
Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest

August 2021



**BANK
EXAMS
Today**

CONTENTS

36th CORPAT Exercise..... 5

PM Modi launched initiatives on 1st Anniversary of NEP 6

ISRO-NASA Joint Mission NISAR to be launched in 2023 7

‘Krishikarna’ Project—Kerala 7

‘e-RUPI’ -- Digital Payment Solution 8

‘Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines’ 8

6th BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group Meet 9

Appointments on 2nd August 2021 9

MSIP signed MoU with Invest India..... 10

‘Lumine’ Platinum Credit Card & ‘Eclat’ Select Credit Card..... 10

Indian Bank signed MoU with IIT Bombay 11

112th Annual Day Celebrations of NCDC 11

‘SIM Binding’ 12

Appointments on 3rd August 2021..... 12

IMF approved Historic Allocation of \$650 billion of SDR 13

IndusInd Bank to Act as an ‘Agency Bank’ 13

PhonePe launched UPI based AutoPay Function for MF SIP 14

CII signed Agreement with SII 14

2021 Fortune’s Global 500 List 15

World Bank approved Loan for India to Make Existing Dams Safe 15

Appointments on 5th August 2021..... 16

‘Health and Wellness Savings Account’—Suryoday SFB 16

‘Har Hith Store’ Scheme-- Haryana..... 17

‘Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert’—Mobile App..... 17

IFFCO’s NBRC signed MoU with IIT Delhi 18

ADB sanctioned Loan for Water Supply Projects in Jharkhand 18

Penalty imposed on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd 19

‘Delhi@2047’ 19

Germany—5th Country to sign ISA Framework Agreement 20

RBI announced its Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy..... 20

Appointments on 7th August 2021..... 21

Assam Gov. signed MoU with NABARD and AIFA	21
'Health QUEST Study'	22
NABARD partnered with CWC.....	22
Bangladesh & Canada Joined CDRI	22
2nd Edition of IEEE- ICORT 2021	23
G20 Digital Ministers Meeting 2021	23
'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme'--- Tamil Nadu	24
'Zayed Talwar Exercise 2021'	24
'COVID-19 Innovation Report 2021'—Startup Blink	25
Appointments on 9th August 2021.....	25
28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting	26
'PM-DAKSH' Portal and Mobile App	26
8th Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the SCO	27
'Swavalamban Challenge Fund'	27
PM Modi chaired UNSC Debate.....	28
eNagar Mobile Application and Portal-- Gujarat.....	28
'National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)'	29
'KFC Startup Kerala'	29
Penalty on Banks if ATMs Run Out of Cash.....	30
Appointments on 11th August 2021	30
UNICEF India partnered with Facebook	31
Nagaland- Won 7 National Award on 1st Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21	31
RBI increases Collateral-Free Loans to SHGs under the DAY-NRLM	32
Global Youth Development Index	32
'Digital Prayaas' --- SIDBI.....	33
'AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2021' Naval Exercise	33
'Equitech'-- Equitas Small Finance Bank	34
IIFL HFL signed Agreement with ADB.....	34
Appointments on 13th August 2021	35
2021 Skytrax World Airport Award Ranking	35
Earth Science Bodies of India and the US signed MoU	36
NABARD sign MoU with SBI and JKGB	36
IBSA Tourism Ministers Meeting	36

Appointments on 14th August 2021	37
6th SCO Agriculture Ministers Meeting	37
‘Cleancity app’--North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC)	38
Arya Startup partnered with SBM Bank India	38
‘SonChiraiya’	39
11th Annual Meeting of FEMBoSA	39
10 of the Major Banks formed SLMA to Support Secondary Loan Market	40
Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme 2021-- Rajasthan	40
Indian Bank signed MoU with PCI	41
Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services (TAPAS)	41
India’s First Drone Forensic Lab.....	42
EXIM Bank to Provide LoC of USD 100 million to Mauritius.....	42
‘Transparency Index: Rating of Pollution Control Boards on Public Disclosure’	43
Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti Scheme.....	43
BEAM signed MoU with FDRVC.....	44
‘Operation Blue Freedom’	44
‘My e-Haat’ Online Portal—HCL Foundation.....	45
Financial Inclusion Index -- RBI.....	45
Appointments and Resignations on 18th August 2021.....	46
RBI cancelled the License of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited.....	46
‘PROOF’ App.....	47
World’s 2nd largest ‘National Gene Bank’	47
‘SBI Life eShield Next’-- SBI Life Insurance	47
Karkhandar Scheme – Jammu and Kashmir	48
Appointments on 19th August 2021	49
5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting	49
Odisha announced Smart Health Cards Scheme	49
‘Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM)’	50
‘UNITE Aware’	50
‘FRUITS’ Portal.....	51
Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Repayment Platform.....	51
Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana-- Chhattisgarh	52
Three Online Applications Launched by DST.....	52

Appointments on 21st Aug 2021	53
Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021	53
2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index	54
India & ADB Signed Loan Agreement for Metro Rail Network in Bengaluru	54
Exim Bank Extended Soft Loan Support to the Guinea	55
Appointments and Resignation on 22nd August 2021.....	55
‘Small Business Loans Initiative’— Facebook India and Indifi.....	56
NIPL partnered with Mashreq Bank	56
‘Ubharte Sitaare Fund’	56
Multiple projects Inaugurated in Somnath, Gujarat.....	57
Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.....	57
USAID, DFC partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank.....	58
‘Urja’—Chatbot of BPCL.....	59
National Monetisation Pipeline	59
Partnership between Paytm and HDFC Bank	60
‘NeoBolt’--India’s First Indigenous Motorized Wheelchair Vehicle.....	60
‘Yuktdhara’-- New Geospatial Planning Portal.....	61
Appointments on 24th August 2021	61
Talent Search Campaign – Madhya Pradesh	62
Honda Cars India Ltd partnered with Canara Bank	62
EIU’s Safe Cities Index 2021	62
‘Forum for Decarbonizing Transport’	63
Cushman & Wakefield’s 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index	63
Recommendations on UCBs by RBI’s Expert Committee	64
‘SUJALAM’ Campaign.....	65
UP’s Ganga Expressway to Receive Loan from PNB	65
‘SAMRIDH’ Programme.....	66
‘Freo Save’ – Saving Account by FREO	66
11th BRICS NSA Meeting.....	67
Appointments on 27th August 2021	67
EASE 3.0 Awards.....	68
Google Collaborated with Setu	68
‘12% Club’ App – BharatPe.....	69

NER District SDG Index Report	69
India signed pact with Maldives for Greater Male Connectivity Project	70
'WEP Nxt'--- NITI Aayog and CISCO.....	70
1st G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment	71
MeitY Startup Hub signed MoU with Paytm	71
Liberalised Drone Rules, 2021	72
'MANTHAN 2021' Hackathon	73
India and UAE entered into Agreement to Send Visiting Professors at NYUAD	73
TN announced Welfare Package for Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees	73
India's First 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit'	74
'Mera Kaam Mera Maan' Scheme-- Punjab	75
11th Meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meet.....	75
'ANANDA' Mobile App-- LIC	76
Appointments on 30th August 2021	76
RBI raised Limit Under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme	77
'Bharat Series (BH-series)' Registration Introduced	77
9 New SC judges Took the Oath of Office in One Go	78
India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit 2021	78
Appointments on 31st August 2021	79

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST: AUGUST 2021

36TH CORPAT EXERCISE

Current Context: The 36th CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) exercise between India and Indonesia was held in the Indian Ocean region.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The exercise observed the participation of Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both nations.
- India was represented by the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, which is an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel. The Indonesian Navy was represented by Naval Ship KRI Bung Tomo.
- The 36th edition of COPAT was conducted in non-contact, at sea only mode considering the pandemic COVID-19 norms.

- The objective of the CORPAT is to keep the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure in terms of activities like commercial shipping, international trade and maritime activities.
- The exercise helped to improve and understand interoperability between navies, and hence the partnership between both the nations.
- The exercise also helped to prevent Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.
- Both India and Indonesia are conducting CORPAT along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2002.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Indonesia: Jakarta
 - Currency of Indonesia: Indonesian Rupiah

PM MODI LAUNCHED INITIATIVES ON 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF NEP

Current Context: To mark the one successful year of the new National Education Policy (NEP), Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched several initiatives and schemes.

KEY FACTS

- NEP 2020 is the education policy that had replaced National Policy on Education in 1986. The new NEP 2020 is based on pillars like Access, Quality, Equity, Affordability and Accountability.
- **The initiatives launched by PM Modi are:**
 - a) **Academic Bank of Credit (ABC):** It will act as a digital bank that will store the credits earned by the students in any educational course. This initiative will offer academic mobility through formal mechanisms of credit accumulation, credit redemption and credit transfer. It will provide multiple entry and exit options for students in higher education, 1st year engineering programmes in regional languages and guidelines for the internationalisation of higher education.
 - b) **SAFAL Initiative:** It signifies 'Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning Levels'. It is a competency-based assessment framework for the students of Grade 3rd, 5th and 8th of the CBSE board. This initiative will help to analyse the progress of foundational schemes and outcomes of basic learning from students. It will offer developmental feedback to the schools.
 - c) **National Education Technology Forum (NETF):** It will assist state and central governments, educational institutions to frame decisions about induction, deployment and technology usage.
 - d) **AICTE tool for regional languages:** Under this, Higher Educational Institutions will avail regional languages as a mechanism to deliver programmes bilingually. This will increase access to education, understanding among the students if the concepts are made clear to them in the regional language they understand. Therefore, AICTE has developed an AI tool that will automatically translate courses into regional languages.
 - e) **NISHTHA 2.0:** It is a teacher training programme. It is framed by NCERT. It aims to improve the quality of teaching. Therefore, the teachers and headmasters will be trained in an online manner through the DIKSHA Platform.
 - f) **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR):** It aims to offer technological and digital support to India's educational sector.

- g) **Vidya Pravesh:** It is a play-based school preparation module that is 3 months long for students in Grade 1. Though this an access to playschool will be made to the students from remote areas.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Education Minister: Dharmendra Pradhan

ISRO-NASA JOINT MISSION NISAR TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2023

Current Context: The ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) to launch their joint mission named NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite.

KEY POINTS

- **The NISAR mission will be launched in early 2023.**
- The NISAR mission aims to measure changes in the earth's surface globally with the help of advanced radar images.
- The mission is termed a dual-band (L-band and S-band) radar imaging mission. It is based on full polarimetric and interferometric modes of operation.
- It will observe small changes in land, vegetation, and cryosphere.
- Under this mission, L-band SAR and related systems are being developed by NASA and S-band SAR, spacecraft bus, launch vehicle, and related launch services are being developed by ISRO.
- The mission will help to attain scientific objectives like understanding the impact of climate change on Earth's changing ecosystems, land and coastal processes, land deformations and cryosphere.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NASA: Washington DC, US
 - Administrator of NASA: Bill Nelson
 - HQ of ISRO: Bengaluru
 - Chairman of ISRO: Dr K. Sivan

'KRISHIKARNA' PROJECT—KERALA

Current Context: The state of Kerala has launched the 'Krishikarna' project.

DETAILS

- **Under the 'Krishikarna' project, the mini polyhouse which is a kind of greenhouse will be constructed.**
- **The project is the joint initiative of the National Society for Agricultural Horticulture (SAHS), the Sustainability Foundation and Qore3 Innovations.**
- Under this, SAHS will be promoting agricultural and gardening practices.
- The Sustainability Foundation will work to promote sustainable development.
- The Qore3 Innovations will provide support to the farms.
- The polyhouse will be built on 2.5 cent land and the total estimated cost of each plastic house is Rs 2,35,000.

- The innovations in the project are made by Aneesh N Raj who is an agronomist of Qore3 and has also won Kerala's Best Hi-Tech Farmer Award.
- The project will help to implement and promote high-tech agricultural practices in order to allow farmers to perform farm activities all the year without any negative impact of unprecedented climatic conditions on agriculture.
- Through this project, the cultivation of long beans, tomato, salad cucumber, capsicum, chillies and leafy vegetables at the mini polyhouses will take place.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
 - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammed Khan

'E-RUPI' -- DIGITAL PAYMENT SOLUTION

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be launching a Digital Payment Solution named 'e-RUPI'.

ABOUT

- The e-RUPI is an e-voucher-based payment solution.
- It is one step forward by India to limit touchpoints between the government and the beneficiary.
- The 'e-RUPI' will make sure that benefits reach their intended beneficiaries in a leak-proof manner.
- The 'e-RUPI' is a cashless and contactless instrument that will be used for digital payment transactions.
- It will work as an e-voucher as it will be based QR code or SMS system, which will be sent onto the mobile phones of the beneficiaries.
- It will reduce physical interconnections between the entities, as it will connect service sponsors with the beneficiaries or service providers through a digital medium.
- It will make sure that payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed.
- The 'e-RUPI' is a prepaid product and is a one-time payment mechanism, as it allows users to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the service provider.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has developed the 'e-RUPI' on its UPI platform in partnership with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Health Authority.
- Its working areas will be delivering services like providing drugs and nutritional support under Mother and Child welfare schemes, TB eradication programmes, drugs and diagnostics under schemes like Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, fertilizer subsidies, etc.

'BIOTECH-PRIDE GUIDELINES'

Current Context: The Union Minister of State (IC) of Ministry of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh released 'Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'PRIDE' signifies: Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange.

- The guidelines for 'Biotech-PRIDE' are developed by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- The guidelines will be implemented by the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) at Regional Centre or Biotechnology which is supported by DBT.
- The 'Biotech-PRIDE' is the first of its kind by DBT as the guidelines framed for it are very useful to allow data sharing for research activities in India.
- The guidelines will allow to promote scientific work and make progress by building these works.
- The guidelines will allow sharing of biological knowledge, data to have research and innovative activities in India.
- The 'Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines' will help to have proper usage of resources and expenditure, thus avoiding the waste of resources or amount.
- The union minister also launched the website of IBDC.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DBT: New Delhi

6TH BRICS COUNTER TERRORISM WORKING GROUP MEET

Current Context: The 6th edition of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG) meeting was held in a virtual manner.

KEY FACTS

- The meeting was held under the Chairship of Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs of India.
- The objective of the meeting was to finalize BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan.
- The action plan will be having specific measures to implement the BRICS Counter Terrorism Strategy which was adopted by BRICS Leaders in 2020.
- The BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan will enhance cooperation among BRICS nations to combat terrorism, misuse of the internet, border control.
- The action plan will work to eradicate financing of terrorism, enhancing capacity building, protection of soft targets and information sharing.
- The plan is said to be adopted at the BRICS National Security Advisors meeting.
- **Static Part:**
 - 2021 Chair of BRICS: India

APPOINTMENTS ON 2ND AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Vice Admiral SN Ghormade: He was appointed as Vice Chief of Naval Staff. He has replaced Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

- **Deepak Das:** He was appointed as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). Initially, he was serving as the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts at the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- **Guido Bellido:** He was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Peru. He will serve as PM from 2021 to 2026. He was appointed by the newly appointed President, Pedro Castillo Terrones.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Peru: Lima
 - Currency of Peru: Sol

MSIP SIGNED MOU WITH INVEST INDIA

Current Context: The Meghalaya State Investment Promotion Society (MSIP) has signed MoU with Invest India to promote industries and trade activities in Meghalaya.

KEY POINTS

- Both entities will work to support investment opportunities in order to enhance trade activities in Meghalaya.
- Under the MoU, Invest India will offer its support to plan and set up the global value chain.
- This will boost the enterprise sector of the state. Both the entities will focus to attain the objective of one product one district programme.
- In the 1st phase of the MoU, they will focus to promote startups dealing with products like Lakadong Turmeric, Eri Silk, Mushroom, Pineapple and Jackfruit.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Meghalaya: Conrad K Sangma
 - Governor of Meghalaya: Satya Pal Malik
 - HQ of Invest India: New Delhi

'LUMINE' PLATINUM CREDIT CARD & 'ECLAT' SELECT CREDIT CARD

Current Context: The LIC Cards Services Limited (LIC-CSL) collaborated with IDBI Bank to launch RuPay credit cards.

DETAILS

- **The names of the credit cards are:** 'Lumine' Platinum Credit Card and 'Eclat' Select Credit Card.
- The cards are launched on the RuPay platform and during the 1st phase will be available to LIC policyholders, agents, employees and its subsidiaries.
- Both the cards will have card limits as per the needs of the cardholders, which will suit their lifestyles.
- The cardholders will be able to earn 3 'delight' points on every spend of Rs 100 on the Lumine card and 4 points on the Eclat card.
- The cards if used to pay renewal insurance premiums of LIC will offer 2x reward points to the cardholder.
- Also, 'Welcome Bonus Delight Points' of 1,000 and 1,500 on Lumine and Eclat credit cards respectively will be earned on spending Rs 10,000 within 60 days of card issuance.

- Both the cards allow the users to convert transactions of more than Rs 3000 to EMI without any processing fees.
- The EMI tenure options associated with the card are three, six, nine, twelve months.
- Other benefits like air accident insurance cover, personal accident or permanent disability cover, credit shield cover and zero lost card liability is also linked with both the cards.

