

# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST

August 2022



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# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST: AUGUST 2022

## INDIA AND OMAN TO CONDUCT MILITARY EXERCISE 'AL NAJAH-IV' IN RAJASTHAN

**Current Context:** India and Oman will conduct a 13-day long military exercise 'AL NAJAH-IV' in Rajasthan.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The exercises AL NAJAH-IV will focus on counter-terrorism and will be held in Mahajan Field firing ranges in Rajasthan from August 1 to 13. This year marks the fourth edition of the exercise.
- A 60-member team from the Royal Army of Oman will participate in the exercise. At the exercise, the Indian Army will be represented by troops from the 18 Mechanised Infantry Battalion.
- The previous edition of the exercise was held in Muscat in March 2019. The exercise includes professional interaction, mutual understanding of drills and procedures, the establishment of joint command and control structures, and the elimination of terrorist threats.
- The joint exercise between India and Oman will focus on counter-terrorism operations, regional security operations, and peacekeeping operations under the United Nations charter. Will also organize joint physical training schedules, tactical drills, techniques, and procedures.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Rajasthan - Ashok Gehlot
  - Governor of Rajasthan - Kalraj Mishra
  - Chief of Indian Army - Manoj Pande

## INDIA AND VIETNAM TO HOLD JOINT ARMY EXERCISE 'EX VINBAX 2022'

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**Current Context: India and Vietnam to hold the third edition of Ex VINBAX 2022 in Chandimandir from August 1 to 20, 2022.**

#### KEY POINTS

- **The previous edition of the exercise was conducted in Vietnam in 2019** and is a major milestone in strengthening bilateral relations between India and Vietnam.
- **Ex VINBAX 2022 has a theme** of employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team as part of a United Nations contingent for peacekeeping operations.
- Ex VINBAX 2022 will be conducted as a field training exercise that will strengthen mutual confidence, inter-operability, and sharing of best practices between the Indian Army and Vietnam People's Army.
- **The Indian side is represented by the 105 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army.** This exercise will also provide an opportunity for troops of both nations to study the social and cultural heritage of each other.
- There will be a **48-hour validation exercise** to assess the standards achieved by both the troops while executing technical military operations under similar scenarios in UN missions.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - President of Vietnam - Nguyen Xuan Phuc
  - Prime minister of Vietnam - Pham Minh Chinh
  - Capital of Vietnam - Hanoi
  - Currency of Vietnam - Vietnamese Dong

#### TAMIL NADU POLICE RECEIVED PRESIDENT'S COLOUR

**Current Context: Vice president of India M Venkaiah Naidu presented the "President's colours" to Tamil Nadu police at a ceremony held at Rajarathinam stadium in Egmore. He presented the colours to M K Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.**

#### KEY FACTS

- The police contingents State Disaster Response Force, Commandos, and coastal security group displayed their guard of honour.

- President's colour is the greatest honours bestowed for commendable service to the nation. It is also known as Nishaan an emblem that is worn on the left-hand sleeve of the uniform by all the unit officers. A replica of the special flag will be worn on the uniform, which will be distributed to all police personnel in the state in a few days.
- The President's colours were approved by the Tamil Nadu police on **August 19, 2009** but were not ceremonially accorded.
- **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu also released a special postal cover to mark the presentation.**
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Tamil Nadu - M K Stalin
  - Governor of Tamil Nadu - R N Ravi

#### ASSAM GOVERNMENT TO PROCURE 50 LAKH NATIONAL FLAGS

**Current Context: Assam government to procure 50 lakh national flags from textile ministry.**

#### ABOUT

- **CM of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma released a video on 'Har Ghar Tiranga'** to create awareness of the initiative to mark the Independence Day celebration.
- Chief Minister urged people to hoist flags in their homes, and offices from August 13 to 15. With the request from the government of Assam, Self-Help groups in the state will produce 30 lakh flags.
- The flags are priced at Rs 18 and will be available at Fair Price Shops also. The government will provide Rs 18 extra to Orunodoi beneficiaries in their monthly financial assistance in the month of August to buy National flags.
- CM Himanta Biswa Sarma requested people to upload the pictures of flag hoisting at the Har Ghar Tiranga website.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Assam - Himanta Biswa Sarma
  - Governor of Assam - Jagdish Mukhi

#### INDIA TO BE PART OF 'PITCH BLACK' EXERCISE IN AUSTRALIA

**Current Context: India will be part of the 'Pitch Black' exercise in Australia, which will witness the participation of 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 countries.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- The exercise will take place from August 19 to September 6. **This is a biennial exercise conducted by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).** The last edition of the Pitch Black exercise was held in 2018. The 2020 edition of the exercise was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Royal Australian Air Force considers the 'Pitch Black' exercise as **its capstone international engagement activity** with the air forces of strategic partners and allies.
- The participants include Australia, Canada, India, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the UAE, the US, and the UK.
- This exercise will provide personnel from all nations with experience working with aircraft, systems, and work practices in the unique environment of Northern Australia.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Prime Minister of Australia - Anthony Albanese
  - Capital of Australia - Canberra
  - Currency of Australia - Australian Dollar

#### TELANGANA GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE INSURANCE SCHEME TO WEAVERS

**Current Context: Telangana government to launch 'Nethana Beema' insurance schemes to support families of deceased weavers.**

#### KEY POINTS

- Minister KT Rama Rao said the **scheme will be launched on National Handloom day on August 7, which aims to provide financial support to bereaved families of handloom and power loom weavers.**

- 'Nethana Beema' scheme is introduced along the lines of the Rythu Beema scheme, an insurance scheme for farmers.
- Under the '**Nethana Beema**' scheme, **an amount of Rs 5 lakh will be provided to families of deceased weavers. The amount will be credited to the family member's account within 10 days after the death of the weaver.**
- The **nodal agency for implementing the scheme is the Department of Handlooms and Textiles of the state government.**
- The state government has entered an agreement with Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) for the scheme. **The state government will pay the premium amount to LIC.**
- For the **scheme, the government has allocated Rs 50 crore, out of which 25 crore has already been released. Weavers below the age of 60 are eligible for the scheme.** The scheme has 80,000 handloom and power loom weavers as beneficiaries.
- Telangana government every year from 2016-17 allocates a unique budget of Rs 1,200 crore for strengthening the handloom and power loom sectors.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Chief Minister of Telangana - K Chandrashekar Rao
  - Governor of Telangana - Tamilisai Soundararajan

#### CHHATTISGARH GOVERNMENT TO RENAME THREE PLACES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

**Current Context: Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel instructed to change the names of three places of historical significance.**

#### KEY FACTS

- Chandkhuri, Giraudpuri, and Sonakhan will be named after that area's great personas and spiritual figures.
- Chandkhuri will be named as Mata Kaushalya Dham Chandkhuri. Giraudpuri will be named as Baba Guru Ghasidas Dham Giraudpuri and Sonakhan will be called Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Dham Sonakhan.

- Chhattisgarh state government will publish a notification regarding the renaming of the places in the gazette.
- Parliamentary secretaries Chandradev Rai, Gurudayal Singh Banjare, Indershad Mandavi, UD Minj, and MLAs Brihaspat Singh, Gulab Singh Kamro, and Vinay Jaiswal submitted a letter to Chief Minister urging to change the names according to public sentiments.
- Chandkhuri has the only Kaushalya temple in the world. Chhattisgarh is the birthplace of Mata Kaushalya and 'Nanihaal' of Lord Rama. Giraudpuri is the birthplace of Baba Guru Ghasidas. Sonakhan area is known for valour of Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, the first martyr of Chhattisgarh in the freedom struggle of 1857.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Chhattisgarh - Bhupesh Baghel
  - Governor of Chhattisgarh - Anusuiya Uikey

## GOVERNMENT SETS TARGET TO REDUCE ROAD ACCIDENTS AND DEATHS TO HALF BY 2024

**Current Context:** Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said the government has set a target to reduce road accidents and deaths by half by 2024.

### DETAILS

- Nitin Gadkari said every year over 5 lakh road accidents kill 1.5 lakh people and injure over 3 lakh. The plan of the government is to reduce the accidents by 50 percent by 2024, during an event organized by NGO 'Jan Aakrosh Sanghatan' in Indore.
- To remove black spots (accident-prone areas) on highways government has so far spent 25,000 crores.
- **The government with the help of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank is working on other projects worth Rs 15,000 crore.** The state government will also be given funds from these schemes for efficient black spot rectification by them.
- **The government is going to launch the 'Bharat New Car Assessment Programme' to give five-star ratings to vehicles that are subjected to safety**

**checks of world standards.** Every vehicle before introducing to the market will have to carry out crash tests per these standards.

- **Nitin Gadkari also said film legend Amitabh Bachchan has assured to spread awareness among people on road safety.**

## HDFC BANKS PARIVARTAN SIGNS MOU WITH IISC BENGALURU

**Current Context:** HDFC Parivartan signed a deal worth Rs 107 crore with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru.

### ABOUT

- **HDFC Parivartan bank's CSR arm signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Institute of Science pledging Rs 107.76 cr for the construction of Bagchi-Parthasarathy hospital at IISc.**
- **The bank will support the cardiology, radiology, and emergency medicine wing of the hospital.**
- **IISc Bengaluru will set up a not-for-profit, 832-bed hospital called Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital along with PG medical school within its campus.**
- **The hospital will be operational by the end of 2024 and the first batch of MD/Ph.D. students will be inducted in the year 2025.**
- **This is the first time HDFC bank has partnered with IISc with an aim to improve healthcare infrastructure in the region.**

## INDIA SIGNS SIX PACTS WITH MALDIVES TO BROAD-BASE TIES

**Current Context:** India signed six pacts with the Maldives to enhance cooperation in several key areas.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **India and Maldives upgraded their strategic partnership by signing six pacts and documents across sectors including defence and cyber security to maintain stability in the Indian Ocean region.**
- **India has announced a \$100 million line of credit to finance infrastructure projects in the Maldives. The**

two sides also decided to widen the counter-terror partnership.

- **Maldives and India signed a cyber-security agreement to strengthen ties on transnational crimes and terrorism in the Indian Ocean region.**
- Prime Minister Modi and President of Maldives Ibrahim Solih remotely take part in the pouring of the first concrete of the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP), a \$500 million worth project financed by India that includes a 6.74km bridge and the causeway linking Male and other neighboring islands.
- Ibrahim Solih while addressing the media expressed gratitude to India for providing a landing craft and utility vehicle to the Maldives National Defence force and for the help provided to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - President of Maldives - Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
  - Capital of Maldives – Male
  - Currency of Maldives - Maldivian Rufiyaa

### TRIPURA TO INCREASE DA FOR STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES BY 5%

**Current Context: Tripura government to hike DA (Dearness Allowance) for state government employees by 5%.**

#### KEY POINTS

- **Cabinet led by Chief Minister Manik Saha cleared the proposal to hike DA for state government employees and pensioners by 5 percent with effect from 1 July.** This move comes ahead of the assembly elections due in March next year.
- **Minister of Information and Cultural Affairs Sushanta Chowdhury said for this government has to bear an additional annual burden of Rs 523.80 cr.**
- A total of 1,88,494 people including 1,04,683 regular employees and 80,855 pensioners will be benefited through this.
- The DA of state government employees has increased from three percent of their basic pay to eight percent. While the central government employees are given 34% of their basic pay as DA.

- The central government on 20 April announced a hike in DA for central government employees working at central autonomous bodies.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Tripura - Manik Saha
  - Governor of Tripura - Satyadeo Narain Arya

### VICE PRESIDENT M VENKAIAH NAIDU FLAGS OFF MPS TIRANGA BIKE RALLY FROM RED FORT

**Current Context: Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu flags off MPs Tiranga bike rally from Red Fort in Delhi.**

#### KEY FACTS

- **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu along with Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and Piyush Goyal flagged off the Tiranga bike rally of MPs of all parties from Red fort in Delhi which will end at Vijay Chowk.**
- As India is going to celebrate its 75th independence day on August 15 the government has launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. This campaign encourages people to hoist the national flag at their homes to mark the 75th year of India's independence.
- Parliament has recently amended India's flag code, 2002 giving permission for the use of national flags made of machine-made polyester.
- The government has tied up with e-commerce companies like amazon and Flipkart so that flags are easily available to the public.

### CCI CLEARED DEAL BETWEEN BANDHAN FIN HOLDINGS-LED CONSORTIUM AND IDFC

**Current Context: Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved an Rs 4,500 deal in which Bandhan Financial Holdings-led consortium will buy stakes in IDFC Asset Management and IDFC AMC trustee.**

#### DETAILS

- **The consortium consists of Chrys capitals and Singapore's sovereign fund GIC. The proposal includes the acquisition of a 99.69 percent stake in**



### **IDFC Asset Management Company Ltd and a 100 percent stake in IDFC AMC Trustee Company Ltd.**

- Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd, Lathe Investment Pte. Ltd, Tangerine Investment Ltd, and Infinity Partners will acquire the stakes.
- IDFC AMC is the asset management company of IDFC mutual fund and IDFC Trustees is a trustee company of IDMF.
- Bandhan Financial Holdings is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bandhan Financial Services Ltd and is the promoter of Bandhan bank Ltd.
- The lathe is wholly owned by Singapore-based GIC Ventures Private Ltd. Tangerine Investments is a subsidiary of Chrys Capital Group and Infinity partners is a partnership company.

### **AMTRON TO SET UP 3D PRINTING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN GUWAHATI**

**Current Context: Assam Electronics Development Corporation (AMTRON) to set up a 3D Printing Centre of Excellence in the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) with the collaboration of government agencies in Tech City, Guwahati.**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- A team from AMTRON gave a live demo session at the video conference hall of the North Eastern Council (NEC) in the presence of secretary NEC K. Moses Chalai other senior officials of NEC and dignitaries from various organizations.
- The event was attended by Prof. Prashant Jindal, Design Innovation Centre, University Institute of Engineering and Technology, Chandigarh, and General Manager of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd Sanjay Kumar Singh.
- The event was jointly organized by NEC, Composite Resource Centre (CRC), Shillong, and AMTRON. NEC stated that the 3D printing technology will help everyone, especially the poorer as there is a shortage of trained prosthetics.
- AMTRON gave a presentation showing the aims and objectives of the program and initiatives adopted by the government of India for the welfare of Divyang.
- **Static Knowledge:**

- CM of Assam - Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Governor of Assam - Jagdish Mukhi

### **ODISHA TO REFUND EXCESS ROYALTY ON INFERIOR COAL**

**Current Context: Odisha becomes the first state to refund excess royalty collected from coal customers if they received inferior quality coal than contracted.**

#### **KEY POINTS**

- **The state is expected to repay Rs.300 crore royalty for coal supplied between April 2015 and March 2021 by Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL).**
- The customers can claim a refund from Coal India Subsidiaries and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd if they received coal of lower quality than paid for. In such cases, the companies will issue credit notes that can be adjusted in future payments.
- Nonetheless, when sent to the state exchequer, there is no reimbursement made for royalty, District Mineral Fund (DMF), and National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) payments.
- Royalty rates are fixed at 14% of coal price, DMF at 30% on royalty, and NMET at 2% of royalty, adding to 18.48% of the cost.
- If coal received by customer are of higher quality than spent, the differential cost including royalty and other duties will be charged to customers.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Odisha - Naveen Patnaik
  - Governor of Odisha - Ganeshi Lal

### **PRIME MINISTER MODI TO INAUGURATE PROJECTS UNDER SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA MISSION**

**Current Context: PM Narendra Modi via video conferencing will inaugurate the Shrimad Rajchandra hospital and lay the foundation stone for projects under the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission in the Valsad district of Gujarat.**

#### **KEY FACTS**

- **Shrimad Rajchandra hospital, a 250-bed multispecialty hospital will provide tertiary medical**

facilities and is aimed at the people of the Southern Gujarat region.

