

**Monthly
Current
Affairs GK
Digest**

August 2020

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CONFERENCE ON 'EASE OF DOING BUSINESS FOR AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT'

Current Context: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated a conference on 'Ease of Doing Business for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This 'Ease of Doing Business for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' is national digital conference of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Department for Promotion of Investment and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The conference was conducted to discuss the upcoming industrial approvals, projects and to improve the business sector in order to achieve ease of doing business factor in India in all terms like infrastructure, technology, manpower, employment skills etc.
- The stakeholders and business owners participated in the conference along with delegates of CII, where they discussed to enhance regulatory reforms for the businesses in India.
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal addressed the conference by mentioning the points like developing a single window digital system which will provide unified and integrated businesses. He also mentioned to promote finance for investments in businesses and to have the regulatory policy for industrial and corporate sector in India.
- He also focused to have relax restrictions on export policy in India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CII: New Delhi
 - President of CII: Uday Kotak
 - HQ of DPIIT: New Delhi

6TH BRICS ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS MEET

Current Context: The 6th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting was conducted via video conference. The meeting was participated by all the environment minister of the BRICS nation.

ABOUT MEETING

- **India was represented by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar.**
- **The meet was held under the presidency of Russia.**
- Union Environment Minister discussed about the efforts undertaken by India to achieve sustainable urban management , tackling marine litter, air pollution and cleaning of rivers and thus achieve Sustainable Development Goal.
- He also addressed that India support to achieve the global goal of climate change mitigation and adaption in coordination with other nations by believing in equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, finance, technology partnership etc.
- He also made a statement that India is believing and walk the talk on Paris Agreement and its Climate commitments.
- **Static Part:** India will be holding BRICS Presidency in 2021.

APPOINTMENTS ON 1ST AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Hamed Bakayoko: He is appointed as **Prime Minister of Ivory Coast.**

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Ivory Coast: Yamoussoukro
 - Currency of Ivory Coast: West African Franc
- **Urjit Patel:** He is appointed as **additional and independent director of Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd.** He is appointed for the tenure of 5 years
- **Varus Sridhar:** He is appointed as **CEO of Paytm Money.** He has replaced Pravin Jadhav
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm Money: Bengaluru
- **Hardik Satishchandra Shah:** He is appointed as **new Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

'MSMESAKSHAM' - PORTAL BY SIDBI AND TRANSUNION CIBIL

Current Context: The Small Industries and Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in partnership with TransUnion CIBIL has launched a portal named as 'MSMESaksham'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'MSMESaksham' portal is a comprehensive financial education and a knowledge platform for MSME sector.
- The portal will provide quick access to finance and credit facility to the MSMEs.
- The portal will guide the MSMEs in managing their credits along with providing knowledge hub in the form of articles, business insights to them.

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
 - TransUnion CIBIL: Mumbai

AIM, BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION AND WADHWANI FOUNDATION

Current Context: The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation has launched 'AIM-iCREST'.

KEY FACTS

- **The 'AIM-iCREST' is an incubator capabilities enrichment and enhancement program which aims to build robust ecosystem. It will focus on startups and will develop innovative skills in India.**
- The program will provide mandatory support in terms of finance, skills, manpower, infrastructure, and technology to the emerging incubators in the ecosystem which will help them to enhance their performance.
- It will also provide training to entrepreneurs.

KVIC SIGNED MOU WITH ITBP

Current Context: The Khadi and Village Industries Commissions (KVIC) has signed an MoU with Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

DETAILS

- **The MoU is signed to supply mustard oil under the initiative of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.**
- The tenure of the MoU is one year which will be further extended.
- This will lead to promoting the 'Swadeshi' products in the country.
- After mustard oil, the target ingredients are cotton mats, blankets, bedsheets, honey, papad etc which will lead to utilization of these swadeshi items in the country and will lead to the generation of employment in the country along with the formation of SHGs.
- Under this MoU, ITBP will place an order of 1200 quintals of mustard oil which will be supplied to KVIC.
- Best quality of mustard oil will be handed to CAPF Canteens to serve Indian soldiers.

RELIANCE POWER AND JERA GLOBAL MARKETS SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH GROUP OF BANKS

Current Context: Reliance Power and JERA (Japanese major energy company) have together signed an agreement with the group of banks to provide funds to their new gas-fired thermal power generation project.

KEY POINTS

- The thermal power generation project will be developed in Bangladesh by Reliance on power and JERA.
- Both entities will be developing 745MW gas-fired thermal power generation project at Meghnaghat in Bangladesh.
- Under this agreement, the group of banks will be providing a loan of Rs 4798 crore to both entities.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Reliance Power: Mumbai
 - HQ of Jera: Tokyo, Japan

MSME LAUNCHED PROGRAMME FOR MANUFACTURING OF AGARBATTI

Current Context: Ministry of MSME has launched a programme to uplift the artisans who manufacture Agarbatti.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The programme is launched under 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana'. The program will help to uplift and develop village industries.**
- Total 5 pilot projects will be conducted under this programme, in which initially 4 pilot projects will be started and later the one remaining pilot project will be conducted.
- Each target group of artisans will be provided with 50 automatic agarbatti making machinery and tools along with 10 mixing machines. A total number of 200 automatic agarbatti making machines and 40 mixing machines will be distributed.
- The program will also develop 500 job opportunities in the agarbatti making sector and will lead to reduction in imports of agarbatti.
- **Along with the formation of pilot projects, GOI has also taken decisions like:** Placing the 'Agarbatti' item from "Free" trade to "Restricted" trade in the import policy and enhancing the import duty from 10% to 25% on round bamboo sticks used to manufacture agarbatti.

ARHCS KNOWLEDGE PACK & MOBILE APP OF CREDAI

Current Context: Minister of State (independent charge) for MoHUA (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) has launched Affordable Rental Housing Complexes Pack and an Awaas app for Confederation of Real Estate Developers and Association of India (CREDAI).

KEY FACTS

- The launching took place via video conference under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (Urban).
- Affordable Rental Housing Complexes Pack is a sub-scheme under PMAYA. The scheme will prove beneficial to around 3.5 lakh people.
- ARHC Knowledge Pack will provide affordable rental accommodations to urban poor and migrant workers. Government is also considering 100% FDI in this scheme.

'BHARAT AIR FIBRE SERVICES' LAUNCHED AT AKOLA, MAHARASHTRA

Current Context: Union minister for state for HRD, Electronics and Communication and IT, Sanjay Dhotre has inaugurated 'Bharat Air Fibre Services' at Akola Maharashtra.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Bharat Fiber Service will provide Wireless fibre internet connection to the residents of Akola.
- The 'Bharat Air Fibre Services' in Akola is provided by BSNL in collaboration with local internet service providers who are the partners of BSNL.
- This will boost the Digital India initiative, which is launched by GOI.
- Wireless internet connectivity will offer internet service in the range of 20kms from the BSNL locations in Akola.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BSNL: New Delhi

INDIRA RASOI YOJANA- RAJASTHAN

Current Context: Government of Rajasthan has launched Indira Rasoi Yojana. The scheme will be initiated from 20th August 2020 in the state.

ABOUT YOJANA

- **The aim of this scheme is to achieve the goal of 'No Hunger No Sleep'.**
- **Under this scheme, the poor hungry people will be provided with nutritious food at Rs 8 per plate.**
- The yojana aims to run 358 kitchens in 213 urban districts of the country.

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- Under the Indira Rasoi Yojana, the poor hungry people will be provided with a menu of 100 grams of pulses, 100 grams veggies, 250 grams chapattis and pickles. This yojana will prove beneficial to 4.78 crore of poor hungry people in India.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Ghelot
 - Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra

'VIDYARTHI VIGYAAN MANTHAN 2020-21'

Current Context: Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched 'Vidyarthi Vigyaan Manthan (VVM) 2020-21' initiative.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This initiative is launched to make science and technology subject interesting to the students from class 6th to 11th.
- The VVM will develop a scientific mindset among the students.
- It is launched by GOI in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar. Vigyan Prasar is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Science and Technology, GOI and NCERT is an initiative of VIBHA (Vijnana Bharati).
- This VVM initiative will allow the students to participate in comprehensive writings related to science, will conduct practical exams, presentation for them.

'EK MASK- ANEK ZINDAGI'—LAUNCHED IN MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: State Government of Madhya Pradesh has started a campaign 'Ek Mask- Anek Zindagi' (One mask many lives). The campaign is launched by MP's Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'Ek Mask- Anek Zindagi' campaign is conducted from 1st August 2020 to 15th August 2020.
- The campaign aims to spread awareness and necessity of wearing a mask to contain and stop the spread of coronavirus.
- Under this campaign, Mask Banks are established in which people can donate mask which will be distributed free to the poor people. Apart from mask banks, people can also donate mask in NGOs.
- The campaign will also proceed by spreading awareness and importance of hygiene, ways to combat COVID-19 via postures, pamphlets etc.
- People can also provide funds to stitch mask to various self-help groups, under this campaign.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Madhya Pradesh: Shivaji Singh Chouhan
 - Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Anandiben Patel

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- **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in MP:** Kanha NP, Bandhavgarh NP, Panna NP, Satpura NP, Madhav NP, Sanjay NP, Pench NP, Van Vihar NP, Fossil NP, Ratapani WLS, Ghatigaon WLS, Kheoni WLS

BOB FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS PARTNERS WITH INNOVITI PAYMENT

Current Context: BOB Financial Solutions Limited has partnered with Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt Ltd. to launch a new credit card which offers EMI on PoS terminals.

KEY POINTS

- **This will allow BOB credit card holders to access EMIs which will be repaid conveniently via their credit cards. The offers are in terms of convenient and affordable EMI payment options.**
- The credit card holders all over India can take benefit of this service from over 70,000 Innoviti Payment Solutions across more than 1000 cities.
- To take benefit of this service, the customers need to notify the cashier during billing. Then the cashier will convert the payment into EMI on the POS terminal. Then customer will enter their PIN to access the credit at the cashier point.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BOB: Vadodara (Baroda)
 - Tagline of BOB: India's International Bank
 - HQ of Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt Ltd.: Bangalore

APPOINTMENTS ON 4TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Mohamed Irfaan Ali: He is appointed as **President of Guyana**.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Guyana: George town
 - Currency of Guyana: Guyanese Dollar
- **Pradip Shah:** He is appointed as **head of the committee which will suggest ways to boost International Retail Businesses in India**. The committee is formed by IFSCA (International Financial Services Centers Authority).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IFSCA: Gandhinagar, Gujrat

VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF SECURITY MARKET

Current Context: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to develop a virtual museum of security markets in India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This virtual museum will highlight the achievements of the capital markets of India.
- To build this and develop virtual museum, SEBI has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) from various agencies.
- The virtual museum will be the online platform which will display the history of the evolution of security markets in India.
- The dashboard will also display past and current achievements of the security markets in India in the form of photos, data, videos etc.
- Along with this an interactive display like quiz, paintings, diagrams, drawings, transcripts, articles related to security markets will be displayed.
- To have the participation of the audience, the virtual museum will also engage them by creative content by various means like video, audio, chatbot, voice assistant etc, which will thus lead to two-way communication mode between audience and associated members of virtual security museum.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi

'DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT PROMOTION POLICY' DRAFT ISSUED

Current Context: The Ministry of Defence has issued a draft on 'Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020'.

KEY POINTS

- The draft is issued as a first step to get the public feedback for the DPEPP 2020.
- **The DPEPP 2020 aims to achieve defence manufacturing turnover of \$ 25 billion i.e. Rs 1,75,000 crore.**
- This policy frame work aims to build India among leading defence and aerospace manufacturing countries.
- The policy is a part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat package which aims to make India self-reliant in defence and aerospace manufacturing.
- The policy aims to boost 'Make in India' initiative along with achievements like Procurement Reforms, Indigenization and support to MSMEs and startups, optimize resource utilization, generate FDI AND build Ease of Business Doing platform, Develop R&D in India, Develop Quality assurance, Increase preciseness and accuracy in defence and aerospace manufacturing sector.

PREDICTIVE ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

Current Context: Department of Defence which comes under the Ministry of Defence, IIT Kanpur and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has signed a tripartite MoU.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU is signed to conduct Predictive Analysis of Public Grievances.**
- Under this MoU IIT Kanpur will be developing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) methods.
- The AI and ML techniques will help to conduct a predictive analysis of public grievances which are received on the web based CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System) which are related to ministry of defence (MoD).
- The data uploaded related to public grievances in respect to MoD will be provided by DARPG to IIT Kanpur so that the institute will perform analysis using AI and ML techniques.
- This MoU will help Ministry of Defence to identify the cause and nature of grievances and to have systematic changes in their system and policies.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Defence: Rajnath Singh

NATIONAL BANK OF BAHRAIN PARTNERS WITH INFOSYS FINACLE

Current Context: The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has partnered with Infosys Finacle (An entity of EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly owned subsidiary of Infosys).

