



Current Affairs of the Day

GS Paper - II

1. Governor can rule on Rajiv convicts' plea'
2. More children to get fortified rice

GS paper - III

1. Convicted IS supporter kills 4 in Vienna rampage
2. Indian Navy matches skills with three foreign fleets off Vizag
3. Exports fall again on global trade woes
4. La Nina is back; what does that mean for Africa, Asia



'Governor can rule on Rajiv convicts' plea'

GS II: Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) investigation into the "larger conspiracy" behind Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991 need not deter the Tamil Nadu Governor from deciding the plea for pardon of convicts like A.G. Perarivalan, who have been serving their sentence in jail for over two decades.



Highlights:

1. Larger conspiracy probe is only to prove if any other people are involved. It is not for them [people already convicted], the court said.
2. The court made it clear during the hearing that it was reluctant to exercise its jurisdiction when the Governor was already seized of Perarivalan's plea for a pardon under Article 161 of the Constitution.
3. Perarivalan (Convict in Rajiv Gandhi Case) applied to the Governor for pardon on December 30, 2015.
4. Almost three years later, on September 6, 2018, the Supreme Court asked the Governor to decide the pardon plea as he "deemed fit". Three days later, on September 9, the Tamil Nadu Cabinet recommended to the Governor to remit Perarivalan's sentence and release him forthwith.
5. However, it seems neither the recommendation was signed by the Tamil Nadu Governor nor the order of September 6 has been honoured by the Governor for the past two years, said the advocate of the convict.
6. The court responded by asking the State to ensure that the Cabinet decision to release Perarivalan was enforced.

Prelims:

1. Pardon power of President and Governor article 72 and 161



Convicted IS supporter kills 4 in Vienna rampage

GS III: Challenges to Internal Security through Communication Networks, Role of Media and Social Networking Sites in Internal Security Challenges

Austrian police were hunting for suspects on Tuesday after at least one gunman killed four people in a rampage in the heart of Vienna overnight.



Highlights:

1. Authorities identified the attacker as a 20-year-old convicted jihadist.
2. The attacker was a dual citizen of Austria and North Macedonia, who was sentenced to 22 months in jail in April 2019 for attempting to travel to Syria to join the IS but was released in December.

Mains:

1. Why Europe is more prone to Lone wolf attacks by radicalized youth
2. Understanding of Terms: Lone wolf attacks, Radicalization, Extremism
3. Religious Tolerance, Indian Secularism vs Western Secularism, why Indian secularism is superior and resilient to radicalization.
4. Home Ministry schemes to tackle radicalization in India

More children to get fortified rice

GS II: Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger.

Children in anganwadis and government schools could soon be eating rice infused with iron, folic acid and vitamin B-12.





Highlights:

1. In a bid to combat chronic anaemia and undernutrition, the government is planning to distribute fortified rice through the Integrated Child Development Services and Mid-Day Meal schemes across the country from next year, with a special focus on 112 aspirational districts, according to a statement from the Food Ministry.
2. The Food Corporation of India has now been asked to come up with a comprehensive plan to scale up the annual supply of fortified rice from the current 15,000 tonnes to at least 1.3 lakh tonnes, said the statement.
3. Fortifying rice involves grinding broken rice into powder, mixing it with nutrients, and then shaping it into rice-like kernels using an extrusion process. These fortified kernels are then mixed with normal rice in a 1:100 ratio, and distributed for consumption.

Prelims:

1. Other Options: Golden Rice
2. Biofortification
3. Hidden Hunger (Micronutrient Deficiency)

Indian Navy matches skills with three foreign fleets off Vizag

GS II: Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Phase I of the Malabar 2020 naval exercise by India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. began off the coast of Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday.



Highlights:

1. This is the first time Australia has joined Malabar since 2007.



2. This is the 24th edition of the exercise that began in 1992 and this time, it is being held in two phases, in *the Bay of Bengal* and from November 17 to 20 in *the Arabian Sea*.

Mission Sagar-II

1. The Navy also began Mission Sagar-II.
2. Under the mission, India provides assistance to friendly countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Mission Sagar-II is a follow-up of Mission Sagar undertaken in May-June 2020, during which India delivered food and medicines to the Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.
4. As part of Mission Sagar-II, Indian Naval Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.

Prelims:

1. Mission Sagar-II

Exports fall again on global trade woes

GS III: Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

October exports dip 5.4%, imports slide 11.5%. it reflects weak demand overseas and in India.