INDIAN BANK SIGNED MOU WITH IIT BOMBAY

Current Context: The Indian Bank entered into MoU with the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) of IIT Bombay.

KEY FACTS

- The SINE is an initiative of IIT Bombay. It supports the MSME through R&D work, technical work and financial support.
- The MoU was signed to support the startups and small businesses with credit facilities.
- Under this MoU, the SINE initiative of IIT Bombay will identify the start-ups and MSMEs by analyzing their credentials and past experience.
- Then the selected startups and MSMEs will be directed to the Indian Bank to avail financial support benefits for their startups.
- This MoU is the part of Indian Bank's scheme called 'Ind Spring Board'. The bank will offer loans of up to Rs 50 crore to these startups so that they can meet their capital requirements or purchase machinery, equipment etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Indian Bank: Chennai
 - Tagline of Indian Bank: Your Own Bank

112TH ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS OF NCDC

Current Context: The 112th Annual Day celebrations of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) was attended by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of the state for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Bharati Pawar.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- At the event, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Whole Genome Sequencing National Reference Laboratory for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and BSL 3 Laboratory.
- The PG Hostel and Guesthouse was also inaugurated by the union minister.
- While addressing the event, he congratulated NCDC for completing the successful 112 years of their contribution. He mentioned that India performed better than many other countries to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. He motivated NCDC to work in attaining further innovation so that the country will be benefited.
- He also launched National Health Adaptation Plan on Air Pollution and National Health Adaptation Plan on Heat.

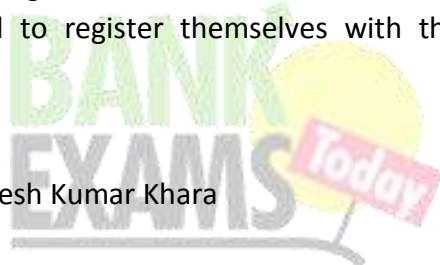
- The newsletter titled 'National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health' was also released.
- The newsletter was framed by the Centre of Environmental and Occupational Health, Climate Change and Health.

'SIM BINDING'

Current Context: The State Bank of India (SBI) launched a new feature named 'SIM Binding' on its YONO and YONO Lite apps.

KEY POINTS

- The 'SIM Binding' is an enhanced security feature which will protect customers from various digital frauds and offer them a safe online banking experience.
- Under this feature, both the apps will run only on those devices which have SIM of mobile numbers registered with the Bank.
- To avail of the 'SIM Binding' feature, the users will have to update their mobile app in order to get the latest version of both the apps incorporates with the latest feature.
- Further, the users will have to perform a one-time registration process on these apps, in which the bank will verify the SIM of the registered mobile number with the lender.
- The customers are supposed to register themselves with the device which has the SIM of the registered contact number.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairperson of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara



APPOINTMENTS ON 3RD AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing: He declared himself as the Prime Minister of Myanmar. He is the Chief of the Myanmar military.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Myanmar: Naypyitaw
 - Currency of Myanmar: Kyat
- **Priyanka Chopra Jonas:** She was appointed as brand ambassador for Bvlgari.
- **Nikol Pashinyan:** He was re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Armenia.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Armenia: Yerevan
 - Currency of Armenia: Armenian dram
- **Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Chawla:** He was appointed as the Director-General of Artillery. He has replaced Lt Gen K Ravi Prasad.

IMF APPROVED HISTORIC ALLOCATION OF \$650 BILLION OF SDR

Current Context: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the allocation of \$650 billion in Special Drawing Rights (SDR).

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is the largest allocation made by IMF considering the history of the organisation.
- The allocation is made to help the countries to tackle pandemic COVID-19 and boost global liquidity.
- The allocation will come into effect from 23rd Aug 2021.
- The SDR will be credited to IMF member countries in proportion to their existing quotas in the Fund.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IMF: Washington, D.C. U.S
 - MD and Chairman of IMF: Kristalina Georgieva
 - Chief Economist of IMF: Gita Gopinath.

INDUSIND BANK TO ACT AS AN 'AGENCY BANK'

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has empanelled the IndusInd Bank to act as an 'Agency Bank'.

KEY FACTS

- **Therefore, the IndusInd Bank is now capable to perform transactions pertaining to all kinds of government-led businesses.**
- This decision by RBI is based on norms that allow scheduled private sector banks as agency banks of the regulator for the conduction of government business.
- Henceforth, the IndusInd Bank has joined few other private banks of India as an 'Agency Bank of RBI' and will perform general banking business from the side of central and state government, apart from its routine banking work.
- The bank will be capable to manage transactions related to revenue receipts under CBDT, CCBIC and GST on the behalf of the state or central government.
- It will be able to make transactions for pension payments and work on Small Savings Schemes (SSS) on the behalf of the state or central government.
- The IndusInd Bank will collect stamp duty charges, collecting stamp duty from citizens for the franking of documents.
- It will also perform the role of collecting professional tax, VAT, state excise etc, which are the state taxes from the side of various state governments.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IndusInd Bank: Pune
 - CEO of IndusInd Bank: Sumant Kathpalia

PHONEPE LAUNCHED UPI BASED AUTOPAY FUNCTION FOR MF SIP

Current Context: The PhonePe, which is the digital payments platform launched UPI based AutoPay functionality for its mutual fund investment.

KEY POINTS

- This will help customers to set up their mutual fund SIPs in three steps namely selecting the fund, entering monthly SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) investment amount, and authentication with a UPI PIN.
- The introduction of UPI based AutoPay functionality for MF SIP will help PhonePe to offer an excellent end-to-end customer experience.
- The function of SIP through UPI AutoPay is available for all existing and new investors on the PhonePe app.
- To avail of this, users are supposed to click on the 'Start a SIP' icon in the investment section on the PhonePe app homepage. Then they can select their investment style and duration of the investment.
- Further, the user can select a fund, enter the monthly investment amount and then authenticate UPI pin for regular investments.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PhonePe: Mumbai
 - CEO of PhonePe: Sameer Nigam
 - The AutoPay feature was introduced by NPCI in 2018 to allow customers to set e-mandates through UPI app.

CII SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH SII

Current Context: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has entered into an agreement with the Serum Institute of India (SII).

DETAILS

- **They have collaborated to speed up the vaccination process in partnership with health care providers and industries in the country.**
- Due to this partnership, the vaccination drive will target communities in urban and rural areas and will eventually help to speed up the vaccination drive activities.
- The CII and SII will offer connectivity to the hospitals and corporate sectors involved in the partnership.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CII: New Delhi
 - President of CII: T. V. Narendran
 - HQ of SII: Pune
 - CEO of SII: Adar Poonawalla
 - SII was founded by Cyrus S. Poonawalla

2021 FORTUNE'S GLOBAL 500 LIST

Current Context: The 2021 Fortune's Global 500 list was released and it revealed that 7 Indian companies have found their remark in the list.

ABOUT

- **The list is topped by Walmart in terms of revenue of USD 524 billion.**
- The 2nd and 3rd positions are marked by China's State Grid at USD 384 billion and Amazon at USD 280 billion respectively.
- **From India, Reliance Industries Ltd is placed as the highest-ranked Indian company in terms of the revenue being USD 63 billion. It is ranked at 155th position globally.**
- **The other 6 Indian companies included in the list and their respective ranks are:** State Bank of India (205), Indian Oil Corporation (212), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (243), Rajesh Exports (348), Tata Motors (357) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (394).

WORLD BANK APPROVED LOAN FOR INDIA TO MAKE EXISTING DAMS SAFE

Current Context: The World Bank, GOI, Central Water Commission, government representatives from 10 participating states approved loans for India to make its existing dams safe and resilient.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The World Bank has approved a loan of \$250 million for India so that the country can make efforts to have a long-term dam safety program to enhance the safety and performance of existing dams across various states.**
- The funds will be used for Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2), which will be implemented at the national level through the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- Around 120 dams from states like Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu will be upgraded to enhance their safety and resilience.
- The DRIP-2 project will strengthen dam safety through framing dam safety guidelines and the usage of innovative technologies.
- The funds will be used to introduce a risk-based approach to dam asset management which will effectively allocate financial resources for dam safety needs.
- The project will also help to develop flood forecasting systems and integrated reservoir operations which will benefit the communities to avoid negative impacts and risks of climate change.
- During the DRIP-1 project, 223 dams in six states of India were enhanced with safety. For this, the World Bank had allotted \$279 million + \$62 million Additional Financing support to GOI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington, D.C. U.S
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass

APPOINTMENTS ON 5TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Justice V M Kanade: He was appointed as the new Lokayukta of Maharashtra. He has replaced Justice M L Tahaliyani.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
 - Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- **MS Dhoni:** He was appointed as the Brand Ambassador for HomeLane, which is the Home Interiors Company.
- **Mini Ipe:** She was appointed as MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LIC: Mumbai
 - Chairman of LIC: MR Kumar
- **Kumar Mangalam Birla:** He has stepped down to be the Non-Executive Chairman and Non-Executive Director of Vodafone Idea (Vi). In this regard, the BoD of Vi has unanimously elected Himanshu Kapania, current Non-Executive Director, as the Non-Executive Chairman with an immediate effect.

'HEALTH AND WELLNESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT' — SURYODAY SFB

Current Context: The Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) launched the 'Health and Wellness Savings Account'.

KEY POINTS

- **The account offers top-up health insurance of Rs 25 lakhs, an annual healthcare package and on-call emergency ambulance medical care services.**
- The user between the age group of 16 to 65 years can opt for the account either as a joint or single account.
- The user will have to maintain the average monthly balance of Rs 3 lakhs to open the premium savings account and must be eligible as per the key health declaration form norms.
- The account includes the Platinum RuPay Secure Chip Debit Card variant, the ATM withdrawal limit of Rs 1.50 lakh daily basis is set for the account.
- The daily POS usage limit of Rs 3 lakh is set with the account. Depending on the balance in the account, the interest is associated with the bank.
- The 4% of interest is associated with the balance upto Rs 1 lakh and 6.25% of interest is associated with the balance above Rs 1 lakh to Rs 10 lakhs and 6% of interest is associated with the balance above Rs 10 lakh.
- To bank has collaborated with Manipal Cigna Health Insurance and Vhealth Aetna for providing top-up health insurance and annual healthcare package respectively.
- Also, to provide ambulance on-call services, the bank collaborated with Ziqitza Healthcare.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of Suryoday SFB: Mumbai
- MD and CEO of Suryoday SFB: Baskar Babu Ramachandran

'HAR HITH STORE' SCHEME-- HARYANA

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar launched the 'Har Hith store' Scheme.

KEY FACTS

- **The scheme was launched with the aim to motivate the youth of the state towards self-employment.**
- **Under the scheme, a chain of grocery shops will be opened in rural and urban areas to sell quality products of daily needs at affordable prices.**
- During the 1st phase of the scheme, around 1,500 stores will be opened in rural areas and 500 in urban areas. The scheme has set the target to open 5000 stores in the 2nd phase.
- To execute the 'Har Hith store' Scheme, the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited (HAICL) has signed terms of a trade agreement with 51 corporate houses which will offer their quality based products to these stores set up under the scheme.
- The HAICL will allot one franchise of 200 sq ft area for a village with a population of 3,000, at least one for each ward in the municipal corporation and at least one in a group of wards having a cumulative population of 10,000 in municipal committee/council.
- The IT support will also be offered to these stores.
- The scheme will not only benefit youth but will also benefit MSMEs, government cooperative institutions, FPOs and SHGs.
- The CM also launched the Franchise Policy, through which those who are interested can apply as per the norms.
- The preference will be given to the people between 18 to 34 years, women, persons with disabilities and those who are certified under Mukhyamantri Parivar Uthan Yojana.
- The preference will also be given to the youth belonging to the families having annual income less than Rs 1.80 lakhs and are verified under the Parivar Pehchan Patra scheme.
- The monthly income of at least Rs 15,000 will be offered to those who are operating the stores through this scheme and are verified under Mukhyamantri Parivar Uthan Yojana.
- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of Haryana: Bandaru Dattatreya

'UTTARAKHAND BHOOKAMP ALERT'—MOBILE APP

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami launched a mobile named 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert'.

DETAILS

- **It is the first-of-its-kind earthquake early warning mobile app.**
- **The app is developed by IIT Roorkee and Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA).**

- The app makes use of the Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system. The EEW is based on real time approach and detects the onset of an earthquake situation.
- The app triggers warnings before the tremors take hold of an area.
- It also provides the location of the people who are struck inside any structure damaged after the earthquake.
- It provides the estimated time of arrival of the earthquake, its intensity at the tremor location in order to avoid damage to the life and property.
- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya

IFFCO'S NBRC SIGNED MOU WITH IIT DELHI

Current Context: The IFFCO's (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited) R&D unit named Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC) signed MoU with IIT Delhi.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed for Research Consultancy, Knowledge Transfer and Collaborative Projects.**
- Under the MoU, both the units will perform joint research activities.
- The IIT Delhi and IFFCO-NBRC will offer support by sharing their research laboratories for research work and consultancies.
- This MoU will prove beneficial for having research work in the Nanotechnology domain which will be useful in future.
- The experts, engineers and scientists from IFFCO-NBRC will jointly work with the researchers of IIT Delhi to solve the problems associated with agriculture, environment by deploying the innovative solution.
- Both the entities will work to create sustainable innovative solutions to reduce the input cost of agriculture, which will thus raise the income of farmers.
- The experts from both the entities will work in the areas like Nanotechnology and Material Science, Chemical Engineering, Agriculture Technologies, Environmental Science and Technology, Rural Development, Data Science, Nano-bio interface.

ADB SANCTIONED LOAN FOR WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS IN JHARKHAND

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved loan to support financially the water supply infrastructure projects in Jharkhand.

KEY FACTS

- **The ADB has sanctioned the loan amount of USD 112 million to the Jharkhand for the same.**
- The project will offer Jharkhand's residents with continuous and quality water supply. It will be executed in Hussainabad, Jhumri Telaiya, Medininagar and Ranchi cities of the state.
- The total funds required for the project is USD 160 million, out of which USD 48 million will be granted by the state government.

- Around 940 km of water distribution network will be established which will supply water to 115,000 houses.
- The project is expected to be completed in 2028.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Manilla, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
 - CM of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren
 - Governor of Jharkhand: Ramesh Bais

PENALTY IMPOSED ON HEWLETT-PACKARD FINANCIAL SERVICES (INDIA) PRIVATE LTD

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd.

KEY POINTS

- **The penalty of Rs 6 lakh is imposed on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd for not following certain norms directed to it.**
- RBI conducted a statutory inspection of the company by considering its finance reference position as of 31st March 2019.
- The entity was found non-compliance with the statutory directions on submission of credit information to CRILC (Central Repository of Information on Large Credits) and submission of credit data to credit information companies (CICs).
- The penalty was imposed on the basis of powers mentioned in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd: Bangalore

'DELHI@2047'

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal launched the 'Delhi@2047' initiative.

DETAILS

- **The 'Delhi@2047' initiative aims to make Delhi a Global City by 2047.**
- **Under this initiative, the partnership will be established among private sectors, CSR initiatives and philanthropic organisations.**
- As per the vision document, the goal is set to make Delhi's per capita income to Singapore's level.
- The other long term goal set in the vision document is that to host Olympic Games 2048.
- Also, the government of Delhi mentioned achieving a 24x7 water supply across the city with an immediate effect under the same initiative.

- The development in the other areas like roads, water supply, public transport system, development of lakes, sports infrastructure, solid waste management and fighting air pollution will also be attended under this initiative.
- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

GERMANY—5TH COUNTRY TO SIGN ISA FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Current Context: Germany has entered into a Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance (ISA).

ABOUT

- **Thus, Germany has become 5th nation to sign ISA.**
- The country signed an agreement with ISA after amendments to it of opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.
- The signed agreement copies were submitted by Ambassador of Germany to India, Walter J. Lindner with the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI.
- The ISA is an action-oriented platform that is driven by its members to increase deployment and usage of solar energy technologies which will enhance energy security, sustainable development, and access to energy.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Germany: Berlin
 - Currency of Germany: Euro
 - HQ of ISA: Gurugram, Haryana, India

RBI ANNOUNCED ITS BI-MONTHLY MONETARY POLICY

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its August bi-monthly monetary policy.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As per the rates, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has maintained the status quo for the seventh consecutive time.
- **Members of MPC:** Shaktikanta Das (Chairperson of the committee), Dr Michael Debabrata Patra, Dr Mridul K. Sagar, Prof. Ashima Goyal, Dr Shashanka Bhide and Prof. Jayanth R Varma.
- The RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged i.e. to 4%.
- The reverse repo rate is also kept unchanged to 3.35%.
- The Marginal Standing Facility Rate is kept at 4.25%, Bank rate is kept at 4.25%.
- The CRR is kept at 4% and the SLR is at 18%.
- The unchanged policy rates will help to promote growth within the framework of financial stability.
- The inflation rate for FY22 is raised to 5.7% from 5.1% which was announced earlier.
- The MPC also announced to conduct two more auctions of Rs 25,000 crore each in Aug 2021 under G-sec Acquisition Programme.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of RBI: Mumbai

APPOINTMENTS ON 7TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Prakash Chandra: He was re-appointed as Non-Executive (Part-time) Chairman of RBL Bank for the tenure of 3 years.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBL Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of RBL Bank: Apno Ka Bank
 - MD and CEO of RBL Bank: Vishwvir Ahuja
- **Dr Dhriti Banerjee:** She was appointed as the Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). She has become 1st woman to be the director of ZSI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ZSI: Kolkata
- **Ebrahim Raisi:** He was sworn in as a new President of Iran. He has replaced Hassan Rouhani.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Iran: Tehran
 - Currency of Iran: Iranian Toman

ASSAM GOV. SIGNED MOU WITH NABARD AND AIFA

Current Context: The Government of Assam has signed an MoU with NABARD and Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority (AIFA).