- PM Modi will also lay the foundation stone of Shrimad Rajchandra Animal hospital and Shrimad Rajchandra Centre of Excellence for Women.
- **Shrimad Rajchandra Animal hospital will have a capacity of 150-bed and will be built at a cost of Rs.70 crore.** The hospital will have a team of veterinarians, and ancillary staff and will have top-class facilities.
- **Shrimad Rajchandra center of Excellence for Women is built at a cost of Rs.40 crore and will provide jobs to over 700 tribal women** and will provide a livelihood to thousands of people involved with the project. The Shrimad Rajchandra Centre of Excellence for women will consist of the recreation area, classrooms for self-development sessions, and a rest area.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Gujarat - Bhupendra Patel
  - Governor of Gujarat - Acharya Devvrat

## WORLD'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR POWER PLANT TO BE BUILT IN MADHYA PRADESH

**Current Context: World's largest floating solar power plant is to be built in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.**

### DETAILS

- **The solar power plant will generate 600 Megawatt power by 2022-23 will increase the power generation capacity of Madhya Pradesh.**
- **The project is estimated to be worth over Rs 3000 crore.** Omkareshwar dam was built on the Narmada River, the hydel project is spread across 100 square kilometers, and there is a very large water body where the water level remains normal this will serve as the site for the floating solar power plant.
- With this floating solar power plant, Khandwa becomes the only district in Madhya Pradesh to have a thermal power station, hydel and solar power plants.
- Renewable energy department principal secretary, Sanjay Dubey said they will have a PPA of 300 MW. Given a little bit of leverage, a little more or less as

per the requirement, in total instead of 300, we are doing PPA in the first phase of 278 MW.

- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Madhya Pradesh - Shivraj Singh Chouhan
  - Governor of Madhya Pradesh - Mangubhai Patel

## WALMART AND FLIPKART PARTNERS WITH ASSAM GOVERNMENT TO HELP MSMES

**Current Context: Walmart and Flipkart partner with the Assam government to help local MSMEs expand through e-commerce.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **MoU was signed between Walmart and Flipkart with Assam's Industries & Commerce and Public Enterprises Department and also the Public Health Engineering, Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship and Tourism department to help local MSMEs expand their business.**
- Through this tripartite agreement, MSMEs get help from Walmart and Flipkart to digitize their operations and expand their reach across India.
- MSMEs can also expand their export capacity and join the global supply chain of Walmart. **With Walmart Vridhhi program will benefit MSMEs to not just compete in the domestic market but also get connected to export destinations globally.**
- **Walmart Vridhhi Development Program through its partnership with non-governmental organization Swasti provide small business with training and knowledge to grow their business online.** This program was launched in 2019 for supporting 50,000 Indian MSMEs with the skills required to become Walmart suppliers and Flipkart sellers and other marketplaces.
- Earlier Walmart and Flipkart had a similar tie-up with the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Tamil Nadu.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Assam - Himanta Biswa Sarma
  - Governor of Assam - Jagdish Mukhi

## NPCI AND IIT KANPUR SIGNED MOU FOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION

**Current Context:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for knowledge sharing and research collaboration.

### KEY POINTS

- As per the MoU, both will share knowledge on innovative ideas and will collaborate on the development of indigenous digital payments solutions.
- **This collaboration will help in the augmentation of cybersecurity controls for NPCI and its subsidiary's products and services.**
- IIT Kanpur has a C3i hub solely dedicated to developing cyber security solutions and cyber-physical systems. The institute is at the forefront when it comes to developing secure and innovative solutions for digital transactions and the storage of data.
- This collaboration will help NPCI in strengthening its goal of achieving a holistic cyber secure ecosystem for the country. **The faculty members from the institute will provide informative sessions and lectures on Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Security Product Roadmaps, and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) for NPCI personnel.**
- **NPCI will offer internships to IIT Kanpur students, providing them opportunities to work on live projects of NPCI.**
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - NPCI MD and CEO - Dilip Asbe
  - NPCI headquarters - Mumbai
  - NPCI was formed - in 2008
  - IIT Kanpur Director - Abhay Karandikar

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH DEVELOPS PROVISION FOR AUTO-GENERATION OF EILP PERMITS

**Current Context:** Arunachal Pradesh to develop version 3 of eILP (Inner Line Permit) with provisions for auto-generation of eILP permits.

### KEY FACTS

- Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh attended the valedictory ceremony of the 4-day annual conference of Superintendent of Police (SP) and Commandants of AAPBn/IBRN and Arunachal Pradesh Police (APP). He asked the police department to play an active role in implementing eILP version 3 in the state.
- The eILP version 3 which is being developed has provisions for auto-generation of eILP permit. CM requested police officials posted on the Assam-Arunachal border to play positive roles and cooperate to facilitate early solutions to the vexed boundary issue.
- CM complimented the police department for effectively dealing with the crimes related to drugs. He also lauded the department for making progress in ensuring the surrender of insurgents. He also added that a surrender policy will be launched to rehabilitate surrendered insurgents through government programs.
- CM requested the police to use available technology to be an active part of the digital world to deal with the emerging trends of crime.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Arunachal Pradesh - Pema Khandu
  - Governor of Arunachal Pradesh - B.D Mishra

## AMAZON PARTNERS WITH INDIAN RAILWAYS TO BOOST DELIVERY OF PACKETS

**Current Context:** Amazon ties up with Indian Railways to boost its delivery service in the country.

### DETAILS

- With this partnership, Amazon will be able to transport packages on more than 110 inter-city routes thus ensuring one to two-day delivery to its customers.
- Amazon started to work with Indian Railways in 2019. Amazon becomes the first online delivery company to partner with Indian Railways to build express transportation products via rail in 2019.
- At the time of covid induced lockdown in 2020, Amazon worked with Indian Railways for inter-city

movement of high-priority products through 'Covid-19 Parcel Special Trains'.

- Collaboration with Indian Railways will help the company on faster delivery to customers in Nagercoil, Katra, Porbandar, Jhansi, and Gwalior.

## INDIA AND US TO CARRY OUT 18TH EDITION OF MILITARY EXERCISE 'YUDH ABHYAS'

**Current Context: India and US will conduct military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' from October 14 to 31 in Auli, Uttarakhand.**

### ABOUT

- The exercise will consist of a number of complex drills, which aims to enhance understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between India and US armies.
- The exercise comes against the backdrop of rapidly changing situations in the Indo-Pacific. **The last edition of exercise Yudh Abhyas was held in October 2021 in Alaska, US.**
- India- US relations have improved since 2016 when the US designated India as a "Major Defence Partner". Since then the two countries have signed various major defence and security pacts.
- Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was signed by India and US in 2016, which allows both the militaries to use each other's base for repair and replenishment of supplies and provide deeper cooperation.
- Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) was signed by both nations in 2018 which allows interoperability between the two militaries and provides for the sale of high-end technology from the US to India.
- To further boost bilateral defence ties, the US and India 2020 signed Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).
- **Static knowledge:**
  - Chief of Indian Army - General Manoj Pande
  - Vice Chief of Indian Army - Lt Gen Baggavalli Somashekar Raju

## INDIAN NAVY SIGNS PACT WITH ISRO SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE ON DATA SHARING

**Current Context: Indian Navy and ISROs Space Applications Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on data sharing and cooperation in satellite-based naval applications.**

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- With this agreement both the organizations will have a common platform for mutual cooperation, and the scientific advancements by SAC will help Indian Navy's effort to protect countries' maritime interests.
- The area of cooperation includes sharing of non-confidential observational data, exploitation of SAC's weather products, and processing of satellite data towards the development of new tools, calibration, and validation of ocean models.
- The MoU was signed by the Indian Navy and SAC to further meaningful interactions and professional exchanges in the future.
- This MoU is an extension of the MoU signed earlier in 2017 and will further collaboration between the two organizations.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Chief of Indian Navy - Admiral G Hari Kumar
  - Indian Navy formed - on 26 January 1950
  - ISRO chairman - S Somanath

## GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES WEB BASED REGISTRATION FACILITY FOR RATION CARDS

**Current Context: The center launches a common registration facility to apply for ration cards.**

### KEY FACTS

- The center launches a common registration facility in 11 districts and UTs so that homeless people, migrants, and other eligible beneficiaries can apply for rations.
- Around 81.35 cr persons are covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and around 79.77 crore

persons are given highly subsidized food grains under this act.

- **Sudhanshu Pandey, food secretary said the Common Registration facility (My Ration-My Right) will help states and UTs to identify eligible beneficiaries and issue ration cards to such people so they can avail their legal entitlement under NFSA.**
- **The new web-based facility will be launched on a pilot basis in 11 states and UTs and all 36 states and Union Territories (UTs) will be covered by the end of this month.**
- The 11 states and UTs where this facility is launched are Assam, Goa, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Punjab, and Uttarakhand.

### SEBI FORMS 15-MEMBER FPI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Current Context: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) sets up a 15-member FPI advisory committee.**

#### KEY POINTS

- **The committee will give advice on measures to facilitate ease of doing business by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) in India.**
- The committee will also suggest measures to encourage FPI participation in the bond market and will give guidance to investors on issues related to investments and operations in Indian markets.
- **The committee consisting of 15 members will be chaired by K.V Subramanian, former Chief Economic Advisor to the government of India.** The committee will recommend measures for simplifying FPI regulations and advise on custodian-related matters of foreign investors.
- The members of the panel include Harun R Khan, former deputy governor of RBI, Madhav Kalyan (CEO at JP Morgan Chase) bank, Hitendra Dave (CEO of HSBC bank), Martin Graham, MD of Global Public Policy group of iShares (Black Rock), Bobby Parikh (Managing partner at Bobby Parikh associates), Rushabh Maniar, partner at AZB & Partners, Rajesh Gandhi partner at Deloitte Haskins and sells LLP and

Shashwat Alok, Assistant professor at Indian School of Business.

- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Chairperson of SEBI - Madhabi Puri Buch
  - SEBI headquarters - Mumbai
  - SEBI was formed - on 12 April 1992

### NRIS CAN PAY BILLS OF THEIR FAMILIES IN INDIA DIRECTLY THROUGH BBPS

**Current Context: Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) can pay the bills of their families in India directly through Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).**

#### DETAILS

- RBI decided that NRIs can pay electricity, telephone, and other bills of their families in India through Bharat Bill Payment Systems (BBPS).
- **NRIs can soon be able to directly pay bills on BBPS, without sending money to Indian accounts and using it to pay bills.**
- BBPS is a one-stop financial framework developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for the payment of bills that is interoperable and accessible at anytime from anywhere. It has been authorized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **The BBPS platform will act as a facilitator for the payments between the individual utilizing the service, service providers, and those who make payments.** BBPS will form a bridge between the NRIs, their families in India, and service providers.
- **BBPS has various payment options such as payment via cards (debit or credit), NEFT, UPI, or wallet. A customer complaint option has been provided to support customers regarding any grievances.**
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - RBI governor - Shaktikanta Das
  - RBI headquarters - Mumbai
  - RBI was formed - on 1 April 1935
  - CEO of NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) - Noopur Chaturvedi

### GUJARAT GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH 'VILLAGE ENGINEERS PROGRAMME'

**Current Context: Gujarat government to launch 'Village Engineers Programme' that will provide training in multiple skills to tribal youth.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship had discussions with Members of Parliament and Ministers from Gujarat for creating skilling opportunities for tribal youth in their local areas to reduce migration of youth.
- **The discussion was held under the 'Skill Samwaad' series that focussed on the 'Village Engineers Programme' that will be rolled out in the state soon.**
- **Under this program, tribal youth will be provided with multiple skill training so that they can participate in the economic activities in their districts.**
- In order to implement the scheme, both the state and central government must act in coordination. Opportunities in the areas of electric vehicle (EVs), drone manufacturing, organic food manufacturing, mango processing, and textile manufacturing were discussed.
- Recently Madhya Pradesh launched Village Engineers Programme to provide various skill training to tribal youth. The first batch of village engineers got recognition in the form of certificates.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Gujarat - Bhupendra Patel
  - Governor of Gujarat - Acharya Devvrat

#### NAGALAND GOVERNMENT ROLLS OUT ESANJEEVANI SERVICE

**Current Context: Nagaland government rolls out the eSanjeevani service, a national teleconsultation service of the Union Ministry of Health and Family welfare.**

#### KEY POINTS

- **Nagaland's Health and Family Welfare Minister S Pangnyu Phom said the eSanjeevani initiative will replace the Nagaland government's Naga telehealth, a telemedicine platform and assisted teleconsultation system.**

- The minister launched the initiative during a program to felicitate three health care units in the state that received the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) in health care service.
- **eSanjeevani is a citizen-centric online-based outpatient consultation that is very useful to patients in remote areas.**
- eSanjeevani will provide patients residing in rural areas with quality health care service. Minister Pangnyu requested officials to encourage health care workers and the public to make use of the platform.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Nagaland - Neiphiu Rio
  - Governor of Nagaland - Jagdish Mukhi

#### DAIKI AXIS JAPAN TO SET UP PLANTS IN EVERY INDIAN STATES

**Current Context: Daiki Axis Japan to set up plants in every Indian state as part of its business expansion plan.**

#### KEY FACTS

- Managing Director Rio Waza shared companies expansion plan during a workshop held on 'advance onsite wastewater management system based on Johkasou technology' in partnership with IIT Roorkee.
- The company has a vision and mission to establish factories in each state and has started working on models for South and East India.
- **Daiki Axis India, a subsidiary of Daiki Axis Japan is setting up its second plant at Palwal, Haryana with a capacity of 1,000 sewage treatment units with Japanese 'Johkasou' technology. The plant will cost about Rs 200 crore.**
- The company already has a unit in Vapi, Gujarat. The Gujarat unit of Daiki Axis Japan was commissioned in 2019 and has a capacity to produce over 800 sewage treatment plants. Johkasou is a Japanese technique used to treat domestic wastewater locally for reuse.

#### GOOGLE LAUNCHES 'INDIA KI UDAAN'

**Current Context: Google launches 'India Ki Udaan' to mark 75 years of India's independence.**

## DETAILS

- **Google launched 'India Ki Udaan', an online project drawing from rich archives and featuring artistic illustrations to tell the story of India. The project is executed by Google Arts and Culture.**
- The project is themed on the unwavering and undying spirit of India over these past 75 years.
- **The project was launched at an event held at Sunder Nursery in presence of Union Culture and Tourism minister G Kishan Reddy and senior officials from Google and the culture ministry.**
- **'India Ki Udaan' will be available on Google Arts and Culture website.** It includes iconic moments from the last 75 years. It will be published in Hindi and English and will consist of more than 120 illustrations and 21 stories created by artists, exhibitions from various institutions including the Ministry of Tourism, the Museum of Art and Photography, the Heritage directorate of Indian Railways, the Indian Academy of Science and the Dastkari Haat Samiti.
- Google also announced Doodle4Google contest 2022 which is themed on "In the next 25 years, my India will..." in which students of classes 1-10 can participate.

## UTTAR PRADESH TO LAUNCH 'RADIO JAIGHOSH'

**Current Context: CM of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath to launch 'Radio Jaighosh' to mark the anniversary of the Kakori train action.**

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 'Radio Jaighosh' is launched as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. **The radio channel is launched by the Department of Culture of the state to promote folk art, performing art, regional delicacies of Uttar Pradesh, and gallantry award winners.**
- **'Radio Jaighosh' will be available at 107.8 MHz and the programs will be broadcasted daily from 6 am to 10 pm from the newly renovated studio of Sangeet Natak Akademi in Lucknow.**
- The programs will also be available on the radio's mobile application and social media pages. This radio

channel will promote Indian arts and culture, especially that of Uttar Pradesh.

