



**BANK
EXAMS
Today**



**MONTHLY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS GK
DIGEST:
JANUARY**



2021

CONTENTS

BSSUKM signed MoU with NKJ Biofuel Ltd.....	5
DRDO & Indian Navy conducted Trial of SAHAYAK-NG.....	5
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation signed MoU with UNDP India	6
Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG).....	6
Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and Mobile App.....	7
6th Digital India Awards 2020	7
Appointments and Extension on 2nd January 2021	8
UN's FAO Named 4 Asian Tea Cultivation Sites as GIAHS	8
Defence Ministry signed Agreement with BEL.....	9
PM Modi laid Foundation Stone for Light House Projects (LHPs)	9
ADB and GOI Signed Loan Agreement to Finance Horticulture in HP.....	10
J&K Government Signed MoU with NAFED	10
'RuPay PoS'—By RuPay and RBL Bank.....	11
RBI Digital Payment Index.....	11
National Metrology Conclave 2021	12
India to Co-Chair IUCN Supported APAP.....	12
Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021	13
Appointment and Achievement on 4th January 2021	13
ADB Approved Loan to Upgrade Power Distribution System in Bangalore	13
TRIFED, DoNER and India Post to Promote North-East Tribal Products.....	14
Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act.....	14
Appointment on 5th January 2021	15
Tamil Academy to be Setup in Delhi	15
World Bank, GOI and West Bengal Gov. Signed Loan Agreement.....	16
'Launch Pad Scheme' of Madhya Pradesh	16
Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline.....	17
Appointment on 6th January 2021	17
NHPC, PDD and JKPDC Signed MoU for Mega Hydro Project in J&K	18
TATA Power Partnered with SIDBI	18
Indian Economy to Contract by 9.6% in FY 2020-21—World Bank.....	18
Legal Entity Identifier for NEFT, RTGS Transaction above Rs 50 crore	19
Appointments on 7th January 2021.....	19
Toycathon 2021 and Toycathon Portal	20
Krishi Sanjeevani Vans -- Karnataka	20

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

Indian Economy to Contract by 7.7% in FY 2020-21--NSO	21
RBI Announced Operationalization of PIDF Scheme	21
Appointments on 8th January 2021	21
Cabinet approved MoU between India & Japan for Specified Skilled Workers.....	22
Flipkart Signed MoU with Logistics Skill Sector Council (LSC).....	23
SC-NBWL approved the Advisory for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management.....	23
Rewari-Madar Section of WDFC Inaugurated by PM Modi.....	24
Appointments on 9th January 2021	24
India and NDB Signed Loan Agreement to Upgrade Highways in Andhra Pradesh.....	25
India to Chair Three Important UNSC Committees.....	25
Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020'	26
IREDA Signed MoU with NHPC Limited	26
Appointments on 10th January 2021	27
Japan Commits Financial Support for COVID Relief Efforts to India	27
EESL Signed MoU with NHAI.....	27
India-France Strategic Dialogue 2021.....	28
'Sagar Anveshika'- A Coastal Research Vessel.....	28
Japan Commits Financial Support for COVID Relief Efforts to India	29
EESL Signed MoU with NHAI.....	29
India-France Strategic Dialogue 2021.....	30
'Sagar Anveshika'- A Coastal Research Vessel.....	30
Bindu Sagar Lake Cleaning Project.....	30
Khadi Prakritik Paint	31
Single Window Clearance System for Coal Sector	31
7th TPR of India Held at WTO.....	32
Appointments on 12th January 2021	32
2nd Edition of 'Sea Vigil-21'	32
Henley Passport Index 2021	33
13th India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue.....	33
4th One Planet Summit.....	34
Bharat Biotech Signed Pact with Precisa Medicamentos	34
Union Cabinet Approved MoU between India and UAE.....	35
Bharti Airtel Signed MoU with NSIC	35
Kayakalp Awards by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	36
India's GDP to Contract at 7.5% for FY2020-21—UBS Investment Bank	36
Appointments on 14th January 2021	36

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

CSIR-NIO, CSIR-NGRI Signed MoU with POI.....	37
FSS Partnered with IPPB	37
ICICI Bank Partnered with Fintech Niyo.....	38
CollabCAD Software—By NIC, CBSE and Atal Innovation Mission.....	38
Appointment and Resignation on 15th January 2021	38
India and Japan Enters into MoU.....	39
Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0	39
J&K Signed MoU with NECBDC.....	40
'Asmi'—India's First Indigenous 9mm Machine Pistol.....	40
Appointments and Resignation on 16th January 2021	41
'Prarambh': Startup India International Summit.....	41
India's First Indigenously Developed Driverless Metro Car	42
Dr.Harsh Vardhan Inaugurated the Doppler Weather Radars.....	42
Appointments and Resignation on 17th January 2021	43
PM Modi Flagged off 8 Trains Which Connect the Statue of Unity	43
'SAKSHAM' Campaign—Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	44
'One School One IAS' Scheme -- Kerala.....	44
'YES BANK Wellness' and 'YES BANK Wellness Plus' Credit Cards.....	44
WE Hub Partnered with i-Hub.....	45
24th National Youth Festival (NYF).....	45
Clean and Sustainable Ocean Partnership between ADB and EIB	46
Appointments on 19th January 2021	46
148th Session of WHO Executive Board	47
YES MSME.....	47
TRIFED Signed MoU with IFFDC.....	48
Global Firepower Index 2021.....	48
Re-appointments and Resignation on 20th January 2021.....	48
Startup India Seed Fund	49
2nd India Innovation Index.....	49
Cabinet Approved MoU Between India and Uzbekistan in Solar Energy Sector	50
MeitY Partnered with Amazon Web Services	51
Appointments on 21st January 2021	51
'InstaFX' Mobile App—ICICI Bank.....	52
Pact Signed for Submarine Rescue Report—By India and Singapore.....	53
MoRTH Signed MoU with DRDO.....	53
1st Virtual India-EU Maritime Security Dialogue.....	53

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

'AURA' Credit Card—Axis Bank.....	54
16th Global Risks Report 2021	54
Indo-French Joint Exercise Desert Knight-21.....	55
SAAW (Smart Anti Airfield Weapon)	55
7th MASCRADE 2021.....	56
Indian Army signed MoU with SIDM	56
Appointments and Resignation on 23rd January 2021	57
Gujarat Signed MoU with APSEZ.....	57
15th India Digital Summit 2021	58
'ShramShakti' Portal and 'ShramSaathi' Tribal Training Module	58
Coal Minister's Award	59
IIM Indore Signed MoU with MPIDC	59
GrayQuest Partnered with SBM Bank India	60
Avalokana Software	60
Maharashtra to Start 'Jail Tourism'	61
Udyam Sarathi App—Uttar Pradesh	61
Operation Sard Hawa	62
Padma Awards 2021 by Ministry of Home Affairs.....	62
CAQM to Partner with Technical Institutions.....	62
16th Global Climate Risk Index 2021	63
AMPHEX - 21	63
'PANKH Abhiyan'—Madhya Pradesh.....	64
Bharat Parv-2021	64
Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme for CAPF	65
India's Economy to Contract by 8% -- By IMF.....	65
14th Joint Working Group Meet of India-UK on Counter-Terrorism	66
India Pledged USD 150,000 for UN Peacebuilding.....	66
Appointments and Resignation on 28th January 2021	66
DRDO Conducted Maiden Test Launch of Akash-NG Missile	67
51st International Film Festival 2021	67
Corruption Perception Index 2020	68
35th PRAGATI Meet.....	68
Strategic Partnership Agreement signed between India and IEA.....	69
Appointments on 29th January 2021	69
Krishi Sakha App—Bharti AXA General Insurance.....	70
4th FII Forum 2021	70

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

Gov. of Karnataka Signed MoU with Amazon India	71
Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index	71
5th India-Japan Act East Forum Meet	72
Textiles Committee Signed MoU with Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre.....	72
2021: Indo-French Year of the Environment.....	73
Framework for Strengthening Grievance Redress Mechanism in Banks--RBI.....	73
2nd India Justice Report 2020	74
MoU signed Between CSIR and UT Ladakh	74

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST: JANUARY 2021

BSSUKM SIGNED MOU WITH NKJ BIOFUEL LTD

Current Context: The Bhoramdeo Sahakari Sakhar Utpadak Karkhana Maryadit (BSSUKM) which a sugar mill has signed MoU with NKJ Biofuel Ltd.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The MoU is signed to set up India's first Ethanol Plant on the basis of public-private partnership (PPP).
- It will be built in Kabirdham, Chhattisgarh; which is the headquarter of BSSUKM.
- The plant will be producing ethanol from sugarcane.
- For this purpose, Rs 100 crore will be invested and ethanol plant with the capacity of 40 kiloliters per day will be set up.
- The ethanol plant will be the great opportunity of employment to the state people and will also prove beneficial to the sugarcane cultivators.

