



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 10-July-2019

## **GS-1**

### **Monsoon Break:**

#### **Why in News?**

The southwest monsoon, which has seen a vigorous phase over parts of central India, the western coast and eastern India, will likely take a break after July 15, private weather agency Skymet Weather said.

#### **About the Break:**

- The break, which is a routine occurrence during the monsoon in July, will be triggered as a low-pressure system hovering over Uttar Pradesh and adjoining [Madhya Pradesh](#) starts to fade away, resulting in a drastic decrease in the rains over the central parts of the country.
- Moreover, a trough now passing through the Indo-Gangetic plains would also shift north towards the foothills of the Himalayas, leading to increased rain.
- Break monsoon usually occurs when the monsoon trough moves closer to the foothills of Himalayas.

#### **Causes:**

- Indian monsoon is strongly influenced by tropical waves like Madden Julian oscillation which moves across the tropics in the globe. If MJO is unfavourable i.e if MJO is in other basins such as west pacific, Atlantic monsoonal activity in India tends to decrease
- Strong typhoons in south china sea/west pacific close to philippines moving in north/north east direction can rob the indian basin of moist south westerlies leading to break monsoon
- During break monsoon period, himalayan region including uttarakhand, Nepal and north east region including sub himalayan west bengal and south eastern India i.e Tamil Nadu & south Andhra receive rains
- Floods in Assam usually occur in break monsoon period. More number of thunderstorms occur in TN & south Andhra during the same period. If monsoon becomes active, thunderstorms decrease in TN & south Andhra
- Break monsoon is mostly observed each year in the month of August than July



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## GS-2

### India – Asean

#### *Why in News?*

India – ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers' meeting was held in New Delhi today for informal consultation on the ongoing Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

#### *What is RCEP?*

- The **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** is a proposed [free trade agreement](#) (FTA) between the ten member states of the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations](#) (ASEAN) ([Brunei](#), [Cambodia](#), [Indonesia](#), [Laos](#), [Malaysia](#), [Myanmar](#), the [Philippines](#), [Singapore](#), [Thailand](#), [Vietnam](#)) and the six Indo-Pacific states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements ([China](#), [Japan](#), [South Korea](#), [India](#), [Australia](#) and [New Zealand](#)).
- RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.
- In 2017, prospective RCEP member states accounted for a population of 3.4 billion people with a total [Gross Domestic Product](#) (GDP, PPP) of \$49.5 trillion, approximately 39 percent of the world's GDP, with the combined GDPs of China and India making up more than half that amount.
- RCEP is the world's largest [economic bloc](#), covering nearly half of the global economy.

#### *Economic Prowess of RCEP:*

- [According to estimates by PwC](#), the [Gross Domestic Product](#) (GDP, PPP) of RCEP member states is likely to amount to nearly \$250 trillion by 2050, or a quarter of a [quadrillion](#) dollars, with the combined GDPs of China and India making up more than 75% of the amount.
- RCEP's share of the global economy could account for half of the estimated \$0.5 quadrillion global (GDP, PPP) by 2050.



**GS-3**

**Liquidity Situation in NBFCs**

**Context:**

As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Financial Stability Report (FSR), released on June 27, 2019, liquidity stress in NBFCs was reflected in the third quarter of the last financial year due to an increase in funding costs and difficulties in market access in some cases.

**About FSR:**

Further, despite this, better-performing NBFCs with strong fundamentals were able to manage their liquidity even though their funding costs moved with market sentiments.

FSR also states that better-performing companies continue to raise funds, while those with asset-liability management and/or asset quality concerns are subject to higher borrowing costs.

**Steps Taken to strengthen regulation of NBFC:**

1. **Open market operations** were conducted, in addition to regular Liquidity Adjustment Facility auctions, to inject liquidity in financial markets.
2. The **single-borrower exposure limit** for NBFCs that do not finance infrastructure was increased from 10 percent to 15 percent of capital funds, up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.
3. Banks were permitted to provide **partial credit enhancement** for non-deposit accepting systematically-important NBFCs registered with RBI and HFCs registered with National Housing Bank as per guidelines.
4. RBI reduced the minimum average maturity requirement for External Commercial Borrowings in the infrastructure space raised by eligible borrowers from five years to three years.
5. NBFCs were provided **regulatory concessions** to enable restructuring of MSME loans.
6. NBFCs with assets over Rs. 5,000 crore have been asked to appoint a **Chief Risk Officer** to improve the standards of risk management.



