



AIR Discussions (August 4th Week)

ALL INDIA RADIO SUMMARY (22 August -29 August, 2020)

SPOTLIGHT (27 August 2020)

NATIONAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY

GS-III: Employment, Growth and Development, Government Policies and Interventions.

Context:

- The Union Cabinet approved creation of a National Recruitment Agency (NRA) to conduct an online Common Eligibility Test (CET) for selecting candidates for the majority of central government jobs.



Key highlights:

- NRA will conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET) for **all non-gazetted posts, including Group B and C (non-technical) jobs**.
- It will allow job seekers to take one common test and save costs and time spent on writing multiple exams.
- Madhya Pradesh** is the first state in the country to take this unprecedented decision of giving government jobs to youths of the state on the basis of their NRA score.
- Initially, the Union Cabinet has approved an amount of **Rs 1517.57 crores for the NRA, for a period of 3 years**. The money will be used for setting up of NRA, and examination centers in 'aspirational districts'.
- The NRA will set up **examination centers in every district** of the country.
- NRA has been envisioned as 'a specialist body bringing the state of the art technology and best practices to the field of central government recruitment'.

NRA COMPOSITION:

The National Recruitment Agency will have representatives of:

Ministry of Railways (India)
Minister of Finance (India)/Department of Financial Services
Staff Selection Commission(SSC)
Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and
Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

Given that on an average 2.5 crores to 3 crores aspirants, appear for about 1.25 lakh vacancies in the central government every year. NRA will

- **Avoid duplication of efforts** and speedup the process
- Reduce burden on exam conducting agencies
- Bring **transparency and accountability** in recruitment process
- **E- governance**
- Inclusive and sustainable process

Major positive implications of this move:

- **Large-scale beneficiary:** NRA will benefit around 25 million aspirants who apply for multiple government jobs every year and have to apply for each exam separately.
- **Reduce aspirants mental and financial burden:** Aspirants will be able to apply once for a single or multiple recruitment exams and take the Common Eligibility Test (CET). Its score will be valid for 3 years. CET would significantly reduce the lengthy recruitment cycle as some of the recruitment departments have decided to skip their tier -2 or second level test and go ahead with the recruitment based on CET score which will be the preliminary level test followed by physical tests and medical examination.



- **Common Eligibility Test:** CET will be conducted separately for graduate, higher secondary (12th) and metric (10th) levels. Each level of exam will have a common syllabus and will serve as a screening (preliminary) test for that level.
- **Time and energy saving:** Candidates who clear CET once, will be eligible to attempt for the second level exam (mains) thrice (once every year). They will not have to appear for the PT/ screening test again for three years.



- **Improve accessibility:** Candidates will have the facility to give a choice of centers and they would be allotted the chosen centers, based on availability. They will be given an option to schedule their own tests at their choice centers.
- **Improve overall education infrastructure:** Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs 1517.57 crores for the NRA. The expenditure will be undertaken over a period of three years. The cost will also be incurred for setting up exam infrastructure in 117 districts with large numbers of aspirants. The proposal is expected to ease the access to aspirants residing in rural areas.
- **Student friendly and sustainable mode:** Candidates will not have to incur additional expenses for travel, boarding, lodging to reach their exam centers that are usually far from their hometown. Single exam will reduce the financial burden on candidates.
- **Gender-inclusive:** The availability of exam centers in every district would benefit the female candidates as well. Girls generally depend on a guardian (father/brother/ husband) to accompany them in reaching their exam centers if it is far away from their hometown. The location of test centers in every district would benefit the candidates, particularly women.
- **Reduce regional and language imbalance:** CET would be available in a number of languages, benefitting aspirants from different regions of the country. Presently, most of the exams are conducted in English and Hindi languages. The Common Eligibility Test (CET) will be conducted in 12 languages that are in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- Concentration of the exam will **improve examination quality.**

Major challenges

- **Creation of new jobs:** The number of government jobs is shrinking. In addition, as private participation in some government sectors is increasing, the number of government jobs will be further reduced. Creating more government jobs is a challenge for the centre.
- **Funds:** Due to pandemic, the government is already out of funds. Allotting funds for creation and maintenance of examination infrastructure will be a challenge.
- **Pandemic:** Covid-19, provision of lockdown and social distancing will impact the process of constructing examination infrastructure.

