News Analysis (02 Jul, 2019)

One Nation One Ration Card Scheme

- Recently the Food Minister announced One Nation One Ration Card Scheme, which all states needs to implement by July 2020.
- One Nation One Ration Card' scheme seeks to provide **portability of food security benefits** all across the nation.

Features

- The poor migrant workers will be able to buy subsidised rice and wheat from any ration shop in the country but for that their **ration cards must be linked to Aadhaar**.
- Migrants would only be eligible for the subsidies supported by the Centre, which include rice sold at Rs. 3/kg and wheat at Rs. 2/kg, It would not include subsidies given by their respective state government in some other state.
- This scheme will ensure that no poor person is deprived of subsidised grains.
- The scheme can be implemented as already 77% of the ration shops across the country have PoS machines and more than 85% of people covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) have their cards linked to Aadhaar.
- For remaining beneficiaries, all the States have been given one more year to use point of sale (PoS) machines in the ration shops and implement the scheme.

National Food Security Act

- The basic concept of food security globally is to ensure that all people, at all times, should get access to the basic food for their active and healthy life and is characterized by availability, access, utilization and stability of food.
- Food security can also be derived from the fundamental right to life enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution, as it may be interpreted to include right to live with human dignity, which may include the right to food and other basic necessities.
- In pursuance of this, the enactment of the National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 marks a paradigm shift in the approach to food security from welfare to the rights-

based approach.

- The Act legally entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan, launched by the Union Jal Shakti Minister has begun from 1st July, 2019.

- The Jal Shakti Abhiyan is a **campaign for water conservation** and water security in the country.
- The campaign will run through citizen participation in two phases, firstly, during the monsoon season, from 1st July, 2019 to 15th September, 2019 and then from 1st October, 2019 to 30th November, 2019 for states receiving the North East retreating monsoons.
- It is a collaborative effort of various ministries of the Government of India and state governments, being **coordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)** that comes under the Jal Shakti Ministry.
- The focus of the campaign is on water stressed districts and blocks. The teams of officers from the central government will visit and work with district administration in **1592 water stressed blocks in 256 districts,** to ensure five important water conservation interventions.
- The **five important water conservation interventions** are :
    - Water conservation and rainwater harvesting,
    - Renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks,
    - Reuse of water and recharging of structures,
    - Watershed development and
    - Intensive afforestation.
- The water conservation interventions will also be supplemented with special interventions including the development of block and district water conservation plans, promotion of efficient water use for irrigation and better choice of crops through Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Global Trans Fat Elimination Report: WHO

According to the first annual global progress report on trans fat elimination issued by World Health Organization (WHO), more than 110 countries still have no regulations against trans fat.

- Lack of regulations have left around five billion people at risk of industrially produced

trans fat exposure in the foods they eat every day.

- This new report summarizes country actions to ban industrially produced trans fat and makes recommendations for action to achieve the 2023 goal for global elimination. It's recommendations are:
    - Develop and implement mandatory Trans-Fatty Acids (TFA) limits.
    - Share experiences and best practices in TFA elimination, and consider regional or intercountry networks to enhance actions.
    - Renew support and strengthen commitment for eliminating industrially produced TFA by 2023 to achieve the first elimination of a risk factor for noncommunicable diseases.
- Intake of trans-fatty acids (TFA) is associated with increased risk of heart attack and death from heart disease.
    - TFA intake is estimated to be responsible for more than half a million deaths from coronary heart disease each year around the world.
    - Replacing industrially produced TFA with healthier oils and fats is feasible without changing the taste of food or its cost to the consumer.

Background

- In May 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the REPLACE action package to support governments to eliminate industrially produced TFA from the global food supply by 2023.
- In 2011, India set a TFA limit of 10% in all oils and fats, which was further reduced to 5% in 2015. In December 2018, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India proposed reducing this limit further to 2% and eliminating artificial TFA in the food supply by 2022, a year ahead of the global target.

STRIDE

The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has approved a new initiative, **Scheme for Trans-Disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE),** to support socially relevant, local need-based, nationally important and globally significant research projects.

The UGC has set up an advisory committee under its Vice Chairman Bhushan Patwardhan, to oversee the entire scheme.

