

## **UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 10-02-2021**

### **Immunity Passports**

- “Immunity Passport” or “Risk-free Certificate” would enable individuals to travel or to return to work assuming that they are protected against re-infection. It attests that its bearer is immune to a contagious disease.
- Some governments have suggested that the detection of antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 could serve as the basis for an “immunity passport”.
- In a bid to ease travel restrictions amid the pandemic, countries like Denmark, Israel, UK, etc have announced ‘digital corona passport.’
- With the novel coronavirus, the proposed certificates would attest one of three things: that the holder has been vaccinated; has tested negative for the virus or has recovered from it.
- Governments and organisations across the world are considering digital travel passes, either through an app or part of a digital wallet.
- This passport will tell authorities that you have been vaccinated or have tested negative for Covid, and are eligible for travel.

### **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority**

- It was set up under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), as a statutory body under the Companies Act, 2013.
- It aims to administer the Investor Education and Protection Fund to promote Investor’s Education, Awareness and Protection.
- It takes various initiatives to fulfil its objectives through Investor Awareness Programmes and various other mediums like Print, Electronic, Social Media, and Community Radio etc.
- Secretary of the MCA is the Chairperson of the Authority and Joint Secretary of the MCA is the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.

### **Investor Education and Protection Fund**

- It is a fund set up to help promote investor awareness and protection of investor interests.
- It is a fund where unclaimed dividend, refunded application money, matured company deposits and debentures, as well as the interest on them, is used, provided it is not claimed within seven years.

## National Monsoon Mission

- Under the National Monsoon Mission (NMM), a state-of-the-art weather and climate prediction models are developed.
- These include models for short range to medium range (1-10 days), extended range (10 days to 30 days) and seasonal (up to one season).
- National Monsoon Mission is a state-of-the-art dynamical prediction system for monsoon rainfall on different time scales.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in 2012.
- It is executed and coordinated by Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).
- It aims to improve the monsoon prediction over India on all time scales and hence it is implemented for the whole country which includes all the States and UTs.
- Climate Forecast System (CFS) of National Centres for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), US has been identified as the basic modelling system for the above purpose.

## Models

- MoES has considered to use the following numerical models :
  1. American model Climate Forecast System (CFS) developed by NCEP, NOAA National Weather Service, USA.
  2. Unified Model (UM), developed by the United Kingdom Meteorological Office (UKMO), UK.
- **CFS model** is a coupled ocean-atmosphere modelling system.
- It combines data from ocean, atmosphere and land for providing long range forecasting (seasonal prediction of Indian Monsoon).
- Model developments on CFS will be implemented by IITM, with atmospheric initial conditions from NCMRWF and Ocean initial conditions from INCOIS.
- **UM model** will be utilized for short to medium range prediction.

## Lalandar Shatoot Dam

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by India and Afghanistan for the construction of Lalandar Shatoot Dam in Afghanistan.
- The project is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan.
- The Lalander dam is proposed to be constructed on the Kabul river basin, to meet the safe drinking water needs of Kabul City, provide irrigation water to nearby areas, etc.
- This is the second major dam being built by India in Afghanistan, after the

India- Afghanistan Friendship Dam [Salma Dam] in 2016.

## **Einsteinium**

- Berkeley Lab's scientists have reported some of the properties of element 99 in periodic table called "Einsteinium", named after Albert Einstein.
- It was discovered in 1952 in the debris of the first hydrogen bomb (the detonation of a thermonuclear device called "Ivy Mike" in the Pacific Ocean).
- [When Ivy Mike was detonated in 1952, as part of a test at island Elugelab on the Eniwetok Atoll in the South Pacific, it was 500 times more destructive than the explosion that occurred at Nagasaki.]
- It is difficult to create and is highly radioactive.
- Einsteinium-254 is the more stable isotope of the artificial element, has a half-life of 276 days.
- The most common isotope of the element, Einsteinium 253 has a half-life of 20 days.
- Because of its high radioactivity and short half-life of all einsteinium isotopes, even if the element was present on Earth during its formation, it has most certainly decayed.
- This is the reason that it cannot be found in nature and needs to be manufactured using very precise and intense processes.

## **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme**

- Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) has been approved for the period of next four years starting from 2021-22.
- [Seed Funding is a very early investment to a business to help it grow.]
- It will be implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.
- It will provide seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.
- It will provide financial assistance to start ups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.

## **Production-Linked Incentive Scheme**

- The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme was introduced in 10 more key sectors.
- Apart from inviting foreign companies to set shop in India, it encourages local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.
- The scheme aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
- It would boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on import bills.
- This would enhance India's Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing

Exports - Atmanirbhar Bharat.

- To know more about Production-Linked Incentive Scheme, [click here](#).

**Source: PIB, The Indian Express, The Hindu**