DRDO & INDIAN NAVY CONDUCTED TRIAL OF SAHAYAK-NG

Current Context: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy jointly conducted the successful maiden test trial of SAHAYAK-NG.

KEY POINTS

- The SAHAYAK-NG is India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft.
- The trial was executed off the coast of Goa.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- Indian Navy conducted the trial operation to enhance the logistics capabilities of SAHAYAK-NG and make it capable to offer critical engineering stores to ships which are deployed more than 2,000 km from the coast.
- The SAHAYAK-NG is developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam and the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, Agra. These are the two labs of DRDO.
- It is developed in industrial partnership with Avintel for the purpose of GPS integration.
- The SAHAYAK-NG is an advanced version of SAHAYAK Mk I.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy

PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SIGNED MOU WITH UNDP INDIA

Current Context: The Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) has entered into MoU with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) India.

KEY FACTS

- The MoU is signed to co-create India's first Social Impact Bond (SIB).
- In this unique investment tool, PCMC will only have to bear the costing of public welfare projects which are related to the bond if the pre-defined targets of the projects are achieved.
- This social impact bond is based on outcome-based targets which are to be achieved at the initial stage of the contract, which is helpful to track the progress work of projects and to maintain transparency with the investors.
- The SIB will also help to utilize funds effectively and efficiently for the projects.
- PCMC will get the benefit of this SIB to improve the healthcare services and will also help to attract more investors from private and public sectors.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PCMC: Pune
 - HQ of UNDP India: New Delhi

QUANTUM RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR (QRNG)

Current Context: The DRDO's Young Scientist Laboratory for Quantum Technologies (DYSL-QT) has developed the Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG).

DETAILS

- The QRNG has the ability to detect random quantum events and convert those into a stream of binary digits.
- The DYSL-QT has a fiber-optic branch path based QRNG.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- With this development, India has entered in the list of those countries which makes use of technology to achieve the generation of random numbers by using Quantum Phenomenon.
- Random Numbers has the applications in Quantum communications, cryptography areas like key generation, key wrapping, authentication, security etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DYSL-QT: IIT Mumbai

GLOBAL PRAVASI RISHTA PORTAL AND MOBILE APP

Current Context: The Ministry of External Affairs, GOI launched the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and mobile app.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This portal and app will help to connect 3.12 crore Indians across the world.
- This move by GOI will offer three-way communication between the Indian Missions external affairs ministry and Indian diaspora.
- The portal and app were launched by Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan.
- With the help of portal and app, Indian diaspora members will get registration details. The portal and app will include PIOs (Person of Indian Origin), NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) and OCIs (Overseas Citizens of India).
- It will also help to give the benefits of various governmental schemes, help during crisis and pandemics to the 3.12 crore Indians across the world.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of External Affairs: Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

6TH DIGITAL INDIA AWARDS 2020

Current Context: The 6th Digital India Awards for 2020 were conferred by President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.

ABOUT AWARDS

- He presented the awards through a virtual ceremony.
- The awards in 7 categories were presented to 24 of the digital government initiatives and products.
- **Following is the list of winners under each category:**

Category	Winner for Platinum Icon	Winner for Gold Icon	Winner for Silver Icon
Excellence in Digital Governance State /UT	Haryana (Antyodaya-SARAL portal)	Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh (Food and Supplies Department) and West Bengal

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

Innovation in Pandemic	eSanjeevani-National Telemedicine Service	COVID-19 Sample Collection Management System	Bihar's Aapda Sampoori Portal and Madhya Pradesh's Pravasi Shramik and Rojgar Setu Portal
Excellence in Digital Governance District	Khargone of Madhya Pradesh	Changlang of Arunachal Pradesh	Kamareddy of Telangana
Excellence in Digital Governance Ministry and Department (Central)	E-Committee Supreme Court of India, Department of Justice (E-Courts Project)	Department of Post (National Generic Document Registration System)	Department of Fertilizers and Department of Land Resources
Exemplary Products	Port Community System PCS1x and National Maritime Single Window	Service Plus	Integrated Temple Management System
Open Data Champion	Department of Health and Family Welfare	Research Data Management in ICAR	FCI and Ministry of MSME
Jury Choice Award	Arogya Setu E-Office		

APPOINTMENTS AND EXTENSION ON 2ND JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Soma Mondal: She is appointed as Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). She has replaced Anil Kumar Chaudhary.

DETAILS

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ SAIL: New Delhi
- **Suneet Sharma:** He is appointed as Chairman and CEO of Railway Board. He has replaced Vinod Kumar Yadav.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ Railway Board: New Delhi
- **P Ravi Kumar:** He is appointed as 38th Chief Secretary of Karnataka. He has replaced T M Vijay Bhaskar.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Karnataka: Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurapp
 - Governor of Karnataka: Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
- **K. Sivan:** His tenure to be the ISRO Chairman and Secretary of Department of Space is extended by 1 year i.e. up to 2022.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ ISRO: Bengaluru

UN'S FAO NAMED 4 ASIAN TEA CULTIVATION SITES AS GIAHS

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

Current Context: The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has named 4 Asian Tea Cultivation Sites across three countries as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The name of the Asian Tea Cultivation Sites added under GIAHS:** (1) Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem (China) (2) Traditional Tree Grass system (Japan) (3) Fuzhou Jasmine tea site (China) (4) Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem (South Korea).
- The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was started by FAO in 2002 which identifies and conserves the importance and value of traditionally important agricultural systems all over the world.
- **Static Part:**
 - Indian Sites included under GIAHS: (1) Saffron Heritage of Kashmir (2) Koraput Traditional Agriculture (3) Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System
 - HQ of FAO: Rome, Italy

DEFENCE MINISTRY SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH BEL

Current Context: The Ministry of Defence entered into an agreement with Bharat Electronics Limited to procure the 10 numbers of Lynx U2 Fire Control Systems i.e. LYNX U2 GFCS.

KEY POINTS

- The LYNX U2 GFCS will be supplied for frontline warships of Indian Navy.
- This will be supplied at the cost of Rs 1355 crore.
- The LYNX U2 GFCS is basically a Naval Gun Fire Control System which tracks and engages targets amidst sea clutter. It is designed to track air and surface targets.
- It is indigenously designed with open and scalable architecture which adds simple and flexible implementation in different configurations.
- **This 10 Lynx U2 Fire Control Systems from BEL will be installed on Naval Offshore Patrolling Vessel Talwar and Teg class of ships.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BEL: Bengaluru
 - Union Minister of Defence: Rajnath Singh

PM MODI LAID FOUNDATION STONE FOR LIGHT HOUSE PROJECTS (LHPS)

Current Context: PM Modi laid the foundation stone of Light House Projects (LHPs) for Six Indian states.

KEY FACTS

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- The project will be implemented in Indore (MP), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (TN), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (UP).
- The LHP will be constructed under the Global Housing Technology Challenge of India.
- Under this initiative, 1000 LHP will be constructed.

ADB AND GOI SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT TO FINANCE HORTICULTURE IN HP

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India has entered into a loan agreement to support the horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have signed a \$10 million project readiness financing (PRF) agreement for same.**
- The funds will help to manage the horticulture activities from designing, capacity building in order to increase horticulture production and farm household income in Himachal Pradesh.
- The funds under the PRF facility will support to undertake advanced solutions which will create an environment for subtropical horticulture development in the state.
- The fund amount will also be used to perform prior testing of new production technologies and marketing systems in order to have a cost-effective implementation of technology in a timely manner for horticulture development in HP.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of HP: Jairam Thakur
 - Governor of HP: Bandaru Dattatraya
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines

J&K GOVERNMENT SIGNED MOU WITH NAFED

Current Context: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has entered into MoU with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).

KEY FACTS

- **They have entered into MoU for the purpose of increasing marketing for Horticulture produce in the UT.**
- Both will work coordinately for branding and marketing of fruit crops and establish market exposure to non-seasonal vegies and flowers in Indian metro cities.
- Under this MoU, NAFED will offer financial support of Rs 1700 crores to implement high-density plantations like apple, walnuts, cherry pear flowers across 5500 hectares in upcoming 5 years.
- The NAFED will also establish 20 FPOs in J&K.
- The partnership will also lead to construct cold storage clusters in North Kashmir, South Kashmir and Kathua at the estimated cost of Rs 500 crores.
- **Static Part:**

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- HQ of NAFED: New Delhi
- Dams in J&K: Salal Dam (Chenab River), Baglihar Dam (Chenab River)
- Stadium in J&K: Barkatullah Khan Stadium, SawaiMansingh Stadium

'RUPAY POS'—BY RUPAY AND RBL BANK

Current Context: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced that RuPay has partnered with RBL Bank to launch 'RuPay PoS' in association with PayNearby.