- Daily shows on radio channels include 'Parakram' that will be about gallant soldiers of the pre and post-independence era and unsung heroes. 'Shaurya Nagar' will promote folk tales from 75 districts of the state.
- 'Kala Yatra' is a program based on art. 'Rajya Ki Rasoi' is about the delicacies of Uttar Pradesh. 'Rang Shala' program on theatre artists. 'Rajya Ki Raftaar' about government schemes and 'Rang Yatra' on performing arts. There will be weekly shows on education.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Uttar Pradesh - Yogi Adityanath
  - Governor of Uttar Pradesh - Anandiben Patel

## KARNATAKA TO SET UP ITS OWN PUBLIC POLICY THINK TANK

**Current Context: Karnataka to set up its own public policy think tank on the lines of Niti Aayog.**

## ABOUT

- **The state-level public policy think tank called the State Institute for Transformation of Karnataka (SITK) will help the government set priorities and lay out policies to achieve development across various sectors.** This body will replace Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission.
- **This body will have an annual budget of Rs 150 crore. CM of Karnataka Basavaraj Bommai will be the chairperson of the institution.**
- SITK will have experts from 14 renowned government and non-government institutions including IISc, IIMB, and National Law School of India University (NLSIU) as stakeholders.
- The organization will consist of experts from industry, technology, skill, innovation, clean energy, development, infrastructure, employment, planning, gender equality, economics, social welfare, education, rural development, health, and agriculture.
- **The Additional Chief Secretary of the Planning and Programme implementation department will be**

given the charge of Chief executive officer and advisor of SITK.

- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Karnataka - Basavaraj Bommai
  - Governor of Karnataka - Thawar Chand Gehlot

## MADHYA PRADESH TO CONTRIBUTE USD 550 BILLION TO INDIAN ECONOMY

**Current Context: Madhya Pradesh to contribute USD 550 billion to make India USD 5 trillion economies.**

### KEY FACTS

- During the seventh governing council meeting of Niti Aayog chaired by Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the state will contribute USD 550 billion.
- **PM Modi has set the target to make India a USD 5 trillion economy and global powerhouse by 2024-25.**
- **The state government charted a self-reliant Madhya Pradesh map in 2020 and has achieved a 19.74 percent development rate in 2021-22.** The state will generate employment and one lakh government jobs will be provided in the next one years.
- According to National Achievement Survey, Madhya Pradesh has attained the fifth spot in the execution of the National Education Policy. Last year around 18,500 teachers were hired to improve school education.
- Madhya Pradesh is emphasizing to impart teaching in the mother tongue. As part of this Bhopal-based, Gandhi Medical College will conduct MBBS in Hindi in the 2022-23 session.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Madhya Pradesh - Shivraj Singh Chouhan
  - Governor of Madhya Pradesh - Mangubhai Patel

## NSDC TO SET UP ONLINE SKILL LEARNING PLATFORM

**Current Context: National Skill Development Council (NSDC) to launch Skill India learning management system and new programs in partnership with foreign universities.**

### KEY POINTS

- With the new programs, NSDC aims to socialize skilling and empower both trainers and learners. Skill providers will upload the modules to the platform and learners can enroll and start to learn.
- **The online platform will also provide job opportunities to the learners. For which NSDC has partnered with Unacademy's Relevel, an online job portal.**
- Training will be provided in areas such as drone technology, electric vehicle, cryptocurrency, animation, and visual effects. For this NSDC has started to work with start-ups.
- The implementation and knowledge partner of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), NSDC on August 5, 2022, launched the **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Programme in Delhi.** Under this program, NSDC will upskill 75,000 workers for free in the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Jurisdiction, in the age group of 18 to 45 years. This program will be implemented in three phases with 25,000 workers upskilled in the first phase.
- This year NSDC has partnered with institutions such as IIT Mandi, Medhavi Skill University, and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to initiate skill-based courses and training across India.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - COO and Officiating CEO of NSDC - Ved Mani Tiwari
  - NSDC headquarters - New Delhi
  - NSDC was formed - on 31 July 2008

## INDIA AND US CONDUCTS EX VAJRA PRAHAR 2022

**Current Context: India and the US conduct a joint special force exercise, Ex Vajra Prahar 2022 in Himachal Pradesh.**

### HIGHLIGHTS



- **The 13th edition of Ex Vajra Prahar begins at the Special Forces training school in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.**
- The drill aims to improve interoperability between the special forces of India and the US. Through this joint annual exercise hosted by India and US, the forces share their best practices and experience in joint mission planning and operational tactics.
- **The Indian Army contingent is represented by Special Forces personnel under the aegis of SFTS. The US side was represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) and Special Tactics Squadron (STS) of the US Special forces.**
- During the next 21 days, both the forces will jointly train, plan and execute a series of special operations, counter-terrorist operations, and airborne operations in the conventional and unconventional scenarios in mountain terrain.
- The 12 edition of the exercise was held in Joint Base Lewis Mcchord, Washington, US in October last year.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Chief of Indian Army - Manoj Pande

### INDIAN ARMY SIGNS MOU WITH DFI TO DEVELOP HIGH IMPACT DRONES

**Current Context: Indian Army's Design Bureau signs MoU with the Drone Federation of India (DFI) to develop drones.**

#### KEY POINTS

- The MoU was signed to jointly promote research, development, joint R&D, testing, and manufacturing of drones, counter-drones and associated technologies to be used in the force's operations.
- Indian Army together with DFI launched a program called 'Him Drone-A-Thon' to explore drone applications in logistics/load carrying at a high altitude of 13,200 ft above mean sea level (AMSL), for autonomous surveillance, search and rescue (between 9,000 to 13,000 ft AMSL) along the Northern and Western borders with China and Pakistan.
- The MoU signed between the **Indian Army's Design Bureau and DFI** will jointly work to develop niche technology and products for the Indian Army. The

army is also looking to acquire Micro-Nano drones for room intervention and fighting in built-up areas.

- They will collaborate on the road map for drones, counter-drone, and allied technologies in the Indian Army to promote research, development, testing, and manufacturing of drones and associated technologies by the provision of testing sites to enable the designing, prototyping, testing, manufacturing of drones and its components.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Chief of Indian Army - Manoj Pande

### HARYANA GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE 5 LAKH TABLETS TO STUDENTS

**Current Context: Haryana government purchased 5 lakh tablets for students in government schools.**

#### KEY FACTS

- **The tablets will be provided to government school students studying in classes 10 to 12. A total expenditure of Rs 620 crore has been incurred on the purchase of tablets.**
- **The students will be provided with a free internet facility of 2 GB per day.** The tender for the purchase of tablets was floated by Haryana's Directorate of Supplies and Disposals, and the company from which the tablet was purchased was chosen through a transparent process.
- The specifications were recommended by a committee of technical experts from the IT Cell of the Department of School Education, Haryana, comprising the Joint Director (IT), Deputy Director (IT), and programmers.
- The specifications were approved by the Administrative Secretary of the School Education Department. **Personalized and Adaptive Learning (PAL) software has been provided on the tablet for subjects such as English, Hindi, and Social Science.**
- To prevent misuse of tablets by children the tablet has an inbuilt mechanism so that children will use it for only the intended purpose.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Haryana - Manoharlal Khattar
  - Governor of Haryana - Bandaru Dattatreya

## RBI IMPOSES PENALTY ON EIGHT CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

**Current Context:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposes penalties on eight co-operative banks for non-compliance with various norms.

### DETAILS

- Fine of Rs 40 lakh has been imposed on Mehsana Urban Co-operative bank, Gujarat for non-compliance with certain provisions of Reserve Bank of India (Co-operative Banks - Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016.
- The penalty of Rs 7 lakh has been imposed on Indapur Urban Co-operative Bank, Indapur (Maharashtra) for non-compliance with certain provisions of exposure norms.
- The penalty was imposed on Warud Urban Co-operative bank, Warud (Maharashtra), Jila Sahakari Kendriya Bank Mariyadit, Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh), and Yavatmal Urban Co-operative bank, Maharashtra for non-compliance with Know-Your-Customer (KYC) norms.
- Rajya Sahakari Bank Maryadit, Raipur, Chhattisgarh has been penalized with Rs 25 lakh for non-compliance with certain provisions of KYC norms.
- RBI has also penalized Garha Co-operative Bank Limited, Guna (Madhya Pradesh), and Goa State Co-operative bank, Panaji.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - RBI governor - Shaktikanta Das
  - RBI headquarters - Mumbai
  - RBI was formed - on 1 April 1935

## RBI APPROVES PAYMENT AGGREGATOR'S LICENCE TO MSWIPE TECHNOLOGIES

**Current Context:** Mswipe technologies get in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a Payment Aggregator (PA) license.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Mswipe is a company that provides a point of sales (PoS) solutions and digital payment services. A payment aggregator (PA) is a third party

responsible for managing and processing a merchant's online transactions.

- With a PA license, Mswipe can develop an in-house online payment gateway, moving away from outsourcing transaction settlements.
- Mswipe will now expand its business and reach out to more MSMEs by offering those PoS terminals, QR-code payments, boombox (payment soundbox), payment gateway, and lending solutions.
- RBI has already granted in-principle approval for PA license to Razorpay, Pine Labs, Stripe, 1Pay, and Innoviti Payments. RBI last month has allowed another window for PAs existing as of March 2020 to apply for licences. PA should have a minimum net worth of Rs 15 cr as of March 31, 2022, and can apply for a licence by September 30, 2022.
- RBI in 2020 issued guidelines that only those firms approved by RBI could acquire and offer payment services. Banks do not need separate approval but nonbank entities offering payment aggregator services have to apply for authentication.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - RBI governor - Shaktikanta Das
  - RBI headquarters - Mumbai
  - RBI was formed - on 1 April 1935

## ASSAM GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES FIRST DRONE SCHOOL IN NORTHEAST

**Current Context:** Assam launches its first drone school in the Northeast at Guwahati.

### KEY FACTS

- As part of the central government's move to make India a hub for drone technology, the first remote pilot training school in the Northeast is to be launched in Guwahati.
- For this project Assam Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (AMTRON) has partnered with Edurade, a startup incubated at IIT-Guwahati and IIM-Calcutta Innovation Park.
- Assam's information technology minister Keshab Mahanta inaugurated the drone school. The school will have trainers certified by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for conducting the pilot licence training program.

- **The school is set up at Tech City with its flying ground at the Assam forest school in Jalukbari.** For training purposes, AMTRON has acquired two micro categories (not over 2kg) and two small categories (2-25 kg) of indigenous drones. The First DGCA-approved drone training school is located in Haryana.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Assam - Himanta Biswa Sarma
  - Governor of Assam - Jagdish Mukhi

### WALMART FOUNDATION AND ICRISAT TO LAUNCH A SECONDARY PROCESSING UNIT (SPU)

**Current Context: Walmart Foundation and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics (ICRISAT) announced the launch of a Secondary Processing Unit (SPU) in Andhra Pradesh.**

#### KEY POINTS

- The secondary Processing Unit was inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture & Cooperation, Marketing, and Food Processing of the Andhra Pradesh government Kakani Govardhan Reddy.
- **This facility will support farmers with new livelihood and market access opportunities through value-added groundnut, millet, and other products.**
- ICRISAT along with its project implementation partner Accion Fraternal Ecology Centre (AFEC) has been working to accelerate Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and smallholder member farmers' benefits through interventions in agriculture value chain.
- Over 6000 smallholder farmers in the Anantapur district will benefit from this SPU. **The facility is operated by the women-led Rythu Nestham Food Producer Company Ltd. (RNFPCL). The facility has a built-up area of 1,000 square meters.**
- **The facility will have five processing lines, which will produce millet and pulses-based ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat formulations such as traditional khichdi and upma mixes, cookies, snacks, and cold pressed groundnut oil.**

### AIRTEL AFRICA SIGNS CREDIT PACT WITH AMERICAN BANKING MAJOR CITI

**Current Context: Airtel Africa signs a credit pact of USD 125 million with Citi Bank.**

#### ABOUT

- **This facility will be used to support Airtel Africa's operations and investments in four of its subsidiaries and it has a tenor up to September 2024.**
- Airtel Africa has telecom and mobile money operations in 14 African countries. The facility involves borrowing both local currencies and the US dollar.
- The deal was executed by its Indian unit where Airtel Africa's parent company Bharti Airtel is headquartered. The credit will be extended through its branch office or subsidiaries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Citi Banks' sustainability-linked loan with Airtel Africa is to expand digital inclusion and gender diversity. This is Citi India's first performance-indicator-based deal in the area of telecommunications.

### RBI CANCELS THE LICENCE OF RUPEE CO-OPERATIVE BANK

**Current Context: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancels the banking licence of Rupee Co-operative bank in Pune.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- The commissioner for cooperation and registrar of co-operative societies of Maharashtra has requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and to appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- **The bank is barred from conducting the business of banking which includes acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits as defined in Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 with effect from September 22, 2022.**
- RBI mentioned the following reasons for the cancellation of the licence: The bank doesn't have adequate capital and earning prospects. It didn't comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and

Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation act 1949. The bank failed to comply with provisions of Section 22 (3) (a), 22 (3) (b), 22 (3) (c), 22 (3) (d) and 22 (3) (e) read with Section 56 of Banking Regulation Act 1949.

- With the bank's current financial position it will not be able to pay its present depositors in full.
- RBI has directed banks to provide every depositor a full amount of their deposit from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Cooperation (DICGC). Every depositor will receive a deposit insurance claim amount of their deposit up to Rs 5 lakh from DICGC.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - RBI governor - Shaktikanta Das
  - RBI headquarters - Mumbai
  - RBI was formed - on 1 April 1935

## KERALA TO LAUNCH DIGITAL LOCKER FACILITY FOR FLOOD-PRONE VILLAGES

**Current Context: Kerala to launch a Digital locker facility for villages prone to flood.**

### KEY POINTS

- This facility will help people in the villages that are prone to flood to keep their valuable documents safely.
- **Kodiyathur and Karasseryare, two flood-prone villages of Kerala will use technological solutions and implement digital locker facilities for people to safely keep their valuable documents.**
- Authorities of the villages will conduct free camps in most rain-hit areas in the panchayats in order to create awareness among people about the facility and make them part of it.
- **The Digital locker facility is part of the Digital India Programme of the government of India that helps people to store their personnel and government documents in the digital format.**
- The major issue people face during the time of floods in Kerala was the loss of valuable documents. The Digital locker facility will be a solution to the issue. Aadhar card, PAN card, birth certificate, vehicle registration, and educational qualification

can be kept in digital format in the digital locker and no special charges will be incurred for this.

