Key highlights

- IMF staff and the Sri Lankan authorities have reached a staff-level agreement to support Sri Lanka's economic policies with a 48-month arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of about US\$2.9 billion.
- All Sri Lankan creditors including China have to agree to restructure their existing loans to the island nation

before the IMF starts disbursing a 2.9 billion US dollar loan. China has so far not agreed for debt restructuring which could include haircut or reductions in interest rates. Instead, China has expressed its willingness to refinance Sri Lanka to repay its past loans without any changes.

- Against this backdrop, the authorities' program, supported by the Fund, would aim to stabilize the economy. Key elements of the program are:
- Making personal income tax more progressive and broadening the tax base for corporate income tax and VAT.
- Introducing cost-recovery based pricing for fuel and electricity to minimize fiscal risks arising from state-owned enterprises.
- Raising social spending, and improving the coverage and targeting of social safety net programs.
- Restoring price stability through data-driven monetary policy action, fiscal consolidation, phasing out monetary financing, and stronger central bank autonomy.
- Rebuilding foreign reserves through restoring a market-determined and flexible exchange rate.
- Reducing corruption vulnerabilities through improving fiscal transparency and public financial management.

About Extended Fund Facility (EFF)

- The EFF was established to provide assistance to countries experiencing serious payment imbalances because of structural impediments or slow growth and an inherently weak balance-of-payments position.
- EFF engagement and repayment cover longer periods than most Fund arrangements of IMF-to be repaid over 4½–10 years in 12 equal semiannual instalments.

e-Samadhan Portal

- **Context:** UGC is planning for the launch of its new 'e-Samadhan' portal to tackle grievances by all stakeholders using a single centralized portal.

Key Highlights

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) is all set to launch its new centralised portal called 'e-Samadhan' to monitor and resolve all grievances of students and staff members in varsities.
- The portal will be the one-stop solution for all grievances and all other existing portals and helplines will be merged with it except for the anti-ragging helpline.
- The users can register their complaints on the portal by following a simple procedure using their email id or by placing a call on the toll-free number 1800-111-656.
- The new platform will ensure transparency, prevent unfair practices in Higher Education Institutions and provides a time-bound mechanism for redressal of grievances.

Handicrafts Policy 2022

- **Context:** The State Cabinet of Rajasthan approved the Handicrafts Policy-2022.

Key Features

- The objective of Rajasthan Handicrafts Policy – 2022 is to help the development of 6 lakh craftsmen and artisans by empowering them.
- As per the policy, the state government will bear 100% of the interest on loans of Rs 3 lakh taken by the artisans and provide group insurance to self-help groups occupied in the handicraft and handloom sector.
- Handloom weavers' cooperative societies and artisan societies setting up permanent marketing centres for sale will be eligible for government assistance of 50% of the total cost of establishment.
- For helping the artisans sell their products, the government will create an online platform.
- Also, a provision will be made for purchase of products worth up to Rs 10 lakh from the registered artisans by the government departments through e-bazaar without tender.

- Keeping in mind the development of the handicraft and handloom sector, a directorate will be constituted under the industries department which will help connect the artisans participating in major exhibitions and events held in India and abroad.
- Private investment will be promoted in the establishment of handicraft skill development centres, design and craft centres.
- As per the policy, a handicraft design centre will be set up in Jodhpur for the study of techniques being employed and the designs being used in other states and countries. This centre will be developed as a 'Centre of Excellence'.
- RIICO will develop handicraft parks at appropriate places for the development of traditional arts and crafts.
- A state level handicraft museum will be established at the Rajasthan Haat, Jal Mahal.
- World Craft Council (WCC) has declared Jaipur as the 'World Craft City'.

5th SEPTEMBER, 2022

India is likely to become third largest economy by 2029: SBI report

Recently, State Bank of India (SBI) released a research report which states that India is likely to become the third largest economy in the world by 2029

Key Highlights:

- The report said that India has gone through a major structural transformation since 2014 (when it was ranked 10th) and is now the 5th largest economy.
- The research report from SBI's Economic Research Department highlighted that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate for FY23 is estimated between 6.7-7.7 per cent,
- The share of India's GDP is now at 3.5 per cent, as against 2.6 per cent in 2014, and is likely to cross 4 per cent in 2027.

VentuRISE

- **Context:** Karnataka introduces the VentuRISE Global Startup Challenge to recognize, reward and support growth stage startups in manufacturing and sustainability related sectors.

