

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest



December 2021

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6TH BRICS FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

Current Context: The 6th BRICS Film Festival awards were announced at the 52nd International Film Festival of India which was held in Goa.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This was the first time that BRICS Film Festival was held alongside IFFI.
- The jury members were each from BRICS countries i.e. 5 jury members were there.
- **Below is the list of winners:**
 - Best Film Award: 'Barakat' (South African Film directed by Amy Jephta) and 'The Sun above Me Never Sets' (Russian Film directed by Lyubov Borisova)
 - Best Director: Lúcia Murat from Brazil for her documentary 'Ana'.
 - Best Actor (Male): Dhanush (Indian Actor) for his role in 'Asuran'.
 - Best Actor (Female): Lara Boldorini (Brazilian Actress) for her role in 'On Wheels'.

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- Jury Special Mention Award: Yan Han (Director) for his film A Little Red Flower from China.

1ST INDIA YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

Current Context: The first edition of the India Young Water Professional Programme was launched in a virtual manner.

KEY POINTS

- The program observed the participation of more than 100 participants.
- **The program is being held under the National Hydrology Project which is a Central Scheme of the Department of Water Resources, and River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.**
- **It is supported by the Australian Water Partnership.**
- The India Young Water Professional Programme focuses on engaging training and learning model.
- The project-based learning will take place through Situation Understanding and Improvement Projects (SUIP).
- It will help to implement sustainable water management strategies.
- A total of 20 participants are selected for the first edition of the program.

'CALL YOUR COP' MOBILE APP

Current Context: The 'Call your Cop' mobile App was launched by Nagaland Police.

KEY FACTS

- It was launched at Police Headquarters in Kohima, Nagaland.
- The app will allow the people of the state to get in touch with the police directly with just a single click via the app.
- The app will also allow total modernization of the police department.
- The app includes alerts, a directory, SOS, tourist tips, the nearest police station, and search features.
- It is developed by Excellogics Tech Solutions Pvt Ltd.
- Various notifications like news, updates, advisory, etc. will be delivered via app to the citizens.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio
 - Governor of Nagaland: Jagdish Mukhi

ADB APPROVED LOAN FOR UTTARAKHAND WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECTS

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan for Uttarakhand water supply and sanitation projects.

DETAILS

- **The funds of USD 125 million (around Rs 938 crore) were approved by ADB for the same.**
- The loan amount will be used to improve access to quality water supply and sanitation services in the state.
- The 136 kilometers of water pipe system will be constructed. This water pipe system will replace defective water networks in South Dehradun.
- The fresh, reliable, and continuous water supply will be delivered to 40,000 people of the state.
- The funds will also be used to install water meters in about 5,400 households. The water meters will support efficient water use and consumption billing.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Manila, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

INDIA'S GDP TO BE AT 8.3% FOR Q2 FY22—IND-RA

Current Context: The India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has projected that India's GDP to be at 8.3% for the second quarter of the financial year 2022 i.e. Q2 FY22.

ABOUT

- **It has projected that India's GDP for the whole year i.e. FY22 to be at 9.4%.**
- The rating agency has mentioned that due to the growth in vaccination drives, there is an improvement in the economy of the country.
- It expects that fixed capital formation to increase at 8.5% in Q2 FY22 as the GOI is supporting investment activities in the infrastructure sector.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Ind-Ra: Mumbai

AIRNXT PROGRAMME

Current Context: All India Radio has launched the AIRNxt program.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The AIRNxt program will offer a platform for youth to air their voices as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.**
- The youths from local colleges, universities can participate in the program and raise the topic and youth-centric shows for discussions.
- Around 20,000 youth from 1,000 educational institutions will be participating during the next year from every part of the country through 167 AIR stations.

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- The shows held under the program will motivate youth to speak about the achievements of the country in 75 years of independence and they can mention their points that where they expect India to reach in next years.
- Therefore, the youths will be able to air their dreams about the future of India.
- The show will be broadcast in all major Indian languages and dialects.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of All India Radio: Sansad Marg, New Delhi

SBI SIGNED MOU WITH USHA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Current Context: The State Bank of India (SBI) has signed an MoU with Usha International Limited (UIL).

KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed to empower women entrepreneurs in India.**
- Under the MoU, the women entrepreneurs will be granted financial assistance support so that they can execute their businesses in a seamless manner.
- The funds will be provided under the Joint Liability Group model.
- The partnership will help to uplift the social and economic status of women entrepreneurs in rural areas of India.
- Both the entities will make women self-reliant and will grant them equal opportunity to attain financial growth and inclusion in their businesses.
- The SBI bank's branches in Uttarakhand, Delhi, Western UP, and NCR Haryana will grant financial support to women.
- The training to the women entrepreneurs will be provided by UIL through USHA Silai Schools in India.

40TH INDIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR (IITF) 2021

Current Context: The 40th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021 was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal.

KEY POINTS

- **The IITF 2021 was organized by India Trade Promotion Organization.**
- The theme of the event was 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and to promote 'Vocal for Local'.
- Around 3000 exhibitors participated in the exhibition.
- At the event, Union Minister Piyush Goyal mentioned the 5 pillars of the Indian economy namely Economy, Exports, Demand, Infrastructure, and Diversity.
- Bihar was the partner state of 40th IITF and the focus states were Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- The Bihar pavilion won the gold medal for showcasing the state's richness in art and handicrafts.
- The Silver medal was won by the Assam pavilion.

WALMART AND FLIPKART SIGNED MOU WITH MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: Walmart and its subsidiary Flipkart signed MoU with the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

DETAILS

- **They have signed MoU to create an ecosystem of capacity building for MSMEs in MP.**
- The state's Department of MSME, Walmart, and Flipkart will help MSMEs to transform to digital domain so that they can sell their products across India through online retail platforms.
- This will enhance the export potential of MSMEs.
- The MSMEs in the state will be able to become part of Walmart's global supply chain.
- The partnership was made under Walmart Vridhhi Supplier Development Programme. Hence, due to partnership, the MSMEs will be able to scale up their businesses and adopt advanced technologies.

APPOINTMENTS ON 2ND DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: **Eva Magdalena Andersson:** She has become the 1st Female Prime Minister of Sweden.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Sweden: Stockholm
 - Currency of Sweden: Swedish Krona
- **Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Mago:** He was appointed as Commandant of National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi.
- **Ajay Bhushan Pandey:** He was appointed to head the committee set up by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to review the criteria for reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category as per the norms of the provisions of the explanation to Article 15 of the Constitution.

EIU'S WORLDWIDE COST OF LIVING INDEX 2021

Current Context: The EIU's (Economist Intelligence Unit's) Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021 was announced.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the index, Tel Aviv, Israel is the most expensive city in the world to live in 2021.**
- Paris and Singapore city occupy the second positions jointly in the index.
- Zurich (Switzerland) attained the 4th spot in the index.
- The Damascus of Syria is the cheapest city in the world to live in 2021.
- As per the index, supply chain issues, exchange rate shifts, and changing consumer demand are increased in terms of price on commodities and other goods at the global level.

- The prices of goods and services are increased to 3.5% in 2021, it is doubled to 1.9% in 2020.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of EIU: London, United Kingdom

IBRD (WORLD BANK ARM) APPROVED LOAN FOR WEST BENGAL

Current Context: The World Bank Group's arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has approved a loan to West Bengal to improve the operational efficiency and reliability of electricity supply in the state.

KEY POINTS

- **The loan of USD 135 million loans was approved for the same.**
- The funds will be used to strengthen distribution networks, smart-grid technologies and bring financial sustainability to the state's electricity distribution companies.
- The loan will be having a maturity of 17 years, including a grace period of 7 years.
- The funds will be used for West Bengal Electricity Distribution and Grid Modernization Project. The project will work to reduce losses and enhance capacity in the electricity distribution network.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IBRD: Washington DC, US

SRESTHA SCHEME

Current Context: The GOI will be launching SRESTHA Scheme.

KEY FACTS

- **The SRESTHA Scheme aims to uplift the socio-economic status and overall development of Scheduled Castes students.**
- **Under the scheme, quality residential education to meritorious SC students will be granted in reputed private schools.**
- The SRESTHA signifies, 'Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' and will help meritorious SC students to build their bright future.
- The scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It will help to reduce the dropout of students from courses 9 to 12.
- The funds of Rs 300 crores will be required for the scheme and will help more than 24,800 students in the next five years.
- The NITI Aayog has recognized reputed non – public residential facilities in aspirational districts.

INDIA'S GDP TO BE AT 9.4% FOR FY22—OECD

Current Context: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has estimated that India's GDP to be at 9.4% for FY22.

DETAILS

- Earlier it has estimated India's GDP to be at 9.7% for the same.
- For FY23, the Indian economy will grow at 8.1%, as per OECD.
- The OECD said that the economy is positively recovering and gaining traction and appreciated the country's speedy vaccination drives.

APPOINTMENTS ON 3RD DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: Sambit Patra: He was appointed as Chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The MD post of ITDC will be hold by G. Kamala Vardhana Rao.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ITDC: New Delhi
- **Sanjay Dutt:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador for the 50th-year celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh. Also, Rahul Mittra, award-winning filmmaker and branding expert was appointed as brand advisor of the occasion of their golden jubilee celebrations which is the 50th year of the naming of the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Arunachal Pradesh: Itanagar
 - Chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Khandu
 - Governor of Arunachal Pradesh: B. D. Mishra.
- **Smriti Mandhana:** She was appointed as the brand ambassador of GUVI, which is an IIT Madras incubated startup.
- **Naomi Kawase:** She is Japan's film director and was appointed a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for cultural and creative industries.

10TH ANNUAL WORLD COOPERATIVE MONITOR REPORT 2021

Current Context: The 10th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report was released by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the report, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) was ranked as 'number one Cooperative' among the top 300 cooperatives in the world. It has held the same position as last year.**
- The ranking was made as per the ratio of turnover over the GDP per capita.
- Therefore, IFFCO is contributing significantly to the GDP and economic growth of India.
- The WCM report helps us to know robust, economic, and organizational cooperatives in the world.
- **In the overall ranking, IFFCO is ranked at 60th position in the 2021 report of WCM.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IFFCO: New Delhi

PAYTM SIGNED MOU WITH MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Current Context: The Paytm has entered into MoU with Directorate of General Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed to train 6000 individuals for a period of 3 years in the Fintech industry.**
- The Paytm aims to build India's technology ecosystem which will drive financial inclusion in India.
- The selected participants will undergo a six-month training program designed by Paytm and DGT.
- The participants will gain basic and advanced knowledge of the latest Fintech IoT products and financial services.
- They will also be taught professional skills, communications, and sales and pitch.
- They will be given on-the-job training during this period.
- The partnership is part of DGT's Flexi-MoU scheme in which the industry partners provide a platform for the youths to gain industry-related skills.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm: Noida, UP

ADB APPROVED \$500 MILLION LOAN TO GOI

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the loan to India to enhance the quality of school education and to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the education and learning sector.

KEY FACTS

- **In this regard, the ADB sanctioned the loan of \$500-million to GOI.**
- The funds will support the Integrated Scheme for School Education (Samagra Shiksha) and the new Exemplar School Initiative of the Education Ministry.

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- This will help to enhance and improve education quality as it will lead to imparting inclusive and equitable learning results.
- Around 1,800 government schools will be transformed into exemplar schools in the states like Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.
- These Exemplary schools will work to develop quality learning environments and will generate effective learning models which will be further utilized in other government schools in India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Manila, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

APPOINTMENTS ON 4TH DEC 2021

Current Context: Pradip Shah: He was appointed chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).

ABOUT

- **Sanjay Jain:** He was appointed chief executive of India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL), which is the privately-owned AMC to resolve bad loans acquired by NARCL.
- **Gita Gopinath:** She was appointed as the IMF's Deputy Managing Director. She has replaced Geoffrey Okamoto.

WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2022

Current Context: The World Migration Report 2022 was launched by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

DETAILS

- **This is the 11th edition of the report by IOM.**
- The report mentions an increase in internal displacement due to situations like disasters, conflict, and violence particularly when the mobility was at a halt state due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- As per the report, the number of air passengers at the global level dropped to 60% in 2020 to 1.8 billion (down from 4.5 billion in 2019).
- Also, the internal displacement due to disaster, conflict, and violence is increased to 40.5million (up from 31.5 million in 2019).
- The number of international migrants is increased from 84 million globally in 1970 to 281 million in 2020.
- The proportion of international migrants is raised from 2.3% to 3.6% of the total global population.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IOM: Geneva. Switzerland
 - DG of IOM: Antonio Vitorino

PAYTM MONEY PARTNERED WITH PMS BAZAAR

Current Context: The wholly-owned subsidiary of Paytm named Paytm Money has partnered with PMS Bazaar.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **In this partnership, both entities have launched PMS Marketplace for HNI Investors.**
- The PMS Marketplace will be used to select users followed by a complete rollout.
- It grants a transparent and comprehensive analysis of all PMS schemes. Due to this, the platform becomes trustworthy for HNI investors.
- It provides past performance data of schemes which is nowadays not available publicly.
- **What is PMS?:** It stands for Portfolio Management Service and is an investment service offered to HNIs with SEBI. It mandates a minimum investment of Rs 50 lakhs.
- So, the PMS Marketplace will be the one-stop-shop to HNI investors as there will be the availability of data, tech-led products, direct access to PMS experts.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm Money: Bengaluru

ONGC SIGNED MOU WITH SECI

Current Context: The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed an MoU with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

KEY POINTS

- They have signed MoU to boost clean energy projects and strengthen its footprint in the renewable energy sector.
- Both entities will get an overarching framework to partner and work together in renewable energy projects like solar, wind, solar parks, EV value chain, green hydrogen, storage, etc.
- The MoU was signed between Subhash Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director of ONGC and Suman Sharma, Managing Director of SECI.
- The ONGC has set the target to generate a minimum of 10 GW of renewable power by 2040.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ONGC and SECI: New Delhi

ITU AND DOT CONDUCTED JOINT CYBER DRILL 2021

Current Context: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) held a Joint Cyber Drill 2021.