- The documents can be submitted in the digital format itself during the time of verification and it would be considered on par with the original certificates under the IT act.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Kerala - Pinarayi Vijayan
  - Governor of Kerala - Arif Mohammed Khan

## MIZORAM AND ASSAM TO RESOLVE BORDER DISPUTE

**Current Context: Mizoram and Assam will hold Chief Minister-level talks to resolve the border dispute.**

### KEY FACTS

- This development came after the ministerial-level discussion between the two-state to solve the border dispute. Atul Bora and Ashok Singhal ministers from Assam had discussed the border issue with the Chief Minister of Mizoram Zoramthanga.
- **During the ministerial level discussion which was held in Aizawl,** where both the states agreed to maintain peace and prevent any untoward incident along the border.
- **During the discussion both the states signed a joint statement according to which they will hold meetings of deputy commissioners of bordering districts atleast once in a month. Both the delegations also agreed to conduct the next round of ministerial-level talks at Guwahati in October.**
- The Chief Minister level meeting will be held in New Delhi in August or early September. Three districts in Mizoram - Aizawl, Kolasib, and Mamit share a 164.6km long boundary with Hailakandi, Karimganj, and Cachar districts of Assam.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Assam - Himanta Biswa Sarma
  - Governor of Assam - Jagdish Mukhi
  - CM of Mizoram - Zoramthanga
  - Governor of Mizoram - Hari Babu Kambhampati

## ODISHA GOVERNMENT TO DISTRIBUTE NATIONAL FLAGS FREE OF COST TO PEOPLE

**Current Context: Odisha government will distribute 30 million national flags for free to the state's people.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **The national flag is prepared by women of Mission Shakti. This move by the government to provide a national flag free of cost to people is part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence.**
- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a government of India initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence. For preparing 30 lakh flags, the government has provided financial support to women of Mission Shakti.
- Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav commenced on March 12, 2021, which started a 75-week count down to the 75th anniversary of independence and will end on August 15, 2023.
- The government has started a campaign Har Ghar Tiranga which is part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which will be held from August 13 to 15 to mark the 75th anniversary of Indian independence. Har Ghar Tiranga campaign encourages people to hoist the national flag at their homes.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Odisha - Naveen Patnaik
  - Governor of Odisha - Ganeshi Lal

## 10 VILLAGES IN CHHATTISGARH GET COMMUNITY FOREST RESOURCE RIGHTS

**Current Context: Chhattisgarh CM gives community forest resource rights to 10 villages.**

### KEY POINTS

- **Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh distributes community forest resource rights to 10 villages in core and buffer areas of two tiger reserves under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.**

- On August 9, World Indigenous People's day **Bhupesh Baghel gave the titles to five-gram sabhas in Achanakmar Tiger Reserve and Sitanadi-Udanti Tiger Reserve.**
- In Achanakmar Tiger Reserve the gram sabha whose rights have been recognized is in Mungeli District. Four villages are situated in the core area and one in the buffer area.
- In Sitanadi Tiger Reserve three-gram sabhas community forest resource rights have been recognized along with two in the buffer area of the Udanti part of Sitanadi-Udanti Tiger Reserve in the Gariaband district.
- Community forest resource includes traditional grazing grounds, areas for collecting roots, tubers, fodder, wild edible fruits, minor forest produce, sources of water for human or livestock use, and medicinal plant collection territories of herbal practitioners.
- **CM Bhupesh Baghel recognized the rights of 12,527.548 hectares of forest land. The government will launch a campaign to create awareness about Community Forest Resources Rights among Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers from August 15 to January 26.**
- **To educate gram sabhas about their rights a calendar has been prepared by the Foundation for Ecological Security along with Forest and Tribal development department.**
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Chhattisgarh - Bhupesh Baghel
  - Governor of Chhattisgarh - Anusuiya Uikey

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF RURAL COOPERATIVE BANKS TO BE INAUGURATED BY AMIT SHAH

**Current Context: Union Home and Cooperation minister Amit Shah will inaugurate a one-day-long National Conference of Rural Cooperative banks.**

### KEY FACTS

- The National Conference of Rural Cooperative banks is organized by the Ministry of Cooperation and the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCOB).

- B L Verma, Union minister of state for cooperation will address the valedictory session of the conference. Gyanesh Kumar, Secretary Ministry of Cooperation, Chairman of NAFSCOB Konduru Ravinder Rao, and Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director NAFSCOB will be present at the event.
- Amit Shah will present performance awards to State Cooperative banks, District Central Cooperative banks (DCCBs), and Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) and will also felicitate short-term cooperative credit institutions for 100 years of service.
- The National Federation of State Cooperative Banks was established on May 19, 1964, with an objective to facilitate the operations of state and central cooperative banks and the development of short-term cooperative credit structures.
- The short-term cooperative credit structure in India consists of 34 state cooperative banks, 351 DCCBs, and 96,575 PACS. NAFSCOB provides a common forum for its members, shareholders, and owners to showcase their achievements, focus on their concerns and promote their interests.

## MICROSOFT AND GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO TRAIN 2.5 MILLION CIVIL SERVANTS

**Current Context: The government of India collaborates with Microsoft to provide computer skill training to 2.5 million civil servants.**

### DETAILS

- Through this training, civil servants will be trained to use the company's suite of digital tools. The partnership between Microsoft, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) will provide help to civil servants in helping the underprivileged.
- CBC carries out capacity building for the ministries of Defence, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Expenditure, Finance, Social Justice, Civil Aviation, Ports and shipping, and Labour.
- One of the major competence gaps identified among these job roles was the lack of digital productivity

application skills needed for working on Microsoft office tools such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint presentations.

- **As part of this collaboration, Microsoft will develop an online learning course on Microsoft Office 365 digital productivity suite offering for MSDE.** This program will help government employees to acquire key digital skills thus enabling ease of doing business with more digital solutions.

## NCC CADETS TO HELP PUNJAB GOVERNMENT IN CREATING AWARENESS AGAINST SINGLE USE PLASTIC

**Current Context: 1 lakh NCC cadets to help the Punjab government in creating awareness about single-use plastic.**

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Punjab Pollution Control Board and National Cadet Corps (NCC),** under which the service of NCC cadets will be utilized to create awareness against single-use plastics.
- The MoU was signed by Environment Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, NCC Additional Directorate (Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh) Major General Rajiv Chhibber, and Punjab Pollution Control Board Member Secretary Krunesh Garg at the NCC headquarters in Chandigarh.
- **This initiative is part of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's campaign against single-use plastic launched statewide on August 5. Around 1 lakh NCC cadets will participate in the initiative.**
- The environment department will launch an awareness program at several places in districts, villages, and sub-division towns to avoid the use of plastic and to take on alternatives.
- Cadets of various NCC units, government officers, and employees will provide assistance to make the state free of single-use plastics.
- **Static Knowledge**
  - CM of Punjab - Bhagwant Singh Mann
  - Governor of Punjab - Banwarilal Purohit

## IMD, JAPAN AND UNDP TO COLLABORATE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

**Current Context:** IMD, Japan, and UNDP to collaborate for accelerating climate action in 10 states and UTs in India.

### KEY POINTS

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the Government of Japan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will jointly create new initiatives for accelerating climate action in 10 states and UTs in the country.
- **The project will be implemented in Bihar, Delhi-NCR, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Uttar Pradesh during 2022-23.**
- **Japan as part of its global support to 23 countries through UNDP's 'Climate Promise - From Pledge to Impact' program will provide \$5.6 million in climate grants to UNDP India for this project.**
- India at the COP26 summit in Glasgow in November 2021 pledged to cut its total projected carbon emission by one billion tons by 2023, install 500GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, reduce carbon intensity by less than 45 percent by the end of the decade, and to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2070.
- A joint initiative by UNDP-IMD will support Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and ensure climate-resilient development.
- UNDP and IMD will work together to promote climate resilience and will work with MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy) to promote climate mitigation.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - UNDP Administrator - Achim Steiner
  - UNDP headquarters - New York
  - UNDP was formed - on 22 November 1965
  - IMD Director - Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

## SBI MOVES NCLT TO RECOVER DUES FROM BAJAJ HINDUSTHAN SUGAR

**Current Context:** State Bank of India (SBI) has moved the National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLTs) Allahabad bench against Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar for not repaying dues.

### KEY FACTS

- Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar owes SBI Rs 4,771 crore, it has availed of two debt-restructuring schemes leading to steep haircuts taken by the lenders. The petition filed by SBI under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 is yet to be admitted by the tribunal.
- Promoters who own 24.95 percent of the company are expected to bring Rs 1,500 crore for any proposal to be considered. Sugarcane arrears worth Rs 2,900 crore has to be paid by the company to farmers as of July 2022, which is almost 44 percent of the sugarcane dues payable to farmers in Uttar Pradesh.
- Bajaj Hindusthan has 14 factories capable of crushing a total of 136,000 tonnes of sugarcane in a day. The company has six distilleries with a capacity to produce 800 kilo liters of industrial alcohol in a day.
- Bajaj Hindusthan reported revenue of Rs 5,569 crore and a loss of Rs 218 crore for FY 22. The company had more than a 12 percent share in sugar produced in Uttar Pradesh in the season of 2021-22. It has over 13 percent share in farmers directly associated with the sugar sector. It is one of the largest companies in the sector and has 14 sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - SBI Chairman - Dinesh Kumar Khara
  - SBI headquarters - Mumbai
  - SBI formed - on 1 July 1955

## US, INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA HOLDS DRILL IN SUMATRA ISLANDS

**Current Context:** US, Indonesia, and Australia joined live-fire drills, part of an annual joint combat exercise in the Sumatra Islands.

### ABOUT

- **This year's Super Garuda Shield Exercises was participated by more than 5,000 personnel from**

the US, Australia, Japan, Indonesia, and Singapore, making it the largest since it began in 2009.

- China sees the expanded drill as a threat and has accused the US of building an Indo-Pacific alliance similar to NATO to restrict China's growing military and diplomatic influence in the region.
- India, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, South Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and East Timor has sent observers to the exercise.
- The 14 nations involved in the exercise are showing their strong ties as China grows increasingly assertive in claiming the entire South China Sea and conducts exercises to threaten self-ruled Taiwan.

### INDIA'S FIRST SALINE WATER LED 'ROSHNI' LAUNCHED

**Current Context: Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched India's first saline water LED 'Roshni'.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched lantern named 'Roshni' at Sagar Anveshika, a Coastal Research Vessel of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai used for coastal research.**
- This saline water later will boost the Ujwala Scheme of the government launched in 2015 for the distribution of LED bulbs across the country.
- Roshni lamps along with the Power Minister's scheme like the Solar Study Lamp will be driving a vibrant renewable energy program that aims to achieve energy security, and energy access and reduce the carbon footprints of the national economy.
- Jitendra Singh and Secretary of Ministry of Earth Science Dr. M Ravichandran visited the laboratories to hoist the flag on board the ship as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

### ITBP TO SCALE 75 PEAKS, UNDERTAKE 75 DAY-LONG PATROL ALONG LAC

**Current Context: Indo-Tibetan Border Police(ITBP) to scale 75 peaks, and undertake 75 day-long patrols along the LAC with China to mark 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.**

#### KEY POINTS

- **The mountain expedition 'Amritarohan' will take place at various places along the eastern front on August 15.**
- **The peaks to be climbed are located near 75 ITBP border posts along the India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC).** Out of the peaks to be scaled, 33 of them are located in Ladakh, 16 in Uttarakhand, 11 in Sikkim, 10 in Himachal Pradesh, and 5 in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Himveers of the force will climb 75 different peaks and set a unique record of hoisting the national flag simultaneously on August 15, 2022. The tallest peak among these is located in Sikkim at a height of 18,750 feet.
- ITBP will also undertake a 75-day long 'relay range patrol' (LRP) along the 3,488 of the LAC. **The relay LRP started on August 1 from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh and will conclude at Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh on October 14 after covering a distance of 7,575 km across the border.**
- ITBP has formed as a result of 1962 Chinese aggression and apart from guarding the LAC, it carries out varieties of internal security duties.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - ITBP Director General - Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen
  - ITBP formed - 1962

### INS SATPURA TO CONDUCT 75-LAP AT SAN DIEGO US NAVY BASE

**Current Context: INS Satpura to conduct 75-lap as part of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Run" at San Diego US Navy base.**

#### KEY FACTS

- Indian Naval Warship INS Satpura as part of commemorative visits undertaken by Indian Navy's ships across six continents, three oceans and six different time zone reached San Diego Harbour North American continent on August 13.



- **On Independence Day Indian national flag will be hoisted on the ship in the North American continent in the presence of the Indian diaspora and other distinguished dignitaries.**
- **INS Satpura's visit to San Diego is historic as this is the first time an Indian Naval ship has reached the west coast of North America.** This shows the capacity of the Indian Navy to deploy across the globe.
- As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Indian Navy has undertaken several activities over the last year within and outside the country. The initiatives include commemorative ships visits to 75 Indian ports in the year 2021-22, President's Fleet Review, Lokayan 2022 (Sail ship expedition), display of the monumental flag at Mumbai, and community outreach programs in all coastal districts of India.
- INS Satpura and P81 LMRASW participated in the Rim of Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC), a multilateral naval exercise at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Chief of Indian Navy - Admiral R. Hari Kumar
  - Indian Navy formed - on 26 January 1950

### J&K LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR INAUGURATES 75 OYO HOMESTAYS

**Current Context:** As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav J&K lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated 75 new Oyo homestays in Jammu and Kashmir.

#### DETAILS

- **For this initiative, Oyo has partnered with Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM).** The partnership includes the identification of the homes, their audit, transformation, and civil work, transfer of technology, training of home stay owners, marketing, and branding.
- **Under this initiative, they plan to create 200 new Oyo homestays in Jammu and Kashmir by December.** The inauguration ceremony was held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre, in the presence of Mandeep Kaur, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Panchayati Raj, and Rural Development, Government of J&K, Sarmad Hafeez, IAS, Secretary, Tourism and Culture government of J&K, Mission

director of J&K State Rural Livelihood Mission Indu Kanwal Chib and Ankit Gupta, CEO of Oyo India.

- The government issued the procedures for registering homestays in Jammu and Kashmir, which helps the people to earn a livelihood from the tourism industry. **The homestays are created under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission scheme called 'Umeed', which aims to reduce poverty in the state by engaging people in gainful livelihood interventions.**
- The homestays are located in Udhampur, Poonch, Doda, Kathua, and Kishtwar districts of Jammu and Anantnag, Baramulla, Bandipora, and Srinagar districts of Kashmir valley which were identified based on parameters of scenic beauty, landscape, cultural diversity, and heritage.
- On August 1 and 2 the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission organized a workshop for homestay owners in Srinagar. A similar workshop will be organized for homestay owners in Jammu on August 16 and 17.

### GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCED 3 PER CENT HIKE IN DA FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**Current Context:** Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced a 3 percent hike in dearness allowance (DA) for government employees.

#### ABOUT

- **He also announced the expansion of welfare schemes under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The 3 percent DA hike for the state government employees under the 7th Pay Commission with retrospective effect from January 1, 2022.**
- Around 9.38 lakh employees of the state government, panchayat service and pensioners will benefit from this. This will increase the financial burden of the state government by about Rs 1,400 crore annually.
- **Bhupendra Patel also announced the expansion of the scheme of One-kg grams (pulses) per card per family for NFSA card holders. The eligibility criteria**

**of income limit for inclusion of beneficiaries into the scheme will be widened.**

- At present only people from 50 developing talukas are getting the benefits of the scheme. One-kg grams (pulses) per gram per card will be given to 71 lakh NFSA card holders from all the 250 talukas of the state.
- The eligibility criteria of income limit per month for inclusion under the NFSA has increased to Rs 15,000 from Rs 10,000. **Electronic buses will be operated on iconic routes such as Dwarka, Ambaji, and the statue of Unity. For the convenience of citizens, ATMs will be installed at 50 bus stations.**
- **Under the Encore project with the assistance of the World Bank, Real-Time Coastal Water Monitoring System will be used for water quality testing of the estuaries of rivers flowing into the Gulf of Khambhat.**
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Gujarat - Bhupendra Patel
  - Governor of Gujarat - Acharya Devvrat

### IRDAI ORGANISES HACKATHON 'BIMA MANTHAN-2022'

**Current Context:** IRDAI organizes the hackathon 'Bima Manthan-2022', and invites innovative solutions for the insurance sector.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** invited entities to develop technology-driven innovative solutions for automated death claim settlement, curtail miss-selling, and other areas in the insurance sector.
- The application for the innovative solutions has been invited as part of **IRDAI's first hackathon- Bima Manthan 2022 with the theme 'Innovation in Insurance'**.
- **IRDAI is looking for technology-enabled solutions for identifying uninsured motor vehicles and ensuring the issuance of mandatory third-party insurance and technology-based distribution of insurance products including micro insurance in less penetrable areas.**

- Another area identified for Bima Manthan 2022 is fraud mitigation/prevention in motor insurance using technology. The participants in the hackathon will get a chance to exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury and will receive exciting prizes.
- **The winners of the hackathon will get an opportunity for direct entry into the IRDAI Regulatory Sandbox regime.**
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - IRDAI Chairperson - Debasish Panda
  - IRDAI headquarters - Hyderabad
  - IRDAI was formed - in 1999

### DELHI TO RENAME 16 PARKS IN HONOUR OF UNSUNG HEROES OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE

**Current Context:** Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena dedicates 16 parks renamed in honour of unsung heroes of the freedom struggle.