Key Highlights:

- The Global Investors Meet-Invest Karnataka 2022, which takes place from November 2 to 4 in Bengaluru, will include VentuRISE as a participant.
- The challenge's winners will get a cash prize of USD \$100,000.
- They will get access to clients, special pitching opportunities at Invest Karnataka, carefully arranged investor meetings, and mentoring sessions.
- The goal of the VentuRISE logo unveiling ceremony was to promote Karnataka as the top location for startups in the manufacturing and sustainability sectors.
- The startup challenge is anticipated to get more than 2,000 applications.

6th SEPTEMBER, 2022

India's first Dark Sky Reserve in Hanle, Ladakh

Department of Science & Technology (DST) has announced the setting up of India's first dark sky reserve at Hanle in Ladakh in the next three months.

Key Highlights

- A part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary at Hanle, Ladakh is set to become India's first Dark Sky Reserve.
- The site will host activities to promote astronomy-tourism, giving a boost to local tourism and economy through science.
- The Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR) will be an area spanning 22 km in radius centred around the Hanle observatory.

- At a height of 4,500 metres, Hanle is already home to an optical, a gamma ray and an infrared telescope at the Indian Astronomical Observatory complex operated by the IIA. These telescopes have been used to study stars, galaxies, exoplanets and the evolution of our Universe.
- Once declared as the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR), the administration, local council members along with the scientists will collectively work towards preservation of the night sky from unwanted light pollution and illumination which is a serious threat to the scientific observations and natural sky conditions and a growing menace, world over.

Ramon Magsaysay Awards, 2022

- **Context:** The Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation (RMAF), which is widely regarded as the "Nobel Peace Prize of Asia," recently announced the awards for the year 2022.

Key Highlights

- The award is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the seventh president of the Republic of the Philippines after World War II.
- It is presented to those who have demonstrated the greatness of spirit in service to Asian peoples, regardless of race, gender, or religion.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award is chosen and presented every year.
- The award includes a plaque and a medallion with an embossed image of Ramon Magsaysay facing right in profile, as well as a cash prize.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) is in charge of administering the Ramon Magsaysay Award (RMA) (RMAF).

This year's awardees are:

- Sotheara Chhim, Psychiatrist (Cambodia)
- Tadashi Hattori, Ophthalmologist (Japan)
- Bernadette Madrid, Pediatrician (Philippines)
- Gary Benchehib, Activist & Filmmaker (Indonesia)

Liz Truss

- **Context:** British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss would be the country's next Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative party.



Key Highlights

- Liz Truss was elected as the Prime Minister of United Kingdom on as she defeated former Chancellor Rishi Sunak.
- She succeeds the Boris Johnson, who was forced to resign in the aftermath of the Partygate Scandal.
- She was the Foreign Secretary in Johnson's cabinet.
- She has become the third woman Prime Minister of UK after Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May.
- As foreign secretary, she had been front and centre in Britain's support for Ukraine and Western sanctions against Russia over the invasion of its neighbour.
- Truss also has figured prominently in the UK's feud with the European Union over post-Brexit trade arrangements.

7th SEPTEMBER, 2022

National Games to be held in Gujarat

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) made it mandatory for them to compete in this month's National Games in Gujarat.

Key Highlights

- The National Games are being held after a gap of seven years from September 29 to October 12 across six cities in Gujarat.
- Games will see approximately 7,000 athletes compete in 34 disciplines.
- Home Minister Amit Shah launched the mascot and the anthem for the Games.
- The mascot is named 'Savaj' which means cub in Gujarati.

- The anthem for the national games is based on the theme of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
- IOA shot off letters to the National Sports Federations and State Olympic Associations to ensure 'all eligible eminent athletes' take part in the Games.

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

- **Context:** Warangal and two cities from Kerala (Nilambur and Thrissur) have joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).

Key Highlights

- Nilambur, the land of teak, and Thrissur, the cultural capital of Kerala, have become the first Indian towns to attain the UNESCO recognition, along with Warangal in Telangana.
- The three Indian towns were among the 77 new members from 44 countries to join the GNLC this year.
- The UNESCO GNLC is an international network consisting of cities that successfully promote lifelong learning across their communities. It has 294 cities in 76 countries that share inspiration, know-how and best practice among each other.
- Nilambur, Thrissur and Warangal were nominated by the National Commission for UNESCO and recommended by a jury of experts considering the city administration's commitment to lifelong learning and its track record of good practices and policy initiatives.
- The geographic location of Nilambur with its 'cruising town' status and its potentials in agriculture and tourism helped Nilambur attain the UNESCO recognition.
- Cities with a population of five lakh and above were usually considered by the UNESCO for GNLC status. Nilambur has been the first town to be included in the GNLC with less than one lakh population.