Highlights:

1. India's merchandise exports slid back into contraction mode in October as struggling global trade continued to face headwinds from the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Outbound shipments declined 5.4% from a year earlier to \$24.82 billion, after a brief respite in September when exports had expanded 6% to snap a six-month-long contraction.

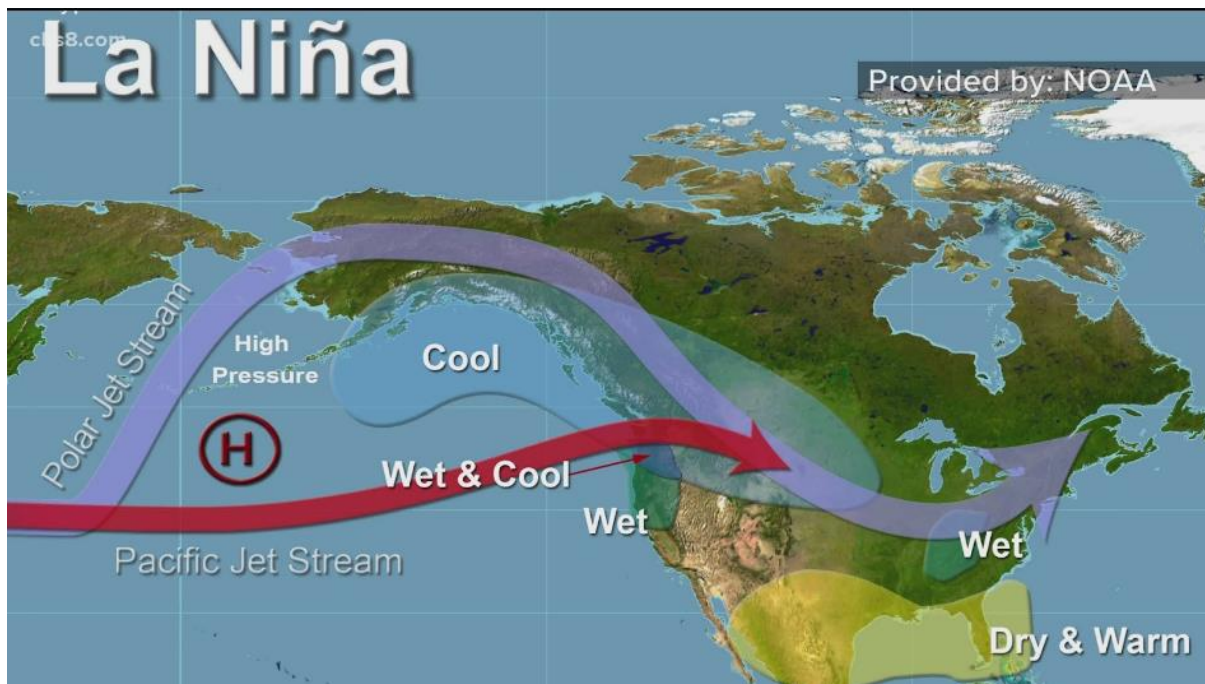




- Imports of goods also declined by 11.5% last month, as per preliminary trade data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Tuesday, taking the overall imports between April to October to \$182.29 billion, 36.3% lower than the same period in 2019.
- Merchandise exports in the first seven months of the current financial year amounted to \$150.07 billion, a 19.1% contraction from the year-earlier period.

La Nina is back; what does that mean for Africa, Asia

GS I: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.,



Context: The La Niña weather phenomenon is back in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean after nearly a decade's absence, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in its latest Global Seasonal update.

Highlights:

- La Niña means the large-scale cooling of ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, together with changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation, namely winds, pressure and rainfall. It has



the opposite impacts on weather and climate as El Niño, which is the warm phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

2. La Niña could last into 2021, affecting temperatures, precipitation and storm patterns in many parts of the world, according to WMO.
3. La Niña could also affect the South-West Indian Ocean Tropical Cyclone season, reducing the intensity.
4. In India, La Niña means the country will receive more rainfall than normal, leading to floods. There were a series of floods in Pakistan and Northwest India in 2010 that were attributed to the La Nina.
5. El Niño and La Niña are major, naturally occurring drivers of the Earth's climate system. But all naturally occurring climate events now take place against a background of human-induced climate change which is exacerbating extreme weather and affecting the water cycle.