DETAILS

- **The partnership is made to achieve and adopt Finacle Cash Management Suite to digitize NBB's banking transactions.**
- The Finacle Cash Management Suite will equip the bank with modern technology based system which will provide safe, simple and secured banking transactions to its customers.
- The banking system of NBB will be incorporated with latest versions of Finacle Corporate Online and Mobile Banking Solutions along with Finacle Digital Engagement Hub.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NBB: Manama, Bahrain

APPOINTMENTS ON 5TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Ashwini Kumar Tewari: He is appointed as MD and CEO of SBI Card. He has replaced Hardayal Prasad.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI Card: Gurgaon, Haryana
- **Sashidhar Jagdishan:** He is appointed as CEO of HDFC Bank. He will be replacing Aditya Puri. The appointment is done by Reserve Bank of India.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
- Tagline of HDFC Bank: We Understand Your World

SAHAKAR COOPTUBE NCDC CHANNEL

Current Context: Union Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel, it is initiative which comes under NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Along with the launching of this channel, Narendra Singh Tomar also rolled out videos which are made by NCDC.
- The rolled-out videos were based on 'Formation and Registration of a Cooperative'.
- The videos were rolled out to strengthen and deepen the measures taken by GOI which will promote and form 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NCDC: New Delhi

INDIA CONTRIBUTES TO INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND

Current Context: Government of India has contributed financial support to India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **India has contributed USD 15.46 million to the fund which will act as financial support to developing nations.**
- This contribution will lead to achieving the 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development Goals.
- The AI and ML techniques will help to conduct a predictive analysis of public grievances out of the USD 15.46 million, USD 6 million will be utilised as overall fund amount for the upliftment of developing countries and USD 9.46million will be utilised for commonwealth countries.
- With the help of this fund, current projects will be initiated smoothly and new projects will be launched.
- **Static Part:** India-UN Development Partnership Fund is controlled and governed by UNOSSC (United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation), which headquartered in New York, United States.

BHARTI AIRTEL PARTNERS WITH AMAZON WEB SERVICES

Current Context: Bharti Airtel has entered into a partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS) in order to provide cloud solutions to SMEs in India.

KEY FACTS

- **Under this strategic collaboration agreement, Bharti Airtel will be acting as a channel partner for AWS and will promote and sell AWS products using the cloud platform and will support SMEs.**
- AWS technical professional services will be supporting AWS cloud practice which will be developed by Airtel cloud.
- This platform will offer customers, Small and Medium businesses and SMEs with a wide range of services like Windows on AWS, SAP on AWS, VMWare Clouds on AWS etc. along with security options and database management.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bharti Airtel: New Delhi

APPOINTMENTS AND EXTENSION ON 6TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Manoj Sinha: He is appointed as **next Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir**. He has replaced Girish Chandra Murmu. He is appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind.

ABOUT

- **Ajay Tyagi:** His tenure has been **extended to 18 months** as the **chairman of SEBI** (Securities and Exchange Board of India).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai

PARIVAR PEHCHAN PATRAS-- HARYANA

Current Context: Government of Haryana has launched an identity card named as Parivar Pehchan Patras.

KEY POINTS

- It is developed by team members of Chief Ministers Office(CMO).
- The ID Card will help to carry out an effective and efficient way of delivering various central and state government schemes to the state people of Haryana.
- The card will be issued to each family of the state and it is said to reach to around 54 lakh families of Haryana.
- A unique 8 digit identification number will be allotted to each family.
- The Parivar Pehchan Patras will be having data like name of the head member of the family, age of each person in the family, income, contact details, address (permanent and temporary), village, district details of the family to which they belong.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar

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- Governor of Haryana: Satyadeo N Arya
- **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries of Haryana:** Kalesar NP, Sultanpur NP, Abubshehar WLS, Bhindawas WLS, Morni Hills WLS, Nahar WLS

RBI MONETARY POLICY UPDATES

Current Context: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India has released new updates related to monetary policy rates on 6th Aug 2020.

KEY FACTS

- As per the announcement by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the **repo rate is kept unchanged to 4%**.
- The decision of keeping an unchanged repo rate is taken to review and mitigate the pandemic impact on the economy of India.
- Along with this announcement in repo rate, the central bank has asked lenders to reconstruct corporate loan structure and MSME loan structure and has raised the limit of offering loans which is availed on gold ornaments and jewellery.
- The **reverse repo rate** under liquidity adjustment facility is unchanged to **3.35%** and **marginal standing facility and bank rate is kept at 4.25%**.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

INNOVATION HUB FOR FINANCIAL SECTOR IN INDIA—BY RBI

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will be setting up an 'Innovation Hub' in India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The aim behind developing an innovation hub is to increase and deepen financial inclusion and promote banking services effectively and efficiently to the citizens.**
- The innovation hub will support, carry out regulatory practices in the finance sector at the international and national level. It will promote and handhold cross thinking spanning regulatory remits and national boundaries.
- It will be acting as the finance-related idea creation centre. It will develop new capabilities which will create a viable and trustworthy financial and banking products and services.
- An innovation hub will also help to strengthen customer trust by providing protection, business continuity even in times of emergency situation.
- The innovation hub will keep its focus on parameters like data analytics, cyber security, delivery platforms.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

- Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

INDIA PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MALDIVES

Current Context: India has offered a Line of Credit to the island nation Maldives to support and expand its fishing facility at MIFCO (Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company).

KEY FACTS

- **A-Line of Credit worth 18 million US dollars is offered by India.**
- This financial support will increase investment in fish collection and storage facilities.
- This will also help to set up tuna cooked plant and fish meal plant in the Maldives.
- The amount will be utilised to develop a 50-tonne ice plant in Gemanafushi, Gaafu, Dhaalu Atol.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Maldives: Male
 - Currency of Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa

APPOINTMENTS AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 7TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: G C Murmu: He is appointed as new **Comptroller and Auditor General of India**. He has replaced Rajiv Mehrishi.

ABOUT

- **Suresh Raina and Harmanpreet Kaur:** They are appointed a **brand ambassador for WTF Sports**.

'SMART PLAN SHOP PACKAGE POLICY'

Current Context: A newly launched insurance product named as 'Smart Plan Shop Package Policy' is launched by Airtel Payment Bank in partnership with Bharti AXA General Insurance.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The 'Smart Plan Shop Package Policy' will offer financial protection to bank's retailers and merchants.**
- The financial protection in case of asset damage inside the shop aur to accidents like fire outbreak, earthquake etc will be offered.
- The policy is launched to offer financial support to retailers and merchants and shop owners because their livelihood is dependent on the shop.
- The sum insured under this policy is Rs 2 lakh to Rs 25 lakh.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of Airtel Payment Bank: New Delhi
- MD and CEO of Airtel Payment Bank: Anubrata Biswas
- HQ of Bharti AXA General Insurance: Mumbai
- MD and CEO of Bharti AXA General Insurance: Sanjeev Srinivasan

'PRIDE OF PUNJAB' PROGRAMME

Current Context: The Pride of Punjab Programme is launched by CM of Punjab.

KEY POINTS

- **The programme is launched in partnership between the Department of Youth Science and Sports and YuWaah (Joint platform of UNICEF, UN Agencies and Civil society organisations).**
- The programme is aimed to provide the best opportunities for the youth of the state.
- With the help of **U-Report**, a survey will be conducted which will help to know the challenges and aspirations of the Punjab Youth.
- U-Report is a messaging tool and database collection facility developed for this programme.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Punjab: Amarinder Singh
 - Governor of Punjab: VP Singh Bandore
 - **Wild Life Sanctuaries in Punjab:** Bir Motibagh WLS, Bir Dosanjh WLS, Abohar WLS, Bir Aswan WLS, Nangal WLS, Kathlaur Kushlian WLS, Harika Lake WLS, Bir Bhadson WLS, Bir Mehaswala WLS

CONCLAVE ON TRANSFORMATIONAL REFORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER NEP

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural ceremony of Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under NEP (National Education Policy).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The conclave organized by the Ministry of Education and UGC (University Grants Commission).
- The conclave organized to discuss the aspects and future which will be achieved due to the National Education Policy 2020, which was approved by the cabinet on 29th July 2020. The NEP 2020 was drafted by K Kasturirangan, who is an Indian space scientist.
- The associated members in the conclave discussed the significant aspects like holistic, multidisciplinary, quality research, future-oriented education, usage of technology in education and many more in the NEP 2020.
- PM Modi stated that upon successful implementation of NEP 2020 will create major positive reforms in the education sector.
- National Research Foundation will closely work in co-ordination with the National educational Technology Forum (NETF).

- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Education: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank
 - HQ of UGC: New Delhi
 - Chairman of UGC: Prof D P Singh

YSR CHEYUTHA SCHEME AND YSR ASARA SCHEME

Current Context: The government of Andhra Pradesh is set to launch the YSR Cheyutha Scheme and YSR Asara Scheme.

KEY POINTS

- **The scheme is launched to provide benefit to the rural economy of the state which will help them to tackle the economic crisis during the pandemic situation of COVID-19.**
- **About YSR Cheyutha Scheme:** YSR Cheyutha Scheme will help to make rural part of the state as self-reliant by promoting and inculcating the skills of entrepreneurship among the women.
- An amount of Rs 4,500 crore has been allotted by the state government for this scheme.
- The scheme is predicted to be beneficial to around 25 lakh women.
- Under this YSR Cheyutha Scheme, each of the beneficiaries will be paid Rs 75,000 within 4 years at the rate of Rs 18,750 per annum.
- A loan worth three to four times the value of the amount received will be given under this scheme.
- **About YSR Asara Scheme:** Under this scheme, the government has decided to provide relief 90 lakh women belonging to 9.33 lakh DWCRA groups by waiving their outstanding loan amounts of about Rs 27,168 crore.
- **To smoothly build these both schemes, Andhra Pradesh government has signed MoU with Proctor Gamble, Amul, HUL and ITC.**
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Andhra Pradesh: YSR Jaganmohan Reddy
 - Governor of Andhra Pradesh: Biswabhusan Harichandan

APPOINTMENTS ON 8TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: P S Ranipse: He is appointed as **Inspector General (IG) in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).**

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CRPF: New Delhi
- **Pradeep Kumar Joshi:** They are appointed as **Chairman of UPSC (Union Public Service Commission).** He has replaced Arvind Saxena.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UPSC: New Delhi

- **Hardayal Prasad:** They are appointed as **MD and CEO of PNB Housing Finance Limited**. He has replaced Neeraj Vyas.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PNB Housing Finance: New Delhi
 - Tagline of PNB Housing Finance: Ghar Ki Baat

DELHI ELECTRIC VEHICLE POLICY

Current Context: Government of Delhi has launched 'Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy'.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The policy aims to waive road tax and registration fees.**
- **This is the progressive policy which will boost the economy. Reduce pollution and will create employment opportunities.**
- The moto behind this policy is to constitute 25% electric vehicles by 2024 in Delhi. Currently, the number of electric vehicles constitute to 0.29% in the city.
- An incentive of Rs 30,000 crore for autos, 2 wheelers, fright vehicles and e-rickshaws will be given and an incentive of Rs 1.5 lakh will be given to the cars.
- A low-interest loan on electric commercial vehicles will also be given under this policy.
- A 'State Electric Vehicle Board' with 200 charging station will be built in one year under this policy.
- The initial period of the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy is three years and later upon reviewing it by the government, the period will be extended.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

MAHARASHTRA PARTNERS WITH GOOGLE

Current Context: Government of Maharashtra has partnered with Google to start virtual educational classes to the students.

KEY FACTS

- **Maharashtra state has become the first state to do so.**
- 1.09 lakh government, private, aided and unaided school will be given online virtual education by google.
- The project is aimed to benefit 22.03 million students.
- Google Classroom and G Suite access will be given to students and teachers so that they can take online classes.
- This initiative will help to continue education remotely during the pandemic state of COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**

- CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
- Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

VIRTUAL OFFICE NETWORK TO SPEARHEAD TRIBAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Current Context: The entity of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) has launched Virtual Office Network to Spearhead Tribal Socio-Economic Development.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The virtual office network was launched on the occasion of 33rd Foundation Day of TRIFED.**
- The network is launched to offer employment and livelihood support to the tribal community.
- The virtual office network of TRIFED is having 81 online workstations and 100 additional converging state and agency workstations which will be managed and handled by TRIFED team members.
- 'An Employee Engagement and Work Distribution Matrix with Dashboard Links' has also been launched by TRIFED to boost the level of employee engagement and to provide a proper path to their efforts.
- Digital software has also been launched to map and link tribal-based villages and to promote their skills and artisan's work to the nation.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda

RBI SETS UP COMMITTEE TO SUGGEST FINANCIAL PARAMETERS TO TACKLE COVID-19

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has set up a committee which will work to tackle the financial parameters which have arisen due to COVID-19 related stressed assets.

KEY POINTS

- **The committee is headed by K V Kamath. The committee will be submitting its solutions and recommendations to RBI in 30 days.**
- RBI has also announced that it will develop a special window to be titled as 'Resolution Framework for COVID-19 related Stress'. This specialized window will be under Prudential Framework on Resolution of Stressed Assets.
- The committee formed by RBI will perform the process of validation for the resolution plans which will be implemented under the framework in respect of all accounts.
- The other members of the committee are Diwankar Gupta, T N Manoharan and Ashvin Parekh.
- The committee will work to reduce financial stress being faced due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Static Part:**

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- HQ of RBI: Mumbai
- Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

INDIA TO TAKE PART IN 'RUSSIAN KAVKAZ 2020'

Current Context: Multilateral military exercise named as 'Russian Kavkaz 2020' will be participated by India in the next month.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Apart from India, China and Pakistan and other member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation will also be participating in this strategic command post military exercise.
- **The exercise will be held in Astrakhan, Russia.**
- The Indian contingent will be included with 150 Army Personnel and Smaller numbers of Navy Air Force as well.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Russia: Moscow
 - Currency of Russia: Russian Rouble

NHAI SIGNS MOU WITH IIT DELHI

Current Context: The National Highway Authority of India has signed an MoU with IIT Delhi to make use of Artificial Intelligence in data-driven decision making and to develop ADMS (Advanced Data Management System for Highways) Highways in the country.

