



Current Affairs of the Day

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1. NHRC seeks report on deaths by police action

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1. Intra-Afghan talks to begin soon

➤ Health:

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1. State of India's Environment report, 2020



MSME revival package yet to take off

- Almost one month after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a revival package for stressed **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**, the scheme is yet to see the light of the day.
- The scheme, which was to provide ₹20,000-crore equity support to stressed MSMEs and those categorised as non-performing assets, was approved by the Union Cabinet on June 1.

Aimed at 2 lakh units:

- Under the scheme, banks were expected to provide subordinate debt to promoters of stressed MSMEs, up to 15% of their existing stake in the unit subject to a maximum of ₹75 lakh.
- This would have helped two lakh stressed enterprises.
- However, the scheme has not taken off as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is yet to issue the guidelines for it.

NHRC seeks report on deaths by police action

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked for action taken reports from the authorities of seven States, where 15 people died following police action in the first month or so of the lockdown, according to the proceedings in the cases.
- The NHRC acted on a May 16 complaint by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), which stated that the 15 men — five in Andhra Pradesh, three in Uttar Pradesh, two each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, and one each in Tamil Nadu, Punjab and West Bengal — died after police action or in custody from March 25 to April 30.

Value Added Information

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

- The NHRC is a Statutory public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993.
- It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (TPHRA).
- It is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as “Rights Relating To Life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants”.

Powers of NHRC:

- NHRC investigates grievances regarding the violation of human rights either suo moto or after receiving a petition.
- It has the power to interfere in any judicial proceedings involving any allegation of violation of human rights.



- It can visit any jail or any other institution under the control of the State Government to see the living conditions of the inmates and to make recommendations thereon.
- It can review the safeguards provided under the constitution or any law for the protection of human rights and can recommend appropriate remedial measures.

Limitations:

- NHRC does not have any independent mechanism of investigation. In majority cases, it asks the concerned Central and State Governments to investigate the cases of the violation of Human Rights
- NHRC can only make recommendations, without the power to enforce decisions.
- Its powers related to violations of human rights by the armed forces have been largely restricted.

NHRC's guidelines on fake encounters:

- Justice Venkatachaliah, who was Chief Justice of India in 1993-94, underlined that “under our laws the police have not been conferred any right to take away the life of another person”.
- And “if, by his act, the policeman kills a person, he commits the offence of culpable homicide whether amounting to the offence of murder or not unless it is proved that such killing was not an offence under the law”.
- The only two circumstances in which such killing would not constitute an offence were-
- if death is caused in the exercise of the right of private defence, and
- under Section 46 of the CrPC, which “authorises the police to use force, extending upto the causing of death, as may be necessary to arrest the person accused of an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life”.

Intra-Afghan talks to begin soon: Abdullah

Key Points:

- The talks are expected to be held in Qatar, Mr. Abdullah said, while other countries that have offered to facilitate the talks, including Germany, may host future rounds.
- The intra-Afghan dialogue will also see more calls for the Narendra Modi government to engage the Taliban.
- In the past few weeks, both Mr. Khalilzad and Russian Special Envoy for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov, have said in separate interviews that they feel it is time for India to give up its



opposition to talks with the Taliban which New Delhi has thus far seen as a terror group allied to Pakistan.

- Senior Afghan officials also told that they expected New Delhi to soften its stand on the Taliban once the intra-Afghan talks begin.

Economy to contract 3.2% in FY21: WB

Global Economic Prospects (GEP) Report 2020:

India specific:

- The Indian economy is expected to contract by 3.2% in this fiscal year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions, the World Bank said in its Global Economic Prospects (GEP) June 2020 report released on Monday.
- Growth is forecast at 3.1% next year.
- India's growth is estimated to have slowed to 4.2% in FY 2019-20 (year ended March 31, 2020).

World economy:

- The world economy, as a whole, is set to witness its deepest recession since World War II, with a forecasted contraction of 5.2% this year — some 60 million could be pushed into extreme poverty.
- With updated data now available, this number could be 70-100 million.
- Emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) are expected to contract by 2.5% this year, and economic activity in advanced economies is forecast to shrink by 7%, as domestic supply and demand, finance and trade have been disrupted due to the pandemic.
- Countries most reliant on global trade, tourism, external financing and commodity exports are likely to be hit the hardest.
- In the baseline scenario, global growth is set to rebound at 4.2% in 2021, with EMDEs growing at 4.6% and advanced economies growing at 3.9%.
- This, however, is the baseline forecast and assumes that pandemic-induced domestic restrictions will be lifted by mid-year in advanced economies and a bit later in EMDEs.
- The downside scenario is more severe — the global economy could shrink this year by as much as 8% (5% for EMDEs), followed by weak recovery at just above 1% growth next year.



State of India's Environment report, 2020 released

- The State of India's Environment report, 2020 was released by **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**, a research and advocacy organisation.

Key Points:

- 19 major **extreme weather events** claimed thousands of lives last year.
- **Internal displacement:**
 - ✓ More than **50 lakh internal displacements** were reported in India in 2019 which is the **highest** in the world.
 - ✓ Floods, Cyclones – Fani, Vayu and Bulbul, droughts were major factors.
- **Migrants:**
 - ✓ The report also broke down 2011 census data on migrant populations.
 - ✓ There were over 45 crore migrants in the country at the time, with the vast majority migrating within their own State.
 - ✓ In 2011, new migrants had moved for employment purposes, mostly from rural to urban areas.

“Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings” initiative launched

- On occasion of World Environment Day, **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) **MAITREE program**, launched the “Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings” initiative to make **workplaces healthier** and **greener**.
- It will address the challenges of **retrofitting** existing buildings and **air conditioning systems** so that they are both healthy and energy efficient.

Value Added Information

Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE):

- It is a part of the **US-India bilateral Partnership** between the Ministry of Power and USAID.
- It is aimed at **accelerating** the adoption of **cost-effective energy efficiency** as a standard practice within buildings, and specifically focuses on cooling.

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL):

- It is a joint venture of PSUs under the administration of Ministry of Power.
- It works towards **mainstreaming** energy efficiency and is **implementing** the world's largest energy efficiency portfolio in the country.