KEY DETAILS

- **The 'RuPay PoS' is an innovative payment solution for Indian merchants.**
- It will help to convert smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers.
- With the help of this innovative solution, merchants will be able to accept contactless payments of up to Rs 5000 through a simple tap and pay mechanism on his NFC enabled mobile phones.
- This 'RuPay PoS' payment solution does not require additional cost hence it is termed to be cost effective acceptance solution to retailers.
- To utilize this solution in order to have the transformation of smartphones to payment accepting terminal, the user has to update the PayNearby App.
- Also as a pilot process, the 'RuPay PoS' solution can accept offline transactions of RuPay NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) of Rs 200 and below.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NPCI, RBL Bank and Nearby technologies: Mumbai
 - Tagline of RBL Bank: Aapno ka Bank
 - MD and CEO of RBL Bank: Vishwavir Ahuja

RBI DIGITAL PAYMENT INDEX

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has released the 'Digital Payments Index (DPI)' which measures the extent of digitisation of payments in India.

KEY FACTS

- **The DPI is based on 5 key parameters which are used to measure deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different time periods.**
- **The parameters and their weightage are:** payment enablers (25% weight), payment infrastructure – demand-side factor (10%), payment infrastructure – supply-side factors (15%), payment performance (45%), and consumer centricity (5%).
- The base period considered to measure DPI is March 2018 by RBI with the score set at 100.
- RBI has measured DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 which came to 153.47 and 207.84 respectively which indicated an appreciable growth.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

- Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

NATIONAL METROLOGY CONCLAVE 2021

Current Context: The National Metrology Conclave was inaugurated and addressed by PM Modi on 4th Jan 2021.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The theme for National Metrology Conclave: 'Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation'.**
- The conclave was organised by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) and is being held in New Delhi.
- **The conclave is held on the significance of 75th foundation day of CSIR which is 4th Jan 2021.**
- While addressing the conclave, PM Modi appreciated Indian scientists for working with dedication for two 'Made in India' vaccines for COVID-19.
- He also highlighted that India is among the top 50 countries in the global innovation ranking and mentioned that partnership between institutions and industry is increased to a great extent.
- **During this conclave, National Atomic Time Scale and Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya were dedicated to the nation along with the foundation stone laid for National Environmental Standards Labs.**
- The National Atomic Time Scale will help to generate Indian Standard Time- IST with an accuracy of 2.8 nanoseconds and Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya will offer support to the testing and calibration of laboratories for quality assurance which will be at par with the international standards.
- The National Environmental Standards Labs will lead to self-independence in the certification of ambient air and an industrial emission monitoring requirement.

INDIA TO CO-CHAIR IUCN SUPPORTED APAP

Current Context: India is selected to co-chair the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) supported by Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP).

KEY FACTS

- **It is basically a regional forum which conserves the wildlife habitats.**
- **India is selected to co-chair this forum for the tenure of 3 years i.e. till Nov 2023.**
- **India will be replacing South Korea which held this position for the last 3 years.**
- Under this co-chairmanship, India will assist other Asian nations to manage and conserve the wildlife protected areas.
- The APAP is chaired by IUCN Asia and co-chaired by an APAP member nation on a rotational basis.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IUCN: Gland, Switzerland

BLOOMBERG BILLIONAIRES INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Bloomberg Billionaires Index for 2021 was released.

ABOUT INDEX

- **The index is topped by Jeff Bezos with a net worth of 190 Billion USD.**
- The second and third position is marked by Elon Musk (170 Billion USD) and Bill Gates (132 Billion USD) respectively.
- **India's richest man Mukesh Ambani has achieved the 12th position in the index.**
- The net worth of Mukesh Ambani dropped from 90 Billion USD (in early 2020) to 76.7 Billion USD due to the correction in the Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) shares which fell to Rs 1995.50 on 30th Dec 2020, which was 16% from its all-time value of Rs 2369.35.
- **Static Part:** As per Hurun Global Rich List 2020: Rank of Mukesh Ambani is at 8th position. This is topped by Jeff Bezos.

APPOINTMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT ON 4TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Umesh Sinha: He is appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner in Election Commission of India.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Chief Election Commissioner of India: Sunil Arora
- **Leon Mendonca:** He has become 67th Chess Grandmaster of India. He is 14 years old and is from Goa.

ADB APPROVED LOAN TO UPGRADE POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN BANGALORE

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved the loan amount for India to upgrade the power distribution network in Bangalore city.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **ADB has approved the loan amount of USD 100 million (around Rs 730 crore) for same.**
- **Besides the USD 100 million sovereign loans, the ADB will also be providing to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd (BESCOM).**
- The funds will be used to upgrade underground power distribution cables.
- Around 2800 km fibre optic cable will be installed which will boost communication network in the city. These fibre optic cables will be used for smart metering systems, distribution automation system (DAS) in the distribution grid, and other communication networks.

- The funds will be used to upgrade 7,200 km of underground distribution lines which will help to reduce technical and commercial losses by about 30%.
- Also, 1,700 automated ring main units adapted with a DAS will be installed to monitor and control the distribution line switchgears from the control centre.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines

TRIFED, DONER AND INDIA POST TO PROMOTE NORTH-EAST TRIBAL PRODUCTS

Current Context: The TRIFED which comes under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has collaborated with DoNER (Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region) and India Post to promote the tribal products of North-Eastern India.

KEY POINTS

- They will be promoting the products by implementing and adopting marketing and logistics strategies.
- They have partnered with an aim to create a brand of products from NE region and to offer a global platform for products.
- This partnership will lead to enhance entrepreneurship skills among tribal and increase their income source.
- For this purpose, all the three entities have planned activities which include identification of suppliers and weaving clusters, sourcing of products, training and development, procurement of products and transportation and distribution to the end-users.
- DoNER will work on these activities by using a network of TRIFED like its e-commerce platform and many more.
- The India Post and TRIFED will work to promote GI tags tribal products.
- The TRIFED, DoNER and India Post have collaborated under 'Act East' policy of the government which aims to promote economic, strategic and cultural relations in Asia-Pacific region. Their work will also contribute towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Vocal of Local and Buy Tribal initiatives of GOI.
- **Static Part:**
 - Minister of State (IC) of Development of North Eastern Region: Dr Jitendra Singh

MALALA YOUSAFZAI SCHOLARSHIP ACT

Current Context: The US Congress has passed the 'Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act'.

KEY FACTS

- The act is passed to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women which will help them pursue higher education under a merit and needs-based programme.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- The bill was passed by the United States Senate by a voice vote on 1st Jan and now heads to the White House for US President Donald Trump to sign into law.
- The bill mentions that the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to award at least 50% of scholarships under a Pakistan-based higher education scholarship programme to Pakistani women from 2020 to 2022.
- The scholarship will be granted across a range of academic disciplines by following existing eligibility criteria.
- The bill also mentions that USAID to consult with and leverage investments by the Pakistani private sector and Pakistanis residing in the US to improve and expand access to education programmes in Pakistan.

APPOINTMENT ON 5TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Pankaj Mithal: He is appointed as Chief Justice of Common High Court of UT Jammu and Kashmir and UT Ladakh. He has replaced Gita Mittal.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Lt Governor of J&K: Manoj Sinha
 - Lt Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur
- **Sanjib Banerjee:** He is appointed as Chief Justice of Madras High Court. He has replaced Amreshwar Pratap Sahi.
- **Major Gen. Gautam Chauhan:** He is appointed as first Additional Director General (ADG) of Human Rights Cell created by Indian Army.
- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Army Staff: General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- **Raghavendra P Tiwari:** He is appointed to head the 7 member committee constituted by UGC (University Grants Commission) which will look to review the conduction of CET at undergraduate level from the next academic year.

TAMIL ACADEMY TO BE SETUP IN DELHI

Current Context: Government of Delhi announced to setup Tamil Academy.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The decision and announcement for the same were made by the Delhi government's Department of Art, Culture, and Language.
- The Tamil Academy will be responsible to promote the language and culture of the southern state of Tamil Nadu.
- **For this, the Delhi Gov. has appointed a former councillor and member of Delhi Tamil, Sangam N Raja as the Vice-Chairman of the academy.**

- The Tamil Academy will also be conducting various programmes and cultural festivals which will promote Tamil culture.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Lt. Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal
 - Delhi Minister of Art, Culture, and Language: Manish Sisodia

WORLD BANK, GOI AND WEST BENGAL GOV. SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT

Current Context: The World Bank, Government of India and Government of West Bengal have entered into a loan agreement to improve waterways in West Bengal.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **For this purpose, a loan agreement of \$105 million was signed.**
- This funds will be utilized to upgrade inland water transport infrastructure, logistics and special development project in Kolkata.
- The loan is having a maturity of 17 years including the grace period of 7 years.
- The up-gradation in Waterways will facilitate freight and passenger Movement in the Hooghly River.
- The funds will also be used to improve accessibility in Kolkata Metropolitan Area which will improve logistics in the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - Folk Dances of WB: Gambhira Dance, Kathi dance, The Baul dance, Domni, Dhunachi
 - Thermal Power Plant in WB: Farakka Super Thermal Power Plant, Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station

'LAUNCH PAD SCHEME' OF MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: The Madhya Pradesh Government has launched 'LaunchPad Scheme'.