Components of the Scheme

- **Component 1:** The Scheme will provide for **research capacity building in diverse disciplines** by mentoring, nurturing and supporting young talents to innovate

pragmatic solutions for local, regional, national and global problems. Grant available is upto Rs. 1 crore.

- **Component 2:** It will mainly focus on **enhancing problem solving skills** with the help of social innovation and action research to improve wellbeing of people and contribute for India's developing economy. Grant upto Rs. 50 lakh to 1 crore is available for projects under this component.
- **Component-3** will fund high impact research projects **in the identified thrust areas in humanities and human sciences** through national network of eminent scientists from leading institutions. Grant available under this component is upto Rs. 1 crore for one Higher Educational Institution and upto Rs. 5 crores for a multi institutional network.

Expected Benefits from the Scheme

- It will help strengthen **transdisciplinary research** culture in colleges and universities.
  - Trans-disciplinary research is a **team effort of investigators from different disciplines** to create new conceptual, theoretical, methodological innovations that integrates and transcends beyond discipline-specific approaches **to address a common problem**.
  - It goes beyond mere production of knowledge and extends to the **practical use of the knowledge** outside academic endeavour.
- It will provide opportunity to build multi sectoral linkages between **university-government-community-industry** for national development and wellbeing of people.
- It will give major impetus to **high impact research in Humanities** and Human Sciences.

University Grants Commission (UGC)

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) came into existence on 28th December, 1953 and became a **statutory organization of the Government of India** by an Act of Parliament in 1956, for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in university education.
- The **head office** of the UGC is located in **New Delhi**.

India International Cooperatives Trade Fair

First ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) to be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

- IICTF is a unique initiative for taking **farmers, artisans** & other members of **cooperatives** directly to the global trade platform.

- Trade Fair is being conducted by **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** with the support of **Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives** (NEDAC), Ministries, State Governments and several apex level Indian cooperative organizations.
- Focus sectors of India International Cooperatives Trade Fair are:
    - **Textile:** ginning spinning, power loom, textile processing.
    - **Agribusiness and food processing:** cold chain, packaging, climate-smart agriculture.
    - **Fast Moving Consumer Goods** (FMCG), Health and hospitality
    - **Trade and marketing:** agriculture produce marketing, transport and marketing infrastructure.
    - **Credit service and finance:** insurance, cooperative banking.

Significance

- The Cooperative sector has a big role to play in **doubling agriculture exports** (from present US $ 30 billion to US$ 60 billion) by **2022** as envisaged in the Agriculture Export Policy 2018.
    94% of the Indian farmers are members of at least one cooperative institution.
- IICTF would be a major platform to promote exports by cooperatives with direct benefits to their members who are mainly farmers, artisans, women, SC /ST etc.
- Promotion of exports of **key commodities**/value chain products that have **high potential**, and are backed by specific promotional initiatives (including the involvement of stakeholder entities) would definitely actualize the target of Doubling the Farmers Income and will achieve the goals set under the Agri-Exports Policy 2018.

NEDAC

- The Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in **Asia and the Pacific** is a unique regional forum linking 21 apex cooperative organizations in 12 countries.
- It was set up in 1991 by the **United Nations** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the **International Cooperative Alliance** (ICA) and the **International Labour Organization** (ILO).
- The NEDAC member organizations in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand represent **three million agricultural cooperatives** which play a crucial role in improving the livelihoods of 150 million rural households.
- NEDAC sensitizes governments in the region to the need for a key role for **agricultural cooperatives** in promoting agricultural and rural development to ensure **rural food** and **livelihood security** for hundreds of millions of people in Asia and the Pacific.

INS Viraat to be Scrapped

The Union Ministry of Defence has decided to scrap **INS Virat** after consultation with Indian Navy.

- The Navy has been incurring expenditure on its upkeep such as the provision of electricity and water, and repairs till date.
- The Navy has stated that it cannot keep Viraat indefinitely as it would block space in the already crowded Mumbai dockyard.
- Efforts to keep it intact by converting it into a museum or other means have not been successful.
- Ministry stated that INS Viraat could not be handed over to any State Government because of non-receipt of a self-sustaining financially complete proposal.
- There had been demands from various quarters to not let Viraat go the INS Vikrant way, India's first carrier that was eventually scrapped.
- **INS Vikrant, a Centaur class,** was maintained by the Navy in Mumbai for 17 years as various proposals to convert it into a museum went back and forth unsuccessfully before the ship was eventually sent to a scrapyard in 2014.
    - Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal in 2016 for the conversion of Viraat as an aircraft museum, including tourist and hospitality components on a commercial basis through a joint venture with the Union government.
    - But the Defence Ministry rejected the proposal.
    - In 2018, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved a proposal to convert the carrier into a museum and hospitality center on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis, but there were no takers.