KEY POINTS

- The MoU was signed to have assistance support for various developmental projects which are being executed in Assam.
- Under this MoU, capital intensive projects will be launched which will assist in the development activities of the state.
- Around Rs, 13,200 crores of investment in infrastructure development domain at various sectors like education will be made.
- The MoU will facilitate to the construction of various engineering colleges, medical colleges, schools, tourism centres etc .in the next 3 years in the state.
- The funds will be used for the development of infrastructure from NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA) and Rural Infrastructure Assistance to the state government (RIAS) in rural and semi-urban areas of the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Assam: Himanta Biswa Sarma
 - Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi

'HEALTH QUEST STUDY'

Current Context: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the 'Health QUEST Study'.

KEY FACTS

- **The Health Quest Study signifies:** Health 'Quality Upgradation Enabled by Space Technology' of ISRO.
- The Health ISRO Study will help to offer upgradation in healthcare systems and its standards in India in line with the quality standards of ISRO.
- The team will be framed under the 'Health Quest Study'. The team's members will work to explore the possibility of replicating ISRO's Quality Assurance Mechanisms which are being used in Space Technology in hospitals of India.
- The study will help to reduce human errors in the healthcare domain of India.
- It will help to attain no defect and quality based service in ICU of hospitals.
- The study for the same will be executed in 20 private hospitals in India.
- The 'Health Quest Study' was launched by Chairman of ISRO, Dr K Sivan at an event organised by the Association of Healthcare Providers India (AHPI) and the Society for Emergency Medicine in India (SEMI).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ISRO: Bengaluru

NABARD PARTNERED WITH CWC

Current Context: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) collaborated with Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC).

KEY POINTS

- **They have collaborated to offer better storage facilities to the farmers of India.**
- Due to this partnership, the Indian farmers who are small and marginal ones will be able to avail warehousing facilities of CWC to store their Agri and farm produce.
- This is the first-of-its-kind arrangement and is mainly made for farmers who are affiliated to farmer producer organisations (FPOs) and also in future the arrangement will be extended to individual farmers.
- The 1st phase of the partnership will be executed in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.
- The partnership will help to support agricultural infrastructure in India.
- The collaboration between NABARD and CWC is made through NAB Foundation.

BANGLADESH & CANADA JOINED CDRI

Current Context: Bangladesh and Canada have joined the Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The CDRI is India's initiative which was launched by PM Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit held in Sep 2019.
- India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar welcomed Bangladesh and Canada for joining CDRI.
- **CDRI:** It is the coalition of national governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks and the private sector. These entities work to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure to climate and disaster risks.
- Now the CDRI is comprised of 25 countries and 7 international organisations as its members.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CDRI: New Delhi
 - DG of CDRI: Sandeep Poundrik
 - Bangladesh: Capital: Dhaka and Currency: Taka
 - Canada: Capital: Ottawa and Currency: Canadian Dollar

2ND EDITION OF IEEE- ICORT 2021

Current Context: The 2nd edition of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021) was held in a virtual manner.

KEY POINTS

- The event was organised by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The IEEE-ICORT was inaugurated by Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO.
- The event saw the participation of experts who presented their technological achievements in domains associated with Tests and Evaluation of defence systems.
- The event delivered a platform for the experts to interact with each other about recent development in defence systems.
- The virtual industrial exhibition was also held under the same event which showcased the products and technologies of more than 25 industries and organisations from India and abroad.

G20 DIGITAL MINISTERS MEETING 2021

Current Context: The G20 Digital Ministers Meeting 2021 was held in a virtual format from Italy.

KEY FACTS

- The meeting was hosted by Italy as it holds the Presidency of G20 for 2021.
- The Indian side was represented by Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- The meeting was chaired by Giancarlo Giorgetti (Economic Development Minister of Italy) and Vittorio Colao (Minister for Technological Innovation and Digital Transition of Italy).
- The meeting was held to propagate the advancement in Digital Transformation of the economy in terms of resilience, sustainability and inclusive recovery.

- The dignitaries discussed opportunities and priorities of the Digital Economy with a major focus on Digital Government.
- They discussed digital transformation in production to have sustainable growth with a focus on MSME. They discussed that the companies must adopt new technologies and also develop new ones in order to meet future challenges and opportunities.
- The dignitaries assured to work jointly to strengthen policies and actions to accelerate the digital transformation of the economy.

‘MAKKALAI THEDI MARUTHUVAM SCHEME’ --- TAMIL NADU

Current Context: The CM of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin launched ‘Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme’.

DETAILS

- **The significance of the ‘Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme’ is to provide healthcare services at people’s doorstep.**
- The scheme will help to eradicate the need for patients to visit hospitals and clinics to get treatment for non-communicable diseases.
- The state announced to allot Rs 258 crore for the scheme.
- Initially, the scheme will be launched in Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Chennai, Salem and Madurai of the state.
- It will prove beneficial to 30 lakh families and a 1 crore population.
- During the 1st phase of the scheme, 1172 health sub-centre, 189 primary health centres and 50 community health centres will be established in 50 universal coverage blocks across the state. And by the end of 2021, the scheme will be extended to the entire state.
- Under the scheme, medication facilities will be also provided to the people at their homes.
- The scheme is applicable for those who are above 45 years of age.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lakes in Tamil Nadu: Berijam Lake, Chembarambakkam Lake, Kaliveeli Lake, Kaveripakkam Lake, Veeranam Lake
 - National Parks in Tamil Nadu: Mukurthi National Park, Mudumalai National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

‘ZAYED TALWAR EXERCISE 2021’

Current Context: The Navies of India and UAE participated in ‘Zayed Talwar Exercise 2021’.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **It is the bilateral naval exercise that was conducted off the coast of Abu Dhabi.**
- The exercise aims to boost interoperability and synergy between India and UAE.
- India was represented by INS Kochi, Sea King MK 42B helicopters.
- UAE was represented by AES Al – Dhafra, which is a Baynunah class guided missile corvette and AS – 565B Panther helicopter.

- Under the naval exercise, both the navies undertook tactical manoeuvres, over the horizon targeting, search and rescue operations and electronic warfare drills.
- The helicopters performed search and rescue operations during the military drill and passing of targeting data to ships for simulated missile engagement drills.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi
 - Currency of UAE: UAE Dirham
 - Chief of India's Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

'COVID-19 INNOVATION REPORT 2021'—STARTUP BLINK

Current Context: The StartupBlink in association with Health Innovation Exchange, UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) released the 2nd edition of 'COVID-19 Innovation Report 2021'.

KEY POINTS

- **As per the report rankings, India is ranked at 32nd position with a score of 0.396 in terms of global coronavirus innovation rankings for countries.**
- The report has ranked 40 countries and 100 cities in the world as per the innovations developed by them to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The report ranked the countries on the basis of innovative solutions developed by them to tackle pandemics and also on the basis of the population of the country.
- **The innovations were divided into major categories like:** (a) Prevention (vaccine, protective and sanitation, automation, etc), (b) Diagnostics (telehealth diagnostics, big data and profiling, test kits, etc), (c) Treatment (telehealth treatment, ventilator and medical devices, medication, etc), (d) Grants and support initiatives (grants, relief funds, hackathons and targeted challenges, etc), (e) Information (databases, crisis communication, etc), (f) Life and business adaptation (community and mental health, education, work, shopping, etc).
- **The list is topped by the US with a score of 14.706.**
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are attained by Israel and Canada respectively.
- **In terms of 'Top Coronavirus Innovation Cities', San Francisco Bay of US has topped the list**
- **From India, Bengaluru and Delhi have attained ranks at 49th and 55th position respectively in 'Top Coronavirus Innovation Cities'.**

APPOINTMENTS ON 9TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Anthony Heredia: He was appointed as CEO of BOI AXA Investment Managers Private Limited. He has replaced Sandeep Dasgupta.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BOI AXA Investment Managers Private Limited: Mumbai

- **John Abraham:** He was appointed as Indian brand ambassador for MotoGP, which is the flagship Motorsport property.
- **Rajiv Gauba:** His term to be the Cabinet Secretary of India was extended by one year by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- **Rekha Sharma:** Her term to be the Chairperson of the National Commission for Woman (NCW) was extended by 3 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NCW: New Delhi

28TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF) FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

Current Context: The 28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting was held in a virtual format.

KEY FACTS

- **The Indian side was represented by Minister of State for External Affairs Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.**
- **The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam.**
- The dignitaries discussed international and regional issues.
- Indian side represented the view on the Indo-Pacific perspective, terrorism threat, cybersecurity and maritime security.
- India also discussed the importance of UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) in maritime and cybersecurity domains.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): Jakarta, Indonesia

'PM-DAKSH' PORTAL AND MOBILE APP

Current Context: The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar launched the 'PM-DAKSH' portal and mobile app.

DETAILS

- **The 'PM-DAKSH' portal and mobile app will provide easy access to the skill development schemes to the target groups.**
- **The significance of PM-DAKSH is:** Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana.
- **The link for the portal is:** <http://pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in>.
- The portal and app is developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and National E-Governance Division (NeGD) which comes under the Electronics And Information Technology department.
- The trainings under the scheme will be provided by Government Training Institutes, Sector Skill Councils and other institutions.

- Through the portal and app, the beneficiaries will be able to avail information about trainings which are being conducted near to their locality.
- The beneficiaries will also be able to register themselves through the portal or app to attend the training.
- The beneficiaries for this scheme are the target group which consists of Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Safai Karamcharis.
- Various skill development programmes like Upskilling/Re-skilling, short term and long term Training Programme, Entrepreneurship Development Program will be conducted under the scheme.

8TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE OF THE SCO

Current Context: The 8th edition of the meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in a virtual manner.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Indian side was represented by Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju and Minister of State for Law & Justice, Prof SP Singh Baghel.**
- At the meeting, Union Minister Kiren Rijju mentioned the initiatives taken by GOI to grant justice in an affordable and effective manner to the citizens of the country.
- He mentioned that GOI follows the approach of Zero Tolerance to Corruption and Black Money and has adopted a framework supported by a strong institutional mechanism to deal with corruption.
- He also mentioned actions taken by GOI under Disaster Management Act in order to have effective management and containing COVID-19 spread. Therefore, norms were applied to ensure appropriate COVID-19 protocols and medical facilities during the pandemic situation and stop any illegal activities.
- He also highlighted India's 'e-LokAdalat' initiative which is a major tool to offer a fast, transparent, accessible and affordable medium to lodge a complaint and get justice by settling disputes through technology and Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- The meeting was hosted by Tajikistan and was chaired by M K Ashuriyon, Minister of Justice of Tajikistan.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SCO: Beijing, China
 - 2021 Chairmanship of SCO: Tajikistan
 - Secretary-General of SCO: Vladimir Norov

'SWAVALAMBAN CHALLENGE FUND'

Current Context: The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK launched 'Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF)'.

KEY POINTS

- **The SCF is a challenge fund that will provide funds based on competition.**
- The funds will be provided based on the competition among organisations.

- The SCF will help to promote entrepreneurship in India and it will be a major support for the ideas and innovations which are lagging due to the lack of funds. Hence financial support will be offered to such innovative ideas to come into the market.
- The applications for the SCF are invited in two categories of 'pilot and scale-up'.
- In the pilot category, applicants can apply with their proposal to pilot/test/trial their innovative ideas. In the scale-up category, already ongoing or completed projects can be applied to avail SCF.
- Depending on the number of proposals selected under various themes, the funds will be allotted. For the pilot category, funds upto Rs 20 lakhs will be provided and for the scale-up category, funds upto Rs 35 lakhs will be provided.
- Under the SCF, the finance will be provided to non-profit organisations, educational institutions, social start-ups based on sustainable livelihood, financial inclusion.
- The SCF is based on themes like livelihood, women empowerment, financial literacy, responsible business etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow, UP

PM MODI CHAIRED UNSC DEBATE

Current Context: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate through video conference.

KEY FACTS

- **In this regard, PM Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to chair a UNSC open debate.**
- India is the current Presidency holder of the UNSC for August 2021.
- **The theme for the UNSC debate was:** 'Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation'.
- The dignitaries discussed the measures to counter crime held in areas like maritime and assured to enhance partnership to strengthen maritime domain.
- While addressing the debate, PM Modi mentioned the motto of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for all in the Region). It aims to have coordinated measures for sustainable use of the oceans and offers a safe, secure, and stable framework for maritime security.
- PM Modi also urged the participated nations to implement responsible maritime connectivity and preserve the maritime environment and resources.

ENAGAR MOBILE APPLICATION AND PORTAL-- GUJARAT

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Gujarat, Vijay Rupani launched eNagar mobile application and portal.

DETAILS

- **It covers 10 modules that provide 52 services.**
- The app and portal are launched in regards to the eNagar project which aims to offer efficient, transparent community-based services and back-office operation support to the people of Gujarat.

- The Gujarat Development Mission is the nodal agency for eNagar project.
- **The modules which are inducted in eNagar app and portal are:** Property Tax, Professional Tax, Water and drainage complaint module and availing service, Land and estate management, Hall booking, Fire and emergency services, Marriage registration, Building permission, License facility.
- Total 170 locations including 162 municipalities and 8 Municipal Corporations are covered under the eNagar project.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lakes in Gujarat: Hamirsar Lake, Kankaria Lake, Lakhota Lake, Sursagar Lake
 - Folk Dance forms of Gujarat: Garba, Dandiya Raas, Tippani Dance, Padhar dance

‘NATIONAL EDIBLE OIL MISSION-OIL PALM (NMEO-OP)’

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced ‘National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)’.

ABOUT

- **The mission was launched to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils by inducting ‘palm oil’.**
- He announced that Rs 11,000 crore will be invested in the edible oil ecosystem.
- Currently, India is not sufficient in edible oils and has to be dependent on imports in huge numbers. Therefore, to make India self-sufficient in terms of edible oils, the mission was launched.
- Under the mission, the central government will offer facilities like quality seeds and technology to the farmers to produce palm oil and other oil seeds.
- The mission will focus on the cultivation of oil palm.
- While launching the mission, PM Modi mentioned that north-eastern states and Andaman and the Nicobar Islands should perform palm farming.
- The mission will also help to raise the income of farmers.

‘KFC STARTUP KERALA’

Current Context: The Government of Kerala’s Non-Banking Financial Service company named ‘Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC)’ launched a funding scheme for the startups.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The name of the funding scheme launched by KFC is ‘KFC Startup Kerala’.**
- **The scheme will support financially the startups in all areas of their development.**
- This fund is the first of its kind in which all the stages of startups are considered.
- The ‘KFC Startup Kerala’ will provide assistance to the startups in the stages like proof of concept, prototype development, trails of product, market entry, commercialization, branding, and marketing.
- The scheme will also offer funds to set up workshops, machinery purchase, software license purchase, raw materials purchase, market expenses, etc.
- The startups which are enrolled with Kerala Startup Mission or with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) are eligible to avail the benefit of the ‘KFC Startup Kerala’ scheme.

- Also, at least 51% of the shares of the startup must be held by Indian promoters.
- Startups are supposed to use technology in their core products or services.
- The scheme will offer funding up to Rs 10 crore for startups.
- The financial assistance of Rs 25 lakh for productization, Rs 50 lakh for commercialization, and Rs 100 lakh for scaling up will be provided under the scheme.
- The loans will be granted at concessional interest rates of 7% without any collateral. The repayment period will be 60 months including a moratorium period of a maximum of 12 months.

PENALTY ON BANKS IF ATMS RUN OUT OF CASH

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the ‘Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs’.

KEY POINTS

- **As per the scheme, monetary penalties will be imposed on banks if ATMs/WLAs run out of cash.**
- The decision by RBI was taken with a concern over the inconvenience which arises to the community of India if there is non-availability of cash in ATMs.
- The scheme will make ensure that sufficient cash is available to the public through ATMs and will also enable banks to keep the track record for the same as failure in this norms will lead to the imposition of penalty on them.
- **The scheme will be effective from 1st Oct 2021.**
- The RBI has directed banks to implement a robust system that will monitor the sufficient cash availability in ATMs and will ensure timely replenishment to avoid cash-outs.
- As per the scheme, cash-out at any ATM of more than ten hours in a month will impose a penalty of Rs 10,000 per ATM.
- For White Label ATMs (WLAs), the penalty would be charged to the bank which is meeting the cash requirement of that particular WLA.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

APPOINTMENTS ON 11TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Vandana Kataria: She is India’s Women’s Hockey team player and was appointed as Brand Ambassador of Uttarakhand Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya
- **Neeraj Chopra:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of RBI’s public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds.