ABOUT

- **Both the entities will work in coordination in the areas like Project management and data management, highway network traffic demand, incident management, safety on highways, highway work zone management and to develop highway pavement management system.**
- The technical support inputs and AI technology usage to NHAI will be offered by IIT Delhi.
- The financial supports will be provided by NHAI.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways: Nitin Gadkari
 - Chairman of NHAI: Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

'STATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY'- BY MAURITIUS

Current Context: The island nation Mauritius has declared 'State of Environmental Emergency'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It is declared by the island nation because Japanese bulk carrier “MV Wakashio” ran aground on a Mauritius’s reef and has begun leaking of oil into the ocean.**
- The ship stranded two weeks ago and is spoiling the surrounding waters leading to an environmental emergency.
- It is highly affecting marine life around the Indian Ocean Island.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mauritius: Port Louis
 - Currency of Mauritius: Mauritian rupee
 - PM of Mauritius: Pravind Jugnauth

FLIPKART PARTNERS WITH ODOP SCHEME OF UTTAR PRADESH

Current Context: India’s e-commerce platform has partnered with One District One Product (ODOP) scheme of the Uttar Pradesh government.

KEY POINTS

- **The partnership is made under “Flipkart Samarth” initiative.**
- **Under this partnership, Flipkart will bring artisans, weavers and craftsmen of UP state together under its promotion platform and will help them to expand their business online.**
- This partnership will prove beneficial to artisans, weavers and craftsmen in this pandemic situation of COVID-19 and to face the economic challenges.
- The flipkart will also be offering training and constant selling support to the artisans, weavers and craftsmen.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
 - HQ of Flipkart: Bengaluru

APPOINTMENTS ON 10TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: G K Pillai: He is appointed to head the committee to determine the ceiling rates under remissions of duties and taxes on exported products (RoDTEP) scheme.

ABOUT

- **Mahinda Rajapaksa:** They are appointed as **Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for the fourth time.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Sri Lanka: Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte, Colombo
 - Currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan Rupee

SUBMARINE CABLE CONNECTIVITY TO ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS (CANI)

Current Context: Submarine Cable Connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands (CANI) has been launched via video conference by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **This submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) will provide a connectivity for Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island.**
- The CANI will connect island to the mainland. It will help to provide faster and seamless mobile and landline connection to Andaman and Nicobar island.
- The costing for Submarine OFC cable is about Rs 1224 crore.
- This project of connecting a distance of 2312 km between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Island was laid by PM Narendra Modi on 30th Dec 2018.
- The CANI will lead to ease of business and maritime logistics support to the island.
- It will be offering 2x200 gigabits per second of bandwidth between Port Blair and Chennai and 2x100 gigabits per second of bandwidth between Port Blair and other islands.
- The project was funded by GOI through the USOF (Universal Service Obligation Fund), which comes under Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communication.
- The project was executed under the guidance of BSNL and technical guidance was provided by TCIL (Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd).
- **Static Part:**
 - Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Island: Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

INDIA CANADA IC-IMPACTS ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Current Context: The India Canada Annual Research Conference was hosted by IC-IMPACTS (India Canada Centre-Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnership to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability).

ABOUT CONFERENCE

- **The conference was held to boost current international connections and to enhance best practices and ways in the multiple areas like green buildings, smart cities, and occupants' survivability in buildings during fire outbreak, water management strategies, health etc.**
- Also, the conference focused on enhancing best practices in the areas of women in science and technology deployment.
- The members in the conference discussed to make use of Artificial Intelligence in vast applications.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Canada: Ottawa
 - Currency of Canada: Canadian Dollar

ANDHRA PRADESH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2020-23

Current Context: The government of Andhra Pradesh has launched its Industrial Development Policy 2020-23 in order to have industrial and corporate sector development in the state.

KEY FACTS

- The new industrial policy will led to regional growth and global investment in the state.
- Employment opportunities will be developed due to the new industrial policy in Andhra Pradesh.
- The policy highlights development for plug and play infrastructure facilities by focusing on MSMEs at affordable rates.
- Clusters and Mega Industrial Parks will be developed under this policy.
- 30 skill centers and 2 skill providing universities will be established in the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Andhra Pradesh: Y S Jaganmohan Reddy
 - Governor of Andhra Pradesh: Biswabhusan Harichandan
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh:** Sri Venkateshwara NP, Papikondalu NP, Kaundinya WLS, Nagarjunsagar WLS, Coringa WLS, Gundla Brameswaram WLS, Rollapadu WLS, Sri Lankamalleswara WLS, Telukunchi Bird Sanctuary, Telineelapuram Bird Sanctuary

APPOINTMENTS ON 11TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Walter Roger Martos Ruiz: He has become **Prime Minister of Peru**. He has replaced Pedro Cateriano.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Peru: Lima
 - Currency of Peru: Peruvian Sol (PEN)
- **KN Ananthapadmanabhan:** He is an Indian Umpire and has been **included in ICC's International Panel of Umpires**.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICC: Dubai, UAE
 - CEO of ICC: Manu Sawhney
- **Alexander Lukashenko:** He has won **Presidential election for Belarus** for the sixth consecutive time.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Belarus: Minsk
 - Currency of Belarus: Rouble
- **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala:** He is appointed as Executive Chairman of Capital India Finance Limited.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of Capital India Finance Limited: Mumbai
- **IRS Patanjali:** He is appointed as principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Mumbai.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Capital India Finance Limited: Mumbai

'SURAKHSYA' A NATIONAL PORTAL ON HUMAN ELEPHANT CONFLICT

Current Context: Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched a national portal on Human-Elephant conflict. The name of the portal is 'Surakhsya'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The portal is launched with an aim to collect real-time data and to manage the conflicts in real-time basis.
- Launching of this portal took place on the occasion of the International Annual Event World Elephant Day.
- The portal will set data collection protocols and norms, data visualization tools and data transmission pipelines.
- Thus the portal will help to protect elephants and to eradicate the conflicts between humans and elephants.
- The portal will also display information for the conservations and ways to manage life and upbringing of elephants.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change : Prakash Javadekar

'KRISHI MEGH'—LAUNCHED BY UNION MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR

Current Context: The Union Minister of Agriculture and Family Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar launched the National Agriculture Research and Education System- Cloud Infrastructure and Services, named as 'Krishi Megh'.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **This agriculture research and its educational system Krishi Megh is designed with the features of digital agriculture of New India.**
- Along with Krishi Megh, KVC ALUNET is also launched. KVC ALUNET signifies and stands for Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Chhatr Alumni Network.
- An Online Accreditation System for Higher Agricultural Educational Institution (HEI) was also launched.
- Krishi Megh will meet the mandatory needs of Digital Agriculture NARES (National Agriculture Research and Education System).

- With the help of Krishi Megh, the current ICAR-DC will get boost and strength to perform its task more efficiently because of the cloud computing technology platform.
- The coordination among NARES, ICAR-DC and Krishi Megh will be led to provide a robust and advanced platform which will meet IT needs by deploying applications like e-office, ERP solutions, websites, portals, android mobile applications etc.
- ICAR-Krishi Megh at ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management Hyderabad is synchronized with ICAR-Data Center at ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi. It has been built to mitigate the risk, availability, and accessibility of e-governance, research, enhance the quality, extension and education in the field of agriculture in India.
- The centre is incorporated with AI, various learning software, tool kits, image processing to detect diseases in livestock, pest identification with the help of image analysis etc.

'SPUTNIK V'-- WORLD'S 1ST CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

Current Context: Russia has developed and named its first coronavirus vaccine as 'Sputnik V'.

KEY POINTS

- **The name 'Sputnik V' is given in reference and respect to the world's first satellite.**
- Also, the conference focused on enhancing best practices in the areas of women in science and technology deployment.
- The approval of the vaccine is made by Russian President Vladimir Putin in less than 2 months of human testing after being scientifically proven.
- The vaccine is developed by Gamaleya Research Institute and Russian Defence Ministry.
- The production of the vaccine will be conducted at Gamaleya Research Institute and company named as Binnopharm.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Russia: Moscow
 - Currency of Russia: Rouble

'NTH REWARDS'—LAUNCHED BY NPCI

Current Context: National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has developed and launched a business intelligence and analytics-based omnichannel, multi-branded loyalty platform named as 'nth Rewards'.

KEY FACTS

- It offers infinite possibilities of earning to the users through bank transactions and redeem instantly with the help of e-vouchers, donations, hotel and flight bookings.
- The platform is launched to grow customer base and become the one-stop-shop for banks.
- The 'nth Rewards' is highly secured with PCI-DSS compliance and API keys. Hence it offers seamless and secured integration of it with banking systems.

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- It is incorporated with a loyalty engine which is termed to be the heart of the platform. With the help of this loyalty engine, customers will gain reward on their digital transactions.
- It also offers Analytics and Business Intelligence service with real-time access to portfolios of products.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NPCI: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of NPCI: Dilip Asbe

APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION ON 12TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Mohamed Ould Bilal: He is appointed as Prime Minister of Mauritania.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mauritania: Nouakchott
 - Currency of Mauritania: Mauritanian Ouguiya
- **Hassan Diab:** He has resigned as Prime Minister of Lebanon.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Lebanon: Beirut
 - Currency of Lebanon: Lebanese Pound

BSE SIGNS MOU WITH AKOLA BASED BULLION TRADE ASSOCIATION

Current Context: Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed MoU with two Akola, Maharashtra based Bullion Trade Association namely, Akola Sarafa Association and Akola Sarafa Va Suvarnakar Yuva Sang.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU is signed to deepen the commodity derivative market in India.**
- The MoU will also benefit trading of all the market participations in India's Bullion derivative markets.
- BSE will be also organizing seminars and awareness program on risk management in bullion trading.
- Bullion traders will be provided with training via sessions so that they can adapt to organized forms of trading.
- BSE will also ensure that transparency in the domestic bullion derivative market is maintained.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BSE: Mumbai
 - Chairman of BSE: Justice Vikramajit Sen
 - MD and CEO of BSE: Ashish Kumar Chauhan

PFC LTD TO CONSTRUCT MODULAR OPERATION THEATRE ROOMS

Current Context: The Power Finance Corporation Ltd has entered with an MoU with District Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh to construct two Modular Operation Theatre Rooms.

KEY POINTS

- **Under this MoU, PFC will provide financial support of Rs 94,00,000.**
- The project will be implemented under the corporate social responsibility of PFC.
- PFC will provide all the necessary infrastructure support in order to reduce infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio in the catchment area.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
 - HQ of PFC: New Delhi

'TRANSPARENT TAXATION-HONORING THE HONEST' PLATFORM

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a platform called 'Transparent Taxation-Honoring the Honest'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The platform is launched to carry forward the direct tax reforms and to honour the honest taxpayers.**
- **There are three major reforms included in the platform:** (A) Faceless Assessment (B) Faceless Appeal (C) Taxpayers Charter.
- Among the three reforms, Faceless Assessment and Taxpayers Charter are brought into effect whereas Faceless Appeal reform will come into effect from 25th September 2020.
- The platform is an initiative of CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes).
- Because of this platform, a transparent and accountable system using Data Analytics and AI will be achieved.
 - **Faceless Assessment:** Under this, the faceless team will handle all tax scrutiny matters. The faceless team will be chosen randomly by a computer, hence can be in any part of the country, not necessarily in the state where the matter comes up. Unnecessary tax disputes will be avoided by this reform.
 - **Faceless Appeal:** The tax appeal ids also made faceless due to this reform. The taxpayer can make tax appeal without physically interacting with the tax collector.
 - **Taxpayers Charter:** This reform is a big step in the country's development journey. Now the tax department will have to trust the taxpayers and will not be able to look at any taxpayer with distrust. The taxpayer will have the right to appeal in case of any dispute.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CBDT: New Delhi

- Chairman of CBDT: Pramod Chandra Mody

'PAYTM ALL-IN-ONE PORTABLE ANDROID SMART POS'

Current Context: India's first Pocket Android POS device named as 'Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS' is launched by Paytm.

KEY POINTS

- The device is launched for contactless ordering and payments in India. It is said to be powerful than the currently available portable Linux based POS devices.
- The 'Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS' will offer a digital platform to many SME's in the country.
- Paytm has assured to give 2 lakh devices within the next few months which will help to conduct 20 million transactions per month.
- 'Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS' is integrated with 'Paytm Business App' which will help to generate GST compliant bills and will help to perform and manage all transactions and settlements.
- It will also help to carry out various business services and financial solutions like loans, insurances and business accounts to manage.
- The system is incorporated with a soundbox, calculator, power bank, colour, pe stands and radio.
- It is workable on 4G SIM cards and Wifi and also has Bluetooth connectivity.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm: Noida, Uttar Pradesh

'INDIA@75 SUMMIT-MISSION 2022'

Current Context: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organized 'India@75 Summit-Mission 2022'.

