



DAILY GK UPDATES GENERAL AWARENESS

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Economy

Growth of eight core sectors slows to 2.1% in July

According to official data released by the government, **Growth of eight core industries dropped to 2.1%** in July mainly due to a **contraction in coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products**.

The **eight core industries** of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity, which have a **40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production**.

The output of **coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products** recorded **negative growth in July 2019**.

These eight-core sector industries had **expanded by 7.3 per cent in July last year**.

During April-July, the eight sectors grew by 3 per cent compared to 5.9 per cent in the same period previous year.

Telling Numbers: The food we waste, and what it costs the global economy

According to the report “**Reducing Food Loss and Waste**” by the **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, **uneaten food is impacting the economy** and the environment negatively.

Key Findings

Defined Food Loss and Wastage:

Food loss refers to food that **spills, spoils, incurs an abnormal reduction in quality** such as **bruising or wilting, or otherwise gets lost** before it reaches the consumer. It is the unintended result of an agricultural process or **technical limitation in storage**, infrastructure, packaging, or marketing.

Food waste refers to **food that is of good quality and fit for human consumption** but that does not get consumed because it is discarded—either before or after it spoils. It is the result of negligence or a conscious decision to throw food away.

Impact of Uneaten Food:

Nearly one-third of the food that is produced each year goes uneaten, **costing the global economy over \$940 billion**.

Uneaten food is responsible for emitting about 8% of planet-warming greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Place of Food Loss and Wastage:

Most of the **food loss happens “near the farm”** predominantly in lower-income countries.

Most of the **food waste happens “near the plate”** predominantly in higher-income countries.

Share of Food Group Lost or Wasted:

Roots and tubers are the food group that face the maximum wastage, at over 62% in the year 2007. Fruits and vegetables follow, with over 41% in the year 2007.

By weight, fruits and vegetables make up the largest share of total annual food loss and waste.

Solution:

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Developing **national strategies for food loss** and waste reduction.

Creating **national public-private partnerships** to deal with food losses and wastage.

Tackling food loss and waste across the entire supply chain.

Shifting consumer social norms so that wasting food is seen as unacceptable.

Social Issues

Dr Harsh Vardhan addresses '72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia'

Recently, India has hosted the **72nd Session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Committee for South-East Asia.**

Highlights of the Conference

India's **disease burden is shifting from communicable to non-communicable diseases**, i.e. diet-related diseases such as **diabetes, hypertension, and obesity**, are rising rapidly.

Some recent steps that were taken by the government in health care:

The government is observing the entire **month of September as "Poshan Maah" (Nutrition Month)** to sensitize the public towards healthy eating,

It intends to address the twin issues of malnutrition and problem of obesity in some sections of the population, and intensifying the campaign towards a '**Malnutrition-Free India**'.

The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** has adopted a "**Food Systems approach**" to ensure our citizens have **access to safe and healthy food.**

Food Systems approach judiciously combines the **regulatory and capacity-building measures** with consumer empowerment initiatives.

Citizens are being sensitized through a **people's movement called 'Eat Right India'** which has a tagline: **Sahi Bhojan. Behtar Jeevan** – 'Right diet leads to better quality life'.

Recently, the Prime Minister of India launched **the 'Fit India Movement'**. On the occasion of National Sports day.

Ayushman Bharat is India's road to Universal Health Care.

India also plans to increase **full immunization coverage to 90% people** through intensification of campaigns under **Mission Indradhanush.**

International News

Warships and aircraft ready for first US-ASEAN maritime drills

Eight warships, four aircraft and more than **1,000 personnel from the United States and 10 Southeast Asian countries** will join for the **first ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX).**

The first Asean-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX) **between the ASEAN regional bloc and U.S. lasts for five days**, starting at the **Sattahip Naval Base in Thailand** and ending in Singapore.

All ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will take part in the exercises which include the boarding of target vessels to simulate search and seizure.

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The drills come at a time of stepped-up U.S. engagement in the region and **tensions between China and Southeast Asian nations** over the **South China Sea**, parts of which are claimed by **Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines**.

China claims the majority of the South China Sea, often invoking its so-called **nine-dash line** as a supposed **historic justification to the waters**, which are a key global shipping route.

Bangladesh signs agreement with India's Reliance Power for gas-based power Plant

The government of **Bangladesh signed an agreement with Reliance Power of India** to set up **750 MW gas-based power plant in Meghnahat near Dhaka**.

The construction of the plant will be **completed by 2022**. The estimated cost of the projects is **approximately 1 billion dollar**. Under the agreement Bangladesh will purchase electricity from the **project for a period of 22 years**.

An MoU has also been signed between **Reliance Power and Petro Bangla** to set up **500 mmscf LNG terminal at Kutubdia Island** near Chittagong in Bangladesh.

Power and Energy Sector Cooperation (As on 31 December 2018):

Bangladesh is currently **importing 1160 MW of power from India**.

The 1320 MW coal-fired Maitree thermal power plant, a 50:50 JV between National **Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) of India and Bangladesh** Power Development Board (BPDB), is being constructed at Rampal.