#### KEY POINTS

- On the occasion of **76th Independence Day, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Lt Governor V K Saxena unveiled a plaque of 'Lala Hardayal Park' and symbolically dedicated other parks. Lala Hardayal Park** was earlier known as "District Park".
- A few months ago DDA has sent a list of 16 parks to Delhi government for renaming them after freedom fighters like Lala Hardayal, Colonel Gurubaksh Singh Dhillon, General Shah Nawaz Khan, Gobind Behari Lal, Colonel Prem Sahgal, Basanta Kumar Biswas, and others.
- The parks will be named after the unsung freedom fighters from Delhi to pay respect for their sacrifices.
- District Park, R-block, Greater Kailash-I has been named as "Asaf Ali Park". District Park, Sector-B, Vasant Kunj as "Avadh Behari Park". District Park at Jasola as "Lala Hardayal Park". District Park, Lok Vihar, Pitampura as "Colonel Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon Park" and District Park Sector-11, Dwarka as "Swami Shradhanand Park" among others.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Delhi - Arvind Kejriwal

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH LAUNCHED DRONE-BASED HEALTHCARE SERVICE

**Current Context:** Arunachal Pradesh launched the drone-based healthcare service 'Medicine from the Sky'.

### KEY FACTS

- **The first flight of drone service 'Medicine from the Sky' was successfully launched from Seppa to Chayang Tajo in the East Kameng district.**
- As part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make India the world's drone hub, the **government of Arunachal Pradesh in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF) decided to conduct a pilot project using drones in healthcare, agriculture, and disaster management.**
- Based on the field assessment reports, a pilot project 'Medicine from the Sky' was launched during Independence Day from Seppa, East Kameng district. **This project is executed by Bengaluru-based startup Redwing Labs and is funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID).**
- This pilot project will give a clear picture of operational issues, financial feasibility, and regulatory issues based on which government shall make policy and take steps for phased adoption of this emerging technology.
- **The government aims to make India the International Drone Hub Leader by 2030.** To accelerate drone adoption government has eased drone regulations and to increase drone literacy, programs such as Drone Shakti and Kisan Drones were launched.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Arunachal Pradesh - Pema Khandu
  - Governor of Arunachal Pradesh - B.D Mishra

## OVER 79 LAKH CHILDREN ENROLLED UNDER BAL AADHAAR INITIATIVE

**Current Context:** UIDAI enrolls over 79 lakh children under the BAL Aadhaar initiative.

### DETAILS

- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) enrolled over 79 lakh children in the age group of 0-5 years for four months (April to July) this year.** This is part of the effort to reach out to more children in the age group of 0-5 years under the BAL Aadhaar initiative to help parents and children avail the benefits.
- Children in the age group of 0-5 years are issued BAL Aadhaar. As of March 31, 2022, 2.64 crore children of the age group 0-5 years have BAL Aadhaar. This has increased to 3.43 crore by the end of July 2022.
- In states like Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, enrolments of children in the age group of 0-5 have covered more than 70 percent of the targeted age group.
- Registration of children in the age group of 0-5 years has increased in several states and UTs including Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Mizoram, Andhra Pradesh, and Lakshadweep. At present Aadhaar saturation is around 94 percent and among adults, it is almost 100 percent.
- Biometric data are not collected for Aadhaar enrolment of children in the age group of 0-5 years. Bal Aadhaar is issued in blue colour to differentiate it from normal Aadhaar and is valid till the child attains the age of 5 years. On attaining the age of 5 years the child needs to furnish his or her biometrics at Aadhaar Seva Kendra to complete the mandatory biometric update.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CEO of UIDAI - Dr. Saurabh Garg
  - UIDAI headquarter - New Delhi

## HYDERABAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO LAUNCH DIGIYATRA PROGRAMME

**Current Context:** Hyderabad international airport to launch DigiYatra Programme on August 18.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The GRM Hyderabad International Airport (GHIAL) is set to launch digital processing of passengers as a proof of concept through the DigiYatra platform from August 18 for three months.

- The DigiYatra program of the government enables paperless travel and will avoid multiple identity checks at the airport enabling hassle-free travel.
- With this, the passengers in GHAL will be processed automatically based on the facial recognition system at selected checkpoints. The first one will be at the departure domestic entry Gate 3 and the other at the Security Hold Area (SHA) in the passenger terminal building.
- The passengers need to download a mobile app developed by the technical team of DigiYatra to avail the benefits offered by the DigiYatra program. The beta version of the app was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15. The app is available at Playstore and App Store.
- With this system, passengers don't need to show their tickets/boarding passes and their physical identity cards at checkpoints of the airport as the DigiYatra Biometric Boarding System is integrated with the identity document.

## KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE RESERVATION TO SPORTSPERSONS

**Current Context:** Karnataka government to provide 2 percent reservation to sportspersons in all the state departments.

### KEY POINTS

- **Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai** announced that the government will provide 2 percent reservation to sportspersons in all the state departments.
- The 2 percent reservation to the sports persons will be given to Police and Forest departments.
- This was announced at a function in Bengaluru to felicitate 75 sports persons who are selected under the 'Amrit Kreedha Dattu' scheme and those who had won medals in Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022.
- **Karnataka is the first state to implement the 'Kreedha Dattu' scheme and to improve the sports stadia.** Ashwini Ponnappa, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Gururaj Poojary, Ankitha Suresh and Priya Mohan, and other athletes were felicitated on the occasion.

The athletes were given cheques ranging from 5 lakh to 15 lakh on behalf of the state government.

- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Karnataka - Basavaraj Bommai
  - Governor of Karnataka - Thawar Chand Gehlot

## INDIA'S FIRST PORTAL ON ARRESTED NARCOTICS OFFENDERS BECOME OPERATIONAL

**Current Context:** India's first portal 'NIDAAN' on arrested narcotics offenders becomes operational.

### KEY FACTS

- India's First-of-its kind database of arrested narcotics offenders becomes operational and can be used by various central and state prosecution agencies tasked to enforce anti-drug laws.
- **NIDAAN portal or the National Integrated Database on arrested narcotics offenders is developed by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).**
- **This portal is part of the narcotics coordination mechanism (NCORD) portal that was launched on July 30 in Chandigarh during the national conference on 'Drug trafficking and national security by Union home minister Amit Shah.**
- **The data in the NIDAAN portal is sourced from the ICJS (inter-operable criminal justice system) and the e-Prisons (a cloud-based application) repository.** In the future, it will be integrated with the crime and criminal tracking network system or CCTNS. ICJS is an initiative of the Supreme Court e-committee, created to provide a seamless transfer of data and information among various pillars of the criminal justice system such as courts, jails, police, and forensic science laboratories.
- **NIDAAN will act as a one-stop solution for all narcotics offender-related data and this will help the investigative agencies to connect the dot while probing narcotics cases.**

## RAJNATH SINGH HANDED OVER INDIGENOUS MILITARY EQUIPMENTS TO INDIAN ARMY

**Current Context: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handed over indigenous military equipment to the Indian Army.**

#### ABOUT

- Rajnath Singh handed over to the Indian army a wide range of indigenous military equipment including unmanned aerial systems and quick reaction fighting vehicles to increase its combat capabilities in Eastern Ladakh.
- The equipment received by the army includes surveillance hardware, patrolling boats, 'Future Infantry Solider as a System', a new anti-personnel mine 'Nipun', infantry-protected mobility vehicles, rugged and automatic communication system, upgraded sights system for tanks, and advanced thermal imagers.
- The new equipment is handed over to the army as part of the government's effort to enhance the combat readiness of the armed forces in view of the military standoff with Chinese troops.
- The new boats Landing Craft Assault (LCA) equipped with advanced surveillance gadgets and other equipment are deployed to keep surveillance over the Pangong Tso Lake in eastern Ladakh.

#### META, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN (NCW) AND MARD

**Current Context: Meta and National Commission for Women (NCW) along with Frahan Akhtar's MARD to launch a reporting campaign for women's safety.**

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The campaign "Don't Hesitate, Do Report, Stay Safe" aims to improve the online safety of women.** The campaign will focus on increasing awareness and knowledge about tools and resources available to users to report online abuse, inappropriate content, and behavior.
- **The campaign will be launched in five Indian languages such as Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Kannada, and Tamil.** This will raise awareness among users to report the content they find objectionable.
- The campaign "Don't Hesitate, Do Report, Stay Safe" is formed in consultation with various CSOs in India

and it also aims to bust existing myths such as "If I report nothing will happen" or "If I report, it will not stay anonymous".

- These include an online resource center to deal with topics like cyberbullying, cyberstalking, and financial fraud and will provide training to effectively use online resources and grievance redressal mechanisms for women.
- Meta last year launched StopNCII.org which empowers women to combat and prevent the spread of non-consensual intimate images (NCII). Meta also launched a Safety Hub for Women which is available in English and 12 Indian languages that hosts all the safety resources women need when navigating the platform.

#### ONGC PARTNERS WITH EXXONMOBIL FOR DEEP WATER EXPLORATION

**Current Context: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) partners with ExxonMobil for deep water exploration on the east and west coast of India.**

#### KEY POINTS

- **The collaboration areas focus on the Krishna Godavari and Cauvery basins in the eastern offshore and the Kutch-Mumbai region in the western offshore.**
- This partnership between ONGC and ExxonMobil will bring benefits to the entire energy value chain and open new vistas to the exploration and production paradigm.
- The collaboration will boost the confidence in going further ahead in deep water exploration on the east coast of India. 25 percent of the ExxonMobil brain power is engaged in evaluating Indian Deepwater.
- ONGC is a Maharatna company, which is the largest crude oil and natural gas company in India. It is contributing around 71% to Indian domestic production. As of June 2022, the government of India holds a 58.91% stake in ONGC.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Chairman of ONGC - Alka Mittal
  - ONGC headquarters - New Delhi
  - ONGC was formed - on 14 August 1956

## ASSAM GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES VIDYA RATH- SCHOOL ON WHEELS PROJECT

**Current Context:** Assam government launches Vidya Rath - School on Wheels project for economically weak children of the state.

### KEY FACTS

- **Vidya Rath - School on Wheels project will provide economically weak children access to elementary education for a period of 10 months.**
- Vidya Rath - School on Wheels project was launched on the occasion of the 76th independence day of India by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma along with Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Justice RM Chhaya at a function held at the premises of Gauhati High Court.
- This project will help in imparting education to economically weak children and help them to empower academically. The project will provide economically weak children access to elementary education for a period of 10 months and then these children will be integrated into the conventional education system.
- **Under this project, children will be given free mid-day meals, uniforms, and textbooks.** Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed gratitude to the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court RM Chhaya for playing an important role in implementing the project in Assam.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Assam - Himanta Biswa Sarma
  - Governor of Assam - Jagdish Mukhi

## DELHI POLICE TO LAUNCH ONLINE FACILITY TO RELEASE SEIZED VEHICLES

**Current Context:** Delhi Police soon will launch an online facility to release seized vehicles.

### DETAILS

- Delhi Police will launch an online facility to release seized vehicles. Delhi Police is trying this innovative idea for the convenience of citizens. So far there has

been a taxing process and people have to go to the police station multiple times to release their confiscated vehicles.

- Through this online facility, **the process has been made simple allowing people to apply online for the release of their seized vehicle while they are at home.**
- **The facility will be opened under the Civil Service System.** Currently, the services that are available online are theft or loss of goods, FIR viewing, elderly registration, and tenant/servant registration.
- Generally, vehicles are seized when documents are not complete or for unauthorized parking. To release the vehicle the owner has to go to the police station and write an application. After the approval of the ACP, the vehicle owner must again visit the station with the application to release the vehicle. With the new system coming into force, the process will start after the online application.

## CHHATTISGARH GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO SET UP ENGLISH MEDIUM COLLEGE IN EVERY DISTRICT

**Current Context:** Chhattisgarh government to set up English medium colleges in all the districts of the state in the next three years.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **This move to set up English medium colleges in the state is to facilitate the native students to pursue higher education in the state itself.** This will reduce the financial burden on the parents, whose children have to go outside of the state to pursue higher education.
- CM of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel has given instruction to the state chief secretary to submit the action plan within 10 days. **The colleges will be set up in every district headquarters over the next three years and will be named as Swami Atmanand English Medium Model Colleges.**
- In the initial stage of the project, **10 English Medium colleges will be opened in major cities of the state from the next academic session starting June 2023. Later the colleges will be opened in all the district**

headquarters over the next three years in a phase-wise manner.

- Currently, there are no English medium government colleges in the state, because of which students need to take admitted to colleges located in metropolitan cities for higher education.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Chhattisgarh - Bhupesh Baghel
  - Governor of Chhattisgarh - Anusuiya Uikey

## PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PLANS TO FORM CLASSROOMS IN JAIL

**Current Context:** Punjab government plans to set up classrooms in state prisons.

### KEY POINTS

- **The plan to set up classrooms in state prisons is to provide a learning environment to the inmates.** This decision is part of the government's mission to "transform lives of inmates and enable them to join social mainstream as reformed convicts".
- **The department is planning to set up classrooms with a capacity of 50 students in each jail. In the initial stage, two or three classrooms with a capacity of 50 students each will be constructed. In the future if more rooms are needed the capacity will be expanded.**
- The prisoners will also be provided with library facilities. This will induce a habit of learning and education and will also provide them an opportunity to effectively utilize their time in prison.
- The jail inmates are classified into three categories based on their educational qualifications. There are 271 inmates under Category A who are illiterate. Under the State Council of Educational Research and Training Programme, they will be taught to read and write.
- Category B inmates who are eligible and interested to appear for the class 10 or 12 board examination will be enrolled with the National Institute of Open School. There are 49 prisoners belonging to Category C, who have done their class 12 and are motivated to take undergraduate courses at Jagat Guru Nanak State Open University.
- **Static Knowledge:**

- CM of Punjab - Bhagwant Mann
- Governor of Punjab - Banwarilal Purohit

## CHHATTISGARH GOVERNMENT TO SET UP 300 RURAL INDUSTRIAL PARKS

**Current Context:** Chhattisgarh government plans to set up 300 rural industrial parks in one year.

### KEY FACTS

- This is aimed to strengthen the rural economy and make the gauthan (cattle shed) a center of livelihood. **In the first year of the project, 300 rural industrial parks will be established. The project will be launched on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti.**
- **The 'Gramin aajeevika parks' will be known as 'rural industrial parks' to develop gauthans as livelihood centers.** Keeping Mahatma Gandhi's vision of gram swaraj, which is to strengthen the rural economy by promoting cottage industries, the Chhattisgarh government has started this initiative to form units that provide income-generating opportunities.
- **The first park was established in Kulgaon, Kanker district which has been named Gandhi Gram. The park was developed by the district administration along with women's self-help groups.**
- Some of the livelihood-related activities are producing vermi-compost, goat rearing, manufacturing incense sticks, dona-pattal (leaf plate) manufacturing, fish farming, egg production, and mushroom output.
- Chhattisgarh has set up 8,404 gauthans of the 10,624 sanctioned. The state government is currently procuring cow dung at Rs 2 per Kg for making vermi-compost. Once the 300 parks are started the production will be increased.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Chhattisgarh - Bhupesh Baghel
  - Governor of Chhattisgarh - Anusuiya Uikey

## IIT BOMBAY AND JSW GROUP SIGNS AGREEMENT FOR STEEL TECHNOLOGY HUB

**Current Context:** IIT Bombay signs an agreement with JSW group for establishing a state-of-the-art JSW Technology Hub in India for steel manufacturing.