DETAILS

- The Joint Cyber Drill 2021 was conducted for the Critical Network Infrastructure operators of India, which are the systems, assets and networks which work to offer security to India.
- The objective of the drill was to enhance cyber security and make India ready for various cyber security parameters and platforms.
- It also helped to enhance protection and incident response capability of India.
- Various cyberattacks and information security incidents were tackled during the drills.
- The participants were imparted with the training about how to tackle every type of cyber attacks and incidents.
- This drill highlighted the major role of the Computer Security Incident Response Team and Computer Incident and Response Team (CIRT) which are responsible for handling security breaches.
- Such type of drills helps to enhance security, protect critical information and build cyber resilience.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ITU: Geneva, Switzerland

NGDRS AND BANADHIKAR APP

Current Context: The Tripura government launched National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) and BanAdhikar App.

- The NGDRS will be used for the registration of land documents.
- The BanAdhikar App is a GPS-based mobile app that will be used for forest patta land demarcation.
- The app and NGDRS were inaugurated by Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh in a virtual manner in the presence of Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb and Revenue Minister N C Debbarma.
- Both the initiatives will bring a positive impact on land-related facilities for the state's people.
- These initiatives will give land rights of the tribal patta holders under the Forest Rights Act.
- Thus, the forest rights for Scheduled Tribes and traditional forest dwellers will be protected
- The majority of land disputes will be reduced due to these initiatives.
- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of Tripura: Satyadev Narayan Arya

CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

Current Context: India and European Union (EU) have decided to step up their Clean Energy and Climate Partnership.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In this regard, they have jointly framed a work program until 2023.

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- They will implement the 2016 India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership.
- Both the entities will cooperate in energy efficiency, renewable energy, green hydrogen, grid integration, storage, power market design, interconnection, cold chain, and sustainable financing.
- This will also boost the cooperation of India-EU in context to International Solar Alliance.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of EU: Brussels

MAHILA MITRA PLUS—FEDERAL BANK

Current Context: The Federal Bank launched the Mahila Mitra Plus savings scheme. It is a feature-rich savings bank product launched for women.

KEY POINTS

- The Mahila Mitra Plus offers a curated set of features and makes financial planning and investments easy and efficient for women.
- It is linked with preferential interest rates on housing loans, processing fee waiver for home loans, complimentary and customized insurance cover.
- The scheme was launched as part of women empowerment program of the Federal Bank.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Federal Bank: Aluva, Kerala
 - MD and CEO of Federal Bank: Shyam Srinivasan
 - The tagline of Federal Bank: Your Perfect Banking Partner

PM NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATED INFINITY FORUM

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated InFinity Forum. The InFinity Forum is a thought leadership Forum on FinTech.

KEY FACTS

- **It was hosted by International Financial Services Centers Authority in partnership with GIFT City and Bloomberg.**
- The Indonesia, South Africa, and the U.K were the partner countries of the forum.
- At the event, PM Modi highlighted the role of fintech and also stated that these companies hold a major role in the future.
- He mentioned that now it is time to convert these fintech initiatives into a fintech revolution.
- The InFinity Forum was the major platform for the world's greatest brains dealing in policy, business, and technology to uplift the fintech industry.
- It was based on the theme of 'Beyond.' As per the theme, the forum enables stakeholders to think beyond conventional mindsets and think about new trends in SpaceTech, GreenTech, AgriTech, quantum computing.

5TH INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE

Current Context: The 5th Indian Ocean Conference was addressed by External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar in Abu Dhabi.

ABOUT

- While addressing he highlighted the importance of respecting and facilitating freedom of navigation and overflight.
- He also focussed on unimpeded commerce at the global level.
- **The theme of the conference was:** 'Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic'.
- He highlighted that India will give support to cover major areas of cooperation like maritime security, cyber security, climate action, vaccine collaboration, critical and emerging technologies, higher education, and resilient supply chains.
- It was organized by RSIS Singapore, Institute of National Security Studies, Sri Lanka, and the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research, UAE.

PM MODI LAID FOUNDATION STONE FOR PROJECTS IN DEHRADUN

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of multiple projects in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The project's worth price is Rs 18000 crore.**
- **He inaugurated 7 projects worth Rs 2573 crore and laid the foundation stone for 11 projects worth Rs 15728 crore.**
- He laid the foundation stone for Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor which will be constructed for Rs 8,300 crore. The corridor will reduce the travel time between Delhi and Dehradun to 2.5 hours from 6 hours
- The corridor will have 7 interchanges for connectivity to Haridwar, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Yamunanagar, Baghpat, Meerut, and Baraut.
- It will also have Asia's largest wildlife elevated corridor for unrestricted wildlife movement.
- The Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor, connecting Halgoa, Saharanpur to Bhadrabad, Haridwar will be constructed. It will be built at the cost of Rs 2,000 crore.
- Haridwar Ring Road Project will be constructed at the cost of Rs 1600 crore which will be built between Manoharpur and Kangri
- The Dehradun - Paonta Sahib (Himachal Pradesh) road project will also help to reduce travel time and will be constructed at the cost of Rs 1700 crore.
- The Child-Friendly City Project in Dehradun will be developed which will make city child friendly by granting safe roads for travel
- The Medical College in Haridwar will also be developed at the cost of Rs 500 crore

- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Gurmit Singh

APPOINTMENTS ON 7TH DEC 2021

Current Context: Alka Upadhyaya: She was appointed as the chairperson of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

ABOUT

- **Sanjay Bandopadhyay:** He was appointed as Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India.
- **Dharmendra S Gangwar:** He was appointed as Secretary, Department of Border Management.
- **Sundeep Kumar Nayak:** He was appointed as Director-General, National Productivity Council, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade.
- **Ravindra Jadeja:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador of Kinara Capital.

'PNB PRIDE-CRMD MODULE TOOL'

Current Context: The Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched the 'PNB Pride-CRMD module tool'. It is an android-based mobile application that was launched particularly for differently-abled employees.

KEY FACTS

- It will help differently-abled employees to monitor and effectively take follow up with the special mention account (SMA) borrowers.
- It has built-in talkback software which is beneficial for the visually impaired so that they can access the data in the system independently. They can get in touch with the customers simply by tapping on their phones.
- The PNB aims to offer rights and well-being of persons with disabilities through this app.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PNB: New Delhi
 - CEO and MD of PNB: S S Mallikarjuna Rao
 - Tagline of PNB: The name you can bank upon

FIH MEN'S JUNIOR HOCKEY WORLD CUP 2021

Current Context: Argentina defeated six-time champion Germany to win FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2021. The final event was held at Kalinga Stadium in Odisha. The IH Men's Hockey Junior World Cup 2021 was hosted by Bhubaneswar, Odisha in which 16 teams participated.

KEY POINTS

- **Other awards of the tournament are:**
 - **Best Player of the Tournament:** Timothée Clément (France)
 - **Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament:** Anton Brinckman (Germany)
 - **Hero Top Scorer of the Tournament:** Miles Bukkens (Netherlands)
 - **Odisha Fair Play Award:** Team Chile
 - **Odisha Fans Choice Award for Best Goal of the Tournament:** Ignacio Nardolillo (Argentina)
 - **Hockey India Maximum Team Goals:** Netherlands
 - **Hockey India Best Goal Saved of the Tournament:** Mahmoud Seleem (Egypt)
 - **AM/NS India Best Coach of the Tournament:** Johannes Schmitz (Germany)
 - **FIH Men's Junior Hockey World up 2021 Final Ranking for top 5 countries:** Argentina (1st), Germany (2nd), France (3rd), India (4th), Netherland (5th)

INDIA – RUSSIA 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

Current Context: The India – Russia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi. The dialogue observed the participation of defence ministers and external affairs ministers of both nations.

DETAILS

- The dignitaries discussed about political and defence issues of mutual interest.
- The dialogue also helped to enhance strategic partnership between the two countries.
- At the 20th meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC), both the countries signed four different pacts in the domain of defence.
- At the dialogue, India signed a contract with Russia to procure more than six lakh AK –203 rifles. This was signed under Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited Programme. The manufacturing of the rifles will be made at the cost of Rs 5,000 crores.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Russia: Moscow
 - Currency of Russia: Russian ruble

‘ACTIVE HEALTH ESSENTIAL’- HEALTH SOLUTION PLAN BY ABHICL

Current Context: The Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Ltd. (ABHICL) launched a health solution plan named as ‘Activ Health Essential’.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The ‘Activ Health Essential’ is an affordable health solution plan which is launched for senior citizens to meet their special health needs.

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- The plan offers comprehensive health solutions like Day 1 Chronic Management Program coverage. In this the owner of the policy will be covered from Day 1 during the case of an existing condition and if it is developed at a later stage. In this there will be no additional cost.
- In many plans, there is a 20% mandatory co-pay. In this plan, this case can be eradicated by selecting to pay an extra premium.
- The plan offers cover for mental illness hospitalization.
- There is also an expert health coach who will assist in health to the senior citizens.
- The reward of up to 50% of the premium paid as HealthReturns benefits and Cashless home treatments are linked to the plan.
- The plan covers pre-hospitalization medical expenses for 30 days and post-hospitalization medical expenses for 60 days.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ABHICL: Mumbai

APPOINTMENTS ON 8TH DEC 2021

Current Context: Jasprit Bumrah: He was appointed as the brand ambassador of Unix, an Indian Mobile Accessories manufacturing brand.

ABOUT

- **Adama Barrow:** He won the second term as President of Gambia.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Gambia: Banjul
 - Currency of Gambia: Gambian dalasi
- **Ittira Davis:** He was appointed as MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. He has replaced Nitin Chugh.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Ujjivan SFB: Bengaluru, Karnataka

PAYTM PARTNERED WITH AWS

Current Context: Paytm has entered into a partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS). They have partnered to launch Paytm Startup Toolkit.

KEY POINTS

- The Paytm Startup Toolkit comes with exclusive payment services and will prove beneficial to the early-stage startups in India
- This will help the entrepreneurs to enhance their businesses in terms of payment, distribution, and growth solutions

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- It will be the single-stop platform that will offer services like payments, payouts, banking, and distribution with services including Paytm Payment Gateway.
- The toolkit will also help businesses to enhance brand visibility and grow their customer base
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
 - CEO of Paytm: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

EKuverin-21

Current Context: The EKUVERIN-21 joint military exercise was held between India and Maldives. This was the 11th edition of the exercise.

KEY FACTS

- The EKUVERIN-21 joint military exercise aims to enhance synergy and inter-operability between the Armed Forces of both the nations
- The participants conducted Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency Operations
- They shared best military practices, experiences and understood each other's drills and procedures.
- The meaning of Ekuverin is 'friends' in the Dhivehi language.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Maldives: Male
 - Currency of Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa

ICICI BANK PARTNERED WITH FLIPKART

Current Context: India's one of the major private banks, ICICI Bank partnered with Flipkart.

DETAILS

- **They have partnered to offer an instant and completely digital overdraft (OD) facility to individual sellers and businesses who are associated with Flipkart.**
- The OD facility of up to Rs 25 lakhs will be given under this partnership.
- Entire digital process will be followed between bank and the individual sellers or businesses to avail the facility.
- Also, the customers of any bank can avail of ODs from ICICI Bank if they have registered themselves on Flipkart platform.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of ICICI Bank: Hum hai na, khayal aapka
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakshi

'SHE IS A CHANGEMAKER'

Current Context: The 'She is a Changemaker', which is a pan-India capacity building programme was launched by National Commission for Women (NCW).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It was launched for women representatives at all levels i.e. gram panchayats, parliament members, political workers including office bearers of National or State political parties.
- The programme was officially launched by Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of NCW in collaboration with Rhambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Thane, Maharashtra.
- The program aims to enhance the leadership skills and capacity building of women political leaders
- It will be executed in coordination with region-wise training institutes.
- The women will be given the training to enhance their decision-making abilities, communication skills including oration and writing skills, and leadership qualities.

TOP 100 ARMS-PRODUCING AND MILITARY SERVICES COMPANIES 2020

Current Context: The Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released the report titled 'Top 100 arms-producing and military services companies, 2020'.