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### **What are NBFC?**

- A Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 of [India](#), engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares, stock, bonds, hire-purchase insurance business or chit-fund business but does not include any institution whose principal business includes agriculture, industrial activity or the sale, purchase or construction of immovable property.

### **Generic medicines:**

#### **Why in News?**

With an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all, PradhanMantriBhartiya Jan AushadhiPariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India.

#### **Objectives of the scheme:**

- Making quality medicines available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, through exclusive outlets "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras", so as to reduce out of pocket expenses in healthcare
- Under this scheme, dedicated outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) are opened to sell generic medicines at affordable rates.

#### **Implementation Agency**

- BPPI (Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India), under the administrative control of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India will be the implementation agency for the PMBJP.
- BPPI has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, with the support of all the Pharma CPSUs for coordinating procurement, supply and marketing of generic drugs through the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras.

#### **NLEM:**



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- The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) is one of the key instruments in healthcare delivery system of a country which inter alia includes accessible, affordable quality medicine at all the primary, secondary, tertiary levels of healthcare.
- The primary purpose of NLEM is to promote rational use of medicines considering the three important aspects i.e. cost, safety and efficacy.
- Furthermore it promotes prescription by generic names.
- The list serves as a reference document for correct dosage form and strength for prescribing.

## **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) Bill**

### **Why in News?**

Articles 15(6) and 16(6) have been inserted in the Constitution, vide the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019.

### **Purpose of the Amendment:**

- This enables the State to provide the benefits of reservation on preferential basis to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) in civil posts and services in the Government of India and admission in Educational Institutions.
- Accordingly, the provision for 10% reservation to the EWS was implemented by the Government in January 2019.
- The data regarding number of persons who have availed benefit of EWS reservation for appointment in Government services till date will be available with DOPT after uploading of data for the current year commence.
- Instructions have been issued by the Ministry of HRD for increasing the total number of seats over a period of two years, to provide for 10% EWS reservation, without adversely affecting the proportionate seats of SCs, STs and OBCs.

### **Eligibility:**

- 10% reservation under EWS category is applicable to those persons who are not covered under the existing scheme of reservations for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.



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**Feminization of Agriculture:**

**Context:**

As per Agriculture Census conducted at an interval of every five years by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, the percentage of female operational holdings in the country **have increased from 12.78 percent during 2010-11 to 13.78 percent during 2015-16.**

**Steps taken in this regard:**

- Ministry of Rural Development is already implementing a programme exclusively for women farmers namely, Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), which is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- The primary objective of MKSP is to empower women by enhancing their participation in agriculture and to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for them.
- Funding support to the tune of up to 60% (90% for North Eastern States) for such projects is provided by the Government of India.
- The Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is also promoting mainstreaming of Gender Concerns in agriculture by ensuring flow of funds and benefits to the tune of 30% for women farmers under its beneficiary oriented Schemes and Programmes.
- Besides, Government is providing additional support and assistance to women farmers, over and above the male farmers under a few selected Schemes.

**Garbage at Mount Everest:**

**Why in News?**

In a bid to save Mount Everest from trash, Nepal conducted a month-long cleaning campaign and collected around 10,000 kg of rubbish from the region.



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### **What is being Done?**

- Instead of sending the solid waste straight to the landfill near Kathmandy, the items were segregated, processed and recycled as raw materials for various products.
- They segregated the collected materials in different categories such as plastic, glass, iron, aluminium and textile.
- Besides recycling the waste, team is also working with municipalities, hospitals, hotels and different offices to maximise value from waste by recycling, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills and by creating green jobs.
- To make the campaign more effective, the company suggested authorities to set up an initial processing unit in the mountain area itself, so that waste can be segregated immediately and easily managed.

### **Selling products online**

- Though the company does not recycle the materials itself, it collaborates with another firm called Moware Designs to create up-cycled glass bottle products and to sell them online.
- Glass products are trendy and useful for homes home, offices, restaurants and hotels.
- They are used as decorative items as a flower vase, candle cover, plates, travel cups, regular drinking glasses or as an accessory.
- These products, which range from 350 Nepalese rupees to 2,000 Nepalese rupees (\$3 to \$18), are bacteria free as they are sterilized.
- These glass items have also been a means of livelihood for local women who shape them into trendy designs.