ABOUT SCHEME

- **The scheme is launched for boys and girls who have completed 18 years of age and aims to offer employment opportunities to them in order to make them self-reliant.**
- The scheme is launched by Women and Child Development Department of MP under Child Protection Scheme.
- Under this scheme, the state government will offer space to the young boys and girls to open coffee shops, stationery shops, photocopying or Xerox shops, computer typing and DTP institutions.
- Also, the Women and Child Development Department will offer financial support of Rs 6 lakhs to install the launchpad which will be operated by NGOs.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- In order to implement the scheme, 52 districts of the state are divided into 5 clusters having headquarters at Indore, Sagar, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Bhopal.
- **Static Part:**
 - Dams in MP: Gandhi Sagar Dam(Chambal River), Tawa Reservoir (Tawa Reservoir), Indira Sagar Dam(Narmada River)
 - Holkar Cricket Stadium is situated in MP.

KOCHI-MANGALURU NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline which is 450 km long.

KEY POINTS

- The pipeline is a one step forward to fulfil the GOI's aim of '**One Nation One Gas Grid**'.
- **The Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline was constructed by GAIL India Ltd with the funds of Rs 3000 crore.**
- **The pipeline will be carrying natural gas from LNG regasification terminal at Kochi, Kerala to Mangaluru, Karnataka.**
- The Kochi-Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline which is **450 km long** is having the capacity to carry **12 MMSCMD** (Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter of Natural gas per Day).
- It will be offering affordable and environment-friendly fuel in the form of Piped Natural gas (PNG) to the households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to the transportation sector.
- The pipeline will offer natural gas to the industrial sectors.

APPOINTMENT ON 6TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Sanjay Kapoor: He is appointed as President of All India Chess Federation (AICF).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of AICF: Chennai
- **Ashish Pethe:** He is appointed as Chairman of All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of GFC: Mumbai
- **Saiyam Mehra:** He is appointed as Vice-Chairman of All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of GFC: Mumbai
- **Pablo Cesar:** He is a filmmaker from Argentina and is selected to head the 51st International Film Festival of India by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The ministry also selected other

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

jury members like Prasanna Vithanage (Sri Lanka), Abu Bakr Shawky (Austria), Priyadarshan (India) and Rubaiyat Hossain (Bangladesh).

NHPC, PDD AND JKPDC SIGNED MOU FOR MEGA HYDRO PROJECT IN J&K

Current Context: The National Hydro Power Corporation Ltd (NHPC), Power Development Department (PDD) and Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC) have entered into MoU to set up a mega hydropower project in UT Jammu and Kashmir.

KEY FACTS

- **The three entities will be implementing 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Power Project (HEP) & 930 MW Kirthai-II HEP and will be executing Sawalkot HEP (1856 MW), Uri-I (Stage-II) (240 MW), and Dulhasti (Stage-II) (258 MW).**
- The projects will be built and executed with an investment of Rs 35000 crore.
- This mega hydropower project will improve the power sector of J&K, provide energy security and 24 hours power supply to the UT.
- These projects will provide additional 3498 MW power in upcoming 3-4 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lakes in J&K: Wular, Gangabal, Dal, Gadsar Nigeen, Manasbal

TATA POWER PARTNERED WITH SIDBI

Current Context: India's largest integrated power company, TATA Power partnered with SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have partnered to offer financial support to MSMEs who are associated with the rooftop solar segment.**
- The partnership will lead MSMEs to adopt sustainable energy in their businesses.
- This financing for rooftop solar is for the MSME customers of TATA Power in both off-grid and on-grid solar connections.
- The MSMEs will get financial aid at an interest rate of less than 10%.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
 - HQ of TATA Power: Mumbai

INDIAN ECONOMY TO CONTRACT BY 9.6% IN FY 2020-21—WORLD BANK

Current Context: The World Bank has predicted that India's economy to contract by 9.6% in FY 2020-21.

KEY POINTS

- It has also projected that India to recover growth to 5.4% in 2021.
- The global economy is expected to expand to 4% in 2021.
- World Bank has stated the reason for India's contraction for sharp declines in the household expenditure and private investment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, US

LEGAL ENTITY IDENTIFIER FOR NEFT, RTGS TRANSACTION ABOVE RS 50 CRORE

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has introduced Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) for the payment transactions above the value of Rs 50 crore in Centralised Payment Systems like RTGS and NEFT.

KEY DETAILS

- **It will be effective from 1st April 2021.**
- The LEI is a 20 digit number which will be used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide.
- This will lead to improving the quality and accuracy of financial data systems for better risk management post the global financial crisis.
- The LEI can be obtained from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd which is the wholly-owned subsidiary of Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

APPOINTMENTS ON 7TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Ram Vinay Shahi: He is appointed to head the committee set up by the central government named as 'South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)'. The committee will look after the development of south Asia energy security architecture.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of AICF: Chennai
- **Lt Gen Shantanu Dayal:** He is appointed as Deputy Chief of Army Staff. He has replaced Lt Gen SS Hasabnis.
- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Army Staff: MM Naravane

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- **Karan Bajwa:** He is appointed to head the Google Cloud in the Asia Pacific. Currently, he heads the Google Cloud in India. He has replaced Rick Harshman.
- **Abhishek Yadav:** He is appointed as 1st Deputy General Secretary of All India Football Federation (AIFF). He was a former Indian Football player.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of AIFF: New Delhi
 - President of AIFF: Praful Patel

TOYCATHON 2021 AND TOYCATHON PORTAL

Current Context: Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Union Women and Child Development Minister, Smriti Irani together launched the inter-ministerial initiative called 'Toycathon 2021' and 'Toycathon Portal'.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The 'Toycathon 2021' initiative is launched to make India self-reliant in the Toy manufacturing sector by promoting toy manufacturing industries.**
- The initiative aims to make India a Global Toy Manufacturing Hub.
- **The initiative 'Toycathon 2021' is based on 9 themes:** (1) Indian Culture, History, Knowledge of India and Ethos (2) Learning, Education and Schooling (3) Social and human values (4) Occupations & specific fields (5) Rediscovering/redesigning traditional Indian toys (6) Divyang (7) Environment (8) Fitness and sport (9) Out of the box, creative and logical thinking
- The Toycathon platform will provide innovative ideas to develop toys based on the Indian value system which will lead to the overall development of children.

KRISHI SANJEEVANI VANS -- KARNATAKA

Current Context: The Government of Karnataka has flagged off 40 Krishi Sanjeevani Vans to test the quality of soil, water for farming purpose.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It was flagged off in Bengaluru.**
- **The Krishi Sanjeevani Vans will also suggest remedies for pest control in order to improve the productivity of farms.**
- These vans are launched by Agriculture Department of the state in partnership with central assistance under National Krishi Vikas Yojana.
- Upon analyzing the quality of soil, the Agri department will suggest a solution to the farmer community.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Karnataka: B.S. Yediyurappa
 - Governor of Karnataka: Vajubhai Vala

INDIAN ECONOMY TO CONTRACT BY 7.7% IN FY 2020-21--NSO

Current Context: The National Statistical Office (NSO) has predicted that India's GDP to contract by 7.7% for FY 2020-21.

KEY POINTS

- They have predicted this contraction on account of the impact of COVID-19 on the economy.
- NSO comes under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of State (IC) for MOSI: Rao Inderjit Singh

RBI ANNOUNCED OPERATIONALIZATION OF PIDF SCHEME

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has announced the operationalization of Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme.