- **Mohammad Mokhber:** He was appointed as First Vice-President of Iran.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Iran: Tehran
 - Currency of Iran: Iranian Toman
 - President of Iran: Ebrahim Raisi

UNICEF INDIA PARTNERED WITH FACEBOOK

Current Context: UNICEF India and Facebook have collaborated to launch a one-year joint initiative to end violence against children with a major focus on their online safety.

KEY FACTS

- Both the entities will generate a safe environment for children in the online and offline platforms.
- The initiative will improve children's resilience so that they can access the digital world in a safe manner.
- Both the entities will create awareness among the children so that they will access the online world in a safe manner.
- Also, the awareness of violence against children and its impact on children, families, and communities will be created.
- Skills among the communities and frontline workers will be developed in order to prevent and ways to respond against violence.
- Both UNICEF India and Facebook will launch a nationwide social media campaign and capacity building for 100,000 school children about online safety, digital literacy, and psychosocial support.
- The keynote during the launch of the initiative was delivered by actor Ayushmann Khurrana who is UNICEF India's celebrity advocate on ending violence against children/
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNICEF: New York, USA
 - HQ of Facebook: California, US
 - CEO of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg

NAGALAND- WON 7 NATIONAL AWARD ON 1ST VAN DHAN ANNUAL AWARDS 2020-21

Current Context: Nagaland was conferred with seven national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21.

DETAILS

- The awards were distributed during the 34th Foundation Day of TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited).
- The awards were distributed by Union tribal minister, Arjun Munda through a video conference.
- **The details of the seven awards are as below:**

- Nagaland has gained 1st rank in categories like 'Best Survey State', 'Best Training', and 'Most number of VDVKC's established'.
- The state has won 3rd rank in 'Best Sales Generated', and 'Best Innovation & Creativity'.
- The state was also awarded for Innovative & Creative Product Ideas for commodities like Gooseberry Wine (Supplier: Toka Multipurpose Society Ltd.); Mushroom Cultivation (Supplier: NBHM).
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio
 - Governor of Nagaland: R. N. Ravi
 - National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Nagaland: Intanki NP, Fakim WLS, Pulie Badze WLS, Rangapahar Reserve Forest

RBI INCREASES COLLATERAL-FREE LOANS TO SHGS UNDER THE DAY-NRLM

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has raised the limit of collateral-free loans to the Self-Help Groups (SHG).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The limit of collateral-free loans is increased under the DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission).**
- **The RBI has raised the limit from Rs 10 lakhs to Rs 20 lakhs for the same.**
- Under this provision, for loans upto Rs 10 lakhs, no collateral and no margin will be charged. Also, no lien will be marked against the savings bank account of SHGs and no deposits will be insisted to sanction the amount of the loan upto Rs 10 lakh.
- Whereas, for the loan amount above Rs 10 lakhs and up to Rs 20 lakh, no collateral will be charged and no lien will be marked against the savings bank account of SHGs.
- The entire loan amount which is irrespective of loan outstanding, even if it goes below Rs 10 lakhs would be eligible to have coverage under Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU).
- The DAY-NRLM is an initiative of GOI to reduce poverty in India by adopting a demand-driven approach which will allow states to frame their poverty reduction action plans.
- The main reason behind increasing the loan limit is to reduce poverty by framing institutional platforms for the poor communities, women so that they can access financial needs to sustain their livelihood.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

GLOBAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Current Context: The Commonwealth Secretariat in London has released a new Global Youth Development Index.

KEY POINTS

- **The index measures the condition of young people from a total of 181 countries.**
- **Under the index, India is ranked at 122nd position and it was found that India is among the top five risers on the index between 2010 and 2018.**
- **The 1st rank is achieved by Singapore.**
- The other rank holders followed by Singapore are Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark respectively.
- The lowest ranks are marked by Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger respectively.
- The index is calculated according to the development made by countries in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation.
- The condition and status of young people around the world have increased by 3.1% between 2010 and 2018.

‘DIGITAL PRAYAAS’ --- SIDBI

Current Context: The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched ‘Digital Prayaas’.

KEY FACTS

- **The ‘Digital Prayaas’ is a digital-lending platform based on an app.**
- **It offers loans to entrepreneurs from low-income groups.**
- It is launched with an objective to sanction the loan to the low-income group's entrepreneurs by the end of the day i.e. fast delivery of loan.
- It will promote, finance and develop the MSME sector of India.
- It provides speedy onboarding of loans to the applicants in a safe and secure manner.
- The SIDBI has partnered with BigBasket to provide loans to its delivery partners to purchase e-bikes and e-vans. The loans will be granted at an affordable interest rate.
- The activities performed prior to the sanctioning of loans like e-KYC, credit score analysis will be done using an algorithm on an end-to-end basis in a digital manner.
- The app will facilitate post sanction documentation like e-signing and e-stamping of the documents by the executants.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
 - CMD of SIDBI: S Ramann

‘AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2021’ NAVAL EXERCISE

Current Context: The ‘AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2021’ is the first naval exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force that has commenced.

DETAILS

- The exercise is being held to showcase the defence and military cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.

- India is represented by INS Kochi, which is the flagship destroyer of the Indian Western Naval Fleet and it has reached Port-al-Jubail of Saudi Arabia.
- This is the first-ever joint naval exercise between both nations.
- Several practices like shore and sea-based drills will be conducted in the naval exercise.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Saudi Arabia: Riyadh
 - Currency of Saudi Arabia: Saudi Riyal
 - Chief of Indian Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

'EQUITECH'-- EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK

Current Context: The Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched 'Equitech'.

ABOUT

- **The 'Equitech' is a fintech accelerator programme for startups.**
- **It will provide legal and regulatory mechanism support to Indian startups through expert solutions and venture capitalists.**
- To avail the benefit of the programme, the startups are required to be registered before 6 years, should have atleast 2 full-time employees with team members and must have an innovative product or services.
- Then the start-ups will be shortlisted and will be offered direct access to the infrastructure through 'Equitech' and the API platform.
- Major focus will be on those start-ups working in banking technology domain like payments, lending, CASA, transaction banking, API banking and governance.
- The start-ups working in areas like agri-tech, banking tech, clean energy, government tech can also take benefit of the programme.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Equitas SFB: Chennai, TN
 - Tagline of SFB: It's fun banking
 - MD and CEO of Equitas SFB: V P Narasimhan

IIFL HFL SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH ADB

Current Context: The IIFL Home Finance (India Infoline Home Finance Ltd) which is the housing finance company entered into an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The agreement was signed to get finance to reduce carbon emissions, preserve water quality and have a green building ecosystem in India.**
- The technical assistance will be granted by IIFL.
- Both entities will work to support the green building ecosystem with affordable housing in India.
- The cost of the work under the agreement is approx. \$1 million (over Rs 7.4 crore).

- The funds will be granted by ADB under Urban Climate Change Resilience (UCCR) Trust Fund.
- The additional funds will be granted by IIFL HFL of upto \$1,50,000.
- Both the entities will jointly work to integrate green lending and climate adaptation strategies to have an affordable housing sector in India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IIFL HFL: Gurgaon, Haryana

APPOINTMENTS ON 13TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Kamlesh Kumar Pant: He was appointed as the new chairman of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) by the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet. He has replaced IAS officer Shubhra Singh.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NPPA: New Delhi
- **Rajkummar Rao:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of Cashify, which is a re-commerce marketplace.
- **RK Vishnoi:** He was appointed as CMD of THDC India Limited (THDCIL). He has replaced Vijay Goel.

2021 SKYTRAX WORLD AIRPORT AWARD RANKING

Current Context: The 2021 Skytrax World Airport Award Ranking was released. The airports for the awards were selected as per the voting received from the customer reviews. Skytrax is a UK-based airline review consultancy.

KEY POINTS

- **These awards recognize the quality benchmark for the world airport industry.**
- From India, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru have marked the positions in the world's 100 best airports.
- The Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has marked its rank in the world's top-50 best airports in the 2021 Skytrax World Airport Award ranking. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is marked at 45th position.
- The Hyderabad airport is at 64th rank, Mumbai airport is at 65th rank and Bengaluru airport is at 71st rank.
- The 1st rank was marked by Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar.
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are marked by Haneda Airport in Tokyo and Changi Airport in Singapore respectively.

EARTH SCIENCE BODIES OF INDIA AND THE US SIGNED MOU

Current Context: The Earth Science Bodies of India and the United States have entered into MoU to upgrade the monsoon data analysis and weather forecast mechanisms.

KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed between India's National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the US.**
- The entities will work to improve monsoon data analysis and will develop cooperation for the weather forecast in the regions.
- Under the MoU, the technical cooperation will be adopted to develop Research Moored Array for African-Asian-Australian Monsoon Analysis and Prediction (RAMA) and the Ocean Moored buoy Network in the northern Indian ocean (OMNI).
- The development in RAMA and OMNI will improve weather forecasting, monsoon forecasting between NOAA and the Ministry of Earth Science, GOI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NIOT: Chennai, TN.
 - The NIOT is an autonomous body that comes under the Ministry of Earth Science
 - HQ of NOAA: Washington DC, US

NABARD SIGN MOU WITH SBI AND JKGB

Current Context: The NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) signed MoU with State Bank of India (SBI) and Jammu and Kashmir Gramin Bank (JKGB) in the UT of J&K and Ladakh.

DETAILS

- **The MoU was signed to offer financial assistance to 1000 Joint Liability Group (JLGs).**
- The MoU will allow support of credit to tenant farmers, oral lessees, sharecroppers, SF/MF etc. who at times are not having proper title to their landholding.
- The formation of JLGs will prove beneficial to those who are suffering due to reverse migration due to the pandemic COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
 - Chairman of NABARD: G R Chintala
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara

IBSA TOURISM MINISTERS MEETING

Current Context: The IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers' meeting was organised by India in a virtual manner.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **India was represented by Union Minister of Tourism, G. Kishan Reddy.**
- Brazil was represented by the Minister of Tourism of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. Mr Gilson Machado Neto.
- South Africa was represented by Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr Fish Amos Mahlalel.
- The meeting was organised to enhance cooperation in the tourism sector among IBSA nations.
- The moto of the meeting was to overcome the negative impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector.
- Therefore, the dignitaries assured to develop cooperation and work together in tourism and allied areas.
- The dignitaries adopted IBSA Tourism Ministers Joint Statement.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Brazil: Brasilia
 - Currency of Brazil: Real
 - Capital of South Africa: Pretoria, Cape Town and Bloemfontein
 - Currency of South Africa: South African Rand

APPOINTMENTS ON 14TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: BD Mishra: He is the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and was given an additional charge of Governor of Mizoram.

ABOUT

- **Ganga Prasad:** He is the Governor of Sikkim and was given an additional charge of Governor of Manipur.
- **Narain Karthikeyan:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd.
- **Noopur Chaturvedi:** She was appointed as CEO of NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

6TH SCO AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING

Current Context: The 6th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Agriculture Ministers Meeting was held in a virtual manner.

KEY POINTS

- **The Indian delegation was laid by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.**
- **The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Tajikistan in Dushanbe.**
- At the meeting, Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar mentioned the steps taken by GOI in the agriculture sector and for the welfare of farmers.
- He mentioned that India developed innovative technologies for Agri and allied sectors.

- The innovative technologies have been implemented into the lands to empower rural youth, farmers and farm women.
- He also mentioned that during the pandemic, India's Agri sector performed well. India's food production has increased along with the export sector.
- He mentioned that India is taking efforts to attain sustainable development goals to end hunger, achieve food security and nutrition.
- India has set the goal to double farmer's income by 2022 and thus has launched various initiatives for the same.
- The farmers and Agri experts are being made aware about optimal utilization of water resources, new infrastructure for irrigation, soil fertility with balanced use of fertilizers, farm to market connectivity, ICT in farming, organic farming etc.

'CLEANCITY APP'--NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (NDMC)

Current Context: The North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) has launched the 'Cleancity app'.

KEY FACTS

- The app was launched by North Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh.
- The mobile app will help the resident of Delhi to file complaints about picking up garbage in their surrounding area.
- The app will enable the community to look after the GPS location of garbage-lifting vehicles, they can register for the complaint to collect the garbage from their surroundings and also can give suggestions to improve the service.
- The app facility will be availed by residents of Civil Lines Zone, Keshavpuram Zone and Rohini Zone.
- Along with this app, the NDMC has motivated municipal school students to discourage the use of plastic and make others aware of the harmful use of plastic.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

ARYA STARTUP PARTNERED WITH SBM BANK INDIA

Current Context: The Agritech start-up Arya has entered into a partnership with SBM Bank India for the purpose of commodity financing.

DETAILS

- **The partnership will provide customized financial solutions to the Agri traders and Agri entrepreneurs of India.**
- Both the entities will ensure to ease the finance lending process and offer financial support on time to the beneficiaries dealing in the Agri domain.

- The Arya provides integrated post-harvest services and helps its members with warehouse management, finance support, quality testing, storage protection services, and connecting producers to buyers.
- It supports communities like farmers, aggregators, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), food processors and end-user corporates.
- Through this partnership, the SBM Bank India will be enhancing its presence in agri sector lending.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBM (State Bank of Mauritius) India: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of SBM Bank India: Sidharth Rath

'SONCHIRAIYA'

Current Context: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched 'SonChiraiya'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The 'SonChiraiya' is a brand and logo for marketing products made by the urban Self-Help Group (SHG).**
- The 'SonChiraiya' – (A brand and logo) was launched by Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It will help women to empower and become financially strong.
- The 'SonChiraiya' will provide visibility and access to the products made by SHG women.
- It will make the products popular in the market and also in this regard, the ministry has signed MoUs with e-Commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs initiative named DAY-NULM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission) is focusing on imparting poor women in urban areas with skills and opportunities so that they can develop their own sustainable micro-enterprises to sustain livelihood.
- The DAY-NULM helps women to join SHGs & their federations in order to create a support system for them.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri

11TH ANNUAL MEETING OF FEMBOSA

Current Context: The 11th Annual meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) for 2021 was inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner of India and current Chairman, FEMBoSA Sushil Chandra who was accompanied by Election Commissioners Rajeev Kumar and A.C. Pandey.

KEY POINTS

- **The meeting was held in a virtual manner and was hosted by the Election Commission of Bhutan.**
- Other countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka also participated in the meeting with India.

- Being the outgoing Chair of FEMBoSA, Sushil Chandra, virtually handed over the Chairmanship of FEMBoSA to H.E. Dasho Sonam Topgay, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan.
- The meeting was held under the theme of 'Use of Technology in Elections'.
- The FEMBoSA is a part of the democratic world and is a cooperative unit of association of election management bodies. It aims to enhance cooperation in respect of SAARC's Election Management Bodies.

10 OF THE MAJOR BANKS FORMED SLMA TO SUPPORT SECONDARY LOAN MARKET

Current Context: The ten of the major banks operating in India have formed the Secondary Loan Market Association (SLMA) with an online platform.

KEY FACTS

- **The formation of SLMA was made for trading corporate loans in the secondary market.**
- The chairman of SLMA is Sanjay Srivastava.
- The SLMA is a body that regulates the secondary market for corporate loans. The SLMA was formed on the recommendation of RBI's Task Force on the development of the secondary market for corporate loans.
- The website and the logo of SLMA were launched by the Executive Director of RBI, Saurav Sinha.
- **The 10 major banks that have formed SLMA are:** State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Canara Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Deutsche Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and HDFC Bank.
- The SLMA will help banks in the form of optimization of capital, management in liquidity and have risk management in the secondary market.
- In terms of borrowers, the SLMA will benefit them with lower capital cost, high credit availability and enhancing relationships with banks and non-banks.
- SLMA will provide a standardised and simplified platform for the primary loan documentation process and trading activities for the secondary loan market.
- It will offer ideal trading, settlement and valuation processes and will assign the rules for its members to carry out businesses with fix transaction charges.

INDIRA GANDHI URBAN CREDIT CARD SCHEME 2021-- RAJASTHAN

Current Context: The government of Rajasthan launched Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme 2021.

DETAILS

- **The scheme was launched to provide interest-free loans to the beneficiaries.**
- The interest-free loan of upto Rs 50,000 will be provided to the beneficiaries.
- The scheme will prove beneficial to 5 lakh beneficiaries of the state by developing employment opportunities.

