



CURRENT AFFAIRS 18th August 2022

National News

1. Trial run of cargo shipment between Kolkata and North-east completed



- The first of the four cargo trial runs between Indian and Bangladesh being conducted for the full operationalisation of the Agreement on the Use of Chattogram and Mongla Port (ACMP) was completed on Tuesday.
- The cargo shipment crossed the Bibirbazar-Srimantapur Land Customs Station (LCS) which will be further transported to Silchar in Assam.
- Another container from the same shipment that had arrived from Kolkata to Mongla port was earlier flagged off from Tamabil land port into Meghalaya on August 10.
- Minister of State, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Pratima Bhoumik received the Cargo on its arrival in Tripura.
- Tripura Minister for Industry and commerce Santana Chakma and Assistant High Commissioner of India at Chattogram Dr Rajiv Ranjan were present on the occasion.

- Minister Pratima Bhoumik said that the experimental cargo movement has created a new scope for transportation of consignments.
- Once the system is regularised, several items could be transported to the northeastern states through Bangladesh.
- The containership MV Rishad Rayhan had arrived from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SPMP) Kolkata at the Mongla port on August 8.

2. Chinese authorities scramble to prevent falling birth rates as “three child policy” finds less traction among youth



- Chinese authorities issued new guidelines to promote population growth amid falling birth rate.
- In a rare occurrence, a total of 17 Chinese government departments on Tuesday jointly released a guideline on support policies in finance, tax, housing, employment, education and other fields to create a fertility-friendly society and encourage families to have more children, as the country’s latest “Three child policy” found less traction among the population in child-bearing age.
- China’s National Health Authority said on Tuesday, China will discourage abortions and take steps to make fertility treatment more accessible as part of efforts to boost one of the world's lowest birth rates.
- The authority said it would carry out reproductive health promotion to enhance public awareness while "preventing unintended pregnancy and reducing abortions that are not medically necessary."

- China's fertility rate of 1.16 in 2021 was far below the 2.1 OECD standard for a stable population and among the lowest in the world.
- The announcement underscored the seriousness of China's demographic decline, as a contraction in Chinese population is expected before 2025.
- Experts said that China's total population may begin to shrink earlier than previously expected, and with the decreasing willingness for marriage and fertility especially among young people, the situation may worsen.

3. DoT allocates spectrum to telecom operators, I&T Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw asks telcos to prepare for 5G launch



- The Department of Telecommunications(DoT) has allocated spectrum to telecom operators, paving the way for launch of 5G services.
- Communications and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the letters for spectrum assignment were issued.
- Mr Vaishnaw has also requested Telecom Service Providers to prepare for 5G launch. Bharti Enterprises Chairman sunil Mittal praised at the speed at which DoT processed all the matters related to spectrum auction.
- Yesterday, Airtel paid 8312.4 cr rupees towards spectrum dues and was provided the allocation letter for the designated frequency bands within hours.
- Mr Mittal said, E band allocation was given along with spectrum as promised.

- He said, No fuss, no follow Up, No running around the corridors and No tall claims and this is ease of doing business at Business as it should be.
- With the assignment of frequencies, telecom operators can start the work for rolling out 5G networks.
- Telcos have already placed orders for buying telecom equipment and now will start distributing radios to the identified sites for 5G.

4. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited signs MoU for establishing an office in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia



- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an MoU for establishing an office in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.
- The office in Malaysia will help HAL in tapping the new business opportunities for Fighter Lead in Trainer (FLIT) LCA and other requirements of Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) like Su-30 MKM and Hawk upgrades.
- It will reinforce the commitment of India in supporting the Malaysian Defense Forces and industry for sustainable aerospace and defense landscape in Malaysia.
- HAL's office in Kuala Lumpur will take up market promotion of HAL's range of products and services not only in Malaysia but in entire South East Asia.

- HAL had submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), Malaysia during October 2021 for supply of 18 FLIT LCAs against a global tender issued by RMAF.
- The final winner of the tender is expected to be declared soon by Malaysian authorities.
- LCA Tejas stands a fair chance of selection in the bid as it meets all the parameters sought by RMAF.

5. Govt undertakes Project Cheetah to re-establish endangered species in its historical range in India



- Government has undertaken the ambitious Project Cheetah which aims to re-establish the species in its historical range in India. Reintroduction of wild species particularly the Cheetah is being undertaken as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN guidelines.
- Environment Ministry said processes like disease screening, quarantine of release candidates as well as transportation of live wild animals across continents require careful planning and execution.
- It said reports in certain sections of the media that African Cheetahs are still stuck in transit are completely unfounded.

- The date for Cheetah introduction and translocation has not been decided yet.
- Environment Ministry said all precautions are being taken to ensure success of the project.
- Upon arrival, the Cheetahs will be kept under quarantine and observed before release.

6. Center appoints Rajkiran Rai as NaBFID managing director for nearly 5 years



- The Centre and the board of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) has appointed Rajkiran Rai G as its managing director (MD) for the next five years.
- The board of NaBFID approved Rai's appointment on July 30 based on clearance by the RBI, centre and the Development finance institutions (DFI) nomination and remuneration committee.
- He took charge as the DFI's MD on August 8, and will hold the top post till May 18, 2027, according to details of the appointment.

- Last year in October 2021, the Centre had appointed K V Kamath as chairperson of NaBFID. Subsequently, government nominees Pankaj Jain and Sumita Dawra were appointed directors to the board of DFI.
- The government has already infused Rs 20,000 crore into NaBFID to help the DFI start its operations to catalyse investment in the infrastructure sector

7. PM sets 'Panch Pran' target for next 25 yrs



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the nation from the Red Fort for the ninth time in a row on August 15, 2022. PM Modi, in his 88-minute speech, outlined his “Panch Pran Targets” (Five Resolves) to make India a developed country by the time it celebrates its 100th Independence Day in 25 years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the Panch Pran Goal.
- Cleanliness campaigns, vaccinations, electrical connections, the elimination of open defecation, and the usage of solar energy are all examples of established India standards according to the Panch Pran.
- A prime illustration of “liberation from the concept of servitude” is the New National Education Policy.

- **Women’s rights, gender equality, and India First are national emblems of solidarity and unity.**
- **India would advance if its citizens carry out obligations like saving power, practising chemical-free agriculture, and making the most of the available irrigation water.**

The Panch Pran are as follows:

- Advance with greater conviction and the determination of a developed India**
- Get rid of any signs of slavery**
- Take pride in India’s history.**
- the power of unity**
- duties of citizens, such as those of the PM and CMs.**

8. Ireland’s Kevin O’Brien announces retirement from International Cricket



- **Ireland all-rounder Kevin O’Brien has announced his retirement from international cricket after falling out of contention for this year’s T20 World Cup in Australia.**
- **O’Brien played three Tests, 153 one-day internationals and 110 T20 internationals during a 16-year international career and had spells with a number of English county clubs and T20 franchise sides around the world.**
- **The 38-year-old famously blasted the Irish to victory over England in a 2011 World Cup group match in India with a 50-ball century—still the tournament’s quickest.**
- **The Dubliner scored 9,048 runs in total for Ireland, including the country’s first Test hundred, a second-innings knock of 118 against Pakistan in 2018, and took 276 wickets**

By Sameer Singhal

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PLUTUS ACADEMY