KEY FACTS

- The scheme is operationalized with an initial corpus of Rs 345 crores for three years commenced from 1st Jan 2021. Among the corpus of Rs 345 crore, Rs 250 crore are contributed by the RBI and Rs 95 crore by the major authorized card networks in India.
- **The functioning of PIDF Scheme will be managed by RBI's Deputy Governor, BP Kanungo.**
- The main aim of this PIDF scheme is to increase the number of payment acceptance devices in Tier 3 to Tier 6 centres of India.
- For this purpose, it is decided to increase 30 lakh touchpoints which include 10 lakh physical and 20 lakh digital payment acceptance devices every year.
- The PIDF covers multiple payment acceptance devices and infrastructure supporting card payments like PoS, mPoS, GPRS, PSTN and QR code-based payments.
- The scheme sets a target on merchants who offer services in transport, hospitality, fuel pumps, PDS shops, kiranas etc.
- The scheme is based on a reimbursement basis. The maximum cost of physical acceptance devices eligible for the subsidy will be Rs 10,000 including one-time operating costs up to Rs 500. The maximum cost of digital acceptance devices eligible for a subsidy will be Rs 300, including a one-time operating cost up to Rs 200.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

APPOINTMENTS ON 8TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Alex Ellis: He is appointed as British High Commissioner to India. He has replaced Philip Barton.

ABOUT

- **Arup Kumar Goswami:** He is appointed as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court. He has replaced J K Maheswari.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of AP: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- **Governor of AP:** Biswa Bhushan Harichandan
- **J K Maheshwari:** He is appointed Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court. He has replaced Arup Kumar Goswami.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Sikkim: PS Golay
 - Governor of Sikkim: Ganga Prasad
- **Hima Kohli:** She is appointed Chief Justice of Telangana High Court. She has replaced CJ Raghvendra Singh Chauhan.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Telangana: K Chandrasekhar Rao
 - Governor of Telangana: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- **Raghvendra Singh Chauhan:** He is appointed as Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Trivendra Singh Rawat
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya
- **Sudhanshu Dhulia:** He is appointed as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal
 - Governor of Assam: Prof. Jagdish Mukhi

CABINET APPROVED MOU BETWEEN INDIA & JAPAN FOR SPECIFIED SKILLED WORKERS

Current Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has given the approval for signing MoU between India and Japan for Specified Skilled Workforce.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU will lead to an institutional mechanism which will develop a partnership between India and Japan on sending skilled Indian workforce who have working skills and Japanese language skill to Japan in order to work in fourteen specified sectors.**
- **These workers will be granted with a new status of residence of 'Specified Skilled Worker' by Japan's Government.**
- **The workers will be selected based on skills in sectors like Nursing care, Building cleaning, material processing industry, industrial machinery manufacturing, automobile maintenance, aviation, lodging, electric and electronic information related industry, construction, shipbuilding, fisheries, food and beverage manufacturing industry and foodservice industry.**

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

FLIPKART SIGNED MOU WITH LOGISTICS SKILL SECTOR COUNCIL (LSC)

Current Context: India's e-commerce platform, Flipkart has signed MoU with Logistics Skill Sector Council (LSC) to set up the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Logistics.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The LSC is set up by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through National Skill Development Corporation of India (NSDC) and Karnataka Skill Development Centre (KSDC).
- **The CoE developed under this partnership will help to build a skilled workforce for the logistics sector.**
- **The first CoE will be set up at Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- The CoE setup by Flipkart and LSC will lead to creating all-round development of the candidates by conducting training sessions. Upon completion of the training, the candidates will be awarded certification under the National Skill Qualification Framework which is equivalent to UG degree.
- This partnership will lead to creating employment in the logistics sector.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Flipkart: Bengaluru
 - CEO of Flipkart: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
 - HQ of LSC: Chennai

SC-NBWL APPROVED THE ADVISORY FOR HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Current Context: The Standing Committee for National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has approved advisory for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management.

KEY FACTS

- The advisory for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management will be set up to have effective inter-departmental coordinated actions.
- The advisory for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management will be responsible to empower Gram Panchayats to deal with problematic wild animals as per the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The advisory will also be responsible to encourage usage of crop compensation under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana against crop damage due to human-wildlife conflict.
- They will work to augment fodder and water sources within forest areas.
- The advisory will identify the hotspots and will formulate solutions to improve stall-fed farm animals.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- The SC-NBWL has also included Caracal (medium-sized wild cat) into a list of critically endangered species.
- **Static Part:**
 - The NBWL is chaired by Prime Minister

REWARI-MADAR SECTION OF WDFC INAUGURATED BY PM MODI

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 306 km long Rewari-Madar section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC).

KEY POINTS

- **Along with this, PM Modi also flagged off the world's first 1.5 km long double-stack long haul container train between New Ateli in Haryana and New Kishangarh in Rajasthan.**
- **About Rewari-Madar section of WDFC:** The section is situated in Haryana and Rajasthan. It consists of 9 dedicated freight corridors stations among which 6 are crossing stations and 3 of them are junction stations. The six crossing stations are New Dabla, New Bhagega, New Sri Madhopur, New Pachar Malikpur, New Sakun and New Kishangarh and three junction stations are at New Rewari, New Ateli and New Phulera. This Rewari-Madar section of WDFC will prove beneficial to many industries of both the states of Haryana and Rajasthan and will also enable better usage of the container depot of the CONCOR at Kathuwas.

APPOINTMENTS ON 9TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Judge Merrick Garland: He is selected by US President Joe Biden for the post of United State's Attorney General.

ABOUT

- **Chaire Polosak (Australia):** She has become the first female match official in Men's Test Match when she took up the fourth umpire's role in the third Test between India and Australia, held at Sydney Cricket Ground.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICC: Dubai, UAE
 - Chairman of ICC: Greg Barclay
 - CEO of ICC: Manu Sawhney
- **N S Viswanathan:** He is the former deputy governor of RBI. He is selected to head the academic advisory council committee called 'College of Supervisors' formed by RBI. The academic advisory council committee is formed to strengthen supervision on regulated entities.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- **G Kishan Reddy:** He is Minister of State for Home Affairs. He is appointed to head the committee which will work to protect language, cultural identity and land of UT Ladakh.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lt Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur
- **Dr Raj Iyer:** He is appointed as Chief Information Officer of the US Army.

INDIA AND NDB SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT TO UPGRADE HIGHWAYS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Current Context: The GOI, Government of Andhra Pradesh has entered into a loan agreement with New Development Bank (NDB) to upgrade highway networks in Andhra Pradesh. The loan agreement is basically signed to fund two major projects of the state.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The total loan agreement signed between the entities is of USD 646 million. Each project costs USD 323 million.**
- The main moto of the projects is to improve transport efficiency, road safety, mobility and offer connectivity to socioeconomic centres.
- **Project (1) Andhra Pradesh Roads and Bridge Reconstruction:** This project includes widening of 1600 km of highways of the state. This will offer a double lane structure to the highways. The project also includes reconstructing of dilapidated bridges.
- **Project (2) Andhra Pradesh Mandal Connectivity and Rural Connectivity Improvement:** This project includes widening 1,400 km of district roads to have the double lane facility and to reconstruct dilapidated bridges of district roads.
- **Static Part:**
 - Dams in Andhra Pradesh: Srisailem Dam(Krishna River), Dummaguden Dam (river Godavari), Somasila Dam (Penna River), Prakasam Barrage (Krishna River)
 - HQ of NDB: Shanghai, China

INDIA TO CHAIR THREE IMPORTANT UNSC COMMITTEES

Current Context: TS Tirumurti, who is the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations made an announcement that India will chair three vital committees of UN Security Council (UNSC) as a non-permanent member of 15 nations UN body.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The three UNSC committees to be chaired by India are:** (1) Taliban sanctions committee (2) Counter-terrorism committee (3) Libya sanctions committee.
 1. **Taliban sanctions committee:** It is also called as 1988 sanctions committee as it was formed through resolution number 1988 in 2011 by splitting the 1267 sanctions regime on al-Qaeda – amid growing concern worldwide at alarming levels of violence in Afghanistan that has been

blamed on the Taliban. It will work with a commitment to peace, security, development and progress of Afghanistan.

2. **Counter-terrorism committee:** It will be chaired by India in 2022. Under this committee, India will work to combat terrorism, especially cross-border terrorism.
3. **Libya sanctions committee:** It is also known as 1970 sanctions committee, which implements a sanctions regime, including a two-way arms embargo, assets freeze, travel ban and measures to prevent illicit export of petroleum. The committee will focus on maintaining peace in Libya.

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL AKHAND CONFERENCE 'EDUCON 2020'

Current Context: Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated the Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020'.

KEY POINTS

- **The conference was organised by the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) in partnership with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA).**
- **The theme for the conference:** 'Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Restore Global Peace'.
- In this conference, scholars from the United Kingdom, Canada, Thailand, USA, Australia, Bhutan and India discussed the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in the higher education which will promote the equitable quality education in India.
- They also held discussions about NEP-2020, possibilities for higher education by 2050 and developing technologies for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Education.

IREDA SIGNED MOU WITH NHPC LIMITED

Current Context: The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed MoU with NHPC Limited (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited) for the purpose of providing technical expertise for upcoming renewable energy projects.