- The tenure of the scheme is one year. The loan amount will be sanctioned till 31st March 2022.
- The loan granted under the scheme will have a moratorium period of 3 months with a loan repayment period of 12 months.
- The beneficiaries covered under the scheme will be people belonging to the age group of 18-40 years, street vendors, carpenters, masons, tailors, electricians, potters etc i.e. who are associated with small businesses.
- The scheme is also applicable to those who are unemployed and have severely suffered from job loss in the pandemic period.
- Those having a monthly income of Rs 15,000 or a family income of Rs 50,000 per month will not be eligible for the scheme.
- The beneficiaries will be identified at the district level through the certificates issued to the vendors by the urban local bodies and further the applications will be screened and forwarded to the district collector for processing.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot
 - Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra

INDIAN BANK SIGNED MOU WITH PCI

Current Context: The Indian Bank has entered into MoU with the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Indian bank has entered into MoU as one of the banking partners of the upcoming Paralympic Games.**
- **Under the MoU, the bank will offer financial assistance to Paralympic athletes.**
- The financial assistance will help the Paralympic athletes to prepare for various sports events at the national and international levels.
- The funds will help athletes to pursue proper training in their sport, purchase equipment and kits, nutrition etc.
- The MoU will also motivate the athlete to focus on their goals as the financial burden will be tackled by the Indian bank.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Indian Bank: Chennai
 - MD and CEO of Indian Bank: Padmaja Chundururu
 - President of PCI: Deepa Malik

TRAINING FOR AUGMENTING PRODUCTIVITY AND SERVICES (TAPAS)

Current Context: The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched the 'Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services (TAPAS)' online portal.

KEY POINTS

- The portal will deliver lectures, courses and study material in soft copy format to the social defence students and learners.
- The TAPAS initiative belongs to the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The course is available free of cost and can be gained from anywhere through login into the portal.
- **Currently, 5 courses are inducted in TAPAS:** (a) Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention (b) Geriatric /Elderly Care (c) Care and Management of Dementia (d) Transgender Issue (e) Social Defence Issues.
- The main objective of the courses under TAPAS is to enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants. The course is open for anyone who wants to enhance knowledge about the topics free of cost.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment: Dr Virendra Kumar

INDIA'S FIRST DRONE FORENSIC LAB

Current Context: India's first Drone Forensic Lab and Research Center was inaugurated in Kerala.

KEY FACTS

- **The Drone Forensic Lab and Research Center belongs to Kerala Police.**
- **It was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan at the Kerala State Police CyberDome.**
- The lab and research centre will be a platform for keeping a tracking watch over unauthorized drones.
- It will be also a platform to develop drones for the police community. Thus it will be a utility and threat aspects unit for drones.
- Drones play a major security role for the country, at times they are also a threat for the country through activities like spying, smuggling and terrorism. So to develop them for security purposes and track them against happening any threat to the country, the Drone Forensic Lab and Research Center will definitely prove beneficial.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
 - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan

EXIM BANK TO PROVIDE LOC OF USD 100 MILLION TO MAURITIUS

Current Context: The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has signed an agreement with Mauritius.

ABOUT

- Under the agreement, Exim Bank will provide a soft loan of USD 100 million to Mauritius.
- The loan will be utilised for the procurement of defence items by the island nation.
- The rate of interest associated with the Line of credit support will be a nominal value.

- Out of the total credit support, goods, works and services of the value of at least 75% of the price mentioned in the contract will be supplied by the seller from India and the rest of 25% of goods and services will be procured by the seller from outside India.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mauritius: Port Louis
 - Currency of Mauritius: Mauritian Rupee
 - HQ of Exim Bank: Mumbai
 - MD of Exim Bank: David Rasquinha

'TRANSPARENCY INDEX: RATING OF POLLUTION CONTROL BOARDS ON PUBLIC DISCLOSURE'

Current Context: The report on a study titled 'Transparency Index: Rating of pollution control boards on public disclosure' was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The report has assessed the data disclosure performance of 29 state pollution control boards (SPCBs) and six pollution control committees (PCCs) across India.**
- The State Pollution Control Boards of Odisha and Telangana are ranked at 1st position as per the report rankings.
- Out of the total state pollution control boards and pollution control committees, only 17 have scored 50% or above in terms of Transparency.
- **The 17 of them are:** Odisha, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Goa, Karnataka, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- To analyse the transparency for the report, CSE collected data from two sources namely, the websites of SPCBs/PCCs and their annual reports.
- The information for the study was considered during the 2016-21 tenure.
- **The indicators of the study are:** Availability of information on direction/show cause/closure notices issued by boards, information on public hearings and EIA reports, non-attainment cities and polluted river stretches etc.
- The Odisha State Pollution Control Board and Telangana State Pollution Control Board have marked the transparency of 67% each and thus are at 1st ranks.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CSE: New Delhi
 - DG of CSE: Sunita Narain

PRADHAN MANTRI GATISHAKTI SCHEME

Current Context: The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a scheme called 'Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti Scheme'.

KEY FACTS

- **The scheme is worth Rs 100 lakh crore.**
- The 'Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti Scheme' aims to adopt a holistic and integrated approach for growth in the infrastructure sector.
- It also aims to create employment opportunities for the Indian youth.
- The GOI will be announcing the Master plan for the scheme in the upcoming days.
- The scheme will benefit industries to increase their productivity which will, in turn, boost the economic growth of India.
- The scheme will also help local manufacturers to evolve globally by adopting cutting-edge innovation and new-age technology to develop world-class products.

BEAM SIGNED MOU WITH FDRVC

Current Context: The BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd (BEAM) signed MoU with the Foundation for Development of Rural value Chain (FDRVC).

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed to strengthen the price discovery mechanism of the commodities which are traded by Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).**
- The FPOs which are under FDRVC will be made eligible to explore market technologies that are offered by BSE.
- The FPOs will be made exposed to leverage customized e-market solutions of BSEs.
- Through this MoU, both the entities will be able to attain results for smallholder farmers (SHF) and will strengthen the rural value chain in the country.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BEAM: Mumbai
 - CEO of BEAM: Rajesh Kumar Sinha
 - HQ of FDRVC: Delhi
 - CEO of FDRVC: Alok Kumar De

'OPERATION BLUE FREEDOM'

Current Context: The pioneering world record expedition named 'Operation Blue Freedom' was flagged off by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar.

DETAILS

- **The expedition was flagged off from Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.**
- It consists of a team of people with disabilities who will reach Siachen Glacier under the expedition.
- Upon reaching the Siachen Glacier, the team will attain a new World Record, for the largest team of people with disabilities reaching the world's highest battlefield.

- The team members went through various training by 'Team CLAW', which is a team of Armed Forces veterans.
- The team went through the training at Leh (Stage 1), Siachen base camp (Stage 2) and North Pullu (Stage 3) before getting inducted into the expedition.

'MY E-HAAT' ONLINE PORTAL—HCL FOUNDATION

Current Context: The HCL Foundation launched an online portal named 'My e-Haat'.

ABOUT

- The HCL Foundation is the corporate social responsibility entity of HCL Technologies.
- **The 'My e-Haat' online portal will provide an empowerment platform for artisans and primary producers.**
- It will enhance the value chain of the handicraft sector of India.
- The platform will allow artisans and primary producers to present their work, business or products directly to customers.
- The online platform will reduce the informal intermediaries and the long supply chains entities.
- The platform will also grant individual recognition to the artisans and primary producers for the work they perform by directly inducting them on the portal with customers.
- Until now, more than 30 partners from eight states with over 600 products are listed on the portal.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HCL Technologies: Noida
 - CEO of HCL Technologies: C Vijayakumar

FINANCIAL INCLUSION INDEX -- RBI

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The index measures the extent of financial inclusion in India.**
- It describes the inclusion of financial-related activities like banking, investments, insurance, postal and pension sector in India.
- The FI-Index value range between 0 to 100; where 0 indicates complete financial exclusion while 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- It is calculated based on parameters like access, usage and quality. These parameters are considered with various dimensions which are calculated on the basis of several indicators. There is a total of 97 indicators.
- The access carries a weightage of 35%, usage carries weightage of 45% and quality carries weightage of 20%.
- **The annual FI-Index for the period ending March 2021 is 53.9 as against 43.4 for the period ending March 2017.**

- The central bank said that it will be releasing FI-Index in the month of July every year, without any consideration of the base year for the index.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS ON 18TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Hakainde Hichilema: He was appointed as President of Zambia. He won the elections by defeating President Edgar Lungu.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Zambia: Lusaka
 - Currency of Zambia: Zambian kwacha
- **Muhyiddin Yassin:** He has submitted his resignation from the post of Prime Minister of Malaysia.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur
 - Currency of Malaysia: Malaysian Ringgit
- **Unmukt Chand:** He is an Indian cricket player and has announced his retirement from Indian Cricket. He served as the captain of the Indian Cricket Under -19 team which won the World Cup 2012.

RBI CANCELLED THE LICENSE OF KARNALA NAGARI SAHAKARI BANK LIMITED

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited. It is based in Raigad, Maharashtra.

KEY FACTS

- The license was cancelled because of insufficient capital and earning prospects left with the bank.
- The RBI has also asked Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- The 95% of the depositors of the bank will receive their full deposited amounts from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.
- On liquidation, every depositor will receive a deposit insurance claim amount for their deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

'PROOF' APP

Current Context: The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha launched the 'PROOF' mobile app.

KEY POINTS

- The app was launched to offer transparency and accountability in the governance system of the UT.
- The PROOF signifies 'Photographic Record of On-site Facility'.
- The app will track and monitor the work progress activities of the projects undertaken by various departments of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It will help to ensure the timely completion of these projects.
- The complete pictorial view of the work and its geographical coordinates i.e. latitude and longitude will be displayed by the app.
- The users can also provide comments regarding work progress.
- The app is launched in regards to the new rule of the UT that no bills will be entertained in the treasury unless photographs of projects are uploaded.
- Therefore, to get the bill passed it will be vital to upload geotagged photographs.
- The app is developed by the National Informatics Centre of J&K.

WORLD'S 2ND LARGEST 'NATIONAL GENE BANK'

Current Context: The World's second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank was inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.

DETAILS

- It was inaugurated at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi.
- The National Gene Bank will be responsible to preserve the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR).
- It has the capacity to preserve about one million germplasm in the form of seeds.
- It is capable to preserve the seeds for years in minus 20 degrees Celsius temperature.
- While inaugurating the National Gene Bank, the union minister mentioned that this is a major step to help the farmer community of India.

'SBI LIFE ESHIELD NEXT'-- SBI LIFE INSURANCE

Current Context: SBI Life Insurance has launched a new life insurance solution named 'SBI Life eShield Next'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is an individual, non-linked, non-participating life insurance solution. The policy is not linked to the stock market and does not share profit or dividends with the policyholders.
- The 'SBI Life eShield Next' executes by increasing the required insurance protection by increasing the sum assured linked to the significant level-up milestones in one's life.

- The protection coverage under the policy improves during major life events like getting married, becoming a parent, buying a new house.
- The policy is based on 3 plans namely, level cover, increasing cover and level cover with future-proofing benefits.
- **Level Cover:** In this, the absolute amount assured will stay constant entire the policy term.
- **Increasing Cover Benefit:** In this, the absolute amount assured on death will increase by 10% p.a. (simple) of the basic sum assured at the end of every 5th policy year, subject to a maximum increase of up to 100% of the basic sum assured.
- **Level Cover with Future-Proofing Benefits:** It allows to increase cover when attaining life's essential milestones like getting married or becoming a parent or buying a house.
- The customer can pay the premium with either of the options of single, monthly, half-yearly and yearly.
- The minimum tenure of the policy is 5 years.
- The policy offers a life cover of 100 years (whole life) or 85 years (other than whole life) and has various benefits like death benefit, terminal illness benefit etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI Life Insurance: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of SBI Life Insurance: Mahesh Kumar Sharma

KARKHANDAR SCHEME – JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Current Context: The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir launched the 'Karkhandar Scheme'.

KEY POINTS

- **The scheme will grant support to the local artisans and weavers.**
- **It will help to promote the traditional handicraft work and art of J&K.**
- **The scheme will be implemented by the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir/Jammu.**
- The scheme will boost the crafts having good potential and also the crafts which are languishing ones will also be promoted through the scheme.
- The scheme will identify and impart training to the crafts which are lacking in the human resource factor. Such arts include walnut wood carving, silver filigree, carpet, Kani shawl weaving, Khatamband and paper machine crafts.
- The scheme will revive the languishing crafts, impart training to the local artisans and weavers, increase their income source, provide linkage with producer organizations, develop entrepreneurship skills.
- Under the scheme, the meritorious trainees will be given a monthly amount of Rs 2000 as an honorarium and the trainer will get Rs 2000 every month for each trainee and Rs 25000 support for logistics, raw materials etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lt Governor of J&K: Manoj Sinha

APPOINTMENTS ON 19TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: P R Sreejesh: He is an Olympian, goalkeeper and former captain of the Indian National Hockey Team and now is appointed as the brand ambassador of Adventure Tourism in Kerala.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
 - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammed Khan
- **Priyanka Chopra Jonas:** She was appointed as chairperson of Jio MAMI (Mumbai Academy of Moving Image) Film Festival.
- **Mirabai Chanu:** She was appointed as brand ambassador for Amway India.

5TH BRICS INDUSTRY MINISTERS MEETING

Current Context: The 5th BRICS Industry Ministers meeting was held in a virtual format.

KEY FACTS

- **The meeting was chaired by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.**
- The meeting observed the participation of Industry Ministers from BRICS Countries.
- The Indian side highlighted its efforts to use technology for good governance in order to have transparency and accountability.
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal mentioned that India is working and have attained a significant remark for a vibrant and dynamic start-up ecosystem. The country has adopted various digital platforms like Aadhar and UPI payments for secured and efficient delivery of critical services to the last mile.
- The dignitaries discussed the impact of COVID-19 on businesses, trade and industries and assured to coordinate to uplift the trade and industry sector.
- They assured to coordinate towards the promotion of IPR, and expressed their intention to collaborate with NDB (New Development Bank).

ODISHA ANNOUNCED SMART HEALTH CARDS SCHEME

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik announced to launch 'Smart Health Cards Scheme'.

DETAILS

- The scheme will be covering 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families.
- The scheme will be launched under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.
- The 'Smart Health Cards Scheme' will provide hassle-free health treatment services. It aims to transform the health service delivery system.
- The Smart Health Cards will be similar to debit cards for a certain amount.

- By doing so, Odisha has become the first state in India to provide such Smart Health Cards to its people.
- The smart cards will be distributed to beneficiaries of National and State Food Security Schemes and beneficiaries of Annapurna and Antodaya.
- The families having smart health cards will be able to avail treatment upto Rs 5 lakh per annum.
- The women member of the family can avail the benefit of treatment of upto Rs 10 lakh every year.
- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of Odisha: Ganeshi Lal

‘REGULATED ENTITIES FOR INTEGRATED SUPERVISION AND MONITORING (PRISM)’

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India is implementing a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system to give strength to compliance by supervised entities (SEs).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The web-based end-to-end workflow automation system is named as ‘Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM)’.**
- The PRISM will help supervised entities to strengthen their internal defenses and resilience.
- It will allow SEs to focus on Root Cause Analysis (RCA).
- The PRISM will be having features like functionalities with respect to inspection; compliance; incident functionality for cybersecurity; complaints; and returns functionalities.
- It will be having built-in remediation workflows, tracking of time, alerts, and notifications.
- Also, it will be comprised of management information system (MIS) reports and dashboards.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

‘UNITE AWARE’

Current Context: India and United Nations (UN) launched a tech platform named ‘UNITE Aware’. The ‘UNITE Aware’ platform will offer improved security and safety to the UN peacekeepers. These UN peacekeepers are performing tasks in complex and risky environments across the world.

KEY POINTS

- The platform was launched at the UN headquarters in the presence of Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
- The Indian side has contributed USD 1.64 million to UNITE Aware platform.
- The platform will provide information about terrain to the United Nations military personnel (Blue Helmets) in the line of duty. It will provide camp security for UN peacekeepers.

- The UNITE Aware platform is an awareness creation software on a situational basis. It provides a modern touch to the surveillance technology in a real time domain in order to boost security.
- It will access live video and satellite imagery. It will also generate early warnings to the peacekeepers in case of volatile and critical circumstances.
- It has the feature to record data on critical incidents and events and follow daily operational activities.
- Thus, with this platform, it is possible to visualize, coordinate and monitor the entire peacekeeping operation on a real-time basis.
- The platform is developed by India in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.

'FRUITS' PORTAL

Current Context: The Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) partnered with the Government of Karnataka to launch the 'FRUITS' portal.

KEY FACTS

- **The FRUITS signifies:** 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System'.
- The portal will be used to store land details of farmers.
- This portal is the first of its kind initiative in the country by the state government to collect and store data of the land details of farmers.
- The portal is launched as a pilot project and soon will be expanded to other financial institutions.
- The portal was inaugurated by Niraj Kumar Verma, Chief General Manager of Nabard.
- Under this portal, the farmers will be registered and will be given a FRUITS ID (FID) number.
- Through this number, the lending and financial institutions will be able to access the land details of farmers as well as their borrowings and will be able to take a quick decision on lending to them as per their requirements.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of KVGB: Dharwad, Karnataka
 - Chairman: P Gopi Krishna

DO-IT-YOURSELF (DIY) REPAYMENT PLATFORM

Current Context: The Kotak Mahindra Bank in partnership with Creditas Solutions launched the 'Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Repayment Platform'.