#### DETAILS

- IIT Bombay with support from the Ministry of Steel, the Government of India, and other industry partners has created the Centre of Excellence in Steel Technology (CoEST). **The JSW Technology Hub will be established within the CoEST. This is established with the objective of rapidly expanding the production of quality steel while maintaining carbon emissions at the target level.**
- The partnership with IIT Bombay will also help the JSW group to increase research and development (R&D) efforts in the steel sector to develop capabilities in the area of steel technology.
- The JSW Technology Hub will act as a nodal point of JSW Group's research activities beyond the steel domain. **JSW group will provide technical and financial support to build the JSW Technology Hub with state-of-the-art infrastructure to carry out a wide range of R&D for steel manufacturing.**
- **The JSW Technology Hub is expected to be completed by FY28.** With JSW Technology Hub, IIT Bombay and JSW group will jointly conduct research projects and technical activities on various aspects of steel manufacturing and its use.
- **Sajjan Jindal Steel Professor Chair will be established in IIT Bombay to enable focused training and research on emerging technologies in steel manufacturing.**

#### NHPC SIGNS MOU TO DEVELOP TWO HYDRO PROJECTS IN NEPAL

**Current Context:** NHPC signs MoU with Investment Board Nepal to develop two hydro projects.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The National Hydro Electric Power Corporation of India (NHPC) signed a pact with Investment Board Nepal (IBN) to develop 750 MW West Seti and 450 MW SR-6 hydroelectric projects in Nepal.**
- **The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed and exchanged on August 18, 2022 by A K**

**Singh, CMD of NHPC, and Sushil Bhatta, Chief Executive Officer IBN at Kathmandu. Sher Bahadur Dueba, Prime Minister of Nepal was also present on the occasion.**

- NHPC which was established in 1975 is India's leading hydropower development organization. It is a government of India schedule an enterprise with Miniratna status.
- The Investment Board Nepal (IBN) is a government of Nepal institution which attracts and facilitates private investments including foreign direct investment (FDI) and managing Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Nepal. IBN was established in 2011 and is chaired by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Dueba.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Capital of Nepal - Kathmandu
  - Currency of Nepal - Nepalese Rupee

#### ASSAM GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO COME UP WITH NEW LITIGATION POLICIES

**Current Context:** Assam government decided to come up with new litigation policies, cases with a quantum of sentences of fewer than three years will be withdrawn.

#### KEY POINTS

- Assam government decides to withdraw cases with the quantum of sentence of fewer than three years. The state government will wipe out 86,000 cases by this measure.
- **At an official ceremony Justice R M Chayya, Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court and Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated Barpeta district's newly constructed judicial court building.**
- **The government of Assam in the next three years will spend Rs 300 crore for the development and upgradation of the district and sub-divisional judicial courts of the various districts in the state.**
- Himanta Biswa Sarma in his Independence Day speech announced that the government will withdraw one lakh minor cases to reduce the burden on lower courts. The government will withdraw all cases of mild nature involving objectionable



comments on Facebook, Twitter, etc. This will clear nearly one lakh pending cases in Assam and the court can focus on clearing 4.5 lakh other cases.

- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Assam - Himanta Biswa Sarma
  - Governor of Assam - Jagadish Mukhi

## RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SMARTPHONES TO WOMEN

**Current Context: Rajasthan government to provide smartphones to 1.35 crore women in the state.**

### KEY FACTS

- **As part of the Chief Minister's Digital Seva Yojana, the Rajasthan government will provide smartphones to 1.35 crore women in the state.** After evaluation, a high-level committee will take a decision on the bidders this month.
- **The total cost of the project will be Rs 12,000 crore** including the cost of mobile phones, three years of internet, and other services. The Mukhyamantri Digital Seva Yojana was announced by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot in this year's budget.
- **Under this scheme, 1.35 cr women heads of families enrolled in Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme will be given smartphones with internet connectivity for three years.**
- **The project will be implemented by Rajcomp** a state-owned company. The mobile phone to be given will support the dual SIM feature and will come with one SIM that is already active in its primary slot, which cannot be changed.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Rajasthan - Ashok Gehlot
  - Governor of Rajasthan - Kalraj Mishra

## INDIAN AIR FORCE TO PARTICIPATE IN PITCH BLACK EXERCISE IN AUSTRALIA

**Current Context: India Air Force to participate in 17-nation air combat exercise 'Pitch Black' in Australia.**

### ABOUT

- **The three-week-long Pitch Black exercise is hosted by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Over 100 aircraft and 2500 personnel from 17 nations will participate in the exercise.**
- The countries that will participate in the exercise are Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, the UAE, Thailand, the US, and the UK. The exercise will be held in Australia's Northern territory.
- **The exercise is scheduled to be held from August 19 to September 8 in Darwin. The Indian Air Force contingent led by Group Captain YPS Negi comprises 100 air warriors, deployed with four Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft and two C-17 aircraft.**
- **The last edition of the Pitch Black exercise was held in 2018.** The 2020 edition of the exercise was canceled due to the COVID-19-induced pandemic. The exercise will include day and night flying and will be carried out given consideration to minimizing the impact on the local community and the environment.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Capital of Australia - Canberra
  - Currency of Australia - Australian Dollar

## ASSAM GOVERNMENT'S POVERTY ALLEVIATION SCHEME TO INCLUDE ANOTHER 6 LAKH BENEFICIARIES

**Current Context: Assam government's poverty alleviation scheme Orunodoi will encompass another 6 lakh beneficiaries.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **The amount given to the beneficiaries will be increased to Rs 1,250 from Rs 1,000 from next month onwards. A logo will be placed outside the houses of the beneficiaries.**
- Under this scheme, money will be transferred through direct beneficiary transfer (DBT), which aims to reduce the financial problems of impoverished families through substantial income support. Presently there are 22 lakh beneficiaries under this scheme.

- The monthly disbursement under this scheme will increase to Rs 1250 from October 10 onwards. The additional amount of Rs 250 will help the families to pay for their monthly electricity bills.
- The beneficiary list of the scheme will be updated in the next two months. Till September 20, student volunteers will visit the households and once the field visits are over, the list will be finalized by the district committees by October 10.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Assam - Himanta Biswa Sarma
  - Governor of Assam - Jagadish Mukhi

## INDIA, AUSTRALIA CONCLUDE THE MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE

**Current Context: India, and Australia conclude the Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) between the navies of the two countries in Perth.**

### KEY POINTS

- INS Sumedha with HMAS Anzac participated in the exercise reaffirming the navy-to-navy links and interoperability between the Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy.
- Maritime Partnership Exercise includes cross deck landing of helicopters, tactical maneuvers, and a farewell steam past. INS Sumedha was docked in Perth to celebrate the 76th Independence Day of India. A flag hoisting ceremony was scheduled onboard in presence of Australian Defence Forces officers and veterans.
- INS Sumedha has been deployed in the South Eastern Indian Ocean and is part of the Indian Navy's initiative to hoist 'Tiranga' on all continents (except Antarctica) as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Indian Navy's INS Sumedha is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel deployed for multiple roles independently and in support of Fleet Operations. It is part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam and functions under the operational command of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Capital of Australia – Canberra
  - Currency of Australia – Australian Dollar

## GOVERNMENT TO NAME ALL 23 AIIMS AFTER LOCAL HEROES, MONUMENTS OR HISTORICAL EVENTS

**Current Context: The government to name all 23 AIIMS after local heroes, historical events, or monuments of the area or their distinct geographical identity.**

### KEY FACTS

- **The majority of the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) has submitted a list of names to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to receive suggestions from them on the matter.**
- AIIMS which are operational and being set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) is known by their generic names and is distinguished by their location.
- Most of the AIIMS has suggested three or four names along with an explanatory note about the names suggested. In phase 1 of PMSSY, six new AIIMS were approved in Patna (Bihar), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Rishikesh (Uttarakhand) and are fully functional.
- Out of 16 AIIMS established between 2015 and 2022, 10 institutes have started MBBS classes and outpatient department services, while only MBBS classes have been started in 2 institutes. The remaining 4 institutes are in the development stage.

## INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUSLY BUILT HYDROGEN FUEL CELL BUS LAUNCHED IN PUNE

**Current Context: India's first indigenously built Hydrogen Fuel Cell bus developed by CSIR and KPIT launched in Pune.**

### DETAILS

- **Union Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first indigenously built Hydrogen Fuel Cell bus.** The bus was developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and KPIT Limited.
- The fuel cell uses Hydrogen and Air to generate electricity to power the bus and will have water as effluent, making it an environment-friendly mode of

transportation. Whereas a single diesel bus traveling long-distance routes typically emits 100 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. There are millions of such buses in India that contribute to air pollution.

- In contrast to diesel-powered vehicles which contribute 12-14% of CO<sub>2</sub> and particulate emission, fuel cell vehicles give zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- The high efficiency of fuel cell vehicles and high density of hydrogen ensures that the operational cost of fuel cell trucks and buses is lower than diesel-powered vehicles. The Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus is a product of joint development efforts by KPIT and CSIR-NCL.

## INDIA AND UAE COLLABORATES TO LAUNCH PROJECTS IN AFRICA

**Current Context: India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) collaborates to launch third-country projects in Africa.**

### ABOUT

- **A healthcare delegation of India-UAE visited Tanzania to meet senior government officials and explore investment opportunities. The purpose of the visit is to identify projects for collaboration with government and private healthcare providers in Tanzania.**
- The delegation consists of prominent hospitals, diagnostic centers, and investors from India (Apollo hospitals, Fortis, Medanta, NephroPlus, Dr. Lal Path Labs, KEF holdings, FICCI, and Invest India) and the UAE (G42 Healthcare, Tamouth, and Somerian) and government representatives of both the countries.
- Joint India-UAE Vision Statement, issued after the virtual meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince (now President) agreed to collaborate in providing health care in unprivileged countries.
- The High Commission of India in Tanzania along with the Embassy of UAE in Tanzania organized a business round table for health sector professionals. A leading Indian group is setting up a state-of-the-art hospital in Kenya.

## UP GOVERNMENT TO BUILD INDIA'S FIRST EDUCATION TOWNSHIP

**Current Context: Uttar Pradesh government to build India's first education township in the state.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- This education township will provide high-quality education and professional skills to the youth in a single place. **This education township will be developed on the idea of 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit'.**
- It will provide accommodation and various other facilities to both students and teachers. CM of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath held meetings with the representatives of consultancy firm Deloitte India to explore ways to make UP a \$1 trillion economy. During the meeting, he directed authorities to prepare an action plan for setting up five education townships in the state.
- **This education township will focus on high-end education which can be availed by students from the country and from Africa, Latin America, and Central Asian countries.**
- The private sector will also play an important role in this education township. Government and private universities from the country and around the world can open their campuses in the township. **The education township will also consist of primary and secondary schools like Atal Residential School.**
- The universities will provide undergraduate and postgraduate courses and studies and research work related to management, technology, law, and medicine will also be carried out in the education township.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Uttar Pradesh - Yogi Adityanath
  - Governor of Uttar Pradesh - Anandi Ben Patel

## ADB AND INDIA SIGNS LOAN WORTH \$96.3 MILLION

**Current Context: Asian Development Bank (ADB) and India signed a \$96.3 million loan agreement to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation in Himachal Pradesh.**

### KEY POINTS

- The loan agreement was signed by Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of the Government of India, and Takeo Konishi, Country Director for ADB in India.
- This project is aligned with the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission of the government of India, which focus to provide piped water to rural households by 2024 and will upgrade water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure safe, sustainable, and inclusive water supply and sanitation services in rural areas.
- This project will connect 75,800 households to the service and will ensure an uninterrupted water supply to 3,75,000 residents in 10 districts of the state. The project aims to construct 48 groundwater wells, 80 surface water intake facilities, 109 water treatment plants, 117 pumping stations, and 3,000 kilometers of water distribution pipelines to improve water supply and sanitation services.
- In the Sirmaur district, a pilot fecal sludge management and sanitation program will be implemented which will benefit 2,50,000 residents in the district.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Himachal Pradesh - Jai Ram Thakur
  - Governor of Himachal Pradesh - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

### GODREJ AGROVET SIGNS MOU WITH ASSAM, MANIPUR AND TRIPURA FOR OIL PALM CULTIVATION

**Current Context:** Godrej Agrovet signs MoU with Assam, Manipur, and Tripura to promote oil palm cultivation.

#### KEY FACTS

- Godrej Agrovet signed three Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with state governments of Assam, Manipur, and Tripura to promote oil palm cultivation in the region under National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) scheme. As part of the MoU Godrej Agrovet will be allotted land in three states for the promotion and development of palm oil cultivation.

- The government of India launched the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEOOP) on August 2021. The total outlay of the project is Rs 11,040 crore.
- Under this mission government will raise the area under cultivation of oil palm to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 lakh hectares by 2029-30. This mission will focus especially on the North East region and Andaman and the Nicobar Islands.
- Currently, Godrej Agrovet has 65,000 hectares under palm oil cultivation across the country which is planned to be increased to 1 lakh hectares in the next few years.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Assam - Himanta Biswa Sarma
  - Governor of Assam - Jagadish Mukhi
  - CM of Manipur - Nongthombam Biren Singh
  - Governor of Manipur - La. Ganesan
  - CM of Tripura - Manik Saha
  - Governor of Tripura - Satyadeo Narain Arya

### AMIT SHAH TO CHAIR THE CENTRAL ZONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Current Context:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the Central Zonal Council meeting in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

#### DETAILS

- The Central Zonal Council meeting will discuss issues on connectivity, power, sharing of river water, and other matters of common interests. The Central Zonal Council consists of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
- The Chief Ministers, Ministers, Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, and Senior officers of the member states and central government will participate in the meeting. The zonal council meeting will be preceded by a standing committee of the council in which the agendas to be placed before the council is scrutinized and prioritized.
- The meeting will also discuss in detail the welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, farmers' welfare, crime against women and children, internal security, and prevention of terrorism and Naxalism.

- Under section 15-22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 five zonal councils were set up in the country in 1957. The Chairman of each of these zonal councils is Union Home Minister and the Chief Ministers of the host state (to be chosen by rotation every year) will be the vice-chairman. Two more ministers from each state are nominated as members by the governor.

### NIRMALA SITHARAMAN & NEIPHIU RIO LAUNCHES CHIEF MINISTER'S MICRO FINANCE INITIATIVE

**Current Context:** Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launches Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative in Kohima.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- The scheme under the nomenclature of the Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative has been approved by the Government of Nagaland to provide affordable credit for carrying out economic activities.
- The objective of the scheme is to enhance farmers' income by increasing investments in agriculture and allied sector, improving agri-marketing networks and infrastructure, promoting credit discipline, and boosting private enterprise.
- The funding pattern for the scheme consists of beneficiaries' contribution of 10%, bank loan-60%, back ended subsidy by the Government of Nagaland-30%. The state government will also provide interest subvention of 4% to KCC loans and credit linkage to farmers, over and above 3% given by the government of India on prompt repayment of dues by the borrower.
- Under this scheme, a moratorium period of up to 6 months, a repayment period of up to a maximum of 7 years, and a maximum ceiling of 15 lakh will be given.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Nagaland - Neiphiu Rio
  - Governor of Nagaland - Jagdish Mukhi

### ODISHA CM OPENS ICICI BANK'S PHONE BANKING CENTRE

**Current Context:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik opens ICICI bank's state-of-the-art phone banking center.