KEY FACTS

- As per the report, India's 3 defence manufacturers companies namely Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian Ordnance Factories' and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) have secured positions among the top 100 lists at the global level.
- The HAL is ranked at 42nd position, BEL at 66th and Indian Ordnance Factories' is ranked at 60th position in the list.
- The companies of India contribute 1.2% of total arms sales of companies in the SIPRI Top 100 list of 2020.
- For 2020, India's aggregated arms sales were \$6.5 billion.
- **The 1st position was marked by Lockheed Martin Corp of US.**
- The 2nd and 3rd positions are marked by Raytheon Technologies and Boeing respectively.
- The top 5 countries who hold the highest share in total arms sales of companies are: US (54%), China (13), UK (7.1%), Russia (5%) and France (4.7%)
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIPRI: Sweden

KARNATAKA VIKAS GRAMEENA BANK SIGNED MOU WITH LIBERTY GENERAL INSURANCE

Current Context: The Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) signed MoU with Liberty General Insurance.

KEY POINTS

- They have entered into a Corporate Agency Agreement
- As per the agreement, there will be the distribution of Liberty's general insurance products via network of KVGB
- This partnership will help to enhance insurance penetration in the country through 629 branches of KVGB
- Various general health insurance products will be distributed at affordable premium payment options to the customers
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of KVGB: Dharwad, Karnataka
 - HQ of Liberty General Insurance: Mumbai

SWACHH TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Current Context: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) launched the Swachh Technology Challenge.

ABOUT

- The moto of the challenge to evolve entrepreneurial skills for country's waste management unit.
- These skills will be utilized by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to implement various components of SBM-U 2.0.
- The challenge will enable the invention of indigenous, cost effective technologies which can be used in waste management works.
- The challenge has commenced from 6th Dec 2021 and will be held till 15th Jan 2022'.
- It is being held under 4 themes namely social inclusion, zero dump, plastic waste management and transparency through digital enablement.
- It aims to get solutions from startups, individual entrepreneurs, educational institutes, local businesses, R&D organizations, NGOs, citizens who will help to tackle India's problem of waste management through ideas and innovative technologies.
- Also, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has signed MoU with UNDP to strengthen waste management sector of India under SBM-U 2.0.

RBI MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE (MPC) HIGHLIGHTS

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Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting was held and the committee decided to keep the repo rate unchanged for the 9th consecutive time in order to maintain an accommodative stance.

DETAILS

- The repo rate was unchanged at 4% and the reverse repo rate will continue to be 3.35%
- **Following are the latest decisions:**
 - Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%
 - Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
 - Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%
 - Bank Rate: 4.25%
 - CRR: 4%
 - SLR: 18%
- The real GDP growth is projected at 9.5% in 2021-22 and for Q1 of 2022-23 it is projected to be at 17.2%.
- The inflation projection was retained for FY22 at 5.3%, 5.1% for Q3, 5.7% for Q4, and 5% for Q1 FY23.
- **Members of MPC:** Shaktikanta Das (Governor), Dr Michael Debabrata Patra, Dr Mridul K. Sagar, Prof. Ashima Goyal, Prof. Jayanth R Varma and Dr Shashanka Bhide.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

FORBES' LIST OF THE WORLD'S 100 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN 2021

Current Context: The 'Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2021' or '18th Edition of Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women' was released recently.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As per the list, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was ranked at 37th position. This is for the third time in a row that she has attained a position on the list.
- Besides her, other Indians who are featured in the list are Roshni Nadar Malhotra (HCL Corporation CEO) at 52nd position, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (Biocon Executive Chairperson) at 72nd position, and Falguni Nayar (Nykaa founder) at 88th position.
- The list is topped by Mackenzie Scott (Jeff Bezos' former wife). She is a Philanthropist.
- The 2nd position is attained by US vice president Kamala Harris and the 3rd position is attained by European Central Bank head Christine Lagarde.

LOWY INSTITUTE ASIA POWER INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021 was released.

KEY POINTS

- As per the index, India is ranked at 4th position to become the most powerful country in the Asia-Pacific region with a score of 37.7 out of 100.
- The 1st position was gained by the United States with a score of 82.2 out of 100.
- The 2nd and 3rd positions are gained by China and Japan respectively.
- India's rank under 8 thematic parameters of the index are: Economic capability (4th), Military capability (4th), Resilience (4th), Future Resources (3rd), Economic relationship (8th), Defence networks (7th), Diplomatic influence (5th), Cultural influence (4th).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Lowy Institute: Sydney, Australia

APPOINTMENTS ON 10TH DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: Sunil Arora: He was appointed to the Board of Advisors for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IDEA: Stockholm, Sweden
- **Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu:** They were appointed as the brand ambassadors of Disney BYJU'S Early Learn App.
- **Sanjiv Mehta:** He was appointed as President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FICCI: New Delhi
- **Olaf Scholz:** He was appointed as the new German chancellor, thus putting an end to 16 years of conservative rule under Angela Merkel.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Germany: Berlin
 - Currency of Germany: Euro

SBI SIGNED MOU WITH KENDRIYA SAINIK BOARD

Current Context: The State Bank of India (SBI) has signed an MoU with the Kendriya Sainik Board.

KEY FACTS

- The MoU was signed to grant support and education to the children of war veterans, ex-servicemen, and war widows.
- Under the MoU, SBI will provide Rs 1,000 per month to 8,333 war veterans'.

- In this regard, the SBI has granted Rs 10 crores to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairperson of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara

AIRTEL PARTNERED WITH INVEST INDIA

Current Context: India's major telecom company, Bharti Airtel has entered into a partnership with Invest India.

DETAILS

- **They have partnered to launch the 'Airtel India Startup Innovation Challenge'.**
- The 'Airtel India Startup Innovation Challenge' will allow the early-stage tech companies to analyze and develop differentiated solutions for 5G, IoT, Cloud Communications, Digital Advertising, and Digital Entertainment.
- This will help to raise India's position in the startup ecosystem at the global level as the startups during these days are doing phenomenal work in building solutions that will tackle major problems.
- The partnership will help the startups to grow in a sustainable manner.
- The top 10 winners will win cash prizes and will be able to access Airtel's Innovation Lab.
- They will also get access to Airtel's advanced technology infrastructure.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Airtel: New Delhi
 - MD and CEO of Airtel: Mittal Gopal Vittal

'MILK PRICE INCENTIVE SCHEME'

Current Context: The 'Milk Price Incentive Scheme' was launched by the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami in Dehradun.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The scheme grants incentives to around 53,000 people of the state.
- Under the scheme, the state government will spend Rs 444.62 crore which will be utilized to open 500 milk sales centers.
- Basically, it is the Direct Bank Transfer (DBT) scheme which means that the amount will be directly credited to the beneficiaries linked bank accounts.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capitals of Uttarakhand: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
 - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Uttarakhand: Nandhaur WLS, Askot Musk Deer WLS, Kedarnath WLS, Sonanadi WLS

INDIA SKILLS REPORT 2022

Current Context: The India Skills Report (ISR) 2022 was released by Wheebox, which is a talent assessment platform, in association with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), and other agencies.

KEY POINTS

- As per the report, India's employability is improved to 46.2% from 45.97% i.e. at the marginal rate. It also defines that the gender gap in employability is also improved with the women's employable pool constantly increasing.
- The report reveals that a higher percentage of women than men are found to be employable in India.
- The sectors like IT, pharmaceutical, e-commerce, and banking, financial services, and insurance will hire 20% more fresh graduates in 2022 than in 2021.
- As per the report, Maharashtra has acquired the top position in the report having the highest employable talents with an employability of 66.1%.
- The 2nd and 3rd positions are attained by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala respectively.
- **Theme of ISR 2022:** Reengineering Education and Skilling-Building for Future of Work.
- **Cities that attained positions in the report are:** Pune (78.11% employability), Lucknow (74.32% employability), Trivandrum (66.48% employability).

PM MODI ATTENDED SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 'Summit for Democracy' in a virtual manner.

KEY FACTS

- He addressed the summit by highlighting 'democratic spirit' and 'pluralistic ethos' are ingrained in Indians.
- He highlighted India's civilizational ethos which is the original source of democracy.
- He mentioned that sensitivity, accountability, participation, and reform orientation are the 4 pillars of Indian democratic governance.
- He mentioned that Indians respect for rule of law which contributes to economic well-being and social harmony in the country.
- He stressed that the principles of democracy should also guide global governance.

BOB SIGNED MOU WITH CHFL

Current Context: The Bank of Baroda signed MoU with Centrum Housing Finance Limited (CHFL).

DETAILS

- **The MoU was signed to source and finance housing loan borrowers under Co-lending Model (CLM) mechanism.**
- Due to this partnership, multiple opportunities are opened up for both entities to enhance their businesses.
- The BoB will be able to enhance its services in markets of tier 2 & tier 3 cities at very competitive rates.
- It will be able to serve more housing loan segment business and make the achievement of Rs.1000 crore in one financial year.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CHFL: Mumbai
 - HQ of BoB: Vadodara, Gujarat
 - Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank are amalgamated into BoB

WORLD INEQUALITY REPORT 2022

Current Context: The 'World Inequality Report 2022' was released by France-based World Inequality Lab.

ABOUT

- **It is authored by Lucas Chancel, co-director of World Inequality Lab, and was coordinated by Thomas Piketty, the French economist.**
- As per the report, the top 1 % of India's population owns more than one-fifth of the total national income in 2021.
- And the bottom half of the population earns just 13.1%.
- The economic reforms and liberalization framed and adopted by India have proved beneficial to the top 1%.
- In India, 1% richest people hold 22% of the total national income in 2021 and the top 10% owns 57% of the income.
- The Indian adult population earns an average national income of Rs 204,200 in 2021, which is based on basis of purchasing power parity. And the bottom 50% earns Rs. 53,610 which means that the top 10% earns more than 20 times i.e. Rs. 1,166,520.
- As per the report, the average national income of a country masks inequalities.
- India stands out to be a 'poor and very unequal country'.
- The ratio in the richest nation which is the United States is 1 to 17. Here, the richest ten of the global population own 52% of global income and the poorest half of the population earns 8.5% of the global income.

PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK RECEIVED SCHEDULED BANK STATUS

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has granted scheduled bank status to the Paytm Payments Bank.

HIGHLIGHTS

- With the status the Paytm Payments Bank is inducted in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- This will lead to bringing more financial services and products to the Paytm Payments Bank.
- Due to this, the bank has become eligible to participate in government- and other large corporations- issued requests for proposals, primary auctions, fixed-rate and variable rate repos, and reverse repos.
- It can participate in marginal standing facilities and become a partner in various financial inclusion schemes of GOI.
- It has also become eligible for refinancing facility from the RBI at the bank rate.
- It also has the authority for a currency storage facility.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm Payments Bank: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
 - MD and CEO of Paytm Payments Bank: Satish Kumar Gupta

ATMANIRBHAR HASTSHILPKAR SCHEME

Current Context: The North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) has launched the 'Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar' scheme.

KEY FACTS

- **The 'Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar' scheme aims to grant support to the artisans in the Northeast region.**
- Under the scheme, financial assistance will be granted to the artisans in the form of term loans for income-generating activities.
- The financial assistance facility is collateral-free and has a subsidized interest rate of 6 percent per annum which is to be repayable in 24 months.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NEDFi: Guwahati, Assam

ADB APPROVED LOAN TO IMPROVE URBAN SERVICES IN INDIA

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank has approved loans to improve urban services in India.

KEY POINTS

- **In this regard, the ADB has approved a loan of USD 350 million.**
- The loan will be utilized to support various policies and schemes framed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for enhancing universal coverage of piped water supply and improved sanitation in the urban areas of the country.
- The loan is part of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.

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- The funds will be used to grant affordable housing to all including poor, urban migrant, and industrial workers. This will be executed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.
- The funds will be used to transform cities into economically vibrant and sustainable cities.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Manila, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

PM MODI INAUGURATED SARYU NAHAR NATIONAL PROJECT

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Saryu Nahar National Project.

DETAILS

- **The Saryu Nahar National Project was inaugurated in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh.**
- The work of the project was started in 1978, but due to lack of continuity in budget support, inadequate monitoring, and other reasons, the project was delayed for 4 decades.
- In 2016, the project was brought under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.
- It is built with total funds of more than Rs. 9,800 crores.
- The project involves the interlinking of 5 rivers namely Saryu, Ghaghara, Banganga, Rapti, and Rohini. Due to this optimum usage of water resources will take place in the region.
- The water for irrigation will be granted to over 14 lakh hectares of land which will thus prove helpful to 29 lakh farmers of the UP.