DETAILS

- **The facility is for the repayment of missed loans.**
- The 'Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Repayment Platform' is a secured digital mode of repayment 'neo collection' platform.
- The platform provides a secured, convenient, and highly efficient mode of repayment solution to the customers.
- It is based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) mechanism.

- It allows customers to manage their dues seamlessly on their own.
- The platform analyses both historical as well as live customer interaction data with the help of behavioral models and accordingly create an individual customer-level profile which consists of the unique preferences of each customer like communication mode, a suitable time to contact them, and language of communication.
- Upon clicking on the link received, customers will be directed to the platform and then the customer will be able to repay the outstanding dues by selecting a suitable payment mode.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Kotak Mahindra Bank: Mumbai

RAJIV GANDHI GRAMEEN BHUMIHIN MAJDUR NYAY YOJANA-- CHHATTISGARH

Current Context: The Chhattisgarh government launched the 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana'.

ABOUT

- **The scheme is launched for landless workers of the state.**
- Under this scheme, the financial support of Rs 6000 year will be granted to more than 12 lakh beneficiaries of the state.
- The scheme aims to grant economic justice to the landless community of the state.
- The support of Rs 200 crore is sanctioned for the scheme in the annual budget of the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Chhattisgarh: Indravati NP, Kanger valley NP, Guru Ghasi das NP, Achanakmar WLS, Boramdeo WLS, Sitanadi WLS, Pamed WLS

THREE ONLINE APPLICATIONS LAUNCHED BY DST

Current Context: The Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched three online applications which will allow the users to purchase and download the products related to geospatial mapping online.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The applications will deliver geospatial data which is collected by the government and associated organisations to the people in a free and easy manner.
- **The applications were unveiled by DST Secretary Ashutosh Sharma.**
- **The applications are:** (a) Survey of India (SOI) GEO Spatial Data Dissemination Portal (b) SOI's Sarathi Web Geographical Information System (GIS) application (c) Machitran, the enterprise Geoportal of National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO).
 - **Survey of India (SOI) GEO Spatial Data Dissemination Portal:** It is developed by SOI and it has digital products like digital geographical map, political map, digital geographical road map, digital geographical physical map of India, and open series map scale. It will provide all the geographical data to the GOI and people.

- **SOI's Sarathi Web GIS application:** This application will allow GIS into the hands of the people thereby saving their time and resources in data validation with an audit trail. This application will facilitate SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas), which is an initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Due to this application, there won't be any need to create the customized application as it provides a mechanism for integrating GIS with other business systems.
- **Machitran, the enterprise Geoportal of NATMO:** It is developed by NATMO. It will fulfill the requirements of students, researchers, policymakers, etc. The data which was acquired by NATMO till date in the last 65 years is being displayed on this application. Therefore, the users will be able to download the data and can give feedback about the maps, atlas, and geospatial data layers.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SOI: Dehradun, Uttarakhand
 - Surveyor General of India: Naveen Tomar
 - HQ of NATMO: Kolkata, West Bengal
 - Director of NATMO: Dr. Tapati Banerjee

APPOINTMENTS ON 21ST AUG 2021

Current Context: Shanti Lal Jain: He was appointed as MD and CEO of Indian Bank for a tenure of 3 years. He has replaced Padmaja Chundururu.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Indian Bank: Chennai
- **MS Dhoni:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of Neuberg Diagnostics, which is one of the demonstrative lab chains in India.
- **NK Singh:** He was elected as the new president of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society. He has replaced former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.
- **Amitabh Bachchan:** He has become the voice of Amazon Alexa in India. Amazon has made Amitabh Bachchan's voice available on Alexa at an introductory price of Rs. 149 (MRP Rs. 299) for one year.

INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE AWARDS 2021

Current Context: The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021 were held virtually.

DETAILS

- **The winners in each category are:**
- **Best Feature Film:** Soorarai Pottru
- **Best Performance Male (Feature):** Suriya Sivakumar for Soorarai Pottru
- **Best Performance Female (Feature):** Vidya Balan for Shern & Honourable mention to Nimisha Sajayan for The Great Indian Kitchen

- **Best Series:** Mirzapur Season 2
- **Best Actor (Series):** Manoj Bajpayee for The Family Man 2
- **Best Actress (Series):** Samantha Akkineni for The Family Man 2
- **Best Director:** Anurag Basu for Ludo & Honorary Mention Prithvi Konanur for Pinki Elli
- **Equality in Cinema (Short Film):** Sheer Qorma
- **Equality in Cinema Award (Feature Film):** The Great Indian Kitchen
- **Best Documentary Film:** Shut Up Sona
- **Best Indie Film:** Fire in the Mountains
- **Diversity in Cinema Award:** Pankaj Tripathi

2021 GLOBAL CRYPTO ADOPTION INDEX

Current Context: The 2nd Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021 was released by Chainalysis, which is a crypto analysis blockchain data platform.

KEY POINTS

- **As per the index, India is ranked at 2nd position out of 154 countries in terms of crypto adoption. India has scored 0.37.**
- **The 1st position was marked by Vietnam with a score of 1.**
- The ranking was made by considering 3 indicators like on-chain value received, on-chain retail value received and peer-to-peer exchange trade volume.
- As per the report, cryptocurrency adoption has increased to more than 880% worldwide from June 2020 to July 2021.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Chainalysis: New York, USA

INDIA & ADB SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT FOR METRO RAIL NETWORK IN BENGALURU

Current Context: India and Asian Development Bank signed a loan agreement to enhance the metro rail network in Bengaluru.

KEY FACTS

- **The ADB will grant the loan support of USD 500 million for the same.**
- The enhancement in Bengaluru's metro rail network will be made by constructing two new metro lines of 56 kilometers with the help of this loan.
- Under the project, two additional metro lines with 30 stations between Central Silk Board and Kempegowda International Airport, primarily elevated, along Outer Ring Road and National Highway 44 between Central Silk Board and Kempegowda International Airport will be developed.
- This will provide easy access to the airport to the community of the city.
- The project will also benefit to manage the increasing traffic in the city.

- The loan amount will also be used to enhance capacity of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited and other state agencies.

EXIM BANK EXTENDED SOFT LOAN SUPPORT TO THE GUINEA

Current Context: The Exim Bank has extended soft loans support from the Government of India to the Government of Guinea with an aim to financially support various projects.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Exim Bank has provided a soft loan worth USD 210.73 million to Guinea.**
- The loan amount will be utilised for the projects like drinking water projects, the construction of hospitals and solar projects.
- The loan amount consists of USD 170 million Line of Credit for the drinking water supply project of Grand Conakry-Horizon 2040 in Guinea.
- The loan amount of USD 20.51 million will be used to construct and upgrade hospitals in the country.
- The Line of Credit amount of USD 20.22 million will be used for two solar projects in the country.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Exim Bank: Mumbai
 - MD of Exim Bank: David Rasquinha
 - Capital of Guinea: Conakry
 - Currency of Guinea: Guinean Franc

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATION ON 22ND AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Dr Tejendra M Bhasin: He was re-appointed as Chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) for a tenure of 2 years. The re-appointment was made by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ABBFF: New Delhi
- **Ismail Sabri Yaakob:** He was elected as the new Prime Minister of Malaysia.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Malaysia: Kaula Lumpur
 - Currency of Malaysia: Malaysian Ringgit
- **Nitin Chugh:** He offered his resignation from the post of MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Ujjivan SFB: Bengaluru
 - Tagline of Ujjivan SFB: Build a better life

'SMALL BUSINESS LOANS INITIATIVE'—FACEBOOK INDIA AND INDIFI

Current Context: Facebook India has launched the 'Small Business Loans Initiative'.

KEY FACTS

- **The initiative was launched in partnership with Indifi, which is an online lending platform.**
- The initiative was first launched in India itself by Facebook.
- Under the initiative, the SMBs (small and medium businesses) who promotes and advertise their businesses on the Facebook platform will be given quick access to loans through independent lending partners.
- The initiative aims to provide quick access to business loans to the SMB owners, thus reducing the credit gap within India's MSME sector.
- The initiative is open to businesses registered across 200 cities and towns in India.
- The SMB will get the loans at the interest rate of 17-20% per annum.
- The SMBs who run their businesses through promotion on Facebook can apply for the initiative through a quick online application.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Facebook: California, United States
 - CEO of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg

NIPL PARTNERED WITH MASHREQ BANK

Current Context: NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has entered into a partnership with Mashreq Bank.

KEY POINTS

- **They have partnered to launch the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment system facility in the UAE.**
- This will help Indian tourists who travel to UAE for business or leisure purposes. They will be able to perform transactions using UPI-based mobile applications in the UAE.
- This will benefit around 2 million Indians and will also give enhancement to the digital payment mechanism in the UAE.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NPCI: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of NPCI: Dilip Asbe
 - NIPL is the wholly-owned subsidiary of NPCI
 - CEO of NIPL: Ritesh Shukla
 - Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi
 - Currency of UAE: Dirham

'UBHARTE SITAARE FUND'

Current Context: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the 'Ubharte Sitaare' scheme.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The scheme will help the MSME sector to become future champions with good export potential.
- The scheme is basically launched for export-oriented firms and startups of India.
- The 'Ubharte Sitaare fund' is jointly framed and set up by Exim Bank and SIDBI.
- The scheme was launched in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- The small and mid-sized companies, startups will be identified who have the ability in terms of technology, products or processes and export potential to become future champions at national and international levels.
- These small and mid-sized companies, startups if fulfilling the criteria to become the future champions and are currently underperforming will be uplifted under the scheme.
- The 'Ubharte Sitaare fund' is induced with financial support as well as advisory support.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Exim Bank: Mumbai
 - MD of Exim Bank: David Rasquinha
 - HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow
 - Chairman and MD of SIDBI: Sivasubramanian Ramann

MULTIPLE PROJECTS INAUGURATED IN SOMNATH, GUJARAT

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple projects in Somnath, Gujarat.

KEY FACTS

- The event took place in a virtual manner i.e. via video conferencing.
- PM Modi inaugurated Somnath Promenade, which is developed under PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) Scheme. The total cost of Somnath Promenade is over Rs. 47 crore.
- He also inaugurated Somnath Exhibition Centre which is developed on the premises of 'Tourist Facilitation Centre'. The exhibition centre showcase the exhibits from dismantled parts of the old Somnath temple and its sculptures having Nagar style temple architecture of old Somnath.
- He also inaugurated the reconstructed temple precinct of Old (Juna) Somnath. The reconstruction work was completed by Shree Somnath Trust with funds of Rs 3.5 crore. This temple is also well known as Ahilyabai Temple. The reconstruction work was made with a view to offering safety to the pilgrims and with augmented capacity.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for Shree Parvati Temple. For this, the funds of Rs 30 crore are sanctioned. The temple will be constructed in Sompura Salats Style, the development of Garbha Griha and Nritya Mandap.

HURUN GLOBAL 500 MOST VALUABLE COMPANIES LIST 2021

Current Context: The Hurun Research Institute released Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.

DETAILS

- The list is comprised of the 500 most valuable non-state-controlled companies in the world which are ranked as per their value of market capitalization.
- **As per the report, the 1st rank is marked by Apple (USD 2,443 billion) and thus is termed to be the most valuable company.**
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are marked by Microsoft and Amazon respectively.
- From India, 12 Indian companies have marked their position in Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.
- As per the total number of companies on the list, India is in the 9th position. In this regard, there is a total of 243 companies in the US who have marked their positions in the list.
- The top Indian company on the list is Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion) which is ranked at 57th position.

USAID, DFC PARTNERED WITH KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

Current Context: The USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and USDFC (U.S. International Development Finance Corporation) have partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank for the purpose of offering loan guarantees for women entrepreneurs and MSME units in India.

ABOUT

- **The USAID and USDFC will be sponsoring a USD 50 million loan portfolio guarantee to the Kotak Mahindra Bank.**
- The main motto behind this partnership is to provide financial support to women entrepreneurs and MSME.
- This will help the businesses to uplift which are severely affected due to the pandemic.
- Under this partnership, the Kotak Mahindra Bank will provide loan facilities to NBFCs that are operating in MSME and Microfinance areas.
- The credit support will be granted to the end borrowers which will result in sustained and inclusive economic growth.
- It will result in economic empowerment of the women and about 50% of the loans will be offered to women-led or women-managed MSMEs. Around 30,000 individual women borrowers and 7500 MSMEs will be benefited from this partnership.
- The programme will be supported by Vivriti Capital, which is an NBFC based in Chennai. It will provide a USD 1 million first loss guarantee.
- The DFC will grant a pari passu guaranty to the bank and this guarantee is financially sponsored by USAID.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of USAID: Washington DC, US
 - HQ of Kotak Mahindra Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Kotak Mahindra Bank: Let's make money simple

'URJA' — CHATBOT OF BPCL

Current Context: The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) launched the chatbot named 'Urja'.

KEY POINTS

- The 'Urja' chatbot is an AI (Artificial Intelligence) enabled one which is launched to offer a seamless self-service experience to the customers.
- BPCL has launched the 'Urja' chatbot under its Project Anubhav.
- The chatbot will provide seamless self-service and quick resolution of queries of customers. It will resolve any queries for both B2B & B2C.
- Currently, the chatbot is available in 13 languages. Through this chatbot, BPCL is giving a digital touch to its customer interface.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BPCL: Mumbai
 - CMD of BPCL: Arun Kumar Singh

NATIONAL MONETISATION PIPELINE

Current Context: The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman launched the 'National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities.
- The NMP is developed by NITI Aayog in partnership with infrastructure line ministries. The framing of NMP is done as per the 'Asset Monetisation' framed under Union Budget 2021-22.
- The NMP defines assets and asset classes for various infrastructure ministries, then further it will be monetized for a period of time.
- It will aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 6 lakh crores through core assets of the Central Government, for a period of four years, i.e. from FY 2022 to FY 2025.
- The NMP is comprised of Ministries of Roads, Transport & Highways, Railways, Power, Pipeline & Natural Gas, Civil Aviation, Shipping Ports & Waterways, Telecommunications, Food & Public Distribution, Mining, Coal & Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The NMP considers brownfield assets in which the investment is already made, where there is a completed asset that is either languishing or it is not fully monetised or is under-utilised.
- Therefore by inducting private participation in this, there will be ease in monetizing the assets in a better way.
- Asset monetisation is based on the philosophy of creation through monetization by inducting private sector investment for new infrastructure creation. This will also help to create job opportunities, high economic growth, integration of rural and semi-urban areas for public welfare.
- While launching the NMP, Nirmala Sitharaman mentioned that the ownership of assets will remain with the government and there will be a mandatory hand back. The private sector partners will have to give it back after a duration of time.

- **Static Part:**
 - Brownfield assets: It is the type of investment in which a company or government purchases or lease the existing production facilities in order to launch the new one.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PAYTM AND HDFC BANK

Current Context: Paytm and HDFC Bank have entered into a strategic partnership with an aim to deliver financial solutions to end consumers and merchants.

KEY FACTS

- **This partnership will lead to boost the digital transformation in semi urban and rural India as it will be the combination of the bank's network, products, and credit features with Paytm's technological platform.**
- Both the entities will work to develop comprehensive solutions across payment gateway, point of sale machines and credit products.
- They will focus on two of the major PoS offerings.
- The first is that the HDFC Bank will perform merchant partnerships and to that entity, Paytm will offer its existing range of Android POS devices. In this, the payment partner will be the HDFC Bank and the distribution and software partner will be Paytm.
- In the second, both HDFC Bank and Paytm will jointly launch the co-branded PoS product in the retail sector of India in which Paytm will have the option to offer it to its own customer base.
- Under this partnership, both entities will deliver enhanced SmartHub solutions to the market.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan
 - Tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world
 - HQ of Paytm: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
 - CEO of Paytm: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

'NEOBOLT'--INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIR VEHICLE

Current Context: India's first indigenous motorized wheelchair vehicle is named 'NeoBolt'.

KEY POINTS

- **It was developed by researchers from IIT Madras.**
- The 'NeoBolt' motorized wheelchair vehicle can be used on roads and even on uneven terrain areas.
- It has a speed of 25 kmph max. It is available to the people at the price of approx. Rs 55000.
- The wheelchair is powered by a Lithium-Ion Battery. For the per charging of the battery, it can travel upto 25km.
- It offers users a convenient, safe and low-cost mode of outdoor mobility as compared to cars, auto-rickshaws or modified scooters.

- The wheelchair is developed by Institute's Centre for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development and is commercialized by Neo Motion startup.

'YUKTDHARA' -- NEW GEOSPATIAL PLANNING PORTAL

Current Context: The GOI launched a new geospatial planning portal with the name 'Yuktdhara'.