INS Viraat

- Viraat, a Centaur class aircraft carrier weighing 27,800 tonnes, had served in the **British Navy as HMS Hermes** for 25 years from 1959 to 1984.
- The Centaur class was the light fleet carrier designs built for the Royal Navy (British Navy) in the closing years of the Second World War.
- After refurbishment, it was commissioned into the Indian Navy in May 1987.
- It was decommissioned from the Navy in March 2017 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- It is the **longest serving warship in the world**. It holds the Guinness Books of record for this.
- Viraat has played a major role in Operation Jupiter in 1989 in the Sri Lankan peacekeeping operation.
- It has been instrumental in sharpening the art of flying operations from a carrier deck in the Navy, which resulted in the seamless induction of INS Vikramaditya.

National Mission on Libraries

The Union Ministry of Culture has declared financial assistance under National Mission on Libraries (NML) to develop libraries in each States/UT.

- As per scheme, it will provide financial assistance for upgradation of infrastructure of one State Central Library and one District Library in each State/UT as NML Model Library.
- Public libraries as being a State Subject, function under the administrative control of the respective State/UT library authority.
- There are six Public Libraries under administrative control of Union Ministry of Culture namely National Library, Kolkata; Central Reference Library, Kolkata; Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi; Delhi Public Library, Delhi; Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna and Rampur Raza Library, Rampur.

National Mission on Libraries (NML)

- The Union Ministry of Culture in 2012 formulated the NML scheme in pursuance of National Knowledge Commission recommendations for sustained attention for development of Libraries and Information Science Sector.
    - The National Knowledge Commission was constituted in 2005 to prepare a blueprint for reform of knowledge related institutions and infrastructure which would enable India to meet the challenges of the future.
- The scheme consists of four components:
    - Creation of **National Virtual Library of India (NVLI)**
    - Setting up of NML Model Libraries
    - Quantitative & Qualitative Survey of Libraries
    - Capacity Building
- The setting up on NML Model Libraries would develop 6 Libraries under Ministry of Culture, 35 State Central Libraries and 35 District Libraries with particular emphasis on economically backward districts, as model Libraries.
    - In addition, 629 district libraries across the states would be provided network connectivity.
- The Quantitative & Qualitative Survey of Libraries would be undertaken to prepare a baseline data of libraries in India through a survey of 5000 Libraries.
- The Capacity Building would be undertaken to enhance the professional competence of library personnel.

National Virtual Library of India (NVLI)

- The objective of the NVLI is to facilitate the creation of a comprehensive database on digital resources of India on information about India in an open access environment.

- Salient features of NVLI are:
    - Federated searching through multilingual user interfaces.
    - Virtual learning environment.
    - E-Governance platform facilitating data analytics
    - Multilingual searching and retrieval on ontology/thesaurus based.
- The project of creation of NVLI costing Rs.72.34 crore had been entrusted to IIT Bombay (in collaboration with C-DAC, Pune and IGNOU, Delhi).

Kailash Mansarovar in Tentative List of World Heritage Sites

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of State of Culture and Tourism clarified that proposal for 'Sacred Mountain Landscape and Heritage Routes' **(Indian side of Kailash Mansarovar)** has been included in Tentative List of World Heritage Sites of India

- It was proposed as a Mixed site in April 2019.
- As per UNESCO's Operational Guidelines 2017, a site must be on the tentative list of UNESCO at least for a period of one year before proposing it for final nomination.
- Once the nomination is done, it is sent to the World Heritage Centre (WHC) by the stipulated deadline of 01 February of a calendar year.
- Accordingly, the decision of permanent inclusion of any site in the World Heritage list is taken by the members of the World Heritage Committee.