Conclusion: Realization of the goal of the *“NRA=Ease of Living for the Young Job Aspirants”* goal requires efforts from all stakeholders that are participating agencies, job seekers and government. This move will not only improve the quality of human resources but will also help India to reap the benefits of its “Demographic dividends”.

Reference:

<http://newsonair.gov.in/writereaddata/Broadcast/Daily/2020/Aug/Spotlight-News-Analysis-SN-202082719530.mp3>



National news

Kavkaz 2020

Context: India withdraws from multilateral military exercise in Russia next month

About:

- India has announced that it is withdrawing from multilateral Military Exercise Kavkaz 2020 to be held in Russia next month.
- Russia and India are close and privileged strategic partners and at Russia's invitation, India has been participating in many international events. However, in view of Pandemic and consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics, India has decided not to send a contingent this year to Kavkaz-2020.
- India had earlier planned to send around 150 Indian Army troops, 45 Indian Air Force personnel and a number of Navy officers to the multilateral military exercise to be held in the Astrakhan region in southern Russia from 15th to 26th September.

Reference: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=India-withdraws-from-multilateral-military-exercise-in-Russia-next-month&id=398571>

India and Singapore

Context: India, Singapore sign Implementing Arrangement on Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief

Details:

- The two countries held a Defence Policy Dialogue via video conferencing.
- Both sides held discussions on a number of issues of bilateral defence engagements between India and Singapore. Both sides committed to further enhance the security partnership between the two countries.

Reference: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=India%2c-Singapore-sign-Implementing-Arrangement-on-Humanitarian-Assistance-%26-Disaster-Relief&id=398456>

Bamboo Clusters

Context: Centre to develop three Bamboo Clusters in Jammu, Katra and Samba areas of J&K

More information:

- Three Bamboo Clusters will be developed in Jammu, Katra and Samba areas for making Bamboo basketry, Agarbatti and Bamboo Charcoal.
- It will provide direct employment to nearly 25 thousand people.



- Apart from this, a Mega Bamboo Industrial Park at Ghati near Jammu and Bamboo Technology Training Centre will also come up in the region.
- Further steps will be taken for augmenting infrastructure and promoting entrepreneurship in the Bamboo sector in the region.
- Bamboo is being used in low cost housing and as construction material.

Reference: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=Centre-to-develop-three-Bamboo-Clusters-in-Jammu%2c-Katra-and-Samba-areas-of-J%26K&id=398497>

Chunauti

Context: Indian Government launches contest “Chunauti” to promote startups in small towns

More information:

- The Minister for Electronics and Information Technology has launched **“Chunauti”- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of the country.**
- The government has earmarked a budget of over 95 crores rupees over a period of three years for this programme.
- It aims at identifying around three hundred startups working in identified areas and providing them **seed funds of up to 25 lakh rupees** and other facilities.
- Under this challenge, the Ministry of Electronics and IT will invite startups in the **areas of work including Edu Tech, Agri Tech and FinTech solutions for masses, Supply Chain and Logistic management, Infrastructure, Medical Healthcare as well as jobs and skilling.**
- The startups selected through Chunauti will be provided with various supports from the Government.

Reference: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=Government-launches-contest-%e2%80%9cChunauti%e2%80%9d-to-promote-startups-in-small-towns&id=398496>

Net Zero Carbon Emission Railway

Context: The Indian Railways set to meet all its energy needs of over 33 billion units by 2030

More information:

- Indian Railways is set to meet all its energy needs of more than 33 billion units by 2030.
- The current annual requirement is about 21 billion units. Railways have developed a mega plan for installing solar plants of 20 Gigawatt capacities by utilizing its vacant land by 2030.
- The use of **solar power will accelerate the mission to achieve conversion of Indian Railways to Net Zero Carbon Emission Railway.**
- Railway is committed to utilize solar energy for meeting its traction power requirement and become a complete Green mode of transportation.