DETAILS

- **It was launched by the Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh.**
- The portal will help to facilitate the new MGNREGA assets like farm ponds, dams, plantation, roads, playgrounds etc. through remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS) as per the data feed into it.
- The portal will be a collection of assets that are geotagged and are created under National Rural Development Programmes.
- The portal is framed under Bhuvan 'Yuktdhara' and it will allow to plan of new MGNREGA assets through remote sensing and GIS data.
- The portal will be integrating thematic layers and multi-temporal high-resolution earth observation data with the analysis tools.
- With the help of analytical tools, the user will be able to analyse previous assets under schemes and identify new works as well.
- The portal is the joint effort of ISRO and the Ministry of Rural Development.

APPOINTMENTS ON 24TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: La. Ganesan: He is a Senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu and was appointed as the new Governor of Manipur. He has replaced Najma Heptulla as he retired and then Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad was given an additional charge for the post.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Manipur: N. Biren Singh
- **Nakul Chopra:** He was appointed as CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC). He has replaced Sunil Lulla.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BARC: Mumbai
 - Chairman of BARC: Punit Goenka
- **Sunil Sethi:** He was appointed to head the committee set up by GOI to work for doubling the production and quadrupling the exports in the Handloom sector.

TALENT SEARCH CAMPAIGN – MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: The Government of Madhya Pradesh launched a comprehensive Talent Search Campaign in the area of Sports.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The aim of the campaign is to search for new talent in sports from the state.**
- The state government also aims to give training to these new talents in a total of 18 sports academies of the state.
- Therefore the CM of state, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has made an appeal to the youth having an interest in sports to register for the Talent Search Campaign.
- The registered youth will be shortlisted as per their physical strength and proficiency in sports and will be trained in the state's sports academies equipped with world-class sports facilities.
- **Static Part:**
 - Folk dance form of MP: Matki Dance, Tertali, Maanch, Jawara, Phulpati Dance, Grida Dance
 - Wild Life Sanctuaries in MP: Bagdara WLS, Kheoni WLS, Phen WLS, Nauradehi WLS, Sardarpur WLS, Orchha WLS

HONDA CARS INDIA LTD PARTNERED WITH CANARA BANK

Current Context: Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) has entered into a partnership with Canara Bank.

KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered to provide retail finance schemes to customers of HCIL.**
- Due to this partnership, the customers of HCIL will be able to opt for easy finance features while purchasing the car models of Honda like Amaze, City, Jazz and WR-V.
- In order to make the car buying season even more attractive and rewarding especially during festive seasons, both entities will be launching special schemes.
- The Canara bank will offer an attractive rate of interest, concession in rate of interest to women buyers, minimum processing charges for loans and maximum loan quantum- up to 90% of the total value of the car inclusive of registration, life tax, accessories, etc. to the customers of HCIL.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Honda Motor Company, Ltd: Tokyo, Japan
 - HQ of Canara Bank: Bengaluru
 - Tagline of Canara Bank: Together We Can
 - CEO of Canara Bank: Lingam Venkat Prabhakar

EIU'S SAFE CITIES INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Safe Cities Index 2021.

KEY POINTS

- The index includes ranking for 60 major global cities by considering 76 indicators in the major domains like digital, health, infrastructure, environmental and personal security.
- **The ranking is topped by Copenhagen with a score of 82.4 out of 100.**
- The 2nd and 3rd positions are marked by Toronto (Score: 82.2) and Singapore (score: 80.7) respectively.
- **The least rank was marked by Yangon with a score of 39.5 and is thus termed as the least safe city.**
- From India, Mumbai and New Delhi have marked their positions in the index. New Delhi is placed at the 48th position and Mumbai is placed at the 50th position.
- The level of safety was defined in terms of scores like: If the score is between 0-25, then the city is said to be at low safety. Likewise, if the score is 25.1 to 50, then Medium Safety, if the score is 50.1 to 75, then High Safety and, if the score is 75.1 to 100, then Very High Safety.

‘FORUM FOR DECARBONIZING TRANSPORT’

Current Context: The ‘Forum for Decarbonizing Transport’ was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India.

KEY FACTS

- **The forum will be implemented by NITI Aayog as it is its implementing partner for India.**
- **The forum aims to reduce the peak level of GHG emissions in the transport sector on the Asian continent. It aims to reduce it in line with a well below the 2-degree pathway. The GHG emissions in the transport sector lead to the problems like congestion and air pollution.**
- The forum was launched under NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project, which is the joint initiative of 7 organisations that will work to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonizing transport in the countries like China, India, and Vietnam.
- Under the forum, both the entities along with project partners will work with stakeholders to frame strategies and business models to boost electric mobility in India.
- The forum will also be a platform to have a dialogue of discussion to frame uniform policies to reduce carbon emissions from the transport sector.
- Thus the forum will be a platform for achieving greening the transport sector in India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairperson of NITI Aayog: PM Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant
 - HQ of WRI: Washington, D.C., United States

CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD’S 2021 GLOBAL MANUFACTURING RISK INDEX

Current Context: The Global Manufacturing Risk Index was released by Cushman & Wakefield.

ABOUT

- **As per the index ranking, India is placed at 2nd position and has thus become the world's second most desired manufacturing destination.**
- **The top position is marked by China.**
- The 3rd position is marked by the US.
- In 2020, India was at 3rd rank, but due to the improvements in working conditions, cost competitiveness, India's rank has improved in 2021.
- **The index calculated ranks for 47 countries based on the parameters like:**
 - **Bounce Back:** Ability to restart manufacturing tasks after the vaccination drives rolled out
 - **Conditions:** This includes business environment, availability of labour and skill sets, access to market
 - **Costs:** It includes labour cost, electricity and real estate
 - **Risks:** Political, Environmental and Economical risks are considered
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Cushman & Wakefield: Chicago, Illinois, US

RECOMMENDATIONS ON UCBS BY RBI'S EXPERT COMMITTEE

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India released the recommendations suggested by its expert committee on Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The committee was headed by former Deputy Governor of RBI, N S Vishwanathan.**
- The committee was asked to suggest measures to have faster rehabilitation of UCBs and to review various regulatory norms through amendments to the Banking Regulation Act 1949 in respect to UCBs.
- **The committee suggested the 4-tier structure for UCBs in order to ease the regulatory process. The structure is divided on the basis of UCB's capital availability and other factors. The 4 Tier structure is mentioned below:**
 - **Tier 1:** UCBs with deposits upto Rs 100 crore
 - **Tier 2:** UCBs with deposits between Rs 100 crore- Rs 1000 crore
 - **Tier 3:** UCBs with deposits between Rs 1000 crore- Rs 10,000 crore
 - **Tier 4:** UCBs with deposits more than Rs 10,000 crore
- The expert committee also suggested different capital adequacy and regulatory norms for UCBs. It has been suggested that the minimum capital to risk-weighted asset ratio (CRAR) for Tier 1 UCBs will vary from 9% to 15%.
- The Committee suggested setting up an Umbrella Organisation (UO) with a minimum capital of Rs 300 crore with CRAR and regulatory norms as same as NBFCs. This will enable to raise funds from the market or on-lend it to member UCBs.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

'SUJALAM' CAMPAIGN

Current Context: The Ministry of Jal Shakti, GOI has launched the 'SUJALAM' Campaign.

KEY FACTS

- **The campaign was launched to create Open Defecation Free (ODF) plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.**
- It is a 100-day long campaign and is part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The campaign will be executed to attain ODF plus status for villages in India at the rigorous level in a short span of time.
- The members will execute the campaign by creating one million soak-pits and also other adopting greywater management activities. This will also help to achieve sustainable management of water bodies.
- This will solve the problem of disposal of wastewater and clogging of water bodies in the villages or on the outskirts of the villages.
- Thus waterbodies will be revived through this 100-day long campaign.
- The 'SUJALAM' Campaign will also work to enhance the moto under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase II by encouraging community participation and making awareness about ODF-plus activities.
- Various activities like organizing community consultations, gram sabha meetings etc will be organised to analyse the current status of the campaign.
- The campaign will focus on constructing 1 million soak pits, retrofitting toilets and access of toilets to the new houses.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Jal Shakti Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

UP'S GANGA EXPRESSWAY TO RECEIVE LOAN FROM PNB

Current Context: The ambitious Ganga Expressway project of Uttar Pradesh has received major support of funds from Punjab National Bank (PNB).

KEY POINTS

- **The PNB has sanctioned a loan of Rs 5100 crore to the state government for the same.**
- The Ganga Expressway will be 594 km long and it will be the longest in North India and the second-longest in India.
- The Ganga Expressway will connect Meerut in west Uttar Pradesh with Prayagraj in the east, it will also reduce the travel time from Lucknow to Meerut to 5 hours and 6.5 hours from Prayagraj to Meerut.
- The total costing of the project is Rs 36,230 crore.
- The approval letter for the loan from the bank was handed to the state government during the ceremony at the Indira Gandhi Prasthithan of UP.
- The Expressway will be owned and operated by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of PNB: New Delhi
- CEO of PNB: SS Mallikarjuna Rao
- CM of UP: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor of UP: Anandiben Patel

'SAMRIDH' PROGRAMME

Current Context: The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has launched the 'SAMRIDH' Programme.

DETAILS

- **The SAMRIDH signifies:** Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and growth.
- **The programme will support 300 IT-based startups for a duration of 6 months.**
- The programme aims to create 100 unicorns from the selected IT/Software based startups by offering them funds, mentor guidance and access to the markets.
- Under the programme, the ministry will grant seed capital of upto Rs 40 lakh and mentor guidance to the selected startups.
- The programme will be executed on the basis of Ycombinator, which is a successful startup accelerator initiative in the United States.
- Through this programme, the software-based startups will be able to enhance their products, upscale their businesses and enhance capacity building.
- The launching of the programme was made by Union Minister MeitY, Ashwini Vaishnav.

'FREO SAVE' – SAVING ACCOUNT BY FREO

Current Context: The 1st credit led Neo bank of India named Freo has launched a zero balance saving account.

ABOUT

- **The name of the saving account is 'Freo Save'.**
- **The account was launched in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB).**
- The 'Freo Save' Saving account grants a 7% interest rate and allows to have a minimum balance of Rs 1 lakh.
- It enables seamless integration with UPI which allows the customer's transfer funds in an online manner and make secure bill payments.
- It also allows customers to maintain better credit scores and offers world-class customer support service.
- **Static Part:**
 - Neo Bank: It is a type of digital bank without any branches. It works in an online manner and is not available in the physical presence
 - HQ of Equitas SFB: Chennai, TN

- Tagline of Equitas SFB: Its Fun Banking

11TH BRICS NSA MEETING

Current Context: The 11th edition of the BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security meeting was held in a virtual manner.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The meeting was chaired by India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval.**
- The dignitaries from BRICS nations participated in the meeting.
- The meeting was held to strengthen political-security cooperation among BRICS nations.
- The meeting observed the adoption of the BRICS counter-terrorism action plan. The action plan will help to boost cooperation in the areas like finance, combating terrorism, misuse of the internet by terrorists, curbing the travel of terrorists, border controls, protection of soft targets, information sharing, capacity building, and regional and international cooperation.
- The dignitaries also discussed the Afghanistan scenario, and developments in Iran, West Asia and the Gulf region.
- Indian side discussed the threat at the border of the country and issues related to cross country terrorism.
- The dignitaries assured to cooperate in the field of cyber security and assured to share best practices to eradicate terrorism and cyber-related crimes.

APPOINTMENTS ON 27TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Sandeep Bakhshi: He was reappointed as the MD & CEO of ICICI Bank by RBI. He will serve the post till 2023.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of ICICI Bank: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka
- **Alia Bhat:** She was appointed as Brand Ambassador of Samsung India. She will endorse Galaxy Z, series of smartphones by Samsung India.
- **Pawandeep Rajan:** He is the winner of Indian Idol 2021, which is a music reality show. He was appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand art, tourism and culture.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya
- **Ajay Kumar:** He was appointed as Executive Director of RBI. He will look after the department of currency management, foreign exchange and premises department.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

EASE 3.0 AWARDS

Current Context: The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman announced the winners for the EASE 3.0 Awards.

KEY FACTS

- She also unveiled the 4th Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 'EASE 4.0' for 2021-22 which is tech-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking.
- Along with this, she unveiled the annual report for the PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0 for 2020-21.
- The PSBs have attained a profit of Rs 31,817 crore in FY21 as compared to a loss of Rs. 26,016 crore in FY20. The total gross NPA was at Rs 6.16 lakh crore as of March 2021, a reduction of Rs 62,000 crore from March 2020 levels. The frauds associated with PSBs have also reduced to 2,903 in FY2020-21 compared to 3,704 in FY2018-19.
- The Credit@click was a flagship initiative under EASE 3.0 Around 4.4 lakh customers have taken the benefit of such initiative.
- Following is the detailed list of winners:
 - **Canara Bank:** Awarded with the 2nd runner-up in the Institutionalising Prudent Banking theme
 - **Punjab National Bank:** Awarded as runner up for categories of: (a) Governance & Outcome centric HR (b) Institutionalizing Prudent Banking.
 - Awarded as 2nd runner-up in the best improvement category
 - **Indian Bank:** Awarded as the winner for best improvement category
 - **Union Bank of India:** Awarded as the winner for categories of: (a) Governance & outcome-centric HR (b) Deepening Financial inclusion & customer protection.
 - Awarded as 2nd runner-up for categories of: (a) Smart lending (b) Tech-enabled ease of banking themes
 - Awarded as 1st runner-up in best improvement category. It was also awarded as 2nd runner-up for the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021
 - **Bank of Baroda:** Awarded as the winner for categories of: (a) Smart Lending (b) Institutionalizing Prudent Banking themes.
 - Awarded as 1st runner-up in Tech-enabled ease of banking
 - Awarded as 2nd runner-up in Deepening Financial Inclusion and Customer Protection. It was also awarded as 1st runner-up for the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021.
 - **State Bank of India:** Awarded as the winner for Tech-enabled Ease of banking
 - Awarded as 1st runner-up for categories of (a) Smart Lending (b) Deepening Financial Inclusion and Customer Protection themes
 - Awarded as 2nd runner-up in Governance and Outcome-centric HR. It was also awarded as Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021

GOOGLE COLLABORATED WITH SETU

Current Context: Google has partnered with a fintech company, Setu.

KEY POINTS

- **The partnership will allow its users to open fixed deposits (FD) using Google Pay app.**
- Setu is a fintech company that is an expert in offering APIs (application programming interfaces) and it has created the beta version of API which can offer FDs.
- The FDs through this beta version are of tenors like 7-29 days, 30-45 days, 46-90 days, 91-180 days, 181-364 days, and 365 days.
- The interest rates linked to these FDs will vary from 3.5% for the shortest FD to 6.35% for the FD with one year tenor.
- To avail of this FD, users will have to complete their KYC procedures using Aadhar through OTP submission.
- The users can open an FD account even without having an account with the bank which offers FD.
- At the initial stage, FDs of Equitas Small Finance Bank will be offered for a period of 1 year carrying a maximum interest rate of 6.35%.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Google: California, US
 - CEO of Google: Sunder Pichai

'12% CLUB' APP – BHARATPE

Current Context: The BharatPe has launched the '12% Club' app. The app is basically an investment-cum-borrowing product.

DETAILS

- **The app will allow customers to invest and earn up to 12 % annual interest or borrow at a similar rate.**
- The app was launched in partnership NBFCs which was approved by RBI.
- By selecting the lend money on the '12% Club' app, the customers can invest their savings at any time.
- The customers can also opt for collateral-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh through the app itself. The loan will be availed with a tenure of 3 months. There are no processing charges or pre-payment charges on the consumer loans.
- The company has set the upper limit to Rs 10 lakh for investing by an individual and will be increased to Rs 50 lakhs over the next few months.
- The BharatPe aims to achieve an investment asset under management (AUM) of \$100 million and a lending AUM of \$50 million from this app by the end of the current financial year i.e. March 2022.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BharatPe: New Delhi
 - CEO of BharatPe: Ashneer Grover

NER DISTRICT SDG INDEX REPORT

Current Context: India's premier policy think tank entity, NITI Aayog released North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report 2021-22 in partnership with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/DoNER).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The report was framed with technical support from UNDP and is based on NITI Aayog's SDG India Index.
- The index was framed by measuring the performance of the districts of the eight states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura in attaining Sustainable Development Goals and other targets.
- The index took the analysis of 103 districts of eight NE states.
- **East Sikkim has topped the NER SDG Index 2021-22 with a score of Score 75.87.**
- The second position is marked by Gomati and North Tripura.
- The Kiphire district of Nagaland was ranked at the bottom position.

INDIA SIGNED PACT WITH MALDIVES FOR GREATER MALE CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

Current Context: India and Maldives have signed a pact for the Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP).