KEY FACTS

- Under this MoU, IREDA will undertake Techno-Financial due diligence of Renewable energy and Energy Efficiency & conservation projects for NHPC.
- IREDA will develop an action plan to achieve the goal for various renewable energy projects of NHPC Ltd for the next 5 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IREDA: New Delhi
 - HQ of NHPC Ltd: Faridabad, Haryana

APPOINTMENTS ON 10TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Sumona Guha: She is appointed as Senior Director for South Asia by US President Joe Biden.

ABOUT

- **Tarun Chhabra:** He is appointed as Senior Director for Technology and National Security by US President Joe Biden.
- **Faustin-Archange Touadera:** He is appointed as President of the Central African Republic.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Central African Republic: Bangui
 - Currency of Central African Republic: Central African CFA Franc

JAPAN COMMITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR COVID RELIEF EFFORTS TO INDIA

Current Context: Japan has committed the Official Development Assistance loan to India for COVID relief efforts.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Japan has committed to offering the loan of 30 billion Japanese Yen which is Rs 2113 crore to India.**
- This loan amount will help India to provide social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households who are severely affected by COVID-19.
- This financial assistance support from Japan to India will lead to strengthening the Strategic and Global Partnership between both nations.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese yen
 - PM of Japan: Yoshihide Suga

EESL SIGNED MOU WITH NHAI

Current Context: The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has signed MoU with National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU is signed to build clean energy and energy efficiency interventions at NHAI structures.**

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- Under this MoU, both the entities will be implementing energy efficiency projects, renewable energy projects and e-mobility services as a part of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- This will lead to a reduction in dependence on fossil fuel, emissions and will help to achieve sustainable development.
- The NHAI will take the benefit of PMC (Project Management Contract) services of EESL and will offer site-related data to EESL to build the environment-friendly clean initiatives.
- EESL will also undertake solar power projects at NHAI sites.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of EESL: New Delhi
 - HQ of NHAI: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NHAI: Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

INDIA-FRANCE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE 2021

Current Context: The annual Strategic Dialogue between India and France was held in New Delhi.

KEY FACTS

- **India was represented by Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor and France were represented by Emmanuel Bonne, Diplomatic Advisor to the French President.**
- Both the nations held discussions about counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, defence cooperation, maritime security and regional and global issues.
- They also discussed the Indo-Pacific region and assured to strengthen their strategic partnership.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of France: Paris
 - Currencies of France: CFP Franc and Euro

'SAGAR ANVESHIKA'- A COASTAL RESEARCH VESSEL

Current Context: Union Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the Coastal Research Vessel (CRV) named as 'Sagar Anveshika' at Chennai Port.

DETAILS

- The CRV 'Sagar Anveshika' will be used to perform environment indexing and bathymetric in coastal and offshore waters.
- The National Institute of Ocean Technology will also make use of this CRV to conduct various research projects.
- The CRV 'Sagar Anveshika' is built by Titagarh Wagons, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- It is built under the Indian Register of Shipping (IR Class).
- The 'Sagar Anveshika' is a dynamic positioning capable vessel and will allow research in various oceanographic mission.
- **Static Part:**

- Union Minister of Earth Sciences: Dr Harsh Vardhan

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- **Static Part:**
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 - HQ of NHAI: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NHAI: Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

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- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Earth Sciences: Dr Harsh Vardhan

BINDU SAGAR LAKE CLEANING PROJECT

Current Context: The Government of Odisha launched the Bindu Sagar Lake Cleaning Project.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The state government launched this project jointly with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, GOI.**

- The Bindu Sagar Lake Cleaning Project is basically a CSR initiative of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) in partnership with Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai and Indian Oil Campus, Bhubaneswar.
- For this project, IOCL will be spending Rs 70 lakh to clean the Bindu Sagar lake and thus to maintain the heritage site of the state.
- The patent world-class innovative technology of ICT will be used to conduct cleaning activities at the lake.
- **Static Part:**
 - Other lakes in Odisha: Chilika Lake, Anshupa Lake, Kanjia Lake, Tampara Lake

KHADI PRAKRITIK PAINT

Current Context: Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSME, Nitin Gadkari launched the 'Khadi Prakritik Paint'.

KEY FACTS

- The 'Khadi Prakritik Paint' is an innovative new paint which is eco-friendly and non-toxic. It is a first-of-its-kind paint having anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties.
- It is developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and is certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards.
- It was tested at National Test House of Mumbai, Shri Ram Institute for Industrial Research of New Delhi and National Test House of Ghaziabad.
- The KVIC developed this innovative paint with the main ingredient of cow dung.
- The 'Khadi Prakritik Paint' comes in two forms namely plastic emulsion paint and distemper paint and it is free from heavy metals like mercury, lead, arsenic, chromium, cadmium.
- This 'Khadi Prakritik Paint' will also help to increase farmers income because it makes use of cow dung as a raw material, which will lead to an additional source of income for Gaushalas and farmers.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of KVIC: Mumbai
 - Chairman of KVIC: Vinai Kumar Saxena

SINGLE WINDOW CLEARANCE SYSTEM FOR COAL SECTOR

Current Context: Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah launched the 'Single Window Clearance System' for coal mines.

KEY DETAILS

- This online platform will provide ease in the process of clearance for the smooth operation of coal mines and in the associated sector. It will lead to having ease of doing business in the coal sector.
- This single clearance system will reduce the time required for various approvals.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- Currently, a company has to receive 19 major approvals to start a coal mine. But because of 'Single Window Clearance System', the company will be able to get all required clearances from a single portal; that is all 19 major approvals will be under a single platform.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Coal: Pralhad Joshi

7TH TPR OF INDIA HELD AT WTO

Current Context: The 7th Trade Policy Review of India was recently conducted at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The TPR is a mechanism which comes under WTO's monitoring function. Under this mechanism, WTO examines trade and policies of member countries.**
- **At the 7th TRP of India, the Indian delegation was represented by Anup Wadhawan, Commerce Secretary.**
- During this session of TPR, WTO released the report which mentioned that India's economic growth is at 7.4% from 2015-20.
- The report also highlighted that various measures like simplification of procedures, customs clearance for import and exports have led to facilitate trade activities in India.
- India was also acknowledged for the introduction of Goods and Service Tax and Ease of Doing Business ability.

APPOINTMENTS ON 12TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Preeti Pant: She is appointed to head the expert panel which will examine the findings of National Family Health Survey-5. The panel will also suggest solutions and policies improve indicators related to diseases like anaemia, malnutrition, C-section, and stunting.

ABOUT

- **RS Sharma:** He is appointed to head the 10 member panel which will look after the administration of COVID-19 vaccine. He was the former chief of TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India).
- **Jay Shah:** He is named as the official representative of BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) for the ICC (International Cricket Council) board meetings.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BCCI: Mumbai
 - President of BCCI: Sourav Ganguly

2ND EDITION OF 'SEA VIGIL-21'

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

Current Context: The 2nd edition of 'Sea Vigil-21' commenced from 12th Jan 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It is the biennial pan-India coastal defence exercise which is conducted to assess India's preparedness for coastal defence and maritime security.**
- The 'Sea Vigil-21' is also a build-up towards TROPEX (Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise). The TROPEX is conducted every two years by the Indian Navy.
- Indian Navy, Customs, Coast Guard, and other maritime agencies have participated in 'Sea Vigil-21'.
- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Henley Passport Index 2021 was released by Henley and Partners.

KEY POINTS

- The index was prepared on the basis of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- **As per the report, India is ranked at 85th position among 110 nations with a visa-free score of 58.**
- **The list is topped by Japan.**
- The second and third position is marked by Singapore and Germany respectively.
- The last rank position of 110th is marked by Afghanistan.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IATA: Montreal, Canada
 - HQ of Henley and Partners: London, UK

13TH INDIA-VIETNAM DEFENCE SECURITY DIALOGUE

Current Context: The 13th edition of India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue was held virtually.

KEY FACTS

- The Indian delegation was led by Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar and Vietnamese delegation was led by Sr. Lt Gen Nguyen Chi Vinh, Deputy Defence Minister, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- Both the dignitaries acknowledged the support received from each other's nation during this pandemic state of COVID-19.
- They expressed satisfaction in the defence cooperation between both nations.
- They also assured to strengthen the cooperation between armed forces by following the framework of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

- They also assured to boost cooperation in the defence industry and technology sector.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Vietnam: Hanoi
 - Currency of Vietnam: Vietnamese Dong

4TH ONE PLANET SUMMIT

Current Context: The 4th edition of One Planet Summit was organised by the Government of France.