- Railway has adopted a multi-pronged approach towards **decarbonization**, which will be fulfilled by the solar projects, making it the first transport organization to be energy self-sufficient.
- This will help in making Indian Railways green as well as Atma-Nirbhar.
- The Indian Railways will extend all support to the developers for installing solar power plants on Railway's vacant un-encroached land.
- Boundary walls along the track will be constructed and maintained by developers, which will also help in preventing trespassing on tracks.

Reference: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=Indian-Railways-set-to-meet-all-it%26%2339%3bs-energy-needs-of-over-33-billion-units-by-2030&id=398359>

Comprehensive Manser Rejuvenation and Development Plan

Context: Union Minister of State reviewed the Comprehensive Manser Rejuvenation and Development Plan.

More information:

- The Comprehensive Manser Rejuvenation and Development Plan is for initiating the process for development, rejuvenation and beautification of Manser Wetlands.
- The plan aims at increasing tourist footfall and boosting the social economic development of Jammu region.
- The Plan includes up gradation of existing facilities and development of new projects with an aim to increase the annual tourist footfall to twenty lakhs.
- The project is being promoted in a way that the private sector can become a partner in the socio-economic development of the region.
- Once the project is completed, the local economy will get a boost and will open employment opportunities for the local youth especially in the tourism and hospitality sector.
- Manser, as a tourist destination, had immense potential for adventure sports, Eco-tourism, sightseeing, wildlife preservation and recreational activities.
- The proposed plan would also include a Birds Gallery and Birds Watchers Lodge.
- Option of developing a wellness center with the Department of AYUSH at Manser may also be explored. Therefore, it can be developed as a popular wellness destination in the UT as well as North India.

Reference: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=Dr-Jitendra-Singh-reviews-Comprehensive-Manser-Rejuvenation-%26-Development-Plan&id=398385>

Archaeological Survey of India.

Context: The Ministry of Culture has announced 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India.

More Details:

- The Ministry of Culture has taken the step in accordance with the Prime Minister's call to facilitate and strengthen the process of preservation and registration of archaeological monuments.



- The new circles have been created in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Gujarat.
- **Trichy, Raiganj, Rajkot, Jabalpur, Jhansi and Meerut have been announced as new circles.**
- Tamil Nadu, which has thousands of temples and glorious memories of the Chola kings, Trichy has been made a new circle along with the circle of Chennai.
- Hampi city in Karnataka is a place of international importance from the point of view of archaeological heritage therefore the Hampi Sub-Circle now has been made a new full-fledged circle.
- In West Bengal, Raiganj has been made as a new circle along with Kolkata, which will eliminate geographical inconvenience.
- In Gujarat, Rajkot has been announced as a new circle along with Vadodara.
- Jabalpur has been announced as a new circle along with Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. This will include the monuments from Jabalpur, Rewa, Shahdol and Sagar divisions.
- Jhansi in Bundelkhand and Meerut in western UP have been announced as two new circles along with Lucknow and Agra in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier there were 29 ASI circles across the country.

About Archaeological Survey of India:

- The Archaeological Survey of India is an Indian government agency attached to the **Ministry of Culture** that is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the country.
- It was founded in 1861 by **Alexander Cunningham** who also became its first Director-General.

Reference: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Ministry-of-Culture-announces-7-new-circles-of-Archaeological-Survey-of-India&id=398315>

Status of Sex Ratio at Birth in India Report

Context: The Vice President recently released a report- Status of Sex Ratio at Birth in India.

More information:

- The Status of Sex Ratio at Birth in India report mentioned that **there has not been any change in the sex ratio at birth in India from 2001-2017--the number of girl children born is much less than what is the general or natural norm.**
- It was brought out by the **Indian Association of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (IAPPD).**
- Stressing the need for rigorous implementation of **Pre-conception & Pre-natal Diagnostics Techniques law** to bring about a balance in the sex ratio.
- There should be zero tolerance towards any kind of discrimination or violence against girls and women.

Reference: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=Vice-President-urges-political-parties-to-arrive-at-consensus-to-provide-reservation-to-women-in-Parliament-%26-state-legislatures&id=398003>



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