ISRO PARTNERED WITH OPPO INDIA

Current Context: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed an MoU with Oppo India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to work in the field of R&D of the NavIC messaging service.**
- This service will provide a user-friendly platform.
- The service will be utilized by Oppo in its phones which will be released in Indian markets for sale.
- Due to this collaboration, Oppo will be able to develop ready-to-use, end-to-end application-specific solutions by integrating NavIC messaging service with its mobile handset platform.
- India's NavIC is an equivalent American GPS system. It offers regional navigation services in India and has the feature to broadcast short messages.
- It can transfer safety-of-life alert messages in areas where there is poor or no communication system.
- Under this agreement, Oppo and ISRO will share technical data to work jointly in NavIC messaging service.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ISRO: Bengaluru
 - Chairman of ISRO: K Sivan

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 was released.

KEY FACTS

- **India is ranked at 66th position with an index score of 42.8.**
- **The index is topped by the United States with an index score of 75.9.**
- The 2nd and 3rd positions are marked by Australia and Finland respectively.
- As per the index, the world's average overall GHS index score is 38.9/100 in 2021.
- The index is the analysis of health security and related capabilities in 195 countries.
- It is framed by Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center.

INDIA SIGNED AIR BUBBLE AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA

Current Context: The Government of India has signed an air bubble agreement with Australia.

KEY POINTS

- The agreement will enable the travel of eligible passengers between the two countries.
- The air bubble agreement is a process to resume flights between two nations with preconditions during pandemics.
- At present, India has suspended all the scheduled international flight operations till 31st Jan 2022.
- But under the air bubble agreement dedicated cargo flights with select countries will operate.
- Until now, India has signed a similar agreement with 33 countries.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Australia: Canberra
 - Currency of Australia: Australian dollar

KOTAK GENERAL INSURANCE PARTNERED WITH VASAI VIKAS SAHAKARI BANK

Current Context: The Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited i.e. Kotak General Insurance has partnered with Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd.

ABOUT

- They have partnered to offer a range of insurance products to the bank's customers.
- The Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd will distribute Kotak General Insurance's general and health insurance products via its network of 21 branches.
- This will enhance insurance penetration in the country and more people will be insured under various insurance products.

- **Static Part:**

- HQ of Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited: Mumbai
- HQ of Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd: Palghar, Mumbai

KARNATAKA SIGNED LOU WITH UNDP

Current Context: The Government of Karnataka's Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports has signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The LoU was signed as a part of the 'Code-Unnati', which is a State-level initiative.**
- **It was signed to enhance entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for the youths and women of the state.**
- The initiative is supported by SAP India Lab's CSR Strategies and will be implemented in 4 districts of Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Dakshina Kannada, and Raichuru.
- The initiative also aims to involve United Nations Volunteers (UNV).
- Various colleges are selected which will work with the faculty members and students in areas like Training and Capacity Building, Training in the 21st Century & Digital Skills, Entrepreneurship Development, Innovation Challenges, Boot Camps, Corporate Volunteering, and Industry Connect.
- The training will be given to around 3,000 students who will spread awareness on entrepreneurship and will motivate students to set up their own enterprises.
- The students will be able to present their business plans through boot camps to the experts.
- **Static Part:**
 - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Karnataka: Adichunchanagiri WLS, Bhadra WLS, Ghataprabha Bird Sanctuary, Malai Mahadeshwara WLS, Mookambika WLS, Someshwara WLS

DEFENCE MINISTRY SIGNED MOU WITH IITE GANDHINAGAR

Current Context: The Ministry of Defence signed MoU with the Indian Institute of Teacher Education (IITE) Gandhinagar.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed to grant training to the teachers of Sainik Schools.**
- **This will help to boost the capacity building of teachers of Sainik Schools so that they can provide quality education to students learning in these schools.**
- The MoU was also led to enhancing the brand of existing Sainik Schools and will also generate a way to set up 100 Sainik Schools.
- The work under the MoU will commence from Jan 2022 and will be executed for a period of five years.
- Around 800 teachers of Sainik Schools will be granted training sessions.
- The training will be given through courses named 'Gurudiksha', and 'Pratibaddhata'.

- The MoU aims to nurture 'the teachers of tomorrow', implement the New Education Policy in schools and generate leadership qualities among students.
- Teachers will also be made aware of time management for UPSC-NDA preparation and the CBSE curriculum with the correct knowledge of academic subjects.
- It will also help to develop a teacher-student relationship in the boarding school environment.

WORLD TALENT RANKING REPORT 2021

Current Context: The World Talent Ranking Report 2021 was released by International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitive Centre.

KEY FACTS

- **The report analyses and ranks the ability of nations in developing, attracting, and retaining talent.**
- As per the report, India is ranked at 56th position among 64 nations.
- In terms of peer group ranking of Asia-Pacific, India is ranked at 12th position in the list.
- The 1st rank is marked by Switzerland.
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are marked by Sweden and Luxembourg respectively.
- **The ranking of India under 3 factors of World Talent Ranking Report is:** Investment and Development Factor (64th), Appeal Factor (57th), and Readiness Factor (27th).

'LOKPALONLINE' — DIGITAL PLATFORM

Current Context: The digital Platform for Management of Complaints was inaugurated by Chairperson, Lokpal of India, Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose.

ABOUT

- **The name of the digital Platform for the Management of Complaints is 'LokpalOnline'.**
- The platform can be accessed by all citizens and they can file complaints on this from anywhere and anytime.
- The LokpalOnline is an end-to-end digital solution for the management of complaints against public servants filed under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
- The special security audit of the web-based facility 'LokpalOnline' was performed by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team and the platform is hosted on National Informatics Centre (NIC) Cloud.
- The entities like Central Vigilance Commission, Centre Bureau of Investigation can upload their reports on this platform.

PM MODI INAUGURATED THE PHASE 1 OF KASHI VISHWANATH DHAM

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated phase 1 of Kashi Vishwanath Dham during his visit to Varanasi.

DETAILS

- **It is constructed with funds of Rs 339 crores.**
- It is constructed to offer an easy access pathway to connect Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple to the banks of the Ganga River.
- Before inaugurating, PM Modi offered prayers to Lord Shiva at Kashi Vishwanath temple.
- Various facilities like Yatri Suvidha Kendras, tourist facilitation center, and Vedic centers are opened under phase 1 of the project.

'UNNATI'- AN E-LEARNING PLATFORM

Current Context: The Delhi Police launched an e-learning platform named 'Unnati'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It was launched by Police Commissioner of Delhi, Rakesh Asthana at the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Auditorium, New Delhi.**
- The platform was launched under the 'YUVA' scheme of the Delhi Police.
- The 'Unnati' is an e-learning and certification initiative in which education and skill training will be given to school dropouts from the weaker sections of society.
- The courses based on digital literacy like basic computer courses, study courses for competitive exams, sports courses, and many more will be granted via the platform.
- Under the platform, counseling and placement for trainees will also be given.
- The live recording sessions will also be uploaded for the students, which they can refer if they miss out on any live sessions.

MAA UMIYA DHAM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Current Context: The Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Umiya Mata Temple and its premises.

KEY POINTS

- **It was laid at the Umiya Campus in Sola in Ahmedabad in the presence of CM of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel.**
- The temple is dedicated to Maa Umiya.
- The total funds allotted to construct the temple and other buildings is Rs 1,500 crore.

- It will be constructed on 74,000 square yards of land.
- Adjacent to the temple, a 13 storey complex will be constructed which will be a training and hostel facility for the Patidar youth who are preparing for UPSC exams and GPSC exams.

‘#CARE4HOCKEY’ CAMPAIGN-- BAJAJ ALLIANZ GENERAL INSURANCE

Current Context: The Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched the ‘#Care4Hockey’ Campaign.

KEY FACTS

- **Through this campaign, the insurance company aims to elevate field Hockey’s recognition in the country.**
- **The face of the campaign is Rani Rampal, Indian Women’s Hockey Team Captain.**
- The campaign will be executed to develop the Hockey sport in India.
- Through the campaign, the insurance company will support underprivileged children to pursue careers in Hockey sport.
- They will be supported through coaching, nutrition, and equipment by the Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance: Pune, Maharashtra

‘BOB WORLD WAVE’— BANK OF BARODA

Current Context: The Bank of Baroda has launched ‘bob World Wave’ which is the solution for digital banking payments.

DETAILS

- It is a wearable line of products used for payments and is integrated with a complete health ecosystem.
- It will allow the customers to monitor SpO2, body temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure.
- It will help in providing contactless payments upto Rs 5000 in all NFS-based PoS devices.
- And the payments above Rs 5000 will be made using PIN through the product.
- It will help the customers to carry on their day-to-day transactions in a seamless and secure manner.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bank of Baroda: Vadodara, Gujarat
 - Tagline of Bank of Baroda: India’s International Bank

MAHARASHTRA TOPS IN HAVING MAX BENEFICIARIES UNDER ABRY

Current Context: Maharashtra has topped the list of having the highest number of states with the maximum number of beneficiaries under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY).

ABOUT

- The second and third positions are gained by Tamil Nadu and Gujarat respectively.
- Maharashtra has recorded 6,49,560 beneficiaries under ABRY.
- These beneficiaries have been provided with a total of Rs 409.72 crore under the scheme to new employees of 17,524 establishments.
- The ABRY aims to incentivize employment generation in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) registered establishments during COVID-19 from 1st Oct 2020 to 31st March 2022.
- It is implemented through EPFO.
- It thus aims to reduce the financial burden of the employers so that they can appoint more working staff.

'DHAN REKHA'- INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

Current Context: The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched an individual savings life insurance plan with the name 'Dhan Rekha'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is the new non-linked, non-participating individual savings life insurance plan.
- It offers special premium rates for female lives.
- It is also launched for the third gender by adding that all benefits under the plan.
- The benefits offered under the plan are fully guaranteed.
- The minimum sum assured under Dhan Rekha' insurance plan is Rs 2 lakh and there is no upper limit on the maximum sum assured.
- The age group who can avail of the plan should be in the range of 90 days to 8 years. And the maximum age at the entrance should be in the range of 35 to 55 years.
- Loan facility is also granted under this plan.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LIC: Mumbai
 - Chairperson of LIC: M R Kumar

'SBI CARD PULSE'

Current Context: The SBI Card has launched a first-of-a-kind credit card 'SBI Card PULSE'.

KEY POINTS

- **The 'SBI Card PULSE' offers fitness and health-related benefits to the user.**
- It is launched on the Visa Signature platform and has an annual membership charge of Rs 1,499.
- It provides users with a Noise ColorFit Pulse Smartwatch of Rs. 4,999, which is a welcome gift to the user given on payment of the joining fee.
- The annual membership fee of Rs 1,499 will be waived off if there is the spend of at least Rs 2 lakhs within a year by the user.
- The card was launched to fulfill the wellness and fitness needs of the customers.
- Along with the credit card, complimentary one-year Fitpass Pro membership will also be provided to the customers which they can use at 4,000 plus gyms and fitness studios in the country.
- It is also having other benefits like a one-year complimentary free Netmeds plus subscription at free of cost, a Netmeds voucher on spending Rs 4 lakhs in a year, reward points on shopping in chemist shops, pharmacies, movies, and dining.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI Card: Gurgaon, Haryana

ADB TO OFFER \$112 MILLION LOAN FOR ASU

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved loan to establish Assam Skill University (ASU).

KEY FACTS

- **The loan of \$112 million will be provided by ADB for the same.**
- The ASU will help to strengthen skills education and training facilities.
- This will help to enhance productivity and competitiveness in Assam's economy.
- Various employment opportunities will emerge with the prospect of getting higher-paying, decent jobs to the youths, women, and disadvantaged groups of the state.
- The funds will be used to develop management, operating systems, business models, and faculty and staff for ASU.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Manila, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

RBI BROUGHT NBFCs UNDER PCA FRAMEWORK

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) under the ambit of prompt corrective action (PCA) framework.

DETAILS

- **The aim behind this step by RBI was to strengthen supervisory tools which are upon NBFCs.**
- The PCA framework provisions will be effective from October 2022 on the basis of the financial position of NBFCs on or after 31st March 2022.
- The PCA framework is applied to all deposit-taking NBFCs, excluding government companies, all non-deposit-taking NBFCs in the middle, upper, and top layers.
- RBI will impose PCA when the net non-performing assets are between 6-9% which is risk threshold 1, 9-12% which is risk threshold 2, and more than 12% which is risk threshold 3.

PACT SIGNED BETWEEN JICA AND TN HEALTH DEPT.

Current Context: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Tamil Nadu's Health and Family Welfare Department have entered into a Record of Discussions (RoD) agreement with an aim to strengthen the health sector in the state.

ABOUT

- **The RoD was signed to prevent and control Non-Communicable Diseases in the state.**
- The project for the same is termed as 'Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Tamil Nadu project'.
- The project will be executed from the fourth quarter of FY21.
- Both entities will work to focus on strengthening the technical and management features of the project in order to attain the ultimate goal of the RoD pact.
- The experts of JICA will provide guidance to the state government to prevent and control NCD.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of JICA: Tokyo Japan

AXIS BANK PARTNERED WITH SWIFT

Current Context: India's one of the major private sector banks, Axis Bank has partnered with Swift with an aim to offer a comprehensive digital solution to clients.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Axis bank is collaborating with various digitization initiatives set up by government bodies and service providers to offer an end-to-end service to business clients.
- In this partnership, Swift will support Axis bank's B2B (business-to-business) digitization efforts.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Axis Bank: Mumbai
 - MD & CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhary

RAJASTHAN SIGNED MOU WITH RAYS POWER INFRA

Current Context: The government of Rajasthan signed MoU with Rays Power Infra to construct a solar power plant with the capacity to generate 500 MW of green electricity.