KEY FACTS

- The GMCP is the largest civilian infrastructure project which is to be built in the Maldives.
- The funding support for the project will be given by India.
- **India has granted USD 400 million Line of Credit (LoC) and USD 100 million for the vast GMCP project in Maldives.**
- **The USD 400 million LoC will be provided by the Exim Bank.**
- The project will be constructed by AFCONS, which is India's construction and engineering firm based in Mumbai.
- The project is comprised of a 6.74 km long bridge and causeway link which will provide the connectivity between Male (Maldives capital) with three islands named, Villingili, Gulhifahu, and Thilafushi. The project will offer connectivity among business, people, industry and will enhance the economy of Maldives.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Maldives: Male
 - Currency of Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa

'WEP NXT' --- NITI AAYOG AND CISCO

Current Context: The NITI Aayog in partnership with Cisco launched 'WEP Nxt'.

KEY POINTS

- **The 'WEP Nxt' is the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).**
- **Under the 'WEP Nxt', Cisco's technology and experience will be used to boost women's entrepreneurship in India.**

- The WEP will focus on the needs of Indian women entrepreneurship in 6 areas like funding and financial management, marketing, community and networking, taxation and compliance support, incubation connectivity, skilling, and mentor guidance.
- The WEP initiative was launched by NITI Aayog in 2017.
- **In this phase of the initiative, Cisco in partnership with various organisations like Nasscom Foundation, Sattva Consulting, and DeAsra Foundation will tackle the challenges faced by Indian women entrepreneurs.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant
 - HQ of CISCO: San Jose, California, US

1ST G20 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Current Context: The first-ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment was held in a hybrid format in Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.

DETAILS

- **The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani.**
- At the conference, she highlighted India's commitment towards maintaining gender equality and resolving women-centric issues through mutual cooperation.
- She also mentioned India's measures to maintain gender equality, empower women, and strengthening women's safety and security.
- She mentioned that India is working on common objectives and shared responsibilities to attain the universal goal of women and girls participation in all areas like STEM, financial and digital literacy, environment, and sustainability.

MEITY STARTUP HUB SIGNED MOU WITH PAYTM

Current Context: The MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) which comes under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has entered into MoU with Paytm.

ABOUT

- **The MoU was signed to grant support to deep tech-based startups in India.**
- Both then entities will create a deep tech-based startups ecosystem for SaaS and app-based startups which will be built using platforms like AI, Machine Learning, and Cloud Computing.
- They will help grant support to solution-oriented innovators.
- Both the entities will grant support to the deep tech-based startups with vast platform, knowledge, expertise solution, capacity building, resources, and stakeholders.
- The startups will be benefited from market strategies, mentorship, and technical assistance.
- The entities will develop partnerships among incubators, investors, and accelerators.

- The 'startup toolkit' will be offered to tackle the problems associated with payments, distribution, and growth in early-stage startups.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Electronics & IT: Ashwini Vaishnaw
 - HQ of Paytm: Noida, UP

LIBERALISED DRONE RULES, 2021

Current Context: The Ministry of Civil Aviation had published Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Rules, 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **These rules involved various paperwork, permissions for every drone flight, and very few 'free to fly' green zones were available.**
- **These rules were adopted by academia, Startups, end-users, and other stakeholders. For these rules, the GOI had received feedback and in this regard, the GOI decided to repeal the UAS Rules, 2021.**
- **Therefore the GOI has replaced the UAS Rules, 2021 with the Liberalised Drone Rules, 2021. Following are some major features of Liberalised Drone Rules, 2021.**
 1. Quantum of fee reduced to nominal levels and now it is delinked with the size of the drone.
 2. Now there won't be a requirement for any permission to operate in green zones.
 3. The yellow zone was reduced from 45 km to 12 km from the airport perimeter.
 4. There is not any requirement for security clearance before the issuance of any registration or license. Also, no requirement of a Type Certificate, unique identification number, and remote pilot license by R&D units to operate drones in their own or rented premises, which are located in a green zone.
 5. The digital sky platform must display an interactive airspace map with green, yellow, and red zones within 30 days of publication of these rules.
 6. Coverage of drones under Drone Rules, 2021 is set to 500 kg. Initially, this was 300 kg. This will cover drone taxis also.
 7. The penalty for violating these rules is reduced to Rs 1 lakh.
 8. The Drones which are in India on or before 30 Nov 2021 will be issued a unique identification number through the digital sky platform. These drones will have a DAN, a GST-paid invoice, and will be termed under the DGCA-approved drones list.
 9. The Drone promotion council will be framed by GOI in partnership with academia, startups, and other stakeholders. This will provide growth-oriented regulatory.
 10. The drones which are designed for research or recreation purposes are termed as nano and model drones. These drones are exempt from type certification.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

'MANTHAN 2021' HACKATHON

Current Context: The 'MANTHAN 2021' Hackathon was jointly launched by Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

KEY POINTS

- The platform is a national-level Hackathon and aims to identify innovative concepts and technology solutions that will solve security challenges of the 21st century by intelligence agencies.
- The hackathon aims to empower intelligence agencies.
- The 'MANTHAN 2021' Hackathon will be held from 28th Nov- 1st Dec 2021 via online manner.
- The winning team of the hackathon will be awarded Rs 40 lakh.
- The teams are expected to develop solutions for different challenge statements using new technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, Augmented reality, Machine Learning, etc.

INDIA AND UAE ENTERED INTO AGREEMENT TO SEND VISITING PROFESSORS AT NYUAD

Current Context: India and UAE have entered into an agreement with an aim to enhance academic and cultural ties between them.

KEY FACTS

- In this regard, the agreement was signed between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and New York University Abu Dhabi.
- The agreement was signed to develop a Visiting Professorship in Social Science at NYUAD. The NYUAD is a portal campus of New York University serving as a private liberal arts college in Abu Dhabi.
- As per the agreement faculty members from Indian universities will spend six to 10 months every year to perform research and teach social sciences to the students in NYUAD.
- Under this agreement, ICCR and NYUAD will jointly appoint expert faculty members from Indian universities to the ICCR Visiting Professorship.
- This faculty member will perform research work and will teach the Division of Social Sciences at NYUAD which will in return promote relations between India and UAE.
- The agreement will help students to indulge in rich cross-cultural understanding and learn subjects like history, geography, philosophy, languages, art, and heritage of both countries.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi
 - Currency of UAE: Dirham

TN ANNOUNCED WELFARE PACKAGE FOR SRI LANKAN TAMIL REFUGEES

Current Context: The CM of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin has announced a welfare package for the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in special camps of the state.

DETAILS

- **The CM announced the welfare package worth Rs 317.40 crore.**
- The funds will be used to provide housing and infrastructure facilities in the Srilankan refugee camps of the state.
- The committee will be set up which will ensure the proper delivery of the funds under the package and will grant sufficient assistance for the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.
- The committee will work towards long-term solutions on matters like citizenship and making arrangements for those returning to Sri Lanka.
- Out of the funds, Rs 261.54 crore will be used to improve infrastructure, Rs 12.25 crore will be used to provide education and employment opportunities, and Rs 43.61 crore for raising their living standards.
- Around 7,469 dilapidated tenements in camps will be reconstructed with funds of Rs 231.54 crore.
- Also, Rs 108.81 crore will be allotted to construct 3,510 new houses.
- Every year, Rs 5 crore will be allotted to improve basic amenities like drinking water, and the state government will pay the tuition and hostel fees of 55 students, who are children of refugees.
- Also, 50 engineering students and 5 students in agriculture and agriculture-engineering streams will be able to avail of special assistance on the basis of their marks.
- The cash support of Rs 1,500 per month will be provided to the family heads, Rs 1000 for other members, and Rs 400 for children under 12 years.

INDIA'S FIRST 'QUANTUM COMPUTER SIMULATOR (QSIM) TOOLKIT'

Current Context: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched India's first 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It is the first-of-its-kind toolkit developed to be the major tool of learning programming skills using Quantum Computers.**
- **It is jointly developed by scientists and experts of IIT Roorkee, C-DAC, and IISc Bangalore.**
- The QSim toolkit will generate a new era of Quantum Computing research activities in the country and will stand up India's name in the Quantum Computing world.
- Due to the toolkit, the researchers and students will be able to perform research activities in Quantum Computing in a cost-effective manner.
- The toolkit will enable them to write and execute Quantum Code which is required to frame Quantum Algorithms.
- It indulges with Intuitive User Interface which provides robust Quantum Computer Simulator with a Graphical User Interface based Workbench in an integrated manner. This integrated approach enables the students and researchers to develop programs in Quantum and immediately visualize them through circuit generation simulated outputs.

'MERA KAAM MERA MAAN' SCHEME-- PUNJAB

Current Context: The Punjab cabinet has given the approval to launch the 'Mera Kaam Mera Maan (MKMM)' Scheme.

KEY FACTS

- **The MKMM scheme aims to support unemployed youth in refining their skill sets.**
- **The scheme will help them to enhance their employability skills so that they can earn for their life.**
- **The free short-term skill training will be given to the unemployed youth.**
- The cabinet has decided to launch the scheme from the current fiscal on a pilot basis for construction workers and their wards.
- Around 30,000 beneficiaries will be benefited from the scheme. The funds of Rs 90 crore will be sanctioned for the scheme.
- The scheme will offer an employment assistance allowance of Rs 2,500 per month for 12 months from the start of the training course under short-term skill training programs in the Punjab Skill Development Mission training centers.
- The scheme will soon be extended to other sections of the society in the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Punjab: Amrinder Singh
 - Governor of Punjab: VP Singh Badnore
 - Lakes in Punjab: Harike Lake, Kanjli Lake, Ropar Lake

11TH MEETING OF BRICS AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEET

Current Context: The 11th Meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.

KEY POINTS

- **The meeting was held under the theme of 'BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security'.**
- The dignitaries assured to cooperate in 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate hunger and poverty.
- The meeting was held to discuss topics like increasing agricultural production, enhancing farmers' income, and food price volatility.
- At the meet, the union minister mentioned the measures taken by GOI in preserving the agro-biodiversity through National Gene banks for plants, animals, fish, insects, and agriculturally important microorganisms.
- He also mentioned that India is working to adopt programs such as pulses, oilseeds, horticultural crops, National Bamboo Mission. He highlighted National Palm Oil Mission which was recently launched.
- The dignitaries discussed the BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (BARP) which will boost cooperation in domains like agricultural research, extension, technology transfer, training, and capacity building.

- Also, the Action Plan of 2021-24 was adopted to enhance agricultural cooperation among BRICS nations. The action plan is based on various themes like food security, the welfare of farmers, conservation of agrobiodiversity, the resilience of food and agricultural production systems, promotion of digital agricultural solutions, etc.

'ANANDA' MOBILE APP-- LIC

Current Context: The Chairman of LIC, MR Kumar launched the ANANDA Mobile App of LIC.

DETAILS

- **The ANANDA signifies:** Atma Nirbhar Agents New business Digital Application.
- The app is the digital paperless solution for on-boarding activities which are done by agents/intermediaries for their clients.
- The app will be used to register new LIC policies. Only non-medical will be passed through the app.
- The app is built on paperless KYC processes using Aadhaar based e-authentication.
- Due to this app, the agents/intermediary will be able to view the perspective of their clients in an easy manner.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LIC: Mumbai

APPOINTMENTS ON 30TH AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Carol Furtado: She was appointed as interim CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. She has been appointed as whole-time CEO Nitin Chugh resigned recently. She was appointed as the officer on special duty (OSD) of the bank.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Ujjivan SFB: Bengaluru
- **Hitendra Dave:** He was appointed as CEO of HSBC Bank (India) for the tenure of 3 years. He has replaced Surendra Rosha.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HSBC Bank (India): Mumbai
- **Mansukh Mandaviya:** He has taken the charge as the Chairperson of the Stop TB Partnership Board. He has replaced Dr. Harsh Vardhan. He is India's Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare.
- **Static Part:**
 - India aims to end TB by 2025 and the UN aims to end TB by 2030
- **Sonu Sood:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador of the Delhi government's 'Desh Ke Mentors' programme. The programme aims to 'adopting' one to ten government school students who can be mentored by citizens who are successful in their respective fields.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal

RBI RAISED LIMIT UNDER INDO-NEPAL REMITTANCE FACILITY SCHEME

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the limit of fund transfer under the Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Under the new updates for the scheme, RBI has raised the limit from Rs 50,000 per transaction to Rs 2 lakh per transaction.
- Initially, there was a ceiling limit of 12 transactions per year, but now this limit is dismissed by the central bank.
- But for the cash-based transfers under the same scheme, the per transaction limit of Rs 50,000 will still be present with a maximum number of transfers in a year allowed to be 12.
- The new enhancement limit will be effective from 1st Oct 2021.
- The reason for raising the limit is to enhance the trade payments between India and Nepal.
- This will also help to have person-to-person remittances electronically to Nepal.
- **Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme:** Under this scheme, the beneficiaries receive funds in Nepalese Rupees. The funds are received into the bank account maintained with the subsidiary of State Bank of India in Nepal, i.e. Nepal SBI Bank Ltd (NSBL).

'BHARAT SERIES (BH-SERIES)' REGISTRATION INTRODUCED

Current Context: The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, GOI has introduced 'Bharat series (BH-series)' registration.

KEY FACTS

- **The Bharat Series (BH-series) mark for new vehicles will enable seamless transfer of personal vehicles across states in the country.**
- The vehicles which are having a BH series mark will not require the assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one state to another.
- The registration facility for the same will be available on a voluntary basis to defense personnel, employees of central government/ state government/ central/ state public sector undertakings, and private sector companies/organisations, which have their offices in four or more states/union territories. This too will be applied to new vehicles only.
- **Format for the BH series Registration mark:** YY BH ##### XX.
 - (where, YY- Year of first registration, BH- Bharat Series code, #####-000 to 9999 (randomized), XX- Alphabets (AA to ZZ))
- The registration mark will be generated through an online portal in a random manner.
- The motor vehicle tax will be levied for two years or in multiple of two.
- And upon completing the fourteenth year, the motor vehicle tax will be levied annually. In this case, it will be half of the amount which was charged earlier for that vehicle.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways: Nitin Jairam Gadkari

9 NEW SC JUDGES TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE IN ONE GO

Current Context: For the first time, it was observed that nine judges were sworn as the judges of the Supreme Court (SC) together.

KEY POINTS

- Total nine new judges, including three women, took the oath of office as judges of the Supreme Court by Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana.
- With this, the SC strength went upto 33, including CJI.
- **Following are the details for the newly appointed 9 judges:**
 - **Justice Vikram Nath:** He was the chief justice of the Gujarat High Court and is in line to become the CJI after the retirement of sitting top court judge Justice Surya Kant in February 2027.
 - **Justice BV Nagarathna:** She was a judge of the Karnataka High Court. She is in line to become the first woman CJI in September 2027.
 - **Justice PS Narasimha:** He was a senior advocate and former additional solicitor general. He will replace Justice Nagarathna as the CJI.
 - **Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka:** He was the chief justice of the Karnataka High Court).
 - **Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari:** He was the chief justice of the Sikkim High Court.
 - **Justice Hima Kohli:** She was the chief justice of the Telangana High Court.
 - **Justice CT Ravikumar:** He was a judge of the Kerala High Court.
 - **Justice MM Sundresh:** He was a judge of the Madras High Court.
 - **Justice Bela M Trivedi:** She was a judge of the Gujarat High Court.
- **Static Part:**
 - 48th Chief Justice of India (CJI): Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana

INDIA-ASEAN ENGINEERING PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT 2021

Current Context: The India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit 2021 was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel.

DETAILS

- **The summit was organized by Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) with support from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Commerce.**
- The objective of the summit was to discuss collaborations in the engineering sector.
- It was the major platform to discuss the involvement of Indian industries in engineering trade and investments areas at the ASEAN level.
- The summit allowed the dignitaries to discuss the export target set by GOI in the engineering and merchandise exports domain.
- At the summit, Union Minister Anupriya Patel mentioned that ASEAN has a 15% share in India's global engineering shipment and will soon be the vital one to focus to attain a target of around USD 16 billion of exports for 2021-22.

- ASEAN will become a vital region for India to attain its target of USD 46 billion in export in order to meet the global export target of USD 400 billion in FY 2021-22.
- She also mentioned that GOI is taking major steps for foreign direct investment. She highlighted the newly approved Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme which covers the major 13 sectors in order to attract investments and boost India's manufacturing sector.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ASEAN: Jakarta, Indonesia

APPOINTMENTS ON 31ST AUGUST 2021

Current Context: Banwarilal Purohit: He is the Governor of Tamil Nadu and was given an additional charge of Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT of Chandigarh. He has replaced V P Singh Badnore who was serving as Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT of Chandigarh.

ABOUT

- **Leander Paes:** He was appointed as Strategic Advisor and Brand Ambassador for India's sports edtech startup named 'Sporjo'.
- **Amit Banerjee:** He was appointed as CMD of BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited). He has replaced D K Hota who retired in Jan 2021 and the post was served by MV Rajasekhar as the additional charge.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BEML: Bengaluru
- **Rajnish Kumar:** He was appointed as an independent director of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Asia. He was also appointed as a member of the Audit Committee and Risk Committee of the company. He was former Chairman of SBI.