



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 04-06-2024

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Lebanon

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography- Mapping

Context

- **Hezbollah** member killed as IDF strikes in Lebanon after latest rocket fire at north

More to Know

- Since October 8 2023, Hezbollah-led forces have attacked **Israeli communities** and military posts along the border on a near-daily basis, with the group saying it is doing so to support Gaza during the **Israel-Hamas war** there.

About



- Lebanon, officially the Republic of Lebanon, is a country in the **Levant region of West Asia**.
- It is bordered by **Syria** to the north and east, by **Israel** to the south, and by the **Mediterranean Sea** to the west; Cyprus lies a short distance away from the country's coastline.
- Lebanon is located at the crossroads of the **Mediterranean Basin and the Arabian hinterlands**.
- Lebanon is a developing country, ranked 112th on the Human Development Index.
- This is a list of waterways named as rivers in Lebanon.

- *Lebanon has 22 rivers all of which are non-navigable; 28 rivers originate on the western face of the Lebanon range and run through the steep gorges and into the Mediterranean Sea, the other 6 arise in the **Beqaa Valley**.*

Colombo Process

Syllabus: GS-2; International Relations

Context

- *India has presented an action plan focusing on several of its priority areas for regional cooperation under the Colombo Process, a regional consultative forum comprising 12 Asian nations.*

About

- *The Colombo Process, also known as the **Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labor for Countries of Origin in Asia**, is a regional forum for Asian countries that send migrant workers abroad to share best practices and experiences on overseas employment.*
- *The process also allows countries to consult on issues faced by overseas workers and labor sending and receiving states.*
- *The Colombo Process's goal is to **optimize development benefits from organized overseas employment***

Members

- *The Colombo Process has 12 member states, including **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.***

Decision making

- *Decisions are made by **consensus** and are **non-binding**.*
- *Meetings are usually held in two parts: a **Senior Officials' Meeting** and **Ministerial Consultations**, where the chairmanship rotates.*
- *Senior Officials ensure that outcome documents are ready for adoption by **Ministers and Heads of Delegations** at the Ministerial Consultations.*
- *Recommendations adopted at the Ministerial Consultations can sometimes be implemented at the national level.*

Colombo process and India

- *In May 2024, India became the chair of the Colombo Process for the first time since its inception in 2003, and will hold the position until 2026.*
- *India's leadership is intended to renew a commitment to engaging all member states, improving migration governance, and promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration*

Bad loans

Syllabus: GS-3; Economy- Banking

Context

- *Swelling legacy bad loans, which require lenders to set aside higher sums with every passing year, has emerged as a new worry for State Bank of India (SBI), indicating its limited success in recovering these loans.*

Bad Loans in Banking Terminology

- *Bad loans in banking terminology are generally known as **Non-Performing Assets**.*
- *Any loan repayment that has been **delayed for 90 days or more** is considered a bad loan. It is mentioned in the balance sheet of the bank.*
- *Loans normally have a 90-day grace period, which means that EMI or interest payment can be delayed by a maximum of 90 days. Thus, if a payment is not made within this time frame, it is considered a non-performing asset.*

Examples of Bad Loans

Bad loans can be of various types, some of which are mentioned below -

- *Any EMI or interest payment that has been delayed for more than 90 days*
- *Any credit card or overdraft facility account that has been non-operational for more than 90 days*
- *Any short-term agricultural advance whose payment is late for more than two crop or harvest seasons*
- *Any long-term agricultural advance whose payment is late for more than one crop or harvest season*

How do Banks Deal with Bad Loans?

- *As soon as banks recognize a loan as a bad loan, their first plan of action is to try and retrieve as much of the funds as possible. They might try to call and get the EMI to be paid. Other steps include trying to settle the loan with the borrower.*
- *Eventually, they may also sell off the assets or collateral pledged by the borrower to retrieve the loan money.*

Effect of Bad Loans on Banks and Borrowers

- *Bad loans affect both the bank and the borrower. As for the bank, one or two bad loans don't have a huge impact. If too many of their loans become non-performing assets, they may face **perpetual losses**.*
- *As far as the borrower is concerned, even one missed EMI payment will have an impact on their credit score.*
- *Not repaying a loan for more than 90 days will have dire implications on their credit report.*
- *This will further make it difficult for them to procure loans in the future.*

Eco-friendly supercapacitors

Syllabus: GS-3: General Science – electronics.