KEY POINTS

- The MoU will work to develop an eco-friendly future in the energy sector.
- Both the entities decided to work together during Dubai Expo.
- They will work to reduce traditional electricity consumption derived from non-renewable sources.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Rays Power Infra: Jaipur, Rajasthan
 - National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Rajasthan: Sariska Tiger Reserve, Ranthambore NP, Mukundra Hills NP, Kumbhalgarh NP, Mount Abu WLS, Sita Mata WLS

AP SIGNED MOU WITH UN-FAO AND ICAR

Current Context: The government of Andhra Pradesh signed MoU with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed to strengthen methods to support farmers in agriculture.**
- **Various sustainable agri-food systems will be framed and will be adopted by the state in its agriculture sector.**
- The farmers in the state will be able to adopt sustainable Agri-food systems in their farming activities.
- Under the MoU, FAO will provide training to farmers, Rythu Bharosa Kendram (RBK) staff, officials, and scientists.
- The training related to the new technologies in Agri and allied sectors will be given so that they will implement best cultivation management practices.
- The RBK is the farmer support center that is set up in the state as part of an effort to weed away fake seeds, pesticides, and fertilizers from the markets.
- Both ICAR and UN-FAO will work to strengthen RBKs in the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FAO: Rome, Italy
 - President of FAO: Qu Dongyu

PM MODI INAUGURATED ALL INDIA MAYORS' CONFERENCE

Current Context: Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi inaugurated the All India Mayors' Conference via video conference.

DETAILS

- Around 120 mayors from various states participated in the conference.
- **The theme of the conference:** 'New Urban India'.
- The conference aims to serve the goal of GOI to ensure ease of living in urban areas of the country.
- It is being held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, and was organized by the Department of Urban Development of Uttar Pradesh.
- The Mayors discussed best practices to be implemented in civic administration in order to improve urban India.

INDIA SIGNED LOI WITH VIETNAM

Current Context: India and Vietnam have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) in order to develop a partnership in the fields of digital media.

ABOUT

- The LoI was signed between India's Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, and Vietnam's Minister of Information and Communication, Nguyen Manh Hung.
- Under the LoI, both the nations will share information and experience in order to develop policies and regulatory norms in digital media and social networks domains.
- They will also work to develop capacity building and training programs in order to grant training to the media professionals of both nations.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Vietnam: Hanoi
 - Currency of Vietnam: Vietnamese Dong

MCA SIGNED MOU WITH FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

Current Context: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has signed an MoU with Financial Intelligence Unit-India which comes under the Ministry of Finance.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to exchange data between both entities.**
- It will help to harness data capabilities which will lead to attaining effective enforcement of actions.
- The MoU will impart significance in the development of MCA21 Version 3 and FINNET 2.0.
- The sharing of data between the entities will help to improve regulatory and facilitating functions.
- The reason behind signing MoU was that MCA is in process of the rollout of MCA21 Version 3 in phases and FIU-India is in the process of upgrading existing FINnet 1.0 to FINnet 2.0.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman

6TH INDIA WATER IMPACT SUMMIT 2021

Current Context: The 6th India Water Impact Summit was held recently in a hybrid format National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga), Kanpur.

KEY POINTS

- In a physical format, it was held at the office of NMCG, New Delhi, and IIT Kanpur.
- **The theme of the event:** 'River Resources Allocation- Planning and Management at the Regional Level'.
- At the event, MoU was signed between NMCG and the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) to work in the research domain to develop production activities to rejuvenate India's rivers.
- MoU was signed between C-Ganga and the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) for having a sludge management framework.
- MoU was also signed between Innovation Centre Denmark and UPS Hungary to enhance participation of Hungarian industry in the Ganga River Basin Restoration and Conservation Program.

JHARKHAND CM LAUNCHED SAHAY SCHEME

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Hemant Soren launched the Sports Action towards Harnessing Aspiration of Youths (SAHAY) scheme.

KEY FACTS

- **The scheme aims to promote sports. It aims to dissuade youths from joining ranks of rebels.**
- During the first phase, 72,000 young talents from rebel-hit districts will be given training in particular sports.
- The scheme is launched in West Singhbhum, Seraikela-Kharsawan, Khunti, Gumla, and Simdega districts which are termed rebel-hit districts.
- Candidates in the age group of 14-19 years old will be registered under the scheme.
- Sports nursery will also be set up under the scheme.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Jharkhand: Ranchi
 - Governor of Jharkhand: Ramesh Bais

PINE LABS PARTNERED WITH AU SMALL FINANCE BANK

Current Context: Pine Labs, which is the leading merchant commerce platform has partnered with AU Small Finance Bank.

DETAILS

- **The partnership will allow the credit cardholders of the bank to avail of EMI offers.**

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- The EMI at the PoS can be availed under the partnership.
- Under the partnership, regular purchases into interest-free EMIs will be converted at the 2 lakh merchant base of Pine Labs based all over India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Pine Labs: Noida, UP

APPOINTMENTS ON 18TH DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: Arvind Kumar: He was appointed as Director-General of Software Technology Parks of India which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

ABOUT

- **Leena Nair:** She was appointed as the new global CEO of Chanel.
- **Ravinder Bhakar:** He assumed the charge of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Films Division, and Children Films Society of India (CFSI).
- **Catherine Russell:** She was appointed as the head of UN children's agency UNICEF, also known as the United Nations Children's Fund.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNICEF: New York, USA
- **Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane:** He took the charge of India's new Chief of Staff Committee (CoSC) which is comprised of all three defence services chiefs. He succeeded General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence, who passed away recently.
- **Madhabi Puri Buch:** She was appointed to head a 7-member committee set up by SEBI for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) in order to develop suitable technology solutions for the early detection of market anomalies.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai

NIPL SIGNED MOU WITH WESTERN UNION

Current Context: The NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) signed MoU with Western Union.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to perform a real-time bank account payment system in India.**
- The NIPL is an international payment arm of NPCI.
- Due to this partnership, the bank account holders in India will be able to receive cross-border money transfers immediately via UPI IDs.
- Therefore, millions of Indians will be able to receive funds across the world in a seamless and secure manner.

- They will work jointly to develop a robust and innovative payment infrastructure in the country for the people to receive cross-border payments.
- **Static Part:**
 - CEO of NIPL: Ritesh Shukla
 - HQ of NIPL: Mumbai
 - HQ of Western Union: Colorado, US

IPRULIFE- 1ST INSURANCE COMPANY TO SIGN UNPRI

Current Context: The ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (IPRULIFE) has signed United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI).

KEY POINTS

- **The IPRULIFE has become the first insurance company to do so.**
- By doing so, IPRULIFE has given the commitment towards Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) issues.
- The UNPRI is the world's leading proponent of responsible investment.
- The UNPRI executes the work in investment implications of ESG factors.
- It helps a network of investors who have signed the agreement in incorporating these factors into their investment and ownership decisions.
- This agreement will enable IPRULIFE to promote sustainability by integrating ESG factors into its investment frameworks.
- Also, IPRULIFE has launched the 'Sustainable Equity Fund' which is an ESG focused fund and is one step ahead of the entity to maintain sustainability.
- **Static Part:**
 - CEO of IPRULIFE: N S Kannan

'HEALTH PRIME' WELLNESS RIDER—BAJAJ ALLIANZ GENERAL INSURANCE

Current Context: The Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched 'Health Prime' rider.

ABOUT

- This facility can be availed along with the health insurance and personal accident policies of the company.
- The 'Health Prime' rider aims to offer holistic healthcare solutions.
- To launch this facility and grant various services under this, the insurance company has made a partnership with Bajaj Finserv Health Ltd.
- It covers 4 key areas namely Tele-consultation Cover, Doctor Consultation Cover, Investigations Cover, and Annual Preventive Health Check-up Cover.

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- These benefits can be availed in a cashless manner via the 'Caringly yours' app of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.
- The facility can be availed using 6 plans with premiums ranging from Rs. 63 to Rs. 1,084 excluding GST and 3 plans on floater basis with premium ranging from Rs. 1,146 to Rs. 2,348 excluding GST.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance: Pune

HAL SIGNED CONTRACT WITH BEL

Current Context: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

DETAILS

- **The contract was signed to develop and supply 20 types of systems for the 83 LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) Tejas Mk1A fighter aircraft program.**
- In this regard, the contract worth Rs 2,400 crores were signed between both entities.
- The contract will be active for the duration of 5 years i.e. from 2023 to 2028.
- The order for the same will be developed at the two units of BEL at Bengaluru and Panchkula.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HAL and BEL: Bengaluru, Karnataka

PM MODI LAID FOUNDATION STONE FOR GANGA EXPRESSWAY

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Ganga Expressway in the Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It will be 594-km long and will bring various opportunities for development in the region.
- Various jobs will also be developed through this expressway and will prove beneficial to Uttar Pradesh.
- The funds of Rs 36,000 crore are allocated for this expressway.
- Various industries will emerge in this region due to the Ganga Expressway.
- The Ganga Expressway will pass through Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of UP: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of UP: Anandiben Patel

PROJECT AMBER

Current Context: The Project AMBER was launched by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Generation India Foundation (GIF) jointly.

KEY FACTS

- The AMBER signifies 'Accelerated Mission for Better Employment and Retention'.
- It aims to fill the gap between skilling and employment.
- It was launched at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- Various sustainable models responsible for skill development will be developed and implemented.
- It will result in inclusive growth, better outcomes, and institutional strengthening.
- The project AMBER aims to empower India's youth with skills related to industries and thus grant them various employment opportunities.
- The project is funded by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship under the Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) program and private philanthropy.
- Under the AMBER project, 30,000 youth will be trained and 50% amongst them will be women.

INDIA'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTRE (IAMC)

Current Context: India's first International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) was inaugurated by Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, and Telangana Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

KEY POINTS

- The IAMC is set up at VK Towers in Gachibowli which is an information technology hub.
- It is 25,000 sq ft temporary accommodation and the permanent land for the building will be accommodated at Puppalaguda in Hyderabad.
- The IAMC has thus enhanced the ADR (Alternate Dispute Resolution) landscape of the country.
- The IAMC will help to resolve issues that occur due to the lack of sufficient judges in the law system.
- It will help to settle commercial disputes.

'KHEL NURSERY SCHEME 2022-23'

Current Context: The 'Khel Nursery Scheme 2022-23' was launched by Haryana's Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs, Sandeep Singh.

ABOUT

- It aims to promote sports in the state.

- These sports nurseries will be set up in government, private educational institutions, and private sports institutions.
- Various sports which are held in Olympic, Asian, and Commonwealth Games will be conducted at these sports nurseries.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar
 - Governor of Haryana: Bandaru Dattatreya

NATIONAL CONF. ON INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS

Current Context: The National Conference on Investment Opportunities in Highways, Transport, and Logistics was held recently in Mumbai.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Various MoUs were signed at the conference in the presence of the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Nitin Gadkari.
 - **MoU for Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs):** It was signed among National Highways Logistics Management (NHLML), Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), and Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL). Under this MoU, the land will be provided by MIDC, external road connectivity will be provided by NHLML and external rail connectivity will be provided by RVNL.
 - **MoU signed between Maharashtra Gov. and Tata Motors:** It was signed for the purpose of Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF). Under this, pollution-creating vehicles in Maharashtra will be scrapped.
 - **MoU signed between Maharashtra Gov. and CERO (Cooperative Energy Recycling and Organics):** It was signed to set up an additional vehicle scrapping facility in the state.
 - **MoU signed among IIT Madras, MoRTH, and MapmyIndia:** It was signed to develop driver and road safety technologies.

APPOINTMENTS ON 21ST DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: Mohit Jain: He was elected President of The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2021-22. He has replaced L. Adimoolam. Also, K. Raja Prasad Reddy was elected the deputy president, Rakesh Sharma was the vice-president and Tanmay Maheshwari was elected the honorary treasurer of the Society for 2021-22.

ABOUT

- **Rishabh Pant:** He was appointed the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand with an aim to promote sports and create mental health awareness among the youths of the state.

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- **Karl Nehammer:** He was sworn in as new Austria's chancellor by Alexander Van der Bellen, President of Austria. He has replaced Alexander Schallenberg.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Austria: Vienna
 - Currency of Austria: Euro

'MUKHYAMANTRI VAYU SWASTHYA SEVA'—ODISHA

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Mukhyamantri Vayu Swasthya Seva' Scheme.