World Heritage site

- World Heritage site, any of various areas or objects inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List.
- The sites are designated as having "outstanding universal value" under the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972.
- It provides a framework for international cooperation in preserving and protecting cultural treasures and natural areas throughout the world.
- There are three types of sites: Cultural, Natural, and Mixed.
    - Cultural heritage sites include hundreds of historic buildings and town sites, important archaeological sites, and works of monumental sculpture or painting.
    - Natural heritage sites are restricted to those natural areas that:
        - Furnish outstanding examples of Earth's record of life or its geologic processes
        - Provide excellent examples of ongoing ecological and biological evolutionary processes.
        - Contain natural phenomena that are rare, unique, superlative, or of outstanding beauty,
        - Furnish habitats for rare or endangered animals or plants or are sites of

exceptional biodiversity.
- Mixed heritage sites contain elements of both natural and cultural significance.

UNESCO's World Heritage of India

Tangible Heritage			Intangible Cultural Heritage
Cultural	*Natural*	*Mixed*	*Indian Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*
- Taj Mahal, Agra - Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh - Hampi, Karnataka - Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra - Ellora Caves, Maharashtra - Bodh Gaya, Bihar - Sun Temple, Konark, Odisha - Red Fort Complex, Delhi - Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh - Chola Temples, Tamil Nadu - Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu - Humayun's Tomb, New Delhi - Jantar Mantar, Jaipur, Rajasthan - Agra Fort, Uttar Pradesh - Fatehpur Sikri, Uttar Pradesh - Rani Ki Vav,	- Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh - Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary, Assam - Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan - Manas Wild Life Sanctuary, Assam - Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks, Uttarakhand - Western Ghats - Sundarbans National Park, West Bengal	Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim	- The tradition of Vedic chanting - Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana - Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre - Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India - Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala - Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan - Chhau dance - Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India - Sankirtana, ritual singing,

Patan, Gujarat
- Group of Monuments at Pattadakal, Karnataka
- Elephanta Caves, Maharashtra
- Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University), Bihar
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus), Maharashtra
- Mountain Railways of India
- Qutub Minar and its Monuments, New Delhi
- Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, Gujarat
- Hill Forts of Rajasthan
- Churches and Convents of Goa
- Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh
- Capitol Complex, Chandigarh
- The Historic City of Ahmedabad
- The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai

drumming and dancing of Manipur
- Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India
- Yoga
- Nawrouz, Novruz, Nowrouz, Nowrouz, Nawrouz, Nauryz, Nooruz, Nowruz, Navruz, Nevruz, Nowruz, Navruz
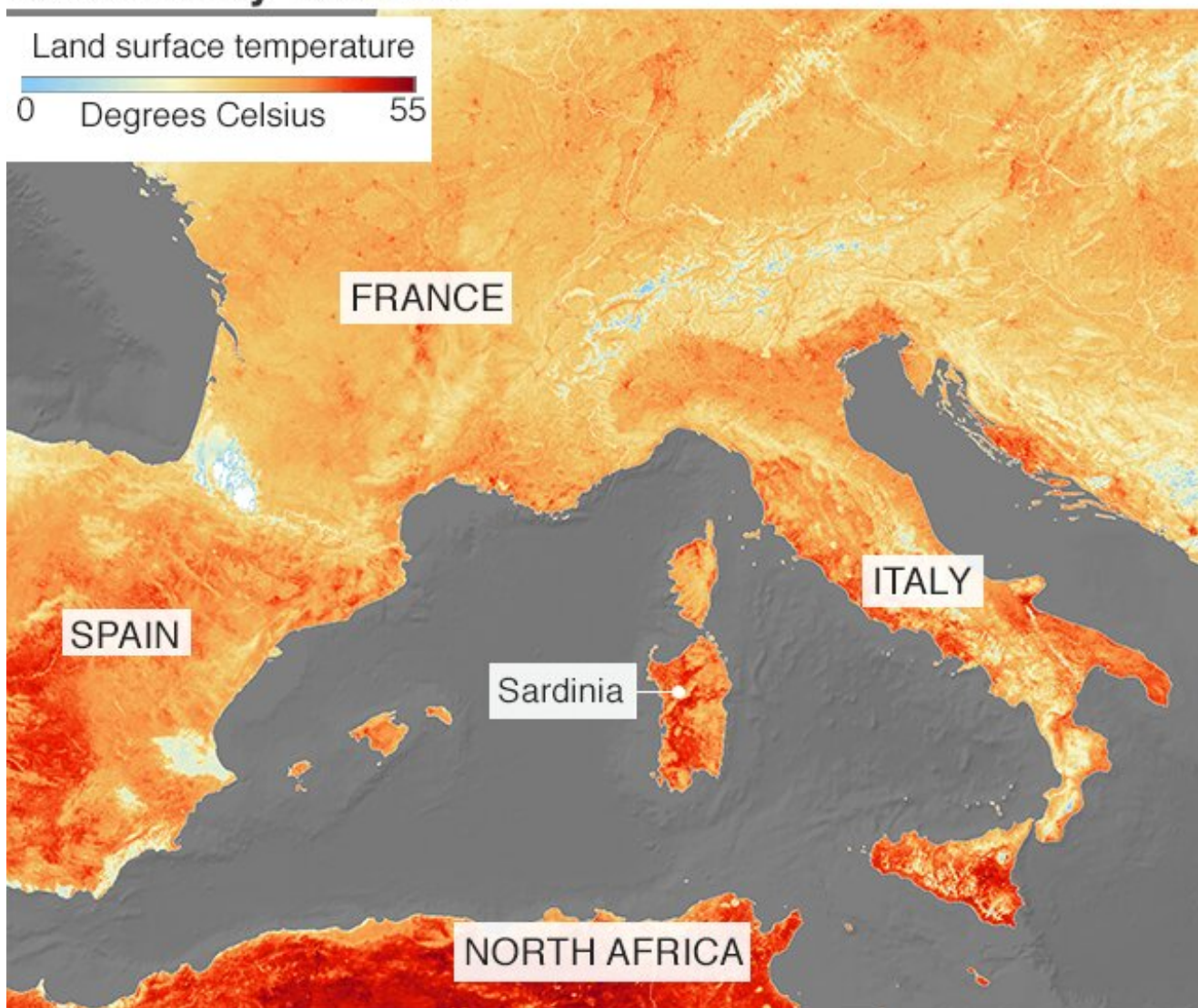- Kumbh Mela