ABOUT MISSION

- **Union Minister of MSME and Road Transport and Highway, Nitin Gadkari addressed the India@75 Summit-Mission 2022'.**
- **The mission focused on 'Reinventing Technology in India'.**
- Nitin Gadkari addressed that the Indian industries and MSMEs in India should be made self-reliant and they should be made import substitutes, cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous.
- The MSMEs has been expanded with an investment value up to Rs 50 crores and turnover up to Rs 250 crores.
- By adopting the technology up-gradation, export avenues in MSME sector can also be increased. Indian Manufacturers will be supported by increasing import duty in a few sectors.
- Also for road transport in India, CII has drafted a proposal for the insurance of roads which will eradicate the requirements of bank guarantee.

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CII: New Delhi
 - President of CII: Uday Kotak
 - Vice President of CII: Sanjiv Bajaj

APPOINTMENTS ON 13TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Pramod Bhasin: He is appointed as Chairman for Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). He has replaced Isher Judge Ahluwalia.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICRIER: New Delhi
- **Dr V K Paul:** He has chaired the meeting of National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19. He is member of NITI Aayog.

MUKHYA MANTRI KISAN SAHAY YOJANA--GUJARAT

Current Context: The government of Gujarat has launched Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana.

KEY FACTS

- **The yojana is launched for the current cultivation of Kharif crops in the state.**
- For the benefit of this yojana, the Kharif crop cultivating farmers will not have to pay any single amount of premium or neither they will have to go with the registration process for the yojana.
- Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana will replace current insurance scheme (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana) for this current year only.
- Hence, those farmers who have already paid a premium amount for the existing scheme will get refunds.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Gujrat: Vijaybhai R. Rupani
 - Governor of Gujrat: Acharya Dev Vrat
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Gujrat:** Blackbuck NP, Gir Forest NP, Vansda NP, Balaram Amji WLS, Gir Wls, Girnar WLS, Gaga Great Indian Bustard WLS, Jambugodha WLS, Jessore WLS, Khijadiya WLS, Nal Sarovar WLS, Pniya WLS, Porbandar Lake WLS Thol Lake WLS, Wild Ass WLS

INDIA PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Current Context: India has offered a financial helping hand to the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The financial assistance of USD 1 million is offered by India.**
- **The financial support has been offered to combat COVID-19 in the country and to improve their health infrastructure.**
- The funds will help Antigua and Barbuda to procure medical supplies, medical equipments, ventilators, PPE kits etc.
- Along with the funds India has offered ventilators, protection gowns , face shields , masks and hydroxychloroquine tablets to Antigua and Barbuda.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Antigua and Barbuda: Saint Johns
 - Currency of Antigua and Barbuda: East Caribbean Dollar

RBI TO IMPLEMENT SYSTEM BASED ASSET CLARIFICATION IN URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India has taken the decision to implement system-based asset clarification in urban co-operative banks (UCBs).

DETAILS

- **The decision is taken to improve efficiency, transparency and integrity on the clarification process of assets in UCBs.**
- Under this, asset clarification will be carried out by core banking solution and computer-based system in an automatic manner by following RBI's guidelines.
- As per the decision, RBI has said that UCBs will have to implement system-based asset clarification with an effect from 30th June 2021.
- The UCBs who are having total assets of Rs 1000 crore and above but less than Rs 2000 crore (as on 31st March 2020) and are self-assessed under Level III or Level IV on ' Comprehensive Cyber Security Framework for UCBs- A Graded Approach' is strictly mandated to implement it from 30th September 2021.
- As per the released guidelines, UCBs are required to implement system-based asset clarification within a period of 6 months from the concerned financial year-end.
- UCBs who are not in the above criteria of prescribed assets value will have to voluntarily implement this system based asset clarification in their own interest.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

'ORUNODOL SCHEME'—LAUNCHED BY ASSAM

Current Context: Government of Assam has launched 'Orunodol Scheme' for the financial empowerment of women in the state and to have economic development of their families.

ABOUT SCHEME

- **The scheme will be available to the beneficiaries from 17th August 2020.**
- **Under this scheme, financial support of Rs 830 per months will be credited to the bank account of a female person of the family.**
- The scheme is expected to reach 17 lakh, poor families of the state.
- An allotment of Rs 280 crore has been made by Assam's Government for this particular scheme.
- The scheme will help poor families with medical supports, nutrition support, academic support and to meet their additional expenditure during the festive season.
- Priority will be given to the families with widows, divorced, unmarried or separated women and disabled persons.
- To have the benefit of this scheme, it mandatory to be the Assam state's resident and income less than Rs 2 lakh per annum.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal
 - Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi
 - **National Park and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Assam:** Kaziranga NP, Dibru Saikhowa NP, Laokhowa WLS, Manas NP, Nameri NP, Orong NP, Pobitoro WLS, Amchang WLS, Boranadee WLS

APPOINTMENTS ON 14TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi: He is appointed as Director General Naval Operations (DGNO).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
- **SS Mundra:** He is appointed as **non-executive chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH)**. He was former RBI deputy Governor.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IBH: Gurugram
- **Soma Mondal:** She is appointed as **Chairman of SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited)**. She will be replacing Anil Chaudhary.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SAIL: New Delhi
- **Suhail Sameer:** He is appointed as **Group President of BharatPe**.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BharatPe: New Delhi

FEDERAL BANK CREDIT CARD

Current Context: Federal Bank has partnered with Fiserv Inc. to launch its 'Federal Bank Credit Card', which is their first independent credit card.

KEY FACTS

- **For this credit card, Federal Bank will make use of FirstVision technology of Fiserv Inc.**
- This initiative is taken to digitize the bank's end-to-end card issuance and processing cycle.
- Under this partnership, Federal Bank will also be outsourcing associated operational processes to Fiserv.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Federal Bank: Aluva, Kerala
 - Tagline of Federal Bank: Your Perfect Banking Partner
 - HQ of Fiserv Inc: Brookfield, United States

AIR UNIQUE QUALITY MONITORING (AUM) PHOTONIC SYSTEM

Current Context: An indigenous photonic system to remotely monitor air quality parameters.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The system is titled as 'Air Unique Quality Monitoring (AUM) Photonic System'.**
- **The system is developed by Scientific and Industrial Research Center (GVP-SIRC) and GVP College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam.**
- The AUM Photonic System is developed under the Clean Air Research Initiative of Department of Science and Technology.
- The system is based on principals of statistical mechanics, laser backscattering, optoelectronics, AI, machine learning and IoT.
- The system identifies, make classification and quantifies various pollutants present in the air atmosphere. It does these three steps simultaneously of the order of less than one part per billion and following the standards of meteorology with high precision and accuracy.
- The testing and evaluation of AUM Photonic System were performed in comparison with gold standards of EffecTech, United Kingdom.
- Karnataka State Pollution Control Board will be operating this system by following the standards of the Central Pollution Control Board of India.
- The system has features like portableness, compact in size, low powered nature, economical as compared to currently available other similar types of systems.

RBI REVISES NORMS FOR CORE INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India has taken the decision to tighten the norms of Core Investment Companies (CIC).

KEY POINTS

- **The decision to tighten the norms for CICs is taken after the recommendations of the Working group which was asked to Review the Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for CICs.**
- The committee to review the framework for CICs was chaired by Tapan Ray.
- As per the decision, RBI says that the parent CIC in a group will have to form a committee (Group Risk Management Committee) which will analyse risk to which the group is exposed.
- The Group Risk Management Committee (GRMC) will report to the board of CIC atleast once in a quarter.
- The GRMC will discuss all risk strategies at an aggregated level depending upon the type of risk.
- Also as per other decision, CICs with an asset of over Rs 5000 crore will have to appoint Chief risk officer.
- If a CIC makes any direct or indirect equity investment in another CIC, it will be deemed as a layer for the investing company.
- Also, RBI has directed CICs to maintain a functional website which will display annual reports, corporate governance report, management discussions and meeting reports etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

'SHAURYA KISAN GOLD CREDIT (KGC) CARD'

Current Context: HDFC Bank has launched 'Shaurya Kisan Gold Credit (KGC) Card'.

ABOUT

- **It is the tri-colour theme-based card which is launched for Indian Armed Forces i.e. Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Para Military Forces and to their families.**
- The card will prove beneficial to 45 lakh users in the country.
- The card is launched under the HDFC initiative of 'Har Gaon Hamara'.
- The 'Shaurya Kisan Gold Credit (KGC) Card' will provide finance to agricultural produce, maintenance of farms and crops, consumption needs, purchasing agricultural machinery, irrigation equipments etc.
- The card is having life cover of Rs 10 lakh as against Rs 2 lakh for an average card. The card can be issued without any physical presence of the user with a simple and easy online documentation process.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
 - Chairman of HDFC Bank: Deepak S Parekh

- Tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world

AYUSH FOR IMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Current Context: Ministry of AYUSH a campaign titled 'AYUSH for Immunity' which will be carried out for three months.

KEY FACTS

- The launching of this campaign took place via webinar which was based on Ayush Virtual Convention Center (AVCC), which is the new digital communication platform of the Ministry of AYUSH.
- 'AYUSH for Immunity' campaign is launched with the aim of enhancing immunity among people so that they can fight any disease.
- The campaign will focus on improving the healthy lifestyle of people and will emphasize on the need for behavioural change in people.
- This campaign will also prove beneficial to combat COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of AYUSH: Shripad Naik

PRICE MONITORING AND RESOURCE UNIT (PMRU) -- KARNATAKA

Current Context: Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU) is established in Karnataka.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The announcement for the establishment of PMRU was made by Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers DV Sadananda Gowda.
- The PMRU is developed and established by NPPA (National Pharmaceutical and Pricing Authority), Department of Pharmaceuticals, Chemical and Fertilisers Ministry, GOI, in partnership with Karnataka State Drug Control Department.
- The aim behind this PMRU launching is that, PMRU will assist and guide NPPA in order to monitor prices of drugs, availability of drugs in the market and will also create awareness of consumers regarding knowledge and consumptions of various drugs.
- PMRU will act as an information collecting mechanism from the grass-root level to NPPA.
- The supervisory authority of PMRU is given to State Drug Controller which will keep track on PMRU.
- The finance and expenses of PMRU are handled by NPPA the central sector scheme named Consumer Awareness , Publicity and Price Monitoring (CAPPMP).
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Karnataka: B S Yediyurappa
 - Governor of Karnataka: Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala

- **National Parks of Karnataka:** Nagarhole National Park, Bandipur National Park, Anshi National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Malai Mahadeshwara WLS, Melkote Temple WLS, Nugu WLS

SURPLUS TRANSFER OF RS 57,128 CRORE TO CENTRAL GOVT

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India has given approval to transfer dividend of Rs 57,128 crore to the central government.

DETAILS

- The approval is given with an aim for the accounting year 2019-2020 sharply lower by 67.5% with respect to Rs 1.76 lakh last year. And to maintain Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.5%.
- The transfer of funds is done under the chairmanship of RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das.
- This transfer of dividend amount to central government will allow to tackle fiscal deficit and recapitalize public sector during this pandemic state of COVID-19.
- The amount is transferred as per the Economic Capital Framework (ECF) which was adopted by RBI last year. As per ECF norms, the contingency risk buffer (CRB) has to be maintained at 5.5-6.5 % of the balance sheet. Therefore, RBI board decided to maintain the buffer at 5.5 % this year.
- Also, RBI has decided to establish Innovation Hub.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH MISSION

Current Context: On the occasion of 74th Independence Day of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Digital Health Mission.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The aim behind this National Digital Health Mission is to revolutionize the health sector of India.
- Under this mission, every citizen of India will be given a unique health identity card.
- With the help of this card, every citizen will get access to the health care benefits during their visit to doctors.
- The holders of the cards will get access to health services remotely.
- The National Digital Health Mission, features and focusses on Tele-consultation and E-Pharmacies.
- The health identity card will be having all the medical and health data of the user.
- Initially, the mission will be launched in Union Territories and after that, the mission will be rolled out in Indian States as well.

- The National Digital Health Mission comes under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

‘DIGITAL APNAYEN’—BY PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

Current Context: The campaign called ‘Digital Apnayen’ is launched by Punjab National Bank.

KEY FACTS

- **The aim behind launching this campaign is to encourage customers to prefer digital banking system.**
- The campaign will be in progress till 31st March 2021 and was launched on the occasion of Independence Day of India.
- The campaign encourages people to make use of various digital channels to carry out their banking and finance transactions and to also offer donations to PM CARES Fund to combat COVID-19.
- Under this campaign, PNB will offer Rs 5 towards the PM CARES Fund with respect to each customer performing first financial transactions to activate their RuPay Debit Card via PoS platform or e-commerce platform.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PNB: New Delhi
 - MD of PNB: S S Mallikarjuna Rao
 - Tagline of PNB: The name you can bank upon

NTPC DEVELOPS INFRASTRUCTURE AT RIHAND PROJECT, UTTAR PRADESH

Current Context: The National Thermal Power Corporation has developed an infrastructure at Rihand Project in Uttar Pradesh.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The infrastructure is developed to conduct transportation of fly ash (coal combustion product) to cement plants at low cost.**
- NTPC has developed infra in order to achieve 100% utilization of fly ash from power plants.
- The first rake of 59 BOXN railway wagon which carried 3450 MT of fly ash was flagged off from NTPC’s Rihand Super Thermal Power Stations for ACC cement manufacturing plant, Tikaria, Uttar Pradesh.
- The infrastructure will provide an efficient and safe transfer of fly ash from a remote location to the destination centre where it is to be consumed.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NTPC: New Delhi

4TH MEET OF BRICS ANTI- DRUG WORKING GROUP

Current Context: The 4th Meeting of BRICS Anti- Drug Working Group was held virtually.