ABOUT SUMMIT

- **France organised this summit in partnership with the United Nations and the World Bank.**
- **The theme for 4th One Planet Summit:** 'Let's act together for nature!'
- The summit was inaugurated by Secretary-General of UN, Antonio Guterres, President of France, Emmanuel Macron and President of World Bank, David Malpass.
- **The main aim of the summit was to have a focus on biodiversity preservation.**
- **The participants held discussions on:** (a) Protection of marine and terrestrial ecosystems (b) Promoting agroecology (c) Increasing funds to protect biodiversity (d) Identify linkage between deforestation and health of humans and animals.
- The dignitaries discussed making Mediterranean sea an exemplary sea by 2030. They launched the initiative called 'accelerator for the Great Green Wall' which will help to restore and preserve farming areas of Sahara and Sahel.
- They launched the initiative called 'PREZODE' (PREventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence) to prevent the emergence of zoonotic diseases. They also formed a panel to preserve tropical forests.
- **Static part:**
 - Capital of France: Paris
 - Currency of France: Euro and CFP Franc

BHARAT BIOTECH SIGNED PACT WITH PRECISA MEDICAMENTOS

Current Context: Bharat Biotech has entered into an agreement with Precisa Medicamentos.

DETAILS

- **They have signed a pact to supply its COVID-19 vaccine, called 'Covaxin' to Brazil.**
- For this purpose, the expert team of Precisa Medicamentos visited the Bharat Biotech facility in Genome Valley in order to discuss the export of Covaxin.
- Bharat Biotech has developed 'Covaxin' in partnership with Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Virology.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bharat Biotech: Hyderabad

UNION CABINET APPROVED MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND UAE

Current Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the MoU between India and UAE for scientific and technical cooperation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was approved between India's Ministry of Earth Sciences and UAE's National Centre of Meteorology.**
- **Because of this MoU, both the countries will be able to share data, knowledge and operational products for seismological, meteorological, and oceanic services such as satellite, radar, seismic, tide gauges, and meteorological stations.**
- MoU will also allow the exchange of visits by experts and scientists between India and UAE to carry out research activities.
- Both the countries will also conduct workshops, training, seminars and conferences in the field of meteorology.
- Both India and UAE will develop expert capacities of the Tsunami Model researchers in order to have high reliability and fast forecasting of Tsunamis which propagates through Arabian and Oman Sea.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi
 - Currency of UAE: Dirham

BHARTI AIRTEL SIGNED MOU WITH NSIC

Current Context: Indian Telecomm Company, Bharti Airtel has signed MoU with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU is signed to achieve digital transformation of Indian MSMEs.**
- With this digital transformation, MSMEs will be able to automate their business activities through data connectivity, voice connectivity, cloud platforms and digital marketing solutions.
- The MoU was signed under the assistance of NSIC called ICT Enabled Digital Services. This assistance of NSIC offers various digital solutions from numerous technology providers to the MSMEs.
- Under this MoU, Bharti Airtel will offer solutions to build the digital connectivity and ICT needs of MSMEs.
- The solutions will be from NSIC's online portal.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NSIC and Bharti Airtel: New Delhi

KAYAKALP AWARDS BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Current Context: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare annually presents Kayakalp Awards.

ABOUT AWARDS

- The awards are presented to health facilities having the highest standards of sanitation and hygiene.
- **District Hospital Reasi of J&K:** It has won First prize under the Kayakalp scheme.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER):** It has won Second Prize under the Kayakalp scheme.
- **AIIMS Bhubaneswar:** It was awarded best central government hospital under Category B of Kayakalp Awards.
- **Rairangpur Sub Divisional Hospital of Mayurbhanj district:** It was awarded best Sub-divisional hospital community health centre category of Kayakalp Awards.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Dr Harsh Vardhan

INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT AT 7.5% FOR FY2020-21—UBS INVESTMENT BANK

Current Context: The UBS Investment Bank, which is a major Swiss brokerage has projected that India's GDP to contract 7.5% for FY2020-21.

KEY POINTS

- It has also made an estimation that the economy will rebound at 11.5% in FY22.
- For FY2023, the UBS Investment Bank has projected that GDP growth will stabilize at 6%.
- **Static part:**
 - HQ of UBS Investment Bank: Switzerland

APPOINTMENTS ON 14TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Japarov Sadyr Nurgojoevich: He was elected as President of Kyrgyzstan.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek
 - Currency of Kyrgyzstan: Kyrgyzstani Som
- **Subhash Chandra Khuntia:** He is appointed to head the expert committee called 'Health Insurance Advisory Committee' formed by IRDAI.

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IRDAI: Hyderabad
 - Chairman of IRDAI: Subhash Chandra Khuntia
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi:** He will be heading the high-level committee formed to commemorate 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

CSIR-NIO, CSIR-NGRI SIGNED MOU WITH POI

Current Context: The CSIR-NIO, Goa (CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography), CSIR-NGRI, Hyderabad (CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute) has signed MoU with V.I. Il'ichev Pacific Oceanological Institute (POI) of Russia.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The POI is a research institute in Far Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences, which performs research in the fields of marine science and technology. It is comprised of 31 research units which are having modern scale devices.
- **The agreement among the entities will allow the scientist and researchers from India and Russia to work in the field of marine science and technology.**
- The MoU will also help to increase capacity and enhance skill development in the marine science and technology sector.
- **The experts from SCIR-NIO, CSIR-NGRI and POI, Russia will collaboratively work in the areas of:** Geo-resources, spatial variation of geophysical fields, marine geology, palaeogeography, environment and climate change, physical oceanography, biological oceanography, hydrochemistry, atmosphere, hydrosphere, development of oceanographic equipment, calibration and validation.
- The experts will work jointly to tackle the issue of ocean pollution and climate change.

FSS PARTNERED WITH IPPB

Current Context: The global payment processor and integrated payment products provider, FSS (Financial Software and Systems) has announced its partnership with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).

KEY POINTS

- **They have partnered to boost the financial inclusion in underserved and unbanked areas of India.**
- Under this partnership, IPPB will make use of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) of FSS to offer the doorstep banking services to its customers in India.
- The Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) of FSS is a low-cost structure of a branchless business model which has the feature of digital banking.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- Under this partnership, IPPB will be able to offer banking services to around 410 million Jan Dhan accounts in India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IPPB: New Delhi
 - Tagline of IPPB: Aapke Bank, Aapke Dwar
 - MD and CEO of IPPB: J. Venkatramu
 - HQ of FSS: Chennai, TN

ICICI BANK PARTNERED WITH FINTECH NIYO

Current Context: India's private sector bank, ICICI Bank has partnered with Fintech Niyo to launch and issue prepaid cards to MSME workers.

KEY FACTS

- **Due to this partnership, MSME will be able to avail 'ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card', which will be offered to MSME's blue-collar workers who are mostly unbanked.**
- The 'ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card' is powered by Visa.
- The card will also allow workers to get the benefit of the funds up to Rs. 1 lakh into the card account.
- This partnership is another step by ICICI Bank to offer banking solutions to the underbanked population.
- The card will also offer digital solutions with ease and safety transactions.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakhshi

COLLABCAD SOFTWARE—BY NIC, CBSE AND ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

Current Context: The National Informatics Centre (NIC) in partnership with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog launched CollabCAD Software.

DETAILS

- The CollabCAD Software is based on engineering solution which will be used by Class X and XII students and their faculty member to perform Engineering Graphics.
- With the help of this software, students from Atal tinkering labs will be able to develop 3D designs.
- The software is compatible with Linux and OS platform and can work in standalone and client servant mode.

APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION ON 15TH JANUARY 2021

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

Current Context: Jayant Kumar Dash: He is appointed as Chairman for the working group set up by RBI to regulate digital lending frauds. The group members will study digital lending activities of the regulated and unregulated players.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
- **Dushyant Dave:** He has offered his resignation from the President post for Supreme Court Bar association (SCBA).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SCBA: New Delhi

INDIA AND JAPAN ENTERS INTO MOU

Current Context: India and Japan have entered into MoU to boost the cooperation in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and to have standardization for 5G Technology.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Under this MoU, both the nations will collaboratively work in areas like 5G technology, telecom security, submarine optical fibre cable system to islands of India, spectrum management, development for building smart cities, develop a high-altitude platform for broadband in unconnected areas, disaster management and public safety strategies.
- The MoU will increase the ICT cooperation between both nations to another level.
- Japan will offer its expertise solution to bring 5G technology in various sectors of India. Currently, Japan is working to develop 5G usage in agriculture, transportation, and disaster management.
- The MoU agreement was signed between India's Union Minister for Communications, Electronics and IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Japanese Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Takeda Ryota.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA 3.0

Current Context: The GOI has launched the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

ABOUT SCHEME

- **The scheme is launched for the current fiscal year i.e. till March 2021.**

- **This third phase of the scheme will be managed by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.**
- The third phase of the scheme aims to provide training skills in 600 districts of Indian states (excluding Himachal Pradesh,, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh).
- The training skills will be given to around 8 lakh people and GOI has allotted funds of Rs 948.90 crores.
- To impart the training sessions, around 729 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra and more than 200 ITIs will be developed.
- After this fiscal year, GOI has planned to have a 5-year PMKVY which will be launched in 2021-22 and has set a target to offer training skills to 1.5 crore youth.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: Mahendra Nath Pandey

J&K SIGNED MOU WITH NECBDC

Current Context: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has signed MoU with North East Cane & Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) to increase the bamboo cultivation and its related businesses in the UT.