European Heatwave

France has recorded the hottest temperature of 45.9°C amid European heatwaves.

The heatwave in Europe has caused **flash floods** and **forest fires**.

European heatwave

Europe's high land surface temperatures revealed by satellite

Land surface temperature

0   Degrees Celsius   55

FRANCE

ITALY

SPAIN

Sardinia

NORTH AFRICA

- According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), heatwaves in Europe are the result of warm air masses from Africa and extreme heat condition in **India, Pakistan, parts of the Middle East and Australia**.

- According to weather experts, heatwaves are being amplified by a rise in <u>global temperature</u>.
- A scientific study on Europe-wide heatwave by the World Weather Attribution group concluded that high temperatures in the region were made more likely by **human activities** that contributed to <u>climate change</u>.
- If the current trend were to continue, heatwaves across Europe could occur as often as every other year by the **2040's**, with the possibility that **temperatures may rise** by 3-5 degree Celsius by 2100.

NASA's Punch Mission

Dipankar Banerjee, a solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics is a **co-investigator of NASA's PUNCH mission.**

- PUNCH, which stands for **"Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere,"** is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.
- PUNCH will consist of a **constellation of four suitcase-sized microsats** that will orbit the Earth and study how the corona, which is the atmosphere of the Sun, connects with the interplanetary medium.
- The mission will also image and track the solar wind and coronal mass ejections, which are huge masses of plasma that get thrown out of the Sun's atmosphere. The coronal mass ejections can affect and drive space weather events near the Earth.
- There is also a plan to observe the Sun using joint observations from PUNCH and Indian mission Aditya, which is underway. India is planning to send up its own satellite Aditya-L1 with an aim to study the Sun's corona.
- The mission is expected to be **launched in the year 2022.**

Note

- **Corona:** It is the outermost region of the Sun's atmosphere, consisting of plasma (hot ionized gas).
- **Solar Wind:** It is the constant stream of solar coronal material that flows off the sun.
- **Interplanetary Medium:** It refers to thinly scattered matter that exists between the planets and other bodies of the solar system, as well as the forces (e.g., magnetic and electric) that pervade this region of space. The material components of the interplanetary medium consist of neutral hydrogen, plasma gas comprising electrically charged particles from the Sun, cosmic rays, and dust particles.