ABOUT MEET

- **The meeting was chaired by Russia and was participated by respective members of each BRICS nation.**
- **India was represented by Rakesh Asthana, who is DG of Narcotics Control Bureau (HQ: New Delhi).**
- The members in the meet discussed their commitments towards Anti-Drug Conventions.
- They also discussed about illegal trafficking in narcotics drugs by the misuse of technologies and assured to eradicate this illicit thing.
- They discussed to restrict the drug trafficking which is done via maritime routes.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

ANTI-DRONE SYSTEM—BY DRDO

Current Context: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed and deployed an anti-drone system near Red Fort on the occasion on 74th Independence Day of India.

KEY POINTS

- This anti-drone system has the capability to detect and jam micro drones to 3km range.
- The drone system is incorporated with laser which will help to bring down a target upto 1-2.5km of range as per the wattage of laser equipment utilised on system.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: G Sathesh Reddy

UK LAUNCHED INNOVATION CHALLENGE FUND IN INDIA

Current Context: The United Kingdom has launched 3 million pound Innovation Challenge Fund in India.

KEY FACTS

- This fund is launched to provide support to financially tackle and combat COVID-19.
- The funds will offer finance to Indian Scientist associated with academics and industries in India so that they can work to find a solution to tackle COVID-19 and Climate change issue.

- Under this Innovation Challenge Fund, tech innovators and experts are invited to utilize AI in Data Cluster in Karnataka and future mobility cluster in Maharashtra. The tech innovators and experts are asked to submit their research reports in order to find a solution to contain COVID-19 and to mitigate climate change issue and to have a greener planet.
- Under this Innovation Challenge Fund, atleast 12 grants upto pounds 250,000 will be awarded. The British High Commission upon reviewing the two page conceptual report submitted by participated experts, will offer funds to them to implement their concept.
- The Innovation Challenge Fund will also boost the UK-India Tech Partnership.

CHHATTISGARH LAUNCHED VARIOUS SCHEME

Current Context: Government of Chhattisgarh has launched various schemes which are mentioned below:

KEY POINTS

- **Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme:** The scheme is launched for the students and hence it is a student-centric scheme. 'Padhai Tuhar Para' means Education up to your locality. The scheme will help students to carry out their academic activity and study in their neighbourhood itself. The students will be able to study with the help of the community in their localities. The scheme will prove beneficial to around 22 lakh students. 'Padhai Tuhar Para' scheme is an online education platform and is highly beneficial as the schools are shut down due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- **'Bultu Ke Bol':** It is the Bluetooth based programme which will provide study materials to the students living in remote areas where they do not have access to the internet.
- **Mukhyamantri Slum Swadthya Yojana:** This scheme will provide health facilities at the doorsteps of the people with the help of 70 mobile medical units in the total of 14 municipal corporations of the state.
- **Radhabai Diagnostic Centre Scheme:** This scheme aims to offer pathology and other facilities at economically lower price rates to the people.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel
 - Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Chhattisgarh:** Indrāvati NP, Kanger Valley NP, Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) NP, City Bird WLS, Sukhna Lake WLS, Barnawapara WLS, Badalkhol WLS, Pamed Wild Buffalo WLS, Sitanadi WLS, Tamor Pingla WLS, Udanti Wild Buffalo WLS

'FIT INDIA YOUTH CLUBS'

Current Context: Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiji has launched an initiative called as 'Fit India Youth Clubs'.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **It's a nationwide initiative which aims to promote importance of health fitness among every citizen of India.**
- Under this initiative, Fit India Youth Clubs will be set up by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, National Services Scheme, Scouts and Guides, NCC and various other youth organisation.
- These clubs will be formed at every block of the country and will perform the task of encouraging people to give time to their fitness for around 30-60 minutes daily.
- The initiative will involve the participation of the youth to motivate people in the country regarding health fitness.
- Also, the Fit India Youth Clubs will also work to promote the Fit India Freedom Run.

13TH INDIA-UAE JOINT COMMISSION MEET ON TRADE, ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Current Context: On 17th August, the 13th session of India-UAE Joint Commission Meet on Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation was conducted virtually.

ABOUT MEET

- The meeting was conducted between Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Both the respective members of the countries discussed the ways to boost trading and economic activities and the situation in the neighborhood of both countries.
- India has invited investments from UAE in building the infrastructure for the sectors like food, parks, logistics, airports and renewable energy.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi
 - Currency of UAE: Dirham

'YELLOW CHAIN' E-COMMERCE PLATFORM-NAGALAND

Current Context: The government of Nagaland has launched an e-commerce platform named as 'Yellow Chain'.

DETAILS

- The platform will promote local businesses and entrepreneurs of the state.
- This centralised e-commerce platform aims to provide an integrated platform to the people to build and promote their products and services from their location itself and to provide a source of income and enhance their income as well.
- With the help of 'Yellow Chain' e-commerce platform, the seller or service providers, or an individual or a group will be able to register themselves and to upload the data and information

about their particular products and services which would be accessed by customers while purchasing.

- The platform is developed by the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN).
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Nagaland: Niephiu Rio
 - Governor of Nagaland: RN Ravi
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Nagaland:** Ntangki NP, Pulie Badze WLS, Fakim WLS, Rangapahar WLS, Nagaland Zoological Park

APPOINTMENTS ON 18TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Kaushik Khona: He is appointed as **CEO of GoAir**. He has replaced Vinay Dube.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of GoAir: Mumbai
- **Rakesh Asthana:** He is appointed as **Director General of Border Security Force (BSF)**. He will be replacing S S Deswal.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BSF: New Delhi

'E-PATHSHALA'—BY AIFF AND SAI

Current Context: All India Football Federation (AIFF) has joined with Sports Authority of India (SAI) to launch an e-platform called 'E-pathshala'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The e-platform will provide athlete coaching program in football to the children.**
- **The platform is divided into three parts: My Football Culture, My Skills and My Training.**
- **My Football Culture:** This part comprises of 5 aspects namely My drawing, My goal, My Idol, My Creativity and My Story. in this part, the children are required to upload their videos on this platform web portal.
- **My Skills:** This part belongs to under 12 age children and consist of levels like Golden Bracket, Silver Bracket and Bronze Bracket. Participants are expected to select any particular bracket and to upload their videos accordingly as per the level of bracket selected.
- **My Training:** This involves uploading of videos of participants either illustrating themselves individually or with family and friends.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of AIFF: New Delhi
 - President of AIFF: Praful Patel
 - DG of SAI: Sandip Pradhan

ATAL RANKINGS OF INSTITUTIONS ON INNOVATION ACHIEVEMENTS 2020

Current Context: Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank released the ranking list for Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the rankings, IIT Madras has retained its top position in ARIIA for this year as well. IIT Madras is remarked as the best centrally funded institution in India.**
- The rankings were declared on the basis of two broad categories and six subcategories.
- **The six subcategories are** Centrally funded institutions, Women instructions (only higher education institutes), Private institutions, Private/Deemed Universities, State-funded autonomous institutions and State-funded Universities.
- **Following is the ranking for top five centrally funded institutions in India.**

Rank Position	Name of the Institute
First	IIT Madras
Second	IIT Bombay
Third	IIT Delhi
Fourth	IISC Bengaluru
Fifth	IIT Kharagpur

- **For this year, ARIIA has declared ranking for Women instructions (only higher education institutes). Under this category, First rank is marked by Avinashilingam Institution for Home Science and Higher education for Women and the Second position is marked by Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women.**

FLIPKART SIGNS MOU WITH IIT PATNA

Current Context: Indian E-commerce brand Flipkart has signed MoU with IIT Patna.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU is signed to work for industry focused research.**
- **Under this MoU, industry focused research will be carried out in the field of AI, Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML).**
- Flipkart aims to enhance research in the industries in order to reach e-commerce in every sector and to enhance the student's engagement in this upliftment of e-commerce with the help of technology and their skill sets.
- Under this partnership, IIT Patna will perform research, they will publish research papers as well as conduct interactive seminar sessions. The institute will also offer mentorship and internship opportunities to the students.
- These activities by IIT Patna, will leverage the flipkart data and platform knowledge to work on e-commerce and its challenges.

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- IIT Patna will develop various AI, NLP and ML solution platforms which will perform the work of collection, analysis and translations of huge amount of user reviews which are written in English or other Indian languages.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Flipkart: Bengaluru

APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 19TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Satya Pal Malik: He is appointed as **Governor of Meghalaya**. He has replaced Tathagata Roy.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Meghalaya: Conrad Kongkal Sangma
- **Bhagat Singh Koshyari:** He is given as **additional charge to be the Governor of Goa**. He is also Governor of Maharashtra.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Goa: Pramod Sawant
- **GP Garg:** He is given appointed as new **Executive Director of SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India)**.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi
- **Ashok Lavasa:** He is given his **resignation from the post of Election Commissioner of India as he is appointed as Vice President of Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.
- **Ibrahmin Boubacar Keita:** He has given his **resignation from the post of President of Mali**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mali: Bamako
 - Currency of Mali: West African CFA Franc.
- **Rohit Sharma:** He is given appointed as **Brand Ambassador of Oakley** which is a sports eyewear brand.

ELECTRONIC MANUFACTURING POLICY 2020---UTTAR PRADESH

Current Context: Uttar Pradesh government has launched Electronic Manufacturing Policy 2020.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This policy aims to invite an investment of Rs 40,000 crores for the upcoming 5 years in the state.
- The policy also aims to develop 4 lakh employment opportunities in the state.

- The policy will help to achieve zero import of electronic goods and will create interest of international investors in India.
- Also, the Electronic Manufacturing Policy 2020 will uplift the Uttar Pradesh as a global electronic hub.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
 - **National Parks ,Wild Life Sanctuaries and Bird Sanctuaries in UP:** Dudhwa National Park & Tiger Reserve, Chandraprabha Wildlife sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Pilibhit Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Hastinapur WLS

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA (AIIA) SIGNS MOU WITH DELHI POLICE

Current Context: All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has signed MoU with Delhi Police.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU is signed to offer Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive Health Services to the police and their families at their residential colonies in Delhi.**
- **The Ayurveda services will be offered through a mobile unit which is named as 'Dhanwantari Rath'.**
- 'Dhanwantari Rath' is a health care service providing mobile unit which consist of a team of doctors who will be visiting colonies of Delhi police on a regular interval basis.
- 'Dhanwantari Rath' is comprised of ayurvedic and homoeopathic medicines, vitamin based medicines, testing equipments along with pulse oximeter.
- **Along with this mobile unit, a Police Wellness Centers is also formed by AIIA.**
- **Both 'Dhanwantari Rath' and Police Wellness Centers will offer Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive Health Services to the police and their families at their residential colonies in Delhi.**
- AIIA is an autonomous institute which comes under AYUSH Ministry.
- Delhi Police has also formed joint venture named as 'AYURAKSHA' of AIIA, in order to maintain the health of COVID-19 warriors.
- **Static Part:**
 - AYUSH Minister of State: Shripad Yesso Naik
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

SWADESHI MICROPROCESSOR CHALLENGE-INNOVATE SOLUTION FOR #AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Current Context: Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched a challenge which is called as:- Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge-Innovate Solution for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

KEY POINTS

- **The challenge is launched with an aim to invite startups, innovators and students and their professors to use microprocessors and carry out research in this field.**
- Under the support of Microprocessor Development Programme which was launched by Ministry of Electronics and IT in collaboration with IIT Madras and CDAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) has developed microprocessors named as SHAKTI and VEGA which are Open Source Architecture.
- The challenge launched by the minister is to make utilization of these two microprocessors in order to develop new products and to have advance research ideas with the help of them.
- The innovator's ad students are asked to develop various technology-based products which will prove beneficial to society using the two swadeshi microprocessors by making use of the swadeshi processors IPs.
- The challenge is open to students belonging to any level of academics.
- The challenge provides an opportunity for 100 Semi-finalists to win a total Rs.1 Crore of Award, 25 Finalists to win total Rs.1 Crore of Award. Also, the top 10 teams entering the finale, will get the seed fund of total Rs.2.30 crore and 12 months incubation support.

NATIONAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY APPROVED BY UNION CABINET

Current Context: Union Cabinet has approved to set up National Recruitment Agency (NRA) which will conduct Common Eligibility Test (CET).

KEY FACTS

- **The approval to set NRA was given by union cabinet which is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the announcement for same was made by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar.**
- **The National Recruitment Agency will prove beneficial to job seeking youths in India as the agency will result in transformational reform in recruitment process for central government jobs.**
- The NRA will be comprised of representatives from recruitments like ministry of railways, ministry of finance/departments of financial services, Staff Selection Commission, RRBs and IBPS.
- An amount of Rs 1517.57 crore has been sanctioned by GOI to NRA which is expected to act as a specialist body which will offer state-of-the-art technology and transparent recruitment practices for central government jobs.