#### KEY POINTS

- This center will provide employment to 1,200 individuals mostly from the state and 60 percent of the workforce are women. Odisha is the first among other Indian states to provide digital services in the field of education, telecom, land record, and disaster management.
- The phone banking center will service customers from not only the state but also all across the country. 1200 employees are trained and upskilled to provide services to the customers of the bank across the country.
- The ICICI bank has 168 branches, 271 ATMs, call centers, internet banking, and mobile application in Odisha. The bank through the ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth, the CSR arm of the ICICI group has given livelihood to over 6000 underprivileged people in rural areas. ICICI Academy for Skills has provided free-of-cost vocational training to over 3000 underprivileged youths of Odisha and has helped them to get jobs or set up their own business.
- The ICICI bank has provided loans to over 4,500 SHGs which benefited more than 50,000 women.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Odisha - Naveen Patnaik
  - Governor of Odisha - Ganeshi Lal
  - MD and CEO of ICICI - Sandeep Bakhshi
  - ICICI bank was formed - 1994

### S JAISHANKAR INAUGURATES INDIAN EMBASSY IN PARAGUAY

**Current Context:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar inaugurates Indian Embassy in Paraguay.

#### KEY FACTS

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar jointly with Julio Cesar Arriola inaugurates Indian Embassy in Paraguay. This is S Jaishankar's first ever official visit to South America, which is aimed at boosting

bilateral ties with the region. He becomes the first Indian Foreign Minister to visit Paraguay.

- S Jaishankar's visit to Paraguay coincides with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.
- The Indian Embassy in Paraguay started functioning in January this year. With the establishment of residents, Indian Embassy in Paraguay will boost the expansion of the economic engagement between the two nations.
- This new resident mission will take relations between India and Paraguay to greater heights. The bilateral activities will focus on trade and investment.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Capital of Paraguay - Asunción
  - Currency of Paraguay - Paraguayan guaraní

## NIRMALA SITHARAMAN TO ATTEND BANKERS' CONCLAVE

**Current Context: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to attend bankers' conclave in Kohima, Nagaland.**

### DETAILS

- Nirmala Sitharaman will also visit a state-run higher secondary school to interact with the students. She is on a three-day trip to the northeastern state during which she will inaugurate a private bank in the remote Mon district.
- **The minister will inaugurate 52 projects in Nagaland sponsored by various companies as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).** Most of the projects are related to the health, education, skill, and entrepreneurship development sectors.
- Nirmala Sitharaman launched projects during the inaugural ceremony of the three-day CSR and Investment Conclave in which many corporate delegates and investors will take part.
- The minister also called for proper branding of Nagaland products. Nirmala Sitharaman will interact with the Nagaland Business community in the Chumoukedima district. She will also visit a weaving center, Heirloom Naga in Sovima village.
- **Static Knowledge:**

- CM of Nagaland - Neiphiu Rio
- Governor of Nagaland - Jagdish Mukhi

## RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT TO FUND FOR DISTANT EDUCATION

**Current Context: Rajasthan government to give grant for distant education for women students.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot approved to reimburse the fees paid by women to institutions for higher education through distance education.** Through this move, women can build their future by continuing their studies.
- **For this, the government has implemented the 'Girls Distance Education Scheme' in the state. For this scheme, a total of Rs 14.83 crore has been sanctioned and will benefit 36,300 girls and women every year.**
- Through this scheme, women who cannot regularly attend college and universities for various reasons will be connected to higher education through distance mode.
- The scheme will provide reimbursement of fees for 16,000 seats in undergraduate level courses, 5,300 seats in postgraduate courses, 10,000 in diploma courses, 3,000 in PG Diploma courses, and 2,000 seats in certificate courses.
- The beneficiaries of the scheme can continue their studies through distance education at the state government-aided universities, government colleges, and Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, Kota. The government in the 2022-23 budget has announced the implementation of the Girl Child Distance Education Scheme.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Rajasthan - Ashok Gehlot
  - Governor of Rajasthan - Kalraj Mishra

## JHARKHAND GIVES NOD FOR CREATION OF 50,000 POSTS OF ASSISTANT TEACHERS

**Current Context: Jharkhand cabinet approves the creation of 50,000 posts of assistant teachers for primary and middle schools in the state.**

## KEY POINTS

- The cabinet also gave approval for creating 87 teaching posts in degree colleges, and 1,990 posts of medical officers and paramedical staff at 134 newly created primary health centers. This was decided during a cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister Hemant Soren.
- The cabinet has approved the creation of 20,825 posts of intermediate-trained sahayak acharyas (assistant teachers) for primary schools and 29,175 posts of graduate-trained sahayak acharyas for middle schools for strengthening the education sector in the state.
- The government has also approved the tie-up with IIT Madras on a nomination basis as the technical partner of the State Transport Department for studying and drafting the standard operating procedures to reduce road accidents in the state.
- The cabinet has sanctioned Rs 212 cr for the construction of 6.9 km of the ring road near Birsa Munda airport in Ranchi. It also approved the transfer of 1.49 acres of land in Nirsa Block in Dhanbad for 30 year-lease to North Karanpura Transco Limited (NKTL) for Rs 90.24 lakh for setting up a 400/220 KV substation.
- The cabinet also approved Rs 36 cr for the free distribution of five Kg of foodgrain to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKY) from April 2022 to September 2022. Approval was also given for increasing the maximum number of beneficiaries to be covered under the Jharkhand State Food Security Scheme from 15 lakh to 20 lakh. Approval was given to amend the notified rules for the appointment of constables in the Special India Reserve (Primitive Tribes) Battalion.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Jharkhand - Hemant Soren
  - Governor of Jharkhand - Ramesh Bais

### PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATES AMRITA HOSPITAL

**Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Amrita Hospital in Faridabad, Haryana.**

## KEY FACTS

- The inauguration of Amrita Hospital will provide modern medical infrastructure in the National Capital Region (NCR). The hospital is managed by Mata Amritanandamayi Math. The super specialty hospital will have 2,600 beds.
- The Amrita hospital is constructed with an estimated cost of Rs 6,000 cr and will provide state-of-the-art healthcare facilities to the people of Faridabad and the NCR region.
- Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar and Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala were present during the inauguration ceremony. PM Modi is on a one-day visit to Punjab and Haryana.
- **PM Modi while his visit to Mohali, will dedicate Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre at Mullanpur, New Chandigarh, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar district in Mohali. The hospital is built by Tata Memorial Centre, an aided institution under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India.** The hospital is built at a total cost of Rs 660 cr.
- The cancer hospital is a 300-bed capacity tertiary care hospital with modern facilities to treat all types of cancer with every available treatment modality like surgery, radiotherapy and medical oncology chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and bone marrow transplant.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Haryana - Manohar Lal Khattar
  - Governor of Haryana - Bandaru Dattatreya
  - CM of Punjab - Bhagwant Mann
  - Governor of Punjab - Banwarilal Purohit

### AYUSHMAN CARDS WILL BE CO-BRANDED TO INCLUDE NAMES OF STATE SCHEMES

**Current Context: Ayushman cards will be co-branded with state logos and state-specific healthcare schemes.**

## DETAILS

- Ayushman cards to have state logos and state-specific healthcare schemes along with the Centre's flagship health scheme to bring uniformity and greater integrity.
- **All other states and Union Territories except Delhi, West Bengal, and Odisha have agreed on the co-**

branding of the cards which will be renamed 'Ayushman Cards'.

- **The National Health Authority (NHA) in order to bring greater integrity and uniformity to the beneficiary cards issued under the scheme has decided to rename them under the common name 'Ayushman Cards'.** The co-branded card design has been developed and has equal space for Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and state-specific logos. The card will be bilingual in English and the local language.
- **The National Health Authority will provide complete financial support for the issuance of co-branded cards to beneficiaries under the Central scheme and State scheme.** Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY provides health cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per eligible beneficiary family annually for secondary and tertiary care hospitalizations corresponding to 1,949 treatment procedures across 27 specialties.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - National Health Authority (NHA) CEO - Dr. R.S Sharma
  - NHA headquarters - New Delhi

## ASSAM GOVERNMENT TO SET UP MINI RICE MILLS

**Current Context: Assam government to set up 1,000 rice mills in the state.**

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam in a meeting with the officials of the Agriculture Department and Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (MSGUY) discussed key initiatives for supporting the farmers.**
- During the meeting, Himanta Biswa Sarma reviewed the measures proposed by the Agriculture Department for setting up rice mills and providing Combine Harvesters and Mini Trucks to Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs).
- **The government will provide support for the setting up of 50 rice mills in the state with a 200 MT milling capacity. The scheme is promoted in line with MSGUY and Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**

**with subsidies of 10 lakhs to 40 lakhs depending on the capacity of the mill.**

- It will also sponsor to set up of 1,000 mini rice mills under AIF. These mini rice mills will be provided subsidies upto 1.17 lakh per mill. The Agriculture Department Combine Harvesters will be provided with a subsidy of upto 90 percent to FPCs.
- The scheme for providing Mini Trucks with a subsidy of 30 percent or Rs 1.5 lakh will be carried out.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Assam - Himanta Biswa Sarma
  - Governor of Assam - Jagdish Mukhi

## HARYANA GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES PROGRAMME TO HELP DEFAULTING POWER CONSUMERS

**Current Context: Haryana government launches program to help defaulting power consumers pay off their bills.**

### KEY POINTS

- **Under this program, the defaulters who pay the principal amount will not be charged a surcharge or interest on their electricity bill.** Under the "Electricity Surcharge Waiver Scheme 2022", the defaulting customers can pay their amount in three installments along with their monthly bills. They will also receive an additional 5% reduction if they pay the entire amount together.
- This program is applicable to both domestic connections and government departments that haven't done so as of late December. The fee will be eliminated if the defaulters routinely pay their amount over the course of the year. But they will be required to pay the total balance due if they default once more.
- **The chief minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar extended the "Samadhan se Vikas" scheme, a one-time settlement plan for the recovery of long-overdue dues on account of External Development Charges (EDC) against encroachers and developers by six months.**
- A one-time settlement plan was unveiled by the Chief Minister to recover the unpaid Passenger and Goods Tax of Rs 2,113 crore as of March 2017.
- **Static Knowledge:**



- CM of Haryana - Manohar Lal Khattar
- Governor of Haryana - Bandaru Dattatreya

## PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI TO INAUGURATE SMRITI VAN IN BHUJ

**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Gujarat to inaugurate Smriti Van in Bhuj.

### KEY FACTS

- **During his two-day visit to Gujarat Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Smriti Van in Bhuj**, which celebrates the spirit of resilience shown by people following the earthquake in Gujarat in 2001.
- **PM Modi will also address 'Khadi Utsav' at Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad and will also address a program in Gandhinagar commemorating 40 years of Suzuki in India. The 'Khadi Utsav' is being held as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and is organized to pay tribute to Khadi and its importance during the freedom struggle.**
- **'Khadi Utsav' will be held at Sabarmati riverfront and will witness 7,500 women artisans from various districts of Gujarat spinning charkha live at the same time and at the same place.** The event will also have an exhibition showcasing the evolution of charkhas by displaying 22 charkhas from different generations.
- Smriti Van is built over 470 acres of land to celebrate the resilience shown by the people after the death of around 13,000 people in the 2001 earthquake in Bhuj.
- The Smriti Van Earthquake Museum has seven blocks based on seven themes such as rebirth, rediscover, restore, rebuild, rethink, relive and renew. PM Modi will also lay the foundation stone of projects worth Rs 4,400 crore in Bhuj.
- **PM Modi will also inaugurate the new office building of the 'Gujarat Rajya Khadi Gramodyog Board' and a foot overbridge at Sabarmati. Modi will also lay the foundation stone of the Suzuki Motor Gujarat Electric Vehicle Battery Manufacturing facility in Hansalpur, Gujarat, and a vehicle manufacturing facility in Kharkhoda in Haryana.**

- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Gujarat - Bhupendra Patel
  - Governor of Gujarat - Acharya Devvrat

## GOVERNMENT TO OFFER LOAN TO HELP COMPLETE HOUSES UNDER PMAY-G

**Current Context:** Government will offer a 70,000 loan to help complete houses under PMAY-G.

### ABOUT

- **The credit guarantee scheme is for beneficiaries in rural areas who are struggling to complete the construction of pucca houses under the government's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin).**
- The rural development ministry has finalized to give financial support of Rs 70,000 per beneficiary in rural areas. This scheme is introduced as several beneficiaries are struggling to complete the construction of sanctioned houses because of the increasing cost of construction materials.
- **The scheme will involve a network of self-help groups (SHGs) in rural areas. The SHGs will act as guarantors for a beneficiary who wants to take a loan of Rs 70,000 from the bank.**
- Under PMAY-G government has targeted to complete 2,71,92,795 pucca houses by March 2024. According to the rural ministry data, 1,96,62,963 houses have been completed. The target is now to complete 75,29,832 pucca houses in 16 months. **PMAY-G is implemented since April 1, 2016 and provides assistance of Rs 1.20 lakh in plains and 1.30 lakh in hilly areas to rural households for the construction of houses. The cost is shared on a 60:40 ratio between the center and state governments.**

## INDIA TO HAVE WORLD'S LARGEST RELIGIOUS MONUMENT

**Current Context:** World's largest religious monument to open in West Bengal.

### DETAILS

- **The Temple of Vedic Planetarium in West Bengal will be the headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKON) and will have the world's biggest dome.**
- The Vedic Planetarium will provide a tour of various parts of the cosmic creation to the guests. The Temple of Vedic Planetarium is situated in Mayapur in Nadia district, West Bengal.
- The Temple of Vedic Planetarium will be larger than the Taj Mahal and St. Paul's Cathedral in the Vatican. The temple will be opened in 2024. **The temple will replace Cambodia's 400-acre large Angkor Wat Temple as the largest religious monument.**
- The Temple of Vedic Planetarium is inspired by the design of the Capitol Building in the United States. This temple is the vision of ISKON founder Srila Prabhupada. The temple of Vedic Planetarium has a massive rotating model that shows how the planetary system move as they are described in holy books like Bhagavad Puraan.
- **The construction of the Temple of Vedic Planetarium began in 2010 and is estimated to cost \$100 million. Each story of the temple can accommodate 10,000 devotees.**
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of West Bengal - Mamata Banerjee
  - Governor of West Bengal - La. Ganesan

## PM MODI TO INAUGURATE FOOT-OVER BRIDGE IN AHMEDABAD

**Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the foot-over bridge built near Sabarmati Riverfront.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **The foot-over bridge is built between Ellis Bridge and Sardar Bridge built near Sabarmati Riverfront. This bridge connects the east and west side of the Sabarmati Riverfront. The bridge is 300- meters long.**
- This bridge provides connectivity and multi-level car parking and various public development on the east and west banks from Plaza between Flower Park and Event Ground on the West bank to Art/Cultural Exhibition Centre on East Bank.