KEY POINTS

- The 'Mukhyamantri Vayu Swasthya Seva' means 'Chief Minister's Air Health Service'.
- It was launched from Biju Patnaik International Airport of the state.
- Under the scheme, districts like Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, and Kalahandi will be able to avail better healthcare services.
- Qualified doctors will fly to these areas as per the pre-arranged schedule to offer treatment to the tribal community.
- People suffering from cardiovascular, neurological, kidney, and bladder problems will receive proper treatment due to this scheme.
- The cost of all the treatment and other execution of the scheme will be handled by the state government.
- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of Odisha: Prof. Ganeshi Lal

LIBERTY GENERAL INSURANCE PARTNERED WITH CSC E-GOVERNANCE SERVICES INDIA

Current Context: Liberty General Insurance has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India.

KEY FACTS

- The CSC e-Governance Services India comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **They have partnered to enhance insurance penetration in rural areas of India.**
- **Through this, Liberty General Insurance will sell its insurance products to the rural communities via a network of CSC e-Governance Services India.**
- At the initial stage of the partnership, the insurance company will provide Motor Insurance products like Two-Wheeler, Private Car, and Commercial Vehicle.

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- The partnership will help to empower the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) through new skills and knowledge of products and services as there will be an expansion of financial inclusion among the rural community.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Liberty General Insurance: Mumbai

'LOGIXTICS'- ULIP HACKATHON

Current Context: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched 'LogiXtics' which is a Unified Logistics Interface Platform's (ULIP) Hackathon.

DETAILS

- **It aims to enhance the penetration of ideas that will benefit the logistics sector and industries.**
- The ULIP aims to enhance efficiency and reduce logistics costs in the country.
- Real-time information to all stakeholders will be provided.
- **The 'LogiXtics- ULIP Hackathon is organized by NITI Aayog and Atal Innovation Mission.**
- **It is supported by National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) and NICDC Logistics Data Bank Services Limited (NLDSL).**
- The hackathon will allow everyone to showcase their strategic, coding, and domain skills to boost efficiency and solve current issues being faced in the logistics sector.

NCC SIGNED MOU WITH NHAI

Current Context: The National Cadet Corps (NCC) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have entered into MoU.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to reuse plastic wastes collected by NCC Cadets during Puneet Sagar Abhiyan and other Swachhta activities.**
- **The reuse will take place for countrywide road construction which will be undertaken by NHAI.**
- The MoU was signed between Director General of NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh and Chief General Manager of NHAI Mr. Sushil Kumar Mishra.
- The recycling activities of plastic wastes will also be undertaken by IITs and NIITs.
- These institutes along with NHAI and NCC will work to recycle plastics and use them in road construction activities.
- **Static Part:**
 - Chairperson of NHAI: Alka Upadhyay

PM MODI LAUNCHED PROJECTS WORTH RS 650 CR. FOR GOA

Current Context: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various developmental projects for Goa.

KEY POINTS

- **The projects worth Rs 650 crores were inaugurated by PM Modi on the account of Goa Liberation Day.**
- While inaugurating, he also felicitated freedom fighters and veterans of 'Operation Vijay'.
- Under these funds, redevelopment of Aguada Fort Jail Museum will take place. It will cost Rs 28 crore.
- He inaugurated a super specialty block at the Goa Medical College and Hospital, which was constructed with the funds of Rs 380 crores.
- The New South Goa District Hospital, built at a cost of Rs 220 crore was also inaugurated.
- The Aviation Skill Development Centre which will be at Mopa Airport was also inaugurated. It is built at the cost of Rs 8.5 crore.
- The gas-insulated substation at Davorlim-Navelim, Margao, was also inaugurated which was constructed at a cost of Rs 16 crores.
- He laid the foundation stone for the India International University of Legal Education and Research of Bar Council of India Trust.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Goa: Pramod Sawant
 - Governor of Goa: S. Sreedharan Pillai

PANEX-21

Current Context: The PANEX-21 was inaugurated in Pune, Maharashtra.

KEY FACTS

- **The PANEX-21 is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise that is conducted for BIMSTEC nations.**
- The exercise was organized at the College of Military Engineering in Pune.
- This was the 3rd edition of the exercise. It is basically a multi-national, multi-agency exercise.
- The objective of the PANEX-21 was to have joint planning and execution of regional development and respond to natural disasters among BIMSTEC countries.
- At the exercise, the capability demonstration by Indian Industries and FICCI took place where they showcased their capabilities, innovations, and range of products which will help government agencies in planning, preparation, and conduction of HADR.

NPCI PARTNERED WITH UDEMY BUSINESS

Current Context: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with Udemey Business.

DETAILS

- **They have partnered to encourage continuous learning and skill development of NPCI employees.**
- The partnership will be executed for 3 years.
- Udemey business will offer courses that will boost the technological, professional, leadership skills of the employees of NPCI.
- The partnership will be executed under 'Talent Development for All' which belongs to NPCI. Under this, it aims to provide capacity building, conduction of programs in AI, ML, Blockchain, Robotics Process Automation, and many more.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NPCI: Mumbai

BBC'S SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR FOR 2021

Current Context: The winners of the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year for 2021 were announced.

ABOUT

- **Winners for each category are as below:**
 - Emma Raducanu: She was announced as the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year for 2021.
 - Gareth Southgate: He was announced as the Coach of the Year.
 - Jen Beattie: She was announced as the Helen Rollason Award.
 - England men's football team: They won the Team of the Year award.
 - Rachael Blackmore: She won the World Sport Star.
 - Simone Biles: She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award category.
 - Sam Barlow: Won Unsung Hero award.
 - Sky Brown: Won Young Sports Personality of the Year award.

ICICI LOMBARD PARTNERED WITH CLOVE DENTAL

Current Context: The ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company has entered into a partnership with Clove Dental.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have partnered to offer dental insurance services to the customers of ICICI Lombard via Clove Dental.**
- Various benefits on OPD checkups, oral health support, etc. will be granted.

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- The facilities can be availed in a cashless manner.
- The oral health support to Clove Dental's consumers who will undergo necessary dental treatment and the expenses will be covered under insurance benefits of ICICI Lombard.
- With this partnership, both organizations aim to create awareness about preventive oral health for the people.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Lombard: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Lombard: Bhargav Dasgupta

NITI AAYOG SIGNED SOI WITH UN-WFP

Current Context: The NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with United Nations World Food Program (UN-WFP).

KEY POINTS

- **The Sol was signed to offer a focus on mainstreaming millets and offer support to India to have an exchange of information in the same.**
- The Sol was signed with the consideration as 2023 will be celebrated as the International Year of Millet.
- It will also help to enhance the livelihood of farmers.
- It will generate an ability to adapt to climate change and transform food systems.
- Various strategic and technological reforms to strengthen climate-resilient agriculture will be undertaken under the Sol.
- Technical support to grow millets will be offered.
- There will also be involvement of state governments, the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), and other allied institutions to execute the objectives under the Sol in the country.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UN-WFP: Rome, Italy
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairperson of NITI Aayog: PM Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

CSB BANK TO PERFORM AS 'AGENCY BANK' AS PER RBI

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has empaneled CSB Bank as 'Agency Bank'.

KEY FACTS

- **The CSB bank is the private sector lender and now will function as an 'Agency Bank' to undertake general banking businesses of central and state governments as per the guidelines framed by RBI.**

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- It will now work with various state and central governments to perform the businesses like tax collections, pension payments, stamp duty collections, etc.
- It will also perform operations like tax deducted at source (TDS), GST, property tax, and VAT.
- This will allow the CSB bank to offer its services to different government departments. Via its network of 562 branches across the country.
- The decision will provide its customers to conduct payments to the government from their existing account with the bank itself.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CSB Bank: Thrissur, Kerala

FREE SMARTPHONE YOJANA – UTTAR PRADESH

Current Context: The Government of Uttar Pradesh will be launching an ambitious 'Free Smartphone Yojana'.

DETAILS

- **It will be launched on 25th Dec 2021 as it is the birth anniversary of senior BJP leader and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**
- Under the scheme, the state government will distribute smartphones and tablets to the students studying in the final year of graduation and above.
- Around, 60,000 smartphones and 40,000 tablets to the youths will be distributed.
- To avail of the benefit of the scheme, more than 38 lakh youths have registered themselves on Digi Shakti Portal.
- To avail of the benefit of the scheme, the candidate must be a student, resident of the state, and must have secured 60% and above.
- Preference will be given to the youths studying in the final year of MA, BA, BSc, ITI, MBBS, MD, BTech, and MTech.
- The annual income of the family must be less than 2 lakh per annum.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel

APPOINTMENTS FOR 23RD DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: Atul Dinkar Rane: He was appointed as the new CEO and MD of BrahMos Aerospace Limited.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BrahMos Aerospace Limited: New Delhi.
- **Pradeep Kumar Rawat:** He was appointed as India's next Ambassador to China.

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- **Harjinder Singh:** He was appointed as India's Chef de Mission 2022 Winter Olympics to be held in Beijing, China. He is the general secretary of the Ice Hockey Association.
- **PV Sindhu:** She was appointed as a member of the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission along with 5 other people namely Iris Wang, Robin Tabeling, Greysia Polii, Kim Soyeong, and Zheng Si Wei.

VERNACULAR INNOVATION PROGRAM (VIP)

Current Context: The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has launched the Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It is the first of its kind program which been launched for innovators and entrepreneurs of India.**
- **Under this program, innovators and entrepreneurs will be given access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages by GOI.**
- To have an exceptional capacity for the VIP, Vernacular Task Force (VTF) in each of the 22 scheduled languages will be developed by AIM.
- Each task force will be having vernacular language teachers, subject experts, technical writers and they will be having leadership qualities of regional Atal Incubation Centers (AICs).
- The program will work to eradicate language barriers that are particularly faced in innovation and entrepreneurship domains.
- It will help to enhance the creative expression and language of the transactions in order to have innovation capabilities among the people without facing language problems.
- The AIM, NITI Aayog has also partnered with the Design Department of IIT Delhi which will work to coach the VTF in design thinking and entrepreneurship and the adaptation of these subjects in the 22 languages and cultures.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairperson of NITI Aayog: PM Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

GLOBAL UNICORN INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Hurun Research Institute has released Global Unicorn Index 2021.

KEY POINTS

- **As per the index, India is ranked at 3rd position.**
- India has replaced the UK at the 3rd spot thus by adding 33 unicorns in 2020.
- In total, India has 54 Unicorns.

- The 1st position is marked by the US having 487 number of unicorns. The US has added 254 unicorns newly.
- China is placed at 2nd position with 301 unicorns. China has added 74 unicorns newly.
- Around 81% of the unicorns are dealing in the IT sector.
- There are 1,058 unicorns in 221 cities of 42 countries across the world and the total value of the unicorns of the world stands at USD 3.7 trillion, which is equivalent to the GDP of Germany.
- The top 3 companies as per the index are: ByteDance (China) (1st), Ant Group (China) (2nd), and SpaceX (US) (3rd).
- India's companies in the top 100 unicorn list: BYJU'S (15th), InMobi (28th), OYO (49th), Ola (79th), PharmEasy (100th), and Swiggy (100th).

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA SIGNED CO-LENDING AGREEMENT WITH U GRO CAPITAL

Current Context: The Central Bank of India has signed a co-lending agreement with U GRO Capital.

KEY FACTS

- **Under this, it aims to disburse up to Rs 1,000 crore to the MSMEs in the one-year time span.**
- The amount will be disbursed to U GRO Capital's varied MSME segments.
- The agreement will function under programs like Pratham, Sanjeevani, Saathi, GRO MSME, and machinery financing.
- The co-lending support will be granted through the GRO-Xstream platform by the Central Bank of India with the loans originated by U GRO Capital's distribution network.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Central Bank of India: Mumbai

INDIA FLIGHT TESTED 'PRALAY' MISSILE

Current Context: India successfully flight tested the indigenously-developed, surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay'.

DETAILS

- It was flight tested off the Odisha coast. It was launched from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island.
- The 'Pralay' missile is developed by Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is a solid-fuel, battlefield missile and is based on Prithvi Defence Vehicle from the Indian ballistic missile program.
- In the testing operation, the missile followed the desired quasi ballistic trajectory and reached the designated target with high degree accuracy, validating the control, guidance, and mission algorithms.

- It has a range of 150 to 500 km and is integrated with state-of-the-art navigation and integrated avionics.

BWF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

Current Context: The 2021 Badminton World Federation (BWF) World championship was held in Huelva, Spain.

ABOUT

- **Below is the list of winners in each category:**
 - **Men's Singles:** Won by Loh Kean Yew (Singapore) and Runner-up is Srikanth Kidambi (India)
 - **Women's Singles:** Won by Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) and Runner-up is Tai – Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei)
 - **Men's Doubles:** Won by Takuro Hoki & Yugo Kobayashi (Japan) and Runner-up is He Jiting & Tan Qiang (China)
 - **Women's Doubles:** Won by Chen Qingchen & Jia Yifan (China) and Runner-up is Lee So-hee & Shin Seung-Chan (South Korea)
 - **Mixed Doubles:** Won by Dechapol Puavaranukroh & Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand) and Runner-up is Yuta Watanabe & Arisa Higashino (Japan)

PM MODI LAID FOUNDATION STONE FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS IN VARANASI

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for 27 projects in his Varanasi parliamentary constituency.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The total cost of the projects is Rs 2095 crore.**
- He laid the foundation stone for 'Banas Dairy Sankul' at the state's Industrial Development Authority Food Park, based in Karkhiyaon, Varanasi.
- It will occupy the land of 30 acres and the total cost will be Rs 475 crores. It will have a facility for processing 5 lakh liters of milk per day.
- He also transferred about Rs 35 crore bonus to the bank accounts of more than 1.7 lakh milk producers associated with Banas Dairy.
- The foundation stone for the Biogas-based Electricity generation plant for the Milk Producers Cooperative Union Plant was laid down in Ramnagar, Varanasi.
- The portal and logo for the Conformity Assessment Scheme of milk products were also released. It was developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- Various urban developmental projects were also inaugurated. These included redevelopments of Old Kashi wards, parking and surface park at Beniabag, redevelopment of ponds, setting up sewage treatment plant at Ramna village, and setting up a CCTV system at 720 locations.