- **Features of CET:** It will be conducted for non-technical post recruitment. The score will be valid for 3 years. No restriction on number of attempts to appear for CET exam. Separate CET for 10th, 12th pass and graduated candidates will be conducted. CET exam will be available in the number of Indian Languages.

ADB APPROVED LOAN FOR INDIA'S RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM

Current Context: Asian Development Bank has approved the loan to construct the modern, high speed Delhi-Meerut, Uttar Pradesh RRTS (Regional Rapid Transit System), which will be of 82 km long.

DETAILS

- **For this purpose, ADB has approved to grant loan of USD 1 Billion i.e. Rs 7458 crore to India.**
- The loan amount will be offered in 4 tranches i.e. between August 2020 and May 2025.
- The project of Delhi-Meerut, Uttar Pradesh RRTS will be executed by National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).
- The loan amount will be utilised to construct railway tracks, building stations, maintenance facilities, power supply and traction.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

RBI RELEASES DRAFT FOR SELF-REGULATORY BODY FOR PAYMENT SYSTEM OPERATORS

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has released a draft framework which will offer a grant of recognition to association of industry to be termed as Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for Payment System Operators (PSO).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **SRO will be responsible to frame and enforce rules for PSO in order to protect customers and promote ethics, quality and professionalism.**
- As per RBI, it is mandatory to develop industry standards and norms related to system security, pricing practices, protection of customer, to solve grievances and have redressal mechanisms.
- This draft framework will offer systematic regulatory resources which will be developed by industry and will thus encourage and promote better compliance.
- SRO will act as a two way communication channel between PSOs and RBI and in case of any violations, SRO will report to RBI.
- The SRO will be set up under the Companies Act.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of RBI: Mumbai
- Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

6TH ROUNDTABLE OF ASEAN-INDIA NETWORK OF THINK TANKS (AINTT)

Current Context: The Union Minister of External Affairs participated in 6th Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT).

KEY POINTS

- In this event, he highlighted the need to go beyond orthodox in the field of trade, politics and security.
- He mentioned that India and ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries by working together can be led to the development of Asia and the world.
- As ASEAN group is one of the development path providing a global platform and India is the fifth largest country, these two entities will be led to vast development majority sectors.
- He also assured to offer support to fight the global pandemic which has arisen in many countries and to have the importance of health security.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of External Affairs: S Jaishankar

5TH SWACHH SURVEKSHAN AWARDS 2020

Current Context: Swachh Survekshan Awards 2020 was announced by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

ABOUT

- The awards were announced in the 'Swachh Mahotsav' which was organized by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Indore has won the cleanest city award for the 4th consecutive year.**
- Following is the list of the awards under each category:
 - Cleanest City with a population above 1 lakh:- Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
 - Cleanest City with a population below 1 lakh:- Karad (Maharashtra)
 - Cleanest state with more than 100 cities:- Chhattisgarh
 - Cleanest state with less than 100 cities:- Jharkhand
 - Cleanest Ganga Town:- Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
 - Cleanest megacity with more than 40 lakh population:- Ahmedabad (Gujrat)
 - Best self-sustainable city with a population above 40 lakh:- Bengaluru (Karnataka) & Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh)
 - Fast-moving city with respect to cleanliness:- Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
 - Self-sustainable city with respect to cleanliness with a population more than 10 lakh:- Rajkot (Gujrat)

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- Self-sustainable city with respect to cleanliness with a population less than 10 lakh:- Mysuru (Karnataka)
- Cleanest small city:- Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)

'KORMO APP' - BY GOOGLE

Current Context: Google has launched 'Kormo App' in India.

KEY FACTS

- **The app is launched to help people in fading employment opportunities and jobs.**
- The app will prove beneficial to millions of Indians to get jobs as per their qualification.
- The 'Kormo App' will be highly useful to those who have lost their jobs during the lockdown situation which arised due to the outbreak of COVID-19 as it has led to the economic disruption on large scale.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Google: California, United States
 - CEO of Google: Sunder Pichai

'PAVITRAPATI' AND 'AUSHADA TARA'- LAUNCHED BY DIAT

Current Context: The two products named as 'Pavitrapati' and 'Aushada Tara' are launched to combat COVID-19.

ABOUT

- **The products are launched by Defence Institute of Advanced Research (DIAT), Pune.**
- **'Pavitrapati':-** It is an Ayurvedic based Biodegradable Face Mask. It will provide neutralizing to the virus, thus providing resistance against bacteria and virus. The mask will be made available for sale on online e-commerce platforms like Amazon. Flipkart etc.
- **'Aushada Tara':-** It is the anti-microbial bodysuit. It is comprised of superhydrophobic, breathing, anti-microbial, comfort providing and good repellent properties. It is developed in vast numbers after passing a splash-resistant test.

'FRAMEWORK FOR AUTHORISATION OF PAN-INDIA UMBRELLA ENTITY FOR RETAIL PAYMENTS'

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has released 'Framework for authorisation of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **This new pan-India umbrella Entity will be set up with a capital of Rs 500 crore.**
- Under this, the entity which will be formed will perform the work of managing new payment systems like ATMs, Adhaar based payments, point of sale based payments.
- The entity will set up standards for the various payment methods and will work to mitigate technology-related issues being faced in performing payments.
- For this framework to be built in reality, the apex bank has invited applications from eligible companies by 26th Feb 2021.
- The final entity will be set up and the authorisation for the same will be given by the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payments and Settlement Systems (BPSS).
- The entity will belong to the Companies Act, 2013 and will be authorized by RBI under section 4 of PSS (Payment and Settlement Systems) Act, 2007.
- The eligible entities willing to apply as promoters of umbrella entity must be owned and controlled by resident Indian citizen under FEMA 1999.
- Any entity having more than 25% paid-up capital, but less than 40% of umbrella entity will be given charge as a promoter. A promoter should make payment in advance which must be 10% of minimum capital. A net worth of Rs 300 crore must be maintained.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

5TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT

Current Context: The 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament was arranged virtually.

KEY POINTS

- **The conference was organized by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva in partnership with Parliament of Austria with a support from United Nations.**
- **Theme for the conference:** 'Parliament leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet'.
- **India was represented by Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.**
- He expressed his opinion on improving governance by proper understanding and bridging the gap between parliaments and people.
- Objective of conference was to provide strength and boost multilateralism and to have international cooperation in order to have better world to live.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IPU: Geneva, Switzerland
 - Constituency of Om Birla: Kota, Rajasthan

ATAL INNOVATION MISSION PARTNERS WITH BUSINESS SWEDEN

Current Context: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog has partnered with Business Sweden on behalf of India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre.

KEY FACTS

- **For this partnership they have signed Statement of Intent (SoI) virtually in order to enhance innovation culture in India.**
- The moto behind this partnership is to provide innovative knowledge, potential, skills to Indian Entrepreneurs and to enhance startup ecosystems in India.
- Under this partnership, various initiatives of AIM like Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACIC), Atal Incubation Centers (AIC), Atal Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE) will get support via various programs, awareness campaigns, activities and events.
- This support will help to boost Atal missions and will promote overall innovation grid in India and Sweden.
- **Static Part:** Atal innovation Mission is an initiative of NITI Aayog.
 - Capital of Sweden: Stockholm
 - Currency of Sweden: Swedish Krona

APPOINTMENTS ON 22 AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Rajiv Kumar:- He is appointed as Election Commissioner of India. He has replaced Ashok Lavasa.

ABOUT

- **Francisco Asue:-** He is reappointed as Prime Minister of Republic of Equatorial Guinea.
- **Static Part:**
 - **Capital of Republic of Equatorial Guinea:** Malabo
 - **Currency of Republic of Equatorial Guinea:** Central African CFA Franc

'NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR FINANCIAL EDUCATION 2020-2025'- RBI

Current Context : The Reserve Bank of India has released a national strategy for the financial education for a period of five years.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **This National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025 aims to create a financial aware and empowered India.**
- This National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025 is the revised structure of first national Strategy for Financial Education 2013-2018.

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- The National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025 is drafted by National Centers for Financial Education (NCFE). The NCFE was guided by RBI, SEBI and PFRDA, Department of Financial Services and other ministries of GOI which are under Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy (TGFIFL).
- **National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025 adopts '5C' approach:** Content, Capacity, Community, Communication and Collaboration.
- It also adopts Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which will assess and monitor the progress of this National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

'EK SANKALP-BUJURGO KE NAAM' CAMPAIGN—MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched a campaign called 'Ek Sankalp-Bujurgo Ke Naam'.

KEY POINTS

- 'Ek Sankalp-Bujurgo Ke Naam' means 'A commitment for elders'.
- **The campaign is launched for those elder and helpless people who are staying alone in their homes in the pandemic situation of COVID-19.**
- Under this campaign, police personnel are taking care of the elder and helpless people.
- They are taking care of their health, providing them with health facilities like medicines, masks, sanitizers. They are also providing food to them at their doorsteps.
- They are running this campaign under 'Desh Bhakti-Jansewa'.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Madhya Pradesh: Shivaji Singh Chouhan
 - Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in MP:** Kanha NP, Bandhavgarh NP, Panna NP, Satpura NP, Madhav NP, Sanjay NP, Pench NP, Van Vihar NP, Fossil NP, Ratapani WLS, Ghatigaon WLS, Kheoni WLS

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

Current Context: Ministry of Skill Development has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Shipping.

KEY FACTS

- **The agreement is signed to achieve skill development in the port and maritime sector.**
- Under this agreement, the associated person in the field of the maritime industry and coastal community will be given training to uplift their skills, also to re-skill them.

- The partnership between two ministries will also offer employment opportunities in order to increase youth manpower in the maritime and coastal sector.
- The MoU will provide strength and will boost the commitment of Coastal Community Development which is held under the Sagar Mala Programme of Ministry of Shipping.
- **Static Part:**
 - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Shipping: Mansukh L Mandaviya
 - Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: Mahendra Nath Pandey

UTTAR PRADESH PARTNERS WITH ISRAEL

Current Context: Uttar Pradesh Government has signed an agreement with Israel.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The agreement is signed to solve the water crisis and to have proper water management in the Bundelkhand region.**
- **Hence the UP government has signed this agreement under 'plan of cooperation' with Israel's water resource minister.**
- **The agreement will help to mitigate and resolve water crisis issues and will support irrigation for agriculture.**
- The agreement will offer agricultural facilities, drip irrigation, groundwater management and potable water management.
- They will focus on three components: water conservation, water-efficient transportation and advanced water practices for agriculture.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
 - **National Parks, Wild Life Sanctuaries and Bird Sanctuaries in UP:** Dudhwa National Park & Tiger Reserve, Chandraprabha Wildlife sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Pilibhit Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Hastinapur WLS
 - Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
 - Currency of Israel: Israeli Shekel

'GREEN DEPOSIT PROGRAMME'- HSBC INDIA

Current Context: HSBC India has launched 'Green Deposit Programme'.

KEY POINTS

- **The 'Green Deposit Programme' is launched for corporate clients who will be responsible to provide finance to the green initiative projects and eco-friendly projects.**

- The projects which will be financed include renewable energy, clean and safe transport, controlling pollution, low carbon emissions, climate-resilient and sustainable economy.
- With the help of this programme, corporate sectors will be able to support environmentally beneficial projects.
- The 'Green Deposit Programme' is available in deposits i.e. as 'term deposits'. These term deposits will attract higher interests as compared to the saving deposits.
- The amount for green deposits will be subjected to a limit basis for eligible business and projects.
- The 'Green Deposit Programme' will offer stable principal amount, pre-agreed return, protection and security for principals as a bank deposit.
- The 'Green Deposit Programme' will prove beneficial to those corporates who want to provide investment in environmentally beneficial projects but are unable to provide investment due to lacking funds.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HSBC India: Mumbai

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING BETWEEN INDIA AND UZBEKISTAN

Current Context: India and Uzbekistan held the first National Coordination Committee Meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **In the meeting, the dignitaries of both the nations discussed their bilateral interest like Line of Credit projects, trade between them and investment support.**
- India was represented by Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan and Uzbekistan was represented by Deputy Prime Minister Sardor Umurzakov.
- They assured to deepen the strategic relationship between the two countries.
- The bilateral trade turnover between the two countries is over 300 million.
- In this bilateral trade pharma is the major sector for trade and investment between India and Uzbekistan.
- India has also offered investment support to Uzbekistan in the fields of pharmaceuticals, amusement parks, automobiles, Information technology and hospitality sector.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Uzbekistan: Tashkent
 - Currency of Uzbekistan: Uzbekistani Som

CMIA PARTNERS WITH UNDP

Current Context: The Chambers of Marathwada Industries and Agriculture (CMIA) has partnered with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to form a help desk for the MSMEs in India.

KEY POINTS

- **The help desk which will be formed by these two entities will provide information on safety, regulatory rules and norms, schemes related to MSMEs, supportive measures during COVID-19.**
- Along with this, the partnered entities will arrange webinars, interactive sessions, training sessions, consultation programs for MSMEs.
- The help desk will be in operation until January 2021.
- The help desk will be responsible to guide MSME in person as well and via telephonic discussions, will provide the linkage of MSME to finance lending institutions, will conduct recruitment and training sessions for MSME's workforce.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CMIA: Aurangabad, Maharashtra
 - HQ of UNDP: New York, United States

'MY IAF' APP—BY INDIAN AIR FORCE

Current Context: Indian Air Force has launched 'MY IAF' app.