- This unique bridge will augment the status of Sabarmati Riverfront and the city and will become an engineering marvel.
- **PM Modi will also inaugurate the 'Veer Balak Memorial' in Anjar town of Kutch.** The then Chief Minister Narendra Modi announced the construction of the memorial in memory of the children who lost their lives in an earthquake while attending a rally in Anjar town of Kutch on January 26, 2001.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Gujarat - Bhupendra Patel
  - Governor of Gujarat - Acharya Devvrat

## MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT STARTS FREE TRAVEL SCHEME IN BUSES

**Current Context: Maharashtra government starts a free travel scheme in MSRTC buses for those above 75 years.**

### KEY POINTS

- The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) will provide free travel for people above the age of 75 years in its buses.
- About 1.5 lakh senior citizens of the state will get the benefit of a free travel scheme by State transport bus on the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of the country. **The citizens above the age of 65 and 75 will get a 50% rebate on ticket fares on selected routes and selected types of buses operated by the MSRTC.**
- The concession can be availed by showing identity documents like Aadhar Card, PAN card, Driving licence, Voter's Card, etc. The facility is not available for MSRTC's city buses and will be for journeys within state limits.
- **The new facility was announced by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in the state assembly. MSRTC has a fleet of more than 16,000 buses.**
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Maharashtra - Eknath Shinde
  - Governor of Maharashtra - Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

## AAI SIGNED MOU WITH SWEDEN TO COLLABORATE IN SUSTAINABLE AVIATION TECHNOLOGY

**Current Context:** Airport Authority of India (AAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sweden to facilitate sustainable aviation technology collaboration.

### KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) and LFV Air Navigation Services of Sweden at the corporate headquarters of AAI in New Delhi.**
- The MoU will pave the way for the bilateral exchange of aviation expertise and technology between the two countries. This will allow Indian companies to accelerate growth while leveraging Swedish innovations and expertise.
- Both the parties consented to the following elements of the MoU: Exchange of aviation knowledge and technology transfer program, promote close relation between the two agencies, aim to expand technical cooperation in airports, support the development of safe, secure, sustainable, and efficient aviation sector, positive collaboration in promoting bilateral and international trade.
- AAI and LFV will jointly collaborate on the cooperation areas of Air Traffic Management, Air Traffic Control, Remote Airport Management and Traffic Control, Airspace Design and Planning, Airport Design and Infrastructure, Digitalized Airport and Aviation, Capability and Training, Sustainable Airport and Aviation, Processes for Pilots and Processes for scale-up.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Chairman of AAI - Sanjeev Kumar

## IIM SHILLONG SIGNS MOU WITH MIZORAM YOUTH COMMISSION

**Current Context:** IIM Shillong signed MoU with Mizoram Youth Commission to advance human resource development.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis, IIM Shillong, and Mizoram Youth Commission (MYC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance human resource development in Mizoram.**
- The agreement was signed by Prof. DP Goyal, Director of IIM Shillong, and Dr. Vanlaltanpuia, MLA, Chairman of MYC in Aizawl.
- With IIM Shillong as Research and Policy Knowledge Partner by signing a MoU with MYC the government of Mizoram aims to support Mizoram's human resource development. This will help the government of Mizoram and MYC in identifying skill gaps, offer capacity-building programs for government employees, and support Mizoram's economic development by encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in promising industries.
- With this MoU IIM Shillong will develop value-added skills in youths of Mizoram and encourage them to be competent and entrepreneurial. It will also develop a framework for effective and result-driven youth empowerment, especially in the areas of management development, entrepreneurship development, and capacity-building programs.
- The Mizoram Youth Commission (MYC) was set up by an act of the Mizoram State Legislature. It is a legal authority to advance, investigate and improve youth welfare.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Mizoram - PU Zoramthanga
  - Governor of Mizoram - Hari Babu Kambhampati

## PIYUSH GOYAL LIKELY TO CHAIR BOARD OF TRADE MEETING

**Current Context:** Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal are likely to chair the Board of Trade meeting next month.

### KEY POINTS

- **The Board of Trade meeting will discuss ways to boost the country's exports. The Board is an advisory body on foreign trade policy.**
- The Board is headed by the minister and consists of participants from states, Union Territories, and

senior officials from the private and public sectors and will discuss ways to boost manufacturing and export.

- The government last month nominated 29 non-official members to the board from various sectors including small and large enterprises. The new members are Laghu Udyog Bharati executive member Om Prakash Mittal, Pankaj Mahindroo Chairman of Indian Cellular and Electronics Association, and RS Sodhi MD of Amul.
- The meeting will focus on the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP 2022-27) ways to take forward domestic manufacturing and exports. This platform provides opportunities for regular discussion and consultation with trade and industry and advises the government on policy measures related to FTP.

### DR. JITENDRA SINGH UNVEILS WEBSITE TO BOOST COASTAL CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

**Current Context: Dr. Jitendra Singh unveils a dedicated website to give a boost to the Coastal Clean-Up Campaign.**

#### KEY FACTS

- **Union Minister of State of Science and Technology, Earth Science Jitendra Singh unveiled [www.swachhsagar.org](http://www.swachhsagar.org) to boost the ongoing pan-India Coastal Clean-Up campaign. The Coastal Clean-Up Campaign is a 75 days exercise.**
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh also launched the campaign logo 'Vasuki' dedicated to the youth of the country as the school students are joining the coastal and beach cleaning facilities.**
- **The campaign is designated on the model of the "whole of the government" approach.** Apart from executing Ministries of Earth Science, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Jal Shakti, Health and Family Welfare, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, External Affairs and Information and Broadcasting will also participate in the campaign.
- **More than 52000 volunteers from 24 states have registered for the 75-day long campaign. The campaign was launched on July 5, 2000, to raise awareness about "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar".**

**The campaign will conclude on September 17, the International Coastal Clean-Up Day.**

### INDIA-US CONDUCTS JOINT SPECIAL FORCES EXERCISE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

**Current Context: India-US conducts joint special force exercise Vajra Prahar-22 in Himachal Pradesh.**

#### DETAILS

- **The 13th edition of the India-USA joint special force drill, Exercise Vajra Prahar-22 concludes at Bakloh cantonment in Himachal Pradesh.**
- This exercise provided an opportunity for the Special Forces of both countries to train in air operations, special operations, and counterterrorism operations in a joint environment under the United Nations Charter.
- **The 21-day-long exercise Vajra Prahar-22 was conducted in two phases.** The first phase included combat conditioning and tactical level special mission training exercise. The second phase included 48 hours of validation of training received in the first phase.
- Exercise Vajra Prahar is significant in terms of security challenges faced by both countries in the current global situation. The exercise also boosts the traditional bond of friendship between the special forces of both countries and improves bilateral defence cooperation between the two nations.
- **Exercise Vajra Prahar is an annual exercise hosted alternatively by India and the United States. The 12th edition of the exercise was conducted on October 2021 at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington.**
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Capital of the USA - Washington D.C
  - Currency of USA - United States Dollars

### KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH A SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR JOB CREATION

**Current Context: Karnataka government is to launch a special program for creating new jobs in the state for SC/ST students.**

## ABOUT

- **Under this program financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to Rs, 10 lakh will be provided to at least 100 SC/ST students in each Taluk in the state.**
- The government is creating several programs to help students develop socially and academically. **100 new hostels are being built for SC/ST students in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, and Mysuru.**
- An order was issued to provide families living below the poverty line in the SC/ST communities free supplies of 75 units per month. The communities have also been given Rs 15 lakh for land ownership and Rs 2 lakh for house construction.
- The Bhovi Development Corporation has been instructed to prepare an Rs 175 crore plan. **In addition to a bank loan of up to Rs 10 lakh, a subsidy is given to SC/ST Stree Shakti Sanga under the Streesamarthya Scheme.**
- **The Karnataka government has also launched a training program in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore to support SC/ST women graduates in developing their skills as entrepreneurs.**
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Karnataka - Basavaraj Bommai
  - Governor of Karnataka - Thawar Chand Gehlot

## ODISHA GOVERNMENT TO SET UP MSME PARKS

**Current Context: Odisha government to set up MSME parks in each district.**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Odisha government plans to set up Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) parks in all the 30 districts of the state.**
- **This was announced by Chief Secretary S C Mohapatra at the concluding session of Propack Odisha 2022 and MSME Odisha 2022 organized by the Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME).**
- MSMEs will be provided with all infrastructure support including land, electricity, and water in the

districts. More than 450 crores have been given to Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) to develop the required infrastructure in the districts for the MSME parks.

- Banks are told to ensure the availability of finance for MSMEs and look after the quality part of finance. The government on regular basis is organizing workshops with several banks and trade platforms.
- The government plans to add all public sector banks (PSU) to trade discounting platforms by the year-end and this will help MSMEs.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Odisha - Naveen Patnaik
  - Governor of Odisha - Ganeshi Lal

## AMBULANCES IN KERALA TO GET GPS BASED TRACKING DEVICE

**Current Context: Ambulances in Kerala to get GPS-based vehicle location tracking devices.**

## KEY POINTS

- **Kerala State Transport Minister Antony Raju announced that all ambulances will be fitted with GPS-based vehicle location tracking devices. This is to curb the illegal activity of drug smuggling and ferreting away criminals in ambulances.**
- This move was taken against the backdrop of complaints stating that ambulances are being used as getaway vehicles for drug smuggling and escaping criminals.
- The decision to equip ambulances with GPS-based tracking devices was taken during a meeting of all stakeholders, including concerned officials and representatives of the Medical Association, ambulance owners, and ambulance drivers in November last year.
- **The GPS-based vehicle tracking devices fitted in all ambulances throughout the state will be linked to the 'Suraksha Mitra' software.** The Transport Commissioner was tasked to come up with a regulation on the body colour of ambulances, what should be written on the ambulances, and the kind of lighting they must use. The fare revision committee was asked to fix the rates to be charged

by the ambulances and the panel has given the report on it and which is being examined.

- **Static Knowledge:**
  - CM of Kerala - Pinarayi Vijayan
  - Governor of Kerala - Arif Mohammad Khan

## RBI IMPOSES PENALTY ON 8 COOPERATIVE BANKS

**Current Context: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty on 8 cooperative banks.**

### KEY FACTS

- A penalty of Rs 55 lakh was imposed on The Visakhapatnam Co-operative bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. Bharat Heavy Electricals Employees' Co-operative bank, Kailasapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu has penalized with Rs 10 lakh.
- A penalty of Rs 5 lakh was imposed on The Ottapalam Co-operative Urban bank Ltd, Ottapalam, Palakkad district, Kerala, and Rs 10 lakh on the Darussalam Co-operative Urban Bank, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh each on The Nellore Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd, Gandhi Nagar, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh, and Kakinada Co-operative town bank Ltd, Kakinada, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh.
- A fine of Rs 1 lakh was imposed on The Kendrapara Urban Co-operative bank, Kendrapara, and a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on the National Urban Co-operative bank Ltd, Pratapgarh, and Uttar Pradesh. The penalties were based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - RBI governor - Shaktikanta Das
  - RBI headquarters - Mumbai
  - RBI was formed - on 1 April 1935

## S JAISHANKAR TO VISIT UAE FOR INDIA-UAE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

**Current Context: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to visit UAE for India-UAE Strategic Dialogue.**

### DETAILS

- S Jaishankar will visit UAE (United Arab Emirates) from August 31 to **co-chair the 14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) and 3rd India-UAE Strategic Dialogue with Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.**
- These meetings provide opportunities for both the ministers to review the strategic partnership between India and UAE and regional and global developments. During the visit, S. Jaishankar will also meet other UAE dignitaries.
- **On February 18, both the leaders held a Virtual Summit during which they signed the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and a vision statement was adopted. Both the leaders also participated in the I2U2 summit which was held on July 14.**
- Both India and UAE will partner in areas of trade, investment, conventional and renewable energy, food security, health, skill development, education, culture, defence, space, consular issues, and people-to-people ties.
- **Static Knowledge:**
  - Capital of UAE - Abu Dhabi
  - Currency of UAE - United Arab Emirates Dirham

## COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY OF LUMPY DISEASE VACCINE

**Current Context: The Director of the National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), Dr. Yash Pal, confirmed the ongoing efforts to make the vaccine against Lumpy Skin Disease commercial.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Lumpi-ProVac** is an indigenous vaccine against Lumpy Skin Disease.
- It has been manufactured by the **NRCE** with the **Indian Veterinary Research Institute** as a partner.
- Lumpy Skin Disease is caused by the Capripoxvirus.
- The virus is transmitted to cattle via **vectors** such as **mosquitoes, ticks, and biting flies.**
- A few symptoms include loss of weight, low milk yield, fever, lumps on the body, etc.

- Since it affects all types of cattle and water buffalo, it is called **Epizootic disease**.
- There is no transfer of virus from animals to humans, hence the disease is **not Zoonotic**.

## PAKISTAN'S EFF PROGRAMME REVIVED BY THE IMF

**Current Context:** International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently approved Pakistan's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Programme.

### KEY POINTS

- A sum of **USD 1.17 billion** for the 7th and 8th tranches has been approved by the IMF.
- In an executive meeting in **Washington**, the Board completed the review and the bailout package was approved.
- IMF is an international financial organization that was formed as a part of the **Bretton Woods Conference** in 1944.
- It became operational on **27th Dec. 1945** and is primarily responsible for securing global financial stability and promoting international trade.
- The headquarters of the IMF is in **Washington DC**.

## BOM'S MAHA DHAN VARSHA SCHEME

**Current Context:** The **Bank of Maharashtra** (BoM) has launched a Fixed Deposit scheme, the **Maha Dhan Varsha Scheme**.

### KEY FACTS

- It is a Fixed Deposit scheme with a time period of **400 days** and a maximum limit of up to **Rs. 2 Cr.**
- The highest rate of interest for non-senior citizens will be **5.50%** and for senior citizens will be **6%**.
- For a maturity period of 400 days, the Scheme is supposed to be offering the highest rate of interest in comparison to other banks.
- Interest Rate on Deposits for a maturing period of:
  - **46-90 days** is **3.50%**
  - **91-119 days** is **3.75%**
  - **120-180 days** is **3.90%**
  - **180-270 days** is **4.25%**
  - **271-364 days** is **5%**
  - **365-399 days** is **5.40%**

- These rates of interest are for **non-senior citizens**.
- Rates of interest for **senior citizens** for all maturity slabs of **91 days or more** and up to an upper limit of **Rs. 2 Cr** will be an additional **0.50% p.a.**

## NHPC LTD. SIGNS MOU WITH PTC INDIA LTD.

**Current Context:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between **National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Ltd.** (NHPC Ltd.) and **Power Trading Corporation of India Limited** (PTC India Ltd.) for the sale of power with respect to power projects in Nepal.

### DETAILS

- The MoU was regarding the upcoming **West Seti & Seti River-6** hydropower projects in Nepal.
- The hydropower project will be of the capacity of **750 MW (West Seti) & 450 MW (Seti River-6)**.
- The NHPC CMD, **A.K. Singh** has said to invest **Rs. 18000 Cr** in these two hydropower projects.
- **NHPC Ltd.** is a government-owned hydropower board that was founded in **1975** under the **Ministry of Power** with its headquarters in **Faridabad, Haryana**.
- **PTC India Ltd.** is the leading provider of power trading solutions in India and was established in the year **1999** as a Government of India initiated Public-Private Partnership with its headquarters in **New Delhi**.

## RELIANCE JIO TO LAUNCH STANDALONE 5G TECHNOLOGY

**Current Context:** In the 45th Annual General Meeting, Reliance Jio announced to rollout plan for 5G Technology in India.

### ABOUT

- Jio confirmed that, as it did in 4G technology, it will launch a **standalone 5G network**.
- According to Jio, by Diwali, the plan will be first carried out in **four metro** cities and by December 2023 will expand to pan India.
- There is a **difference** between a **standalone 5G network** and a **non-standalone 5G network**: The

standalone 5G technology is based on an end-to-end core 5G network that is built from scratch while the non-standalone 5G architecture offers a 5G radio signal using the existing 4G LTE core. Hence, the **efficacy** of the **standalone 5G technology is better** than its counterpart.

- **Key differences between 5G Technology and 4G Technology:**
  - A Peak Speed of 5G is 10 Gbps whereas it is 100 Mbps for 4G.
  - The latency of 5G is under 1 ms whereas it is between 10-100 ms for 4G.