



Daily Current Affairs Dated on 07 Aug 2018

## **General Studies- 2**

### **Schemes for North East India:**

Ishan Vikas and Ishan Uday schemes are being implemented for the students of North Eastern region.

#### **About Ishan Vikas:**

- Under the programme, selected school children from North Eastern States are brought in close contact with the Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) and National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) during the vacation period to motivate them to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics and to facilitate internship opportunities for the engineering college students in various institutes of national importance.
- Annual target is to provide visit of 96 school children to premier institutes and summer internships to 250 engineering students.
- Since inception of the programme in 2014-15, 1637 school children and 372 Engineering students have benefited.

#### **About Ishan Uday:**

- Ishan Uday Scholarship Scheme is administered by University Grants Commission (UGC).
- Under the scheme, scholarship is provided to the economically backward students from the North East Region for pursuing general degree courses, technical and professional degree courses.
- It is envisaged to provide 10000 scholarships annually.

### **Education Related Issues:**

#### **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)**

The Government has approved the authorised equity capital expansion of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to Rs. 10,000 crore, with Government equity of Rs. 6000 crore.



Daily Current Affairs Dated on 07 Aug 2018

An amount corresponding to 10% of the Government equity would be contributed by the partner institution, Canara Bank.

**About HEFA:**

Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) is a proposed not-for-profit agency with initial capital base of Rs. 1000 Crore. It was announced in Union Budget 2016-17.

**Organization**

- The HEFA will be set up with *joint participation by the government and philanthropic donors*.
- It would be set up under Companies Act and will be registered with RBI as Non-banking Finance Company (NBFC).
- It will be headed by a banker and will have a board with five donors and five institutions selected on rotation basis.
- All centrally funded higher educational institutions will automatically be added as members.

**Objective and Proposed Functions**

- The major objective of the HEFA is to leverage funds from the market and supplement them with donations and CSR funds.
- These funds will be used to finance *improvement in infrastructure in top educational institutions*. The monies of the fund will be used to finance capital expenditure for building quality infrastructure in IITs, NITs, IIITs and IISERs and central universities. It will also be used to fund state-of-the-art research labs and other infrastructure.

**Eligible Institutions for HEFA Grant:**

All Centrally Funded Educational Institutions in Higher Education, School Education and Medical Education sectors are eligible to avail of loans through HEFA.

It is envisaged by 2022, to fund projects worth Rs 1,00,000 Crore by year 2022 as per the Budget Announcement of 2018-19 to various categories of educational institutions.



Daily Current Affairs Dated on 07 Aug 2018

## **Model Shops and Establishments Act**

### **Why in News?**

Recently amendment in MSE Act, 2016 was proposed in Parliament.

The ***Salient features*** of the Model Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2016 are:

- (i) The Model Bill applies to shops and establishments employing ten or more workers except manufacturing,
- (ii) freedom to operate 365 days in a year and opening/closing of establishments,
- (iii) women to be permitted during night shift, if the provisions of shelter, rest room, ladies toilet, adequate protection of their dignity and transportation etc. exist,
- (iv) no discrimination against women in the matter of recruitment, training, transfer or promotions,
- (v) online one common Registration through a simplified procedure.

A shop or an establishment may work on all days in a week subject to the conditions that every worker shall be allowed weekly holiday of at least twenty four consecutive hours of rest.

### **Environmental Issues:**

#### **Water Pollution:**

#### **Context:**

According to recent Report Water bodies in the country are polluted due to discharge of untreated sewage, industrial effluent, agricultural run off containing fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

#### **Steps Taken by CPCB:**



DailyCurrent Affairs Dated on 07 Aug 2018

- CPCB is monitoring the water quality of both surface and ground water under the National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP) through a network of monitoring stations in the country.
- The water quality is assessed for various parameters, including physico-chemical, bacteriological, heavy metals, pesticides, etc.

**Steps Taken by Govt.:**

The steps taken by the Government to check the pollution of water bodies, *inter alia*, include:

- Formulation and notification of standards for effluents from industries, operations or processes;
- Enforcing of these standards by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) through consent mechanism and regular monitoring;
- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality; installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring systems (OCEMS) to check the discharge of effluent directly into water bodies;
- Promotion of cleaner production processes; installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units.

**What is National Water Monitoring Programme?**

**NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME**

- Water quality monitoring in India started in 1978 under Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) Programme.
- National programme of Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources started in 1984 with a total of 120 stations in 10 River Basins.
- During the year 2000 monitoring network comprising of 870 stations extended to 26 states & 5 Union Territories.
- The monitoring is done on monthly or quarterly basis in surface waters and on half yearly basis in case of ground water.
- The monitoring network covers 445 Rivers, 154 Lakes, 12 Tanks, 78 Ponds, 41 Creeks/Seawater, 25 Canals, 45 Drains, 10 Water Treatment Plant (Raw Water) and 807 Wells.





Daily Current Affairs Dated on 07 Aug 2018

**Security Related Issues:**

**New Defence Production Policy**

**Why in News?**

In the Budget Speech 2018, Government has announced that it will bring out an industry friendly Defence Production Policy 2018 to promote domestic production by public sector, private sector and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

A draft Defence Production Policy 2018 has been prepared which provides a focused, structured and significant thrust to development of defence design and production capabilities in the country.

**Features of Draft Policy:**

- Creation of a dynamic, robust and competitive defence and aerospace industry as an important part of the 'Make in India' initiative.
- Creation of a tiered defence industrial ecosystem in the country.
- Reducing current dependence on imports and strive to achieve self-reliance in development and manufacture of weapon systems / platforms.
- The Policy mandates for Transfer of Technology or enhanced Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for domestic production in the event of non-availability of manufacturing capabilities in the country.

The policy envisages that Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) should focus on system integration, design and development, and actively engage domestic vendors in the private sector for other assembly work.

**Production of Tejas Aircraft**

**Why in News?**



DailyCurrent Affairs Dated on 07 Aug 2018

For production of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has got orders from Indian Air Force (IAF) for 40 aircrafts.

**About Tejas:**

The **HAL Tejas** is an Indian single-seat, single-jet engine, multirole light fighter designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.

It came from the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme, which began in the 1980s to replace India's ageing MiG-21 fighters. In 2003, the LCA was officially named "Tejas."



India's first indigenously designed and developed  
**LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT** *Tejas*

Project first conceived and launched in 1983	Maiden test flight took place on Jan 4, 2001	Designed for air-to-air, air-to-ground and air-to-sea combat roles	Intended to replace the phased out MiG-21 fighter jets
--	--	--	--

**Specifications**

Crew One	Length 13.2 m	Height 4.4 m	Wingspan 8.2 m	Max speed 1.6 mach	Engine F-404-GE-IN20
Project development cost ₹ 17,269 crore		Unit cost ₹ 220-250 crore		Max take-off weight 13,200 kg	

KBK InfoGraphics