KEY FACTS

- **The app is the part of the Digital India initiative.**
- **The app will provide data related to career options to the aspirants who wish to join the Indian Air Force.**
- MY IAF app is linked with official media channels of IAF so that it will help aspirants to get updated with ongoing recruitment activities and other tasks in the Indian Air Force.
- The app is developed by IAF in coordination with C-DAC (Center for Development of Advanced Computing).
- The app will display selection procedure in detail, pay and perks made for officers and airmen in IAF, training details.
- It will also display data about life in Indian Air Force, Ranks in Indian Air Force in order to boost and motivate aspirants.
- The various quiz will also be displayed in the app related to Aircraft inventory, technical quizzes, in order to help aspirants to get knowledge about aircraft.
- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of IAF: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

GOI, GOV. OF MAHARASHTRA AND MRVC SIGNS MOU WITH AIIB

Current Context: Government of India, Government of Maharashtra and Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has signed a loan agreement with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The loan agreement is signed for Mumbai Urban Transport Project III.**
- **The loan agreement is for USD 500 million.**
- The Mumbai Urban Transport Project III will help to provide improved service quality, safety, network capacity of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.
- The total costing of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project III is estimated to be USD 997 million. Out of which, USD 500 million is granted by AIIB, USD 310 million is granted by Government of Maharashtra and USD 187 million is granted by Railway ministry.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of AIIB: Beijing, China
 - President of AIIB: Jin Liquin
 - CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
 - Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Maharashtra:** Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Navegaon National Park, Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhamrargarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Malvan Marine Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary

WHO URGES COUNTRIES TO JOIN AGAINST COVID-19 'VACCINE NATIONALISM'

Current Context: To provide COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, the World Health Organization (WHO) has urged countries to join its **Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX)** facility by **31st August 2020**, for ensuring less wealthy countries have access to COVID-19 vaccines.

KEY POINTS

- This movement is led by the WHO, along with the GAVI vaccine Alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation), and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).
- COVAX is part of a program, called the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, is designed to pool funds from wealthier countries and non-profits to develop a COVID-19 vaccine and distribute it equitably around the world for ensuring the vaccines, treatments, diagnostic tests and other healthcare resources are broadly available to all over the world.
- This program also aims to deliver **2 billion** doses of effective, approved COVID-19 vaccines by the end of **2021**.
- The ACT Accelerator is financed by a variety of nonprofits and governments, aiming to raise about **\$31 billion**. This facility has attracted interest from 92 poorer countries expecting for voluntary donations and 80 wealthier countries that would finance the scheme.
- The main purpose behind this step is to prevent “vaccine nationalism” means wealthier countries hoarding vaccines for their citizens, which could hinder efforts to end the pandemic.
- The World Health Organization's director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus specified that the distribution of vaccines would be rolled out in two phases.

1. Doses would be allocated proportionally to all participating countries simultaneously, to mitigate the overall global risk.
 2. Also, individual countries' threat and vulnerability level will then branch out.
- To analyze the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, recently the World Health Organization (WHO) has created an Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR).
 - Former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Elizabeth Clark and former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will co-chair this panel.
 - **Static Part:**
 - Founded: 7th April 1948
 - Director-General- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
 - Headquarter- Geneva, Switzerland

APEDA SIGNS MOU WITH AFC INDIA LTD AND NCUI, DELHI

Current Context: The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has entered into an MoU with AFC India Limited and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Delhi.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU is signed to uplift the agriculture and allied sectors in order to bring better value to the stakeholders.**
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is a part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- APEDA has taken an initiative to sign this MoU in order to bring together inherent professionals and experts associated with various organisations and institutions so that they can work and bring value to the stakeholders by addressing them with appropriate and prompt solutions which will led to the development of agriculture and its export and thus to achieve objective framed under Agri Export Policy of GOI.
- AFC India Limited will help in guiding technology usage for organic production systems and chemical or residue-free production system. It will act as a supporting role for Common Processing Centers by following the rules set by APEDA in respect to international market requirements.
- AFC India Limited will from the ground level implementation of all export-oriented activities notified in Agri Export Policy of GOI.
- All the trio entities will support the entire value chain system until the clusters and value chain becomes self-sufficient.
- The APEDA, AFC India Ltd and NCUI will work to develop pre-production, production, post-harvesting, primary as well as secondary processing, transportation in order to boost stakeholders and farmers also.

DEBT AND CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAMME INTRODUCED BY NABARD

Current Context: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched the Debt and Credit guarantee programme for NBFC (Non-Banking Finance Companies) and MFIs (Micro Finance Institutions).

KEY FACTS

- The name of the programme or the product is 'Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program'.
- The 'Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program' will help to ensure the flow of credit without any interruptions to the destination in rural areas which are affected due to COVID-19.
- The 'Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program' will provide partial guarantee on pooled loans offered to NBFCs and MFIs.
- Earlier, to launch this programme, NABARD has signed an agreement with Vivriti Capital and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank so that they will offer sustainable finance access to NBFCs and MFIs. Vivriti Capital is a technology-based credit platform which will help to build this programme. The financial transactions will be supported by Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
- This programme will help in providing finance to those households, agriculture and business firms who are affected economically due to COVID-19.
- During the initial phase of this programme, Rs 2,500 crore are sanctioned and is expected to increase in upcoming days.
- The programme is based on **pooled loan issuance (PLI)** which offers the lending bank adequate amount of comfort via credit protection and support from NABARD, in order to reduce the cost of capital as the loan ratings are notched up and thus help the lenders to meet their priority based goals.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
 - Chairman of NABARD: G R Chintala
 - HQ of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank: Bengaluru
 - Tagline of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank: We believe in your belief

APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATION AND EXTENSION ON 26TH AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Vinay M Tonse:- He is appointed as MD and CEO of SBI Funds Management Pvt Ltd (SBIFMPL). He has replaced Ashwani Bhatia, who is appointed as MD of SBI.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBIFMPL: Mumbai
- **Jasneet Kaur:-** She is appointed as Chief Human resource Officer of BharatPe.

- **Rajiv Srivastava:-** He has resigned from the post of MD and CEO of Indian Energy Exchange (IEX).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IEX: New Delhi
- **G Sathesh Reddy:-** He has been given an extension to be the Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the period of two years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi

RBI ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has released RBI Annual Report 2019-2020.

KEY POINTS

- As per the data in the report, total income in the year 2019-2020 has increased by 28.97%. In the year 2018-2019 total income was Rs 1,49,672 crore. And in 2019-2020, the total income is Rs 1,93,036 crore.
- The expenditure decreased by 39.72%.
- The gross non-performing ratio of the banking system has reduced to 9.1% when compared with March 2019 which was 11.2%.
- The interest income of the bank increased by 44.62%.
- Bank fraud cases increased to 74%. In 2019, the number of bank fraud cases increased to 6800 when compared to a number of bank fraud cases to be 5900 in 2018.
- The contingency funds of RBI have reduced to Rs 1.96 lakh crore.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

ICICI BANK USES SATELLITE DATA TO ASSESS CREDIT WORTHINESS OF FARMERS

Current Context: ICICI Bank is making use of imagery from earth observation satellites i.e. making use of data from the satellite to Assess Credit worthiness of farmers.

DETAILS

- **Thus by doing so, ICICI Bank has become the first bank in India to use such an advance technique.**
- With the help of satellite data, ICICI Bank will measure an array of parameters in relation to land, irrigation and crop patterns so that they can analyse these parameters and will make financial quick lending to the farmers to carry out their agricultural work.

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- The satellite data will also be delivering demographic and financial details, thus by providing accurate and precise information about the land assets of farmers.
- This advance technique, will also help farmers to get better access to formal credits.
- Under this advance technique, on getting data from satellites, the credit assessments are made within 15 days by the bank.
- This initiative is started by the bank in villages of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujrat.
- The satellite data will give details about rainfall, temperature, soil moisture levels, tentative suitable sowing and harvesting weeks, crop health etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakshi
 - Tagline of ICICI Bank: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Aapka

NITI AAYOG'S EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX 2020

Current Context: NITI Aayog has released Export Preparedness Index 2020 (EPI 2020).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **To frame and release this report, NITI Aayog was partnered by Institute of Competitiveness.**
- The EPI 2020 identifies challenges and opportunities along with the encouragement of facilitative regulatory framework.
- **The ranking for EPI 2020 is topped by Gujarat.**
- The second and third position in EPI 2020 is marked by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu respectively.
- The reason behind the top three positions marked by these states is that their location is near the coast.
- On the basis of landlocked states, Rajasthan has marked the top position, and followed by Telangana and Haryana.
- From Himalayan states, Uttarakhand has topped the position. From the Union Territories, Delhi has topped the position followed by Goa and Chandigarh.
- **The parameters which were considered for EPI 2020 are:** Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export ecosystem and Export Performance.
- **States which topped in each parameter:**

Sr No	Parameters	TOPPED BY
1	Policy	Maharashtra
2	Business Ecosystem	Gujarat
3	Export Ecosystem	Maharashtra
4	Export Performance	Mizoram

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

INDO JAPAN BUSINESS FORUM

Current Context: The virtual Indo Japan Business Forum was organized by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

ABOUT

- **The forum was addressed by Karnataka CM B. S. Yediyurappa.**
- The Karnataka CM announced to set up 519 acres Japanese Industrial Township at Vasanthanarasapura near Tumakuru. This township will allow Japanese investment in Karnataka.
- In order to boost investment in the electronics manufacturing sector, CM announced a 25% capital investment subsidy on land.
- In this forum, the CM signed Japan India Startup Initiative in order to enhance the startups in the state.
- The state government has also taken various steps to set a single window for investors, framing of stable and simplified labour laws in order to create investment and boost employment.
- Also, the state has decided to set up 'Karnataka Innovation Authority' and has launched New industrial Policy 2020-25.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Karnataka: B S Yediyurappa
 - Governor of Karnataka: Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
 - National Parks of Karnataka: Nagarhole National Park, Bandipur National Park, Anshi National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Malai Mahadeshwara WLS, Melkote Temple WLS, Nugu WLS

NEGD SIGNS MOU WITH CSC E-GOVERNANCE SERVICES INDIA LTD

Current Context: National e-Governance Division (NeGD) has entered into MoU with CSC (Common Service Center) E-Governance Services India Ltd.

DETAILS

- **The MoU is signed to offer UMANG services to citizens.**
- The UMANG services will be offered via a network of 3.75 lakh CSCs.
- By using the UMANG app, the citizens will get the benefit of e-governance services of 140 departments. These services to the citizens will be facilitated by CSC operators Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE).
- This partnership will prove beneficial as it will help those citizens who are not having access to smartphones or are unable to handle e-services based apps.
- The citizens will be able to avail the services like Employees Provident Fund Organisations services, getting PAN account and can register themselves in Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

- UMANG app stands for Unified Mobile Application for New age Governance. The app is a single platform which grants access to e-governance services.

DRAFT HEALTH DATA MANAGEMENT POLICY—BY NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

Current Context: The National Health Authority has released the Draft Health Data Management Policy.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The policy is released under the National Digital Health Mission.
- The objective for Draft Health Data Management Policy is to offer guidance and set framework for secure processing of personnel, confidential and sensitive data of individual who are part of the ecosystem of national digital health.
- The draft proposes to secure electronic health records, electronic medical records by adopting technical measures and thus to increase data privacy.
- Along with this, the draft proposes to establish institutional mechanism body which will conduct audits of the National Digital Health Ecosystem.

LIBERTY SAVING ACCOUNT—BY AXIS BANK

Current Context: Axis bank has launched Liberty Saving Account.

KEY FACTS

- **The Liberty Saving Account is launched for Indian Youth.**
- **The Liberty Saving Account will address the need of the youth and digitally interested Indians like changing lifestyles and hospital cash insurance covers.**
- The Liberty Saving Account will offer hospital cash insurance cover upto Rs 20,000 per year.
- Liberty Saving Account is applicable for the people belonging in the age group of upto 35 years of age.
- A minimum balance of Rs 25,000 has to be maintained in the account and the user can spend the same amount each month with the help of liberty debit card.
- It offers an annual saving amount to Rs 15,000. It also offers 5% cashback offers on the debit card used for transactions like food, entertainment, shopping, travel etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Axis Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry
 - Tagline of Axis Bank: Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHED NDC-TIA INDIAN COMPONENT

Current Context: NITI Aayog has launched an Indian component called as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)- Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA), which is a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **NDC-TIA is supported by International Climate initiative (IKI), belonging to the ministry of Germany for environment, nature conservation and nuclear safety (BMU). NITI Aayog is the implementing partner for NDC-TIA in India.**
- The NDC-TIA will offer a platform to provide inputs by various entities related to challenges faced in India's transport system.
- The inputs are expected to reduce CO2 emission.
- Along with this, the platform aims to focus on electric mobility by interconnecting the transport and energy sector.
- NDC-TIA will offer technical support to reduce GHG emissions and to develop policy recommendations for electric vehicles.
- The platform aims to decarbonize transport sector in India, Vietnam and China.
- The platform will be active for the duration of 4 years.
- The inputs are expected to come from ministry experts, international development agencies, think tanks, public and private organizations.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

7 NEW CIRCLES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Current Context: The Union Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India.