Context:

- *Researchers devise method to develop **eco-friendly supercapacitors** using activated carbon produced from coconut husks.*

Supercapacitors

- *Also known as **ultracapacitors** or **electrochemical capacitors**.*
- ***Store electrical energy** via electrostatic charge separation at the interface between electrode and electrolyte.*
- ***Store larger amounts of charge per unit volume** compared to traditional capacitors.*
- *Capable of **rapid charging and discharging**.*
- *Complement batteries by providing bursts of power and **extending battery life**.*



Biowaste-Derived Activated Carbon for Supercapacitors

- Offers **sustainable and efficient solutions** for high-performance supercapacitors.
- **Made from biowaste**, it is low-cost and environmentally friendly.
- Produced using an **innovative microwave-assisted** method developed at the college's Centralised Common Instrumentation Facility (CCIF).
- This method yields **high-quality activated carbon** quickly and efficiently.
- Suitable for various applications, **including energy storage**.

Critical Minerals

Syllabus: GS-3: Environment – recycling.

Context:

- Ministry of Mines is **designing a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** for recycling critical minerals in India.

More about scheme:

- The scheme aims to **support a circular economy** and strengthen domestic supply chains.
- The move follows a **poor response to recent auctions** of critical mineral blocks.
- The scheme aligns with **recommendations from NITI Aayog** and complements the Battery Waste Management Rules (BWMR), 2022.
- BWMR mandates **recycling of used electric vehicle (EV) lithium-ion batteries** starting in 2026.

- *On May 1, 2024, the Ministry circulated a **concept note on the PLI scheme for feedback.***
- *Key stakeholders involved include the **Department of Science & Technology**, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), and the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI).*
- *The Ministry is still awaiting feedback from MNRE and MHI.*
- ***Target of PLI Scheme:** Focuses on e-waste recycling ("urban mining") to recover critical minerals like lithium, copper, cobalt, graphite, chromium, and silicon.*
- ***Importance of Critical Minerals:** Essential for clean energy technologies (solar PV modules, wind turbines), energy storage systems, EVs, and consumer electronics.*
- ***Role of MNRE and MHI:** Feedback crucial due to MNRE's involvement in solar and wind energy policies and MHI's role in the EV ecosystem.*
- ***Incentives and Goals:** Scheme aims to incentivize production of recycled critical minerals, promote investment in advanced recycling technologies and infrastructure.*
- ***Variation in Incentives:** Incentives likely to vary based on the type and value of minerals recycled.*
- ***Scope of Scheme:** Debate includes whether to focus only on high-purity critical minerals or include processing of black mass (shredded e-waste containing lithium, manganese, cobalt, nickel).*
- ***E-waste Projection:** India expects a surge in e-waste generation due to growth in solar, wind energy, and EV adoption.*
- ***Environmental Impact:** Recycling critical minerals can reduce reliance on virgin ores and new mines, promoting sustainability.*
- ***NITI Aayog's Recommendation:** Advocates for a PLI scheme for critical mineral recycling, similar to the one for cell manufacturers, to support domestic recyclers and manufacturers.*
- ***Parameters for Incentive Development:** Recommends considering factors like cell chemistry, recovery efficiency of minerals/metals, and benchmarks for domestic utilization.*
- ***Urgency in Incentivization:** Highlighted after unsuccessful technical bids for critical mineral blocks by the Mines Ministry, indicating low investor interest in domestic mining.*
- ***Non-fiscal Incentives:** Suggests complementing fiscal incentives with non-fiscal incentives from states to further support the initiative.*
- ***Integration with BWMR:** New incentives will complement the Battery Waste Management Rules (BWMR) of 2022.*
- ***Mandate of BWMR:** Requires producers of lithium, nickel, cobalt, and lead batteries to manage waste responsibly through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) compliance.*

- **EPR Compliance:** *Producers must manage their product waste under the polluter pays principle, ensuring accountability.*
- **Credit Trading:** *Producers can achieve compliance by trading credits with recyclers, fostering a market-based approach to waste management.*