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- The Integrated Ayush Hospital with the facility of 50 beds was also inaugurated.
- The foundation stone for Government Homeopathic Medical College was laid down at the cost of Rs 49 crore.
- He also inaugurated Speed Breeding Facility at International Rice Research Institute, South Asia Regional Centre Varanasi, which is a Regional Reference Standards Laboratory at village Payakpur and an Advocate building at Tehsil Pindra.
- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of UP: Anandiben Patel
 - CM of UP: Yogi Adityanath

PAYTM PARTNERED WITH MONEYGRAM

Current Context: The Paytm Payments Bank has entered into a partnership with MoneyGram.

KEY POINTS

- **They have partnered to enable funds transfer at the international level.**
- **The funds will be transferred directly into the Paytm Wallet.**
- Due to this partnership, MoneyGram customers across the world will be able to send money to the millions of fully KYC compliant Paytm Wallets in India in a real-time domain.
- This is MoneyGram's first mobile wallet partnership.
- Due to this partnership, there will be an increase in growth rates for MoneyGram as more customers will avail of the facility.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm Payments Bank: Noida, UP
 - HQ of MoneyGram: Dallas, Texas, US

INDIA RANKED 3RD AMONG DOPE VIOLATORS

Current Context: India is among the top three dope violators countries in the world, as per the report released by World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada).

DETAILS

- **For 152 times, the Indian athletes were involved in dope-related activities in the year 2019.**
- **The report is topped by Russia with 162 number times involvement in dope-related activities.**
- The second position is marked by Italy with 157 number times involvement in dope-related activities.
- As per the report, 152 Anti-doping Rule Violations i.e. 17% of the total in world cases were reported from India.
- As per the report, a total of 278,047 samples was collected by Anti-Doping Organisations worldwide in 201.
- Of these total samples, 2,701 were reported as Adverse Analytical Findings.

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- And till Jan 2021, 1,535 samples were confirmed as ADRVs (sanctions).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of WADA: Montreal, Canada

CHALO MOBILE APPLICATION AND CHALO SMART CARDS – MAHARASHTRA

Current Context: The Tourism and Environment Minister of Maharashtra, Aaditya Thackeray launched Chalo mobile application (app) and Chalo smart cards.

KEY FACTS

- **Both the initiatives were launched to facilitate digital and advance purchase of Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) bus tickets.**
- The Chalo mobile app will help passengers to purchase online bus tickets. They will also be able to gain access to bus passes through an e-wallet.
- The app will also deliver information about how crowded the vehicle is and the arrival time of the bus at various bus stops.
- The funds of Rs 85 crore are sanctioned for the maintenance of the Chalo mobile application for six years.
- **Static Part:**
 - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Maharashtra: Tadoba Andhari Reserve, Anerdam WLS, Nandur Madhmeshwar Bird Sanctuary, Koyna WLS, Chaprala WLS, Phansad WLS, Tipeswar WLS

APPOINTMENTS ON 25TH DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra: He was appointed as Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand. He has replaced Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh
- **HO Suri:** He was appointed as MD and CEO of IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance: Gurugram, Haryana

DIFFERENT PROJECTS OF TRIFED WERE LAUNCHED

Current Context: The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda launched various projects of TRIFED.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It included a Van Dhan Chronicle, 9 promotional videos on TRIBES INDIA, TRIFOOD, MSP for MFP, and Van Dhan Yojana made by National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and 14 Honey Farmer Producer Organisations.
- The MoU was also signed between Tribal Ministry and UNICEF on Tribal Samvaad Network.
 - **TRIFED Van Dhan:** Chronicle of tribal grit and enterprise: It is the document that showcases the achievement of the work done for the tribal enterprises in India. It also showcases the achievements of tribal entrepreneurs in their respective businesses under the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana. The document represents an in-depth explanation of the activities undertaken by TRIFED.
 - **Promotional Videos on Tribes communities:** It helped to promote Tribes and their culture in India. The videos were developed by NFDC. Also, TRIFOOD, MSP for MFP, and Van Dhan Yojana were launched by the minister.
 - Around, 14 Honey FPOs were launched.
 - The MoU was signed between Tribal Ministry and UNICEF to launch the 'Tribal Samvaad network, which is a Tribal network for Social and Behavior Change. Both the entities will develop various channels, communication strategies, and tools to develop tribal communities in social and economical domains.
 - The MIS Portal for Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produces was launched. It is the dashboard for the authorized users of the Tribal ministry and TRIFED.

INDIA SIGNED MOU WITH MALDIVES

Current Context: India has signed an MoU with the Maldives for the purpose of a pilot project on pre-arrival cargo data exchange.

KEY FACTS

- **This MoU will mark the beginning of the electronic exchange of customs data between both countries.**
- In this regard, Vivek Johri, CBIC Chairman, and Abdulla Shareef, Commissioner General of Maldives Customs, jointly launched the pilot on pre-arrival customs data exchange in a virtual manner.
- The MoU will also facilitate trade between both countries as there will be an electronic exchange of data on a real-time basis.
- This will enable fast-track customs payments, identify and eradicate frauds in the same and reduce the time for clearances.
- There will be an enhancement in supply chains and boost bilateral trade between India and Maldives.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Maldives: Male
 - Currency of Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa

PNB ENTERED INTO CO-LENDING AGREEMENT WITH LENDINGKART

Current Context: The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has entered into a Co-Lending arrangement with Lendingkart Finance Limited.

KEY POINTS

- This is the fourth Co-Lending arrangement by PNB.
- Under the agreement, both the entities will focus on digital underwriting and cash flow-based lending.
- They will work to benefit MSMEs. The MSMEs will be able to avail funds at an affordable rate to execute their tasks.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PNB: New Delhi
 - MD and CEO of PNB: S S Mallikarjuna Rao
 - Tagline of PNB: The name you can bank upon

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

Current Context: The James Webb Space Telescope was launched on 25th Dec 2021.

DETAILS

- **It is the world's largest and most powerful space telescope.**
- It has begun a one-million-mile journey to see 13.5 billion years into the past.
- It was launched by boarding on Ariane 5 rocket. It was launched from Guiana Space Center in Kourou, French Guiana.
- It weighs 14,000-pound and will take a one-month duration to reach its destination in the solar orbit.
- Its destination is roughly 1 million miles from the Earth, four times away from the moon.
- It is developed as part of the partnership of NASA, the European Space Agency, and the Canadian Space Agency.
- The telescope will examine every phase of cosmic history and the evolution of our solar system. It will work to find the first galaxies and will observe the star's formation process.
- The James Webb Space Telescope has replaced the 30-year-old Hubble Space Telescope.
- It is named after James Edwin Webb, who was an American government official who served as Undersecretary of State from 1949–1952.

SIDBI SIGNED MOU WITH WEST BENGAL

Current Context: The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed an MoU with the Government of West Bengal.

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to develop the MSME ecosystem in West Bengal.**
- In this regard, the SIDBI's project management unit (PMU) will work to develop MSME in the state.
- The PMU will analyze current strategies and frameworks of MSMEs in the state and will accordingly guide stakeholders to develop sector-specific products.
- It will also develop an expert agency in partnership with the MSME department of the state to execute the objectives of MoU.
- It will support the MSMEs with funds, marketing strategies, digital platforms, etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow, UP
 - CMD of SIDBI: Sivasubramanian Ramann

GOOD GOVERNANCE INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the Good Governance Index (GGI) 2021.

KEY FACTS

- **The GGI 2021 is framed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).**
- The index analyzes and assesses the state of Governance across the states and UTs.
- The States and UTs were divided into 4 categories namely (a) Other States- Group A; (b) Other States- Group B; (c) North East and the Hill States; and (d) Union Territories.
- Gujarat has topped in states categories in GGI Index 2021 composite score.
- **Below is the chart of top-ranking states and UTs in sectors and composite ranks:**

Sector	Group A	Group B	North East and Hill States	Union Territories
Agriculture & Allied Sector	Andhra Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Mizoram	D & N Haveli
Commerce & Industry	Telangana	Uttar Pradesh	J&K	Daman & Diu
HRD	Punjab	Odisha	Himachal Pradesh	Chandigarh
Public Infrastructure & Utilities	Goa	Bihar	Himachal Pradesh	A & N Island
Public Health	Kerala	West Bengal	Mizoram	A & N Island
Economic Governance	Gujarat	Odisha	Tripura	Delhi
Social Welfare and Development	Telangana	Chhattisgarh	Sikkim	D & N Havelli
Judiciary & Public Safety	Tamil Nadu	Rajasthan	Nagaland	Chandigarh
Environment	Kerala	Rajasthan	Manipur	Daman & Diu

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Citizen-Centric Governance	Haryana	Rajasthan	Uttarakhand	Delhi
Composite	Gujarat	Madhya Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	Delhi

HOP ELECTRIC SIGNED PACT WITH GOV. OF RAJASTHAN

Current Context: The HOP Electric Mobility has signed MoU with the Rajasthan government.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed to expand its product portfolio and production capacity.**
- Under the MoU, an EV manufacturing plant will be set up in Jaipur city of Rajasthan.
- The MoU signing discussion was made during Dubai Expo 2021.
- The EV manufacturing plant will be developing 1.8 lakh vehicles per annum.
- This will thus boost e-mobility, will reduce pollution, and will generate employment.
- Around Rs, 100 crores will be invested by the company.
- **Static Part:**
 - National Parks in Rajasthan: Sariska Tiger Reserve, Ranthambore NP, Mukundra Hills NP, Desert NP

DRDO CONDUCTED FLIGHT TEST OF HEAT 'ABHYAS'

Current Context: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight test of Indigenously developed High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'Abhyas'.

ABOUT

- The test was conducted from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the Odisha coast.
- In the test activities, a high subsonic speed trajectory at a very low altitude with high endurance was demonstrated.
- The Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) which is the DRDO lab has developed HEAT 'Abhyas'.
- It is the unmanned aerial target system and will work to meet the requirement of the aerial targets of the Indian Armed forces.

INDIPAISA PARTNERED WITH NSDL PAYMENTS BANK

Current Context: Indipaisa has entered into a partnership with NSDL Payments Bank.

HIGHLIGHTS

- They have partnered to develop Fintech solutions by targeting Small and Mid-Enterprises (SMEs) in India.
- The partnership will help to empower owners of SMEs in compliance with government tax laws and the sustainable future of SMEs.
- Various affordable and convenient payment acceptance options for the owners of SMEs will be developed.
- The partnership will also enable settlement of customer payment into a merchant bank account in a fast time duration at a null cost to the customer.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Indipaisa: Noida, UP
 - HQ of NSDL Payment Bank: Mumbai

CEBR WORLD ECONOMIC LEAGUE TABLE 2022

Current Context: The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) has released World Economic League Table 2022.

DETAILS

- **As per the report, India is highlighted as the 6th largest economy in 2022 and the 3rd largest economy in 2031.**
- India's economic forecast by CEBR for various years is: 7th (2021), 6th (2022), 5th (2026), 3rd (2031), and 3rd (2036).
- The world economy will surpass \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022.
- **Static part:**
 - HQ of CEBR: London, UK

'MEENDUM MANJAPPAI' SCHEME

Current Context: The government of Tamil Nadu launched the 'Meendum Manjappai' scheme.

KEY FACTS

- **The scheme aims to promote the usage of cloth bags among people and ban the use of plastic bags as they are harmful to the environment.**
- The scheme motivates people to use 'yellow' cloth bag or 'manjappai' as it is called in the Tamil language.
- Also, the state government has put a ban on the production, use, storage, distribution, transportation, or sale of 14 types of plastics.
- **Static Part:**

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- National Parks in Tamil Nadu: Mukurthi NP, Mudumalai NP, Indira Gandhi (Anamalai) NP, Gulf of Mannar Marine NP

APPOINTMENTS ON 28TH DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: Rajeev Ahuja: He was appointed as the new MD of RBL Bank. He has replaced Vishwavir Ahuja.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBL Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of RBL Bank: Apno Ka Bank
- **Kamlesh Gandhi:** He was appointed as Co-Chairman of the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC). Along with him, Umesh Revankar was also selected.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FIDC: Mumbai
- **Mohammed Ben Sulayem:** He was appointed as the first non-European president of motorsport's world governing body, the International Automobile Federation (FIA).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FIA: Paris, France
- **Eishin Chihana:** He was appointed as new Chairman of India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt Ltd. He has replaced Motofumi Shitara.
- **Narandran 'Jody' Kollapen:** He is an Indian origin judge and was appointed to South Africa's highest judicial bench, the Constitutional Court.