KEY POINTS

- **The new circles belong to the states of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Gujrat.**
- **The 7 new circles of ACI are:** (1) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh (2) Trichy, Tamil Nadu (3) Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh (4) Meerut, Uttar Pradesh (5) Hampi, Karnataka (6) Raiganj, West Bengal (7) Rajkot, Gujarat.
- These new 7 circles are added to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and call to facilitate and strengthen the process of registration and preservation of archaeological monuments.
- **Static Part:**

- Union Minister of Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge): Prahalad Singh Patel

NATIONAL GIS ENABLED LAND BANK SYSTEM

Current Context: The National GIS (Geographic Information System) enabled Land Bank System is launched by union minister of commerce and industry, Piyush Goyal.

KEY FACTS

- **The National GIS-enabled Land Bank System will provide real-time information about the availability of industrial land and resources. It will provide details about industrial clusters all over India.**
- The system is developed by integrating the Industrial Information System (IIS) to the State's GIS. Until now, six major states are included in this system.
- Currently, the system is a prototype model and further, it will be enhanced by getting inputs from a number of states and to generate the system into an effective and transparent platform which will provide real-time information about the availability of industrial land and resources.
- The National GIS-enabled Land Bank System is supported by the National Centre for Geo-Informatics, Invest India, National E-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Application and Geo-Informatics.
- Currently, the system is mapped with 3,300 industrial parks which are covering 4,75,000 hectares land. The system will also include data about the forest, raw materials, drainage etc. needed to construct an industry.

IIT ALUMNI COUNCIL SIGNS MOU WITH RUSSIA TO BUILD QUANTUM COMPUTERS

Current Context: IIT Alumni Council has signed MoU with Russia's Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) and Russoft to build the world's largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) and Russoft are the association of software developing companies, with the help of whom India will access and transfer key technologies to build Quantum Computers in India.
- The collaboration will allow the use of advance technology in the sectors of health, transports and logistics, weather forecasting, agriculture. This will help to achieve the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan mission.
- As per the MoU, state-owned companies of Russia will transfer critical modules in cryogenics, cryptography and modularised cloud management technology to the IIT Alumni Council.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IIT Alumni Council: New Delhi

HDFC BANK PARTNERS WITH ADOBE

Current Context: HDFC Bank has entered into a partnership with Adobe to offer and enhance the digital experience to its customers.

ABOUT

- **The digital experience will be powered and supported by Adobe Experience Cloud Solutions.**
- This partnership will allow HDFC Bank to offer personalized and secured digital experience to its customers, which will lead to gain customers trust and to increase the number of customers of the bank as well.
- The enhanced digital experience will allow HDFC Bank's customers to use any device of choice to perform any number of end-to-end transactions, they can open and access their account digitally without visiting the branch, apply for loans digitally from anywhere 24x7 and manage their investments.
- Under this partnership, the bank will avail platforms like **Data Management Platform in Adobe Audience Manager.**
- The current solutions like **adobe analytics and adobe target** will help the bank to derive insights and to enhance and deepen their personalized services to its customers.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of HDFC Bank: We Understand Your World

'CHUNAUTI'--A NEXT GENERATION STARTUP CHALLENGE CONTEST

Current Context: Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology has launched a next-generation startup challenge contest, titled as 'Chunauti'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The contest is launched to boost and encourage startups and software products especially in tier-II cities of India.**
- **Under this contest, 300 number of startups, who are working in identified areas will be offered with an initial fund amount of upto Rs 25 lakhs along with other mandatory facilities and support.**
- The support to the identified startups will be given from software technology parks of India. Support like incubation facilities, mentorship, access to funds, secured testing facilities, industrial connections, legal authorities completion, human resource management, training and in IPR a patent filing matters will be offered.
- The leading cloud service providers will also be granted with cloud credits so that they can avail cloud computing technology to build a variety of applications.

- For this 'Chunauti' contest, a budget of Rs 95.03 crore is sanctioned by GOI for a tenure of three years.
- **The startups who can become the part of this contest:** (1) Edu-tech, agri-tech, fin-tech solutions providers (2) Supply chain, logistics and transportation management based startups (3) Infrastructure and remote monitoring (4) Healthcare, diagnostic preventive and psychological care (5) Jobs and skilling, linguistic tools and tech.
- The startups will be selected through the pre-incubation programme and will be mentored for six months. During this period of pre-incubation, the startup will be paid with an amount of Rs 10,000 per month.
- **During the launch of this contest, a foundation stone for digital training and skilling centre of National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT) at Muzaffarpur, Bihar was also laid down.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad

14TH INDIA SINGAPORE DEFENCE POLICY DIALOGUE (DPD)

Current Context: The 14th India Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) was held via video conference.

KEY POINTS

- **India was represented by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Singapore was represented by Permanent Secretary of Defence Mr. Chan Heng Kee.**
- They discussed about issues associated with bilateral defence engagements between two countries.
- They assured to enrich security tie-ups between India and Singapore.
- The dignitaries, signed Implementing Arrangement on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).
- **Static Part:**
 - Currency of Singapore: Dollar

AIFC SIGNS MOU WITH FCA- TO DEVELOP FOOTBALL SPORT

Current Context: The Association of Indian Football Coached (AIFC) has entered into MoU with Football Coaches Australia (FCA).

ABOUT

- **The MoU is signed to develop football sport in India and Australia.**
- The AIFC and FCA will work in collaboration to enroll more female coaches in Football.
- The MoU also aims to have more female participation in football as their professional sports choice.

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- Both entities will develop a standard contract for the coaches of the two countries. The standard contract will be based on minimum employment conditions, a proper structured and resourced format for termination of employment and thus to have skilled coaches for the football.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Australia: Canberra
 - Currency of Australia: Australian Dollar

WORLD URDU CONFERENCE 2020

Current Context: The World Urdu Conference 2020 was organized in New Delhi.

ABOUT CONFERENCE

- **The conference was organized by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL).**
- **The conference was virtually addressed by Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.**
- He emphasized the culture of Urdu language and assured that India will honor Urdu writers and literators in order to encourage them.

'SMART ASSIST' - BY BAJAJ ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD

Current Context: Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd has launched 'Smart Assist'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **'Smart Assist' is a real-time technology-based assistant service.**
- This service allows the customers to establish a connection with the insurance company and to take the benefits in real-time basis from anywhere.
- 'Smart Assist' offers complete insurance product details by allotting a secure digital platform to the customers.
- It is easy to use and also has a chat option to ask queries during screen sharing.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd: Pune

MAJOR DHYAN CHAND VIJAYPATH YOJANA—UTTAR PRADESH

Current Context: Government of Uttar Pradesh has launched Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana.

KEY FACTS

- **Under this yojana, road connectivity will be established upto the houses of 19 international players.**
- The players who will be benefited with this scheme are: Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Piyush Chawla and Mohammad Kaif and other athletes.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
 - **National Parks, Wild Life Sanctuaries and Bird Sanctuaries in UP:** Dudhwa National Park & Tiger Reserve, Chandraprabha Wildlife sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Pilibhit Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Hastinapur WLS

ASEAN INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL MEET

Current Context: The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) India Business Council Meet was addressed by union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **He assured to achieve a target of \$300 billion by boosting trade activities and businesses among the ASEAN nations.**
- He has set a target of 3C's in order to boost partnership between India and ASEAN countries: **Cooperation, Collaboration and Commitment.**
- He also focused his view on business council meetings are good to conduct reviews on current trade activities and resolve the economic crisis of all nations.
- The dignitaries discussed the ASEAN- Trade India in Goods Agreement which was signed in the year 2009.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ASEAN: Jakarta, Indonesia

APPOINTMENT, RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENT ON 30TH AUG 2020

Current Context: Kevin Mayer: He has submitted his resignation from the post of Tik Tok CEO. Vanessa Pappas will be replacing him as interim CEO.

ABOUT

- **Shinzo Abe:** He has submitted his resignation as Prime Minister of Japan.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

- **Nishad Tharanga Paranavitana:** He is Sri Lankan batsman and has declared his retirement.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Sri Lanka: Colombo, Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte
 - Currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan Rupee
- **Sandip Patel:** He is appointed to chair the forum on Artificial Intelligence formed by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Currently, he is MD of IBM India and South Asia.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CII: New Delhi

'PENSIONERS CORNER' MOBILE APP—BY CISF

Current Context: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has developed and launched a mobile app called 'Pensioners Corner'.

DETAILS

- **It is the in-house mobile phone application which is developed with an aim to give benefits to the pensioners. The app provides them with a digital platform with all the pension details as a one-stop solution.**
- The 'Pensioners Corner' app allows the connectivity of pensioners to the CISF units by sending SMS to them.
- Also, the grievances redressal mechanism feature is also inbuilt in the app.
- The app provides data like important notice circulars, job opportunities, various current benefits for pensioners.
- **Static Part:**
 - CISF HQ: New Delhi
 - Director General of CISF: Rajesh Ranjan

PUNJAB PASSED A RESOLUTION AGAINST CENTRE'S FARM ORDINANCE

Current Context: The Punjab assembly passed and gave approval for a resolution against Centre's Farm Ordinance.

ABOUT

- **The resolution was tabled by Punjab's CM Amarinder Singh.**
- As per the resolution, the ordinances were against farmers, in terms of their rights and federal structure.
- **The resolution is against:** Farmers produce ordinance 2020, farmers agreement on price assurance and farm services ordinance 2020, essential commodities ordinance 2020, electricity amendment bill 2020.
- As per the chief minister, the farmer's related ordinances were not only against the agriculture marketing system but also against the constitutions.

- All the four ordinances were direct intruding in the activities of state and thus were against cooperative federalism, and hence passed the resolution against them.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Punjab: Captain Amarinder Singh
 - Governor of Punjab: V.P.Singh Badnore
 - **Wild Life Sanctuaries in Punjab:** Abohar WLS, Bir Badson WLS, Bir Bunerheri WLS, Harike Lake WLS, Jhajjar Bacholi WLS, Kathlaur Kushlian WLS, Nangal WLS, Bir Mehaswala WLS.

AGRIOTA: TECH DRIVEN AGRI COMMODITY TRADING AND SOURCING E-MARKET

Current Context: UAE has launched Agriota an e-market platform for India and Gulf nations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Agriota is basically technology based driven agri commodity trading and sourcing e-market.**
- **The platform is launched to bridge the gap between Indian rural farmers and food industries of Gulf countries.**
- The Agriota will allow Indian farmers to connect food sectors of Gulf nations directly without any interference from intermediaries. They can establish their connections UAE based companies, traders and wholesalers.
- This e-market platform will be led to optimize and simplify supply chain and give value to the stakeholders.
- The platform is highly secured with end-to-end traceability and ensures the trading, selling, funds transfer process with transparency upto the last mile verification process.
- The platform will also improve Global Food Security index of UAE.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi
 - Currency of UAE: Dirham

CANARA HSBC OBC LIFE INSURANCE PARTNERED WITH ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK

Current Context: The Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance has entered into a partnership with Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank (APGB).

KEY POINTS

- **The partnership is made to sell insurance policies related to life, health and pension of Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance at branches of APGB.**

- Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance is a joint sector of Canara Bank and Punjab National Bank and HSBC.
- During the initial phase of this partnership, 20 insurance products will be offered to the APGBs customers and later on, the partnership will be enhanced in tier 2 and tier 3 markets.
- The Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance aims to connect with rural India and to offer them financial benefits during this pandemic situation of COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance: Gurugram, Haryana
 - HQ of APGB: Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh

APPOINTMENTS 31ST AUGUST 2020

Current Context: Lt Gen Shekatkar: He is appointed to **head the three member committee to review the utilization of Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHCS)**. The members of the committee are selected by defence ministry.

ABOUT

- **Mustapha Adib:** He will be appointed as **Prime Minister of Lebanon**. He has replaced Hassan Diab.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Lebanon: Beirut
 - Currency of Lebanon: Pound

AIR SCANNER—IIT BOMBAY

Current Context: IIT Bombay has developed a free of cost mobile phone application called AIR Scanner.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The AIR Scanner app is developed with an aim to have a replacement for Chinese based scanning apps.
- The app is developed by Rohit Kumar Chaudhary and Kavin Agrawal, students from IIT Bombay.
- They have developed this app from an inspiration from Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- **Features of AIR Scanner app:** Easy document scanning with the help of mobile phones, the scanned document gets saved as PDF format, the app is highly secure, documents arranging and sharing feature are also available in the app.
- The App is based on AI technology which allows to read out scanned pages and delivers the meaning of any selected word in 40 languages.

INDIA DECIDES TO PULL OUT OF KAVKAZ 2020 MILITARY EXERCISE

Current Context: India has taken the decision to withdraw participation in Kavkaz 2020 military exercise.

KEY FACTS

- **Kavkaz 2020 is the international military exercise was is to be held in Russia.**
- The exercise will be held from 15th Sep 2020 to 26th Sep 2020.
- This year India has opted for withdrawal because of COVID-19 pandemic issues being faced in the country and participation of China's troops.
- The countries of SCO and Central Asian countries will be participating in the exercise.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Russia: Moscow
 - Currency of Russia: Rouble