The GOI is also extending financial assistance for construction of **130 Km India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline** for supply of diesel from Siliguri to Parbatipur in Bangladesh.

Environment & Ecology

Hurricane Dorian makes landfall in Bahamas as Category 5 storm

Hurricane Dorian strengthened into a catastrophic **Category 5 storm and pounded the Bahamas**. The U.S. states of Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina have all **declared states of emergency**. The category five Dorian is the **second-strongest Atlantic hurricane** on record.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (SSHWS):

The **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (SSHWS)** is a **1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane's** sustained wind speed. This scale estimates **potential property damage**.

To be classified as a hurricane, **a tropical cyclone must have one-minute maximum sustained winds of at least 74 mph (33 m/s; 64 kn; 119 km/h) (Category 1)**.

The **highest classification in the scale, Category 5**, consists of storms with sustained winds over 156 mph (70 m/s; 136 kn; 251 km/h).

Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their **potential for significant loss of life and damage**.

KVIC Launches 'Terracotta Grinder' at Varanasi to Re-use wasted pottery

KVIC's REPLAN (REducing PLAstic in Nature) project has completed one year.

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KVIC has **started manufacturing of plastic-mixed handmade paper** at **Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI)**, a KVIC unit in Jaipur under its project REPLAN (REducing PLAsTic in Nature).

In this project, the waste plastic is collected, cleaned, chopped, beaten and treated for softness. After that, it is mixed with the paper raw material i.e. **cotton rags pulp in a ratio of 80 % (pulp) and 20% (plastic waste)**.

The institute has **sold over six lakh handmade plastic mixed carry bags** since September 2018.

The project is a part of **KVIC's commitment to Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan**.

70 rare Assam temple turtle hatchlings released in 'Mini Kaziranga'

About 70 hatchlings of the rare **Black Softshell and Indian Softshell turtles** bred in the ponds of two temples in Assam were released by in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam.

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is often called '**Mini Kaziranga**' because of similar landscape and a sizeable population of the one-horned rhino.

The "wild restocking" of the two turtle species was done under a joint programme of the management committees of two temples — **Ugratara in Guwahati and Hayagriv Madhav** in Hajo — the Assam Forest Department and two NGOs specialising in the conservation of reptiles.

This wild restocking programme is important for sustaining turtles in the Brahmaputra river system, especially the **Black Softshell (Nilssonia nigricans)** that is considered extinct in the wild.

Assam is the most species-rich State in India in terms of turtle diversity. It is home to 20 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises out of 29 species found in India. But, **80% of these species are threatened with extinction**.

Facts of the Day (Awards)

Express Governance Awards highlights: 16 DMs honoured for pioneering work

Recently, a total of **16 district magistrates** have been honoured with **The Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards** for their pioneering work across a wide range of categories.

Some of the unique initiatives are:

Category: Left Wing Extremism District

District: East Godavari (Andhra Pradesh)

Initiative: Digital Connectivity through FSOC.

Google's X FSOC or **Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC)** has enabled the **remote tribal villages located in the hills** to get connected with the outside world.

It provides **services like mobile connectivity, internet, and wireless landline** connectivity to the villages.

The initiative has **made facilities like telemedicine, public grievances redressal, online education etc. accessible for remote villages**.

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Availability of connectivity will help to eradicate Left Wing Extremism.

Category: Women Development

District: Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh)

Initiative : Sathidar Abhiyan

It is an **initiative for empowerment of women** and children through eradication of social evils.

The campaign intends to bring an end to the **reserve dowry system by social leaders** aware of the adversities.

It is not easy to end the practice in a go, so administration capped the dowry amount to Rs 50,000 or less initially as against the conventional Rs 2, 3 lakhs.

Eventually, administration succeeded to eliminate dowry system completely in targeted villages.

Category: Child Development

District: Nagpur (Maharashtra)

Initiative : Jivhala

The initiative aims for **Creating Awareness about Child Rights and Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Tribal Ashram schools.**

It provides training and orientation through video and reading material to students which made children open about these sensitive issues.

The initiative helped **to empower children and also sensitized the school administration** about their responsibilities.

Facts of the Day (Events)

South Asian Speakers' Summit rejects Pakistan's claims on Kashmir

Recently, the **4th South-Asian Speaker's Summit** on achieving **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** concluded in Male, Maldives.

India had a **heated discussion during the summit over the Kashmir issue** with Pakistan, where India rejected the **politicization of the forum by raising internal issues** of a particular country.

The joint statement released by the leaders in Male unanimously supported **India's bid regarding Kashmir**, & claimed it to be an internal matter of India, overlooking Pakistan's claims.

In the summit, the Indian **delegation was led by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.**

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) also participated in the summit in order to achieve **SDGs 2 & 3 targets: Nutrition and food security** as drivers of maternal, child and adolescent health in the Asia-Pacific region.

About Summit

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The Summit is intended for Speakers of the Parliaments of **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.**

Parliaments play a key role in **ensuring a sustainable future for current and future generations**- given their legislative oversight, & representative and budgetary functions.

This forum allows Speakers of various Parliaments to continue to develop dialogue and parliamentary cooperation on achieving the SDGs.

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