NITI AAYOG'S 4TH STATE HEALTH INDEX FOR 2019-20

Current Context: The NITI Aayog has released the 4th State Health Index for 2019-20.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The State Health Index provides health outcomes and status of Indian states and UTs.
- The ranking of the index was framed by NITI Aayog, World Bank, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) jointly.
- The title of the report is 'Healthy States, Progressive India'.
- It ranks the state's and UT's for their incremental performance in health sector and aims to develop robust health systems and boost health service delivery in the country.
- Among the larger states, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Telangana hold the top position in terms of annual incremental performance.
- Among the smaller states, Mizoram and Meghalaya hold the top positions in terms of maximum annual incremental progress.

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- Among the UTs, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir hold the top positions in terms of best incremental performance.
- **Overall ranking as per the composite index score in 2019–20:**
 - Larger States: Kerala (1st), Tamil Nadu (2nd); (b) Smaller State: Mizoram (1st), Tripura (2nd); (c) UTs: Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (1st), Chandigarh (2nd)

PM MODI LAID FOUNDATION STONE OF HYDROPOWER PROJECTS IN HP

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for hydropower projects in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.

KEY POINTS

- **The project cost is worth Rs 11000 crore.**
- It will help to enhance the economy of the state and will generate large power for the purpose of various users in the state.
- He laid the foundation stone of the Renukaji Dam project which was pending for around 3 decades. It is a 40MW project and costs Rs 7000 crore.
- He also laid the foundation stone of the Luhri Stage 1 Hydro Power Project. It is a 210 MW project and costs Rs 1,800 crore. It will generate over 750 million units of electricity per year.
- It laid the foundation stone of Dhaulasidh Hydro Power Project, which is the first hydropower project of Hamirpur district. It is a 66 MW project and cost Rs 680 crore. It will generate over 300 million units of electricity per year.
- He inaugurated the Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project which is 111 MW project and cost Rs 2,080 crore. It will generate 380 million units of electricity per year.
- **Static part:**
 - CM of Himachal Pradesh: Jai Ram Thakur
 - Governor of Himachal Pradesh: Rajendra V Arlekar

HDFC BANK PARTNERED WITH IPPB

Current Context: The HDFC Bank has entered into MoU with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).

KEY FACTS

- They have signed MoU to provide banking services to the customers of IPPB in semi-urban and rural areas.
- This will help to enhance financial inclusion in the semi-urban and rural areas through the network of IPPB.
- **Static part:**
 - HQ of IPPB: New Delhi

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- MD & CEO of IPPB: J Venkatramu
- Tagline of IPPB: Aapka Bank, Aapke Dwaar

APPOINTMENTS ON 29TH DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: Vivek Joshi: He is the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India and was appointed to head the committee setup by GOI to look into the demand for withdrawal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act 'AFSPA' in Nagaland.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio
 - Governor of Nagaland: Jagdish Mukhi
- **Atul Kumar Goel:** He was appointed as MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB). Currently, he is serving as MD & CEO of UCO Bank. He will be replacing Mallikarjuna Rao.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PNB: New Delhi
 - Tagline of PNB: The name you can bank upon
- **Soma Sankara Prasad:** He was appointed as MD & CEO of UCO Bank. Currently, he is serving as Deputy MD of SBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UCO Bank: Kolkata
 - Tagline of UCO Bank: Honours your trust
- **Aarati Krishnan:** She was inducted as a member of the Securities & Exchange Board of India's Advisory Committee on Mutual Funds. The committee for the same is headed by Usha Thorat.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai

INDUSIND BANK LAUNCHED 'GREEN FIXED DEPOSITS'

Current Context: The IndusInd Bank has launched 'green fixed deposits'.

DETAILS

- **In this, the deposit proceeds will be used to finance projects to support United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDG).**
- The 'green fixed deposits' will be offered to retail and corporate sectors.
- The IndusInd bank has also secured 'band A' in the carbon disclosure project.
- The depositors who will avail of this type of deposit will be issued with a 'Green' certificate and an Assurance certificate.
- It offers a high rate of interest upto 6% per annum and is backed by insurance for upto Rs 5 lakhs.

- **Static part:**
 - HQ of IndusInd Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of IndusInd Bank: We make you feel richer

ATAL RANKING OF INSTITUTIONS ON INNOVATION ACHIEVEMENT (ARIIA) 2021

Current Context: The Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA) 2021 was released.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The ARIIA is an initiative under the Ministry of Education and it ranks major educational institutions and universities as per their performance in 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development'.
- The rankings were made under two categories- Technical and Non-Technical.
- The technical category included 5 sub-categories namely: CFTIs, Central University, & Institute of National Importance, State University & Deemed University (Govt. & Govt. Aided), Govt. College/Institution (Govt. & Govt. Aided), University & Deemed University (Self-Finance/Private) and Private College/Institute (Self-Finance/Private). The non-technical category included two sub-categories- CFIs/Central University/Institute of National Importance (Non-Technical) and General (Non-Technical).
- Below is the list for each category:
 - **CFTIs, Central University, & Institute of National Importance (Technical):** IIT Madras (1st), IIT Bombay (2nd), IIT Delhi (3rd)
 - **State University & Deemed University (Govt. & Govt. Aided) (Technical):** Panjab University (1st), Delhi Technological University (2nd), Netaji Subhas University of Technology (3rd)
 - **Govt. College/Institution (Govt. & Govt. Aided) (Technical):** College of Engg Pune (1st), PSG College of Technology (2nd), L D College of Engg (3rd)
 - **University & Deemed University (Self-Finance/Private) (Technical):** Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology Khordha (1st), Chitkara University (2nd), Lovely Professional University (3rd)
 - **Private College/Institute (Self-Finance/Private) (Technical):** G H Raisoni College of Engg (1st), R M K Engg College (2nd), KIET Group of Institutions (3rd)
 - **CFIs/Central University/Institute of National Importance (Non-Technical):** Indira Gandhi National Open University (1st), IIM Kozhikode (2nd)
 - **General (Non-Technical):** Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (1st), Sree Narayana College (2nd)

ICICI PRU IPROTECT RETURN OF PREMIUM

Current Context: The ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched 'ICICI Pru iProtect Return of Premium'.

KEY FACTS

- It is the new term insurance plan by the insurance company.
- Basically, it is the customer-centric plan which offers protection cover wherein the quantum of life cover is automatically adjusted based on the customer's life stages.
- It offers the return of 105% of all premiums paid on survival.
- It provides protection cover against 64 critical illnesses.
- The 'ICICI Pru iProtect Return of Premium' comes in two variants namely Life Stage Cover and Level Cover.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance: Mumbai

KARNATAKA PARTNERED WITH NPCI AND SBI

Current Context: The government of Karnataka has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) & the State Bank of India (SBI).

KEY POINTS

- **They have partnered to launch an 'e-RUPI' payment solution.**
- The 'e-RUPI' payment solution will be launched for students under its scholarship program.
- To redeem the e-RUPI, the institutes will have to scan QR codes or SMS strings which will be displayed by students through an app.
- The 'e-RUPI' payment solution will lead to performing cashless and contactless payments in a safe and secure manner.
- The students will be able to make payment of their education fees using the solution.
- The state government will get e-vouchers delivered to the mobiles of eligible students.
- **Static part:**
 - CM of Karnataka: Basavaraj S Bommai
 - Governor of Karnataka: Thawar Chand Gehlot

PM MODI INAUGURATED KANPUR METRO RAIL PROJECT

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Kanpur Metro Rail Project and Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project.

DETAILS

- **Along with this, he also attended the 54th Convocation Ceremony at IIT Kanpur.**
- **Kanpur Metro Rail Project:** He inaugurated a 9 km-long corridor-I of the project part which is extended from IIT Kanpur to Moti Jheel which is comprised of 9 elevated stations. The 9 stations are certified with a platinum rating of Green Building Council. The length of the entire project is approx. 32 km,

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comprising 2 corridors. It will have 30 stations in Kanpur. The total cost of the project is approx. Rs 11076 crore.

- **Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project:** It is 356 km long and is built with funds of Rs 1524 crore. It is stretched from Bina in Madhya Pradesh to Panki in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Static Part:**
 - Airports in Uttar Pradesh: Kushinagar International Airport, Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport, Maryada Purushottam Shriram International Airport

APPOINTMENTS ON 30TH DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: IAS Praveen Kumar: He was appointed as Director General & Chief Executive Officer, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IICA: Gurugram, Haryana
- **Radhika Jha:** She was appointed as CEO of Energy Efficiency Services (EESL) which is a joint venture between NTPC, Power Grid, Power Finance Corp, and REC.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of EESL: New Delhi

FEDERAL BANK SIGNED MOU WITH SCHWING STETTER

Current Context: The Federal Bank signed MoU with Schwing Stetter (India) which is a Subsidiary of Schwing GMBH, Germany.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to offer customized financial solutions to their customers.**
- They will offer Commercial Equipment loans with affordable monthly repayment plans.
- The federal bank will also be able to use advanced technology for enhancing customer experience through this partnership.
- Due to this partnership, the bank will be able to provide financial solutions by leveraging its platform to reach vast customers of Schwing Stetter India and its dealers.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Federal Bank: Aluva, Kerala
 - Tagline of Federal Bank: Your Perfect Banking Partner

PM MODI LAID FOUNDATION STONE FOR PROJECTS IN UTTARAKHAND

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for projects in Haldwani city of the Kumaon region in Uttarakhand.

KEY FACTS

- **The projects are worth Rs 17,500 crore in cost.**
- The foundation stone for 23 projects was laid down which includes work in various sectors like irrigation, road, housing, health industry, sanitation and drinking water supply, and many more.
- He laid the foundation stone of the Lakhwar multi-purpose hydroelectricity project. The total cost of the project is Rs 5747 crore.
- The foundation stone for the AIIMS Rishikesh satellite center was laid down with funds of Rs 500 crore.
- The Jagjivan Ram Government Medical College will be established at Pithoragarh with funds of Rs 450 crore.
- The projects worth Rs 8700 crore will be executed in the road development sector which will offer vast road connectivity in the state.
- He also laid the foundation stone for Aroma Park which will be developed at Kashipur and Plastic Industrial park which will be set up at Sitarganj.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Gurmit Singh

REDINK AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM 2021

Current Context: The Redink Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2021 were presented by Mumbai Press Club.

KEY POINTS

- **The event observed the chief guest as Chief Justice of India NV Ramana.**
- At the event, Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui, who died during an assignment in Afghanistan in July 2021, was posthumously awarded as the 'Journalist of the Year' by the Mumbai Press Club. His wife Frederike Siddiqui received the award.
- The RedInk 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Senior Journalist Prem Shankar Jha.
- **The winners for each category of the award are:**
 - Business & Economy Category: Varsha Tolgalkar and Mrityunjay Singh
 - Crime Category: Sagar
 - Environment Category: Ishan Kukreti, Kundan Pandey, Sofia Bind, Sugandha Arora, and Soundaram Ramanathan
 - Human Rights Category: Kumar Sambhav Shrivastava, Prabhakar Tamilarasu, Tridip Kanti Mandal, and Syed Shahriyar

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- Health & Wellness Category: Priyanka Pulla, Faye D' Souza, and Arun Rengaswamy
- Politics Category: Abhishek Angad and Saurabh Shukla
- Lifestyle & Entertainment Category: Makepeace Sitlhou and Kathakali Chanda
- Sports Category: Mihir Vasavada
- Science & Innovation Category: Bhavya Dore, Pallava Bagla, and Ganesh Raghunath Kale
- Arts Category: Majid Maqbool and Mahtab Alam
- Women Empowerment & Gender Equality Category: Shrikant Fakirba Bangale and Asmita Bakshi

JAPAN LAUNCHED WORLD'S FIRST DUAL-MODE VEHICLE

Current Context: Japan has launched the world's first dual-mode vehicle (DMV).

DETAILS

- It looks like a minibus. It was launched in Japan's town of Kaiyo.
- It runs on normal rubber tyres on the road but its steel wheels which are in its underbelly, descend when it hits the rail tracks.
- It carries 21 passengers and has a speed of 60km/h on rail tracks and 100km/h on public roads.
- It is powered by diesel.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

APPOINTMENTS ON 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Current Context: Vasudevan PN: He was reappointed as MD and CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank for a period of three years.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Equitas SFB: Chennai, TN
- **Vijay Raaz and Varun Sharma:** They were appointed as brand ambassadors of EaseMyTrip.
- **Dr. Anupam Ray:** He was appointed as India's Permanent Representative at UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.
- **Durga Shankar Mishra:** He was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh. He has replaced Rajendra Kumar Tiwari.
- **Chandra Prakash Goyal:** He was appointed as Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.