KEY POINTS

- Under this MoU, the NECBDC will offer the technical guidance and support to cultivate the bamboo species in the UT of J&K.
- This partnership will help to develop industries in UT which deal with exports of bamboo products.
- The NECBDC, will also perform research activities related to bamboo cultivation and will look to have overall development of UT in Bamboo sector.
- The MoU was signed to fulfil the vision led by PM Modi called 'Har Medh Par Ped'.
- **Static Part:**
 - World Bamboo Day: 18th Sep
 - Theme for World Bamboo Day 2020: BAMBOO NOW
 - Lakes in J&K: Wular Lake, Mansar Lake, Gadsar Lake, Vishansar Lake, Nigeen Lake

'ASMI'—INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS 9MM MACHINE PISTOL

Current Context: The DRDO's Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and the Indian Army have jointly developed India's first indigenous Machine Pistol.

KEY FACTS

- **The name of India's first indigenous Machine Pistol is 'Asmi'.**
- It can fire up to a range of 100 meters and is developed in a record time of 4 months.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- The 'Asmi' weapon has its high potential application in Armed forces as a personal weapon for heavy weapon detachments, commanders, tank and aircraft crews, drivers/dispatch riders, radio/radar operators, Closed Quarter Battle, counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations etc.
- It is also having its usage in central and state police organizations.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy
 - Chief of Army Staff: MM Naravane

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATION ON 16TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Pet Gelsinger: He is appointed as CEO of Intel. He has replaced Bob Swan.

DETAILS

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Intel: California, USA
- **Garima Verma:** Incoming First Lady Jill Biden has named Indian-American Garima Verma as her digital director.
- **Michael LaRosa:** Incoming First Lady Jill Biden has named him as her Press Secretary.
- **Juri Ratas:** He has announced his resignation to be the Prime Minister of Estonia.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Estonia: Tallin
 - Currency of Estonia: Euro

'PRARAMBH': STARTUP INDIA INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT

Current Context: The Union Minister of Railways, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal inaugurated 'Prarambh': Startup India International Summit.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It was organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- **The summit was participated by BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) member countries.**
- The summit was held to enhance the cooperation among BIMSTEC nations and to provide the platform to the startups in order to work to develop new ideas and inventions.
- The summit focused on multilateral cooperation and provided motivation to the nations to work collaboratively to the uplift startup ecosystem.
- **Static Part:**

- BIMSTEC member nations: India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Thailand
- HQ of BIMSTEC: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- HQ of DPIIT: New Delhi
- Chairman of DPIIT: Guruprasad Mohapatra

INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED DRIVERLESS METRO CAR

Current Context: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled India's first indigenously developed Driverless Metro Car.

KEY FACTS

- It was unveiled at the BEML manufacturing facility in Bengaluru.
- The country's first Driverless Metro Car is manufactured at Bengaluru's manufacturing facility of BEML for Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)'s MRS1 project.
- Total 576 Driverless Metro Cars are to be manufactured for MMRDA and will be supplied in January 2024.
- The Driverless Metro Car is having a stainless-steel body, equipped with CCTV surveillance and can carry 2280 passengers in 6 cars Metro train-set. It will be operating on the 25kv AC traction power supply.
- In order to perform commissioning, testing and round-the-clock services of Driverless Metro cars, BEML has setup a Depot office at Charkop Metro Depot, MMRDA, Mumbai.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BEML: Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - Chairman of BEML: Deepak K Hota

DR.HARSH VARDHAN INAUGURATED THE DOPPLER WEATHER RADARS

Current Context: Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Science and Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Doppler Weather Radars in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

KEY POINTS

- The Doppler Weather Radars were inaugurated in Mukteshwar village of Uttarakhand and Kufri hill station in Himachal Pradesh.
- Thus due to this Uttarakhand has got first of its kind Doppler Weather Radar.
- These radars were inaugurated during the 146th Foundation Day of India Meteorological Department (IMD) and are installed under Integrated Himalayan Meteorological Project of Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- The Doppler Weather Radars installed in both the states will improve forecasts for weather conditions especially for Char Dham and Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimages.
- They will offer data of severe weather to the weather forecasters, which will allow IMD to offer welfare and safety services to the community.
- **Dr Harsh Vardhan also inaugurated the multi-mission meteorological data receiving and processing system. It is established in IMD in partnership with ISRO.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IMD: New Delhi
 - DG of IMD: Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATION ON 17TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Milind Pant and Edward Knight: They all are selected for Vice-Chairs of 2021 for Global Board of Directors of US-India Business Council (USIBC).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw: Executive Chairperson of Biocon,
 - Milind Pant: CEO of Amway and Edward Knight: Vice Chairman of Nasdaq
 - Chairman of USIBC: Nisha D Biswal
- **Sandeep Aggarwal:** He is appointed as Chairman of Telecomm Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC). He has replaced Shyamal Ghosh.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of TEPC: New Delhi
- **Nazhat Shameem Khan:** She is Fiji's Ambassador and is elected as UN Human Rights Council's President for 2021.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UN Human Rights Council: Geneva, Switzerland

PM MODI FLAGGED OFF 8 TRAINS WHICH CONNECT THE STATUE OF UNITY

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off 8 trains connecting the Statue of Unity in Gujarat via video conference.

DETAILS

- These trains will connect different parts of India to Kevadiya in Gujarat where the Statue of Unity is situated.
- Thus these trains will offer smooth and easier travel connectivity to the Statue of Unity and will promote its importance.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- **These trains will connect Kevadiya with:** Varanasi, Dadar, Hazrat, Ahmedabad, Nizamuddin, Chennai, Rewa and Pratapnagar.
- **Static Part:**
 - PM Modi inaugurated the Statue of Unity in October 2018

'SAKSHAM' CAMPAIGN—MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

Current Context: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched a 'SAKSHAM' Campaign.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **SAKSHAM signifies Sanrakshan Kshamata Mahotsav.**
- **It is a one-month-long campaign which will create awareness for clean and green energy.**
- **The SAKSHAM Campaign is organised by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA).**
- The campaign will highlight adverse effects on health and environment due to the increase in carbon levels and will motivate the community to switch to cleaner fuels.
- **Under this campaign, various activities will be held like:** Cyclothon, farmer workshops, seminars, painting competitions, CNG vehicle driving contests.
- **The campaign will spread awareness about 7 key drivers framed by PM Modi to adopt clean and green energy namely:** Gas-based economy, cleaner use of fossil fuels, greater reliance on domestic sources, achieving renewable targets within the set deadlines, increased use of electric vehicles to decarbonize mobility, increased use of cleaner fuels like Hydrogen, and digital innovation across all energy systems.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas: Dharmendra Pradhan

'ONE SCHOOL ONE IAS' SCHEME -- KERALA

Current Context: Kerala's Governor Arif Mohammad Khan launched 'One School One IAS' Scheme.

KEY POINTS

- The scheme is launched under the Vedhik Erudite Foundation Scholarship Programme.
- The scheme aims to provide free coaching classes for civil services and other competitive examinations to 10,000 meritorious who are not financially stable across the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - Folk Dance of Kerala: Kathakali, Ottan Thullal, Mohiniyattam, Kaikottikali
 - National Parks of Kerala: Eravikulam NP, Pambadum Shola NP, Periyar NP, Silent Valley NP, Anamudi Shola NP

'YES BANK WELLNESS' AND 'YES BANK WELLNESS PLUS' CREDIT CARDS

Current Context: The Yes Bank in partnership with Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited launched the themed credit cards.

KEY FACTS

- **The themed credit cards are:** 'YES BANK Wellness' and 'YES BANK Wellness Plus'.
- These themed credit cards are launched to offer holistic health, self-care and wellness facilities to the consumers.
- The holder of the cards will be able to avail complimentary health benefits by registering on Aditya Birla Multiply App.
- After the registration, the cardholder will be able to avail health benefits like annual health check-up, round the clock doctor or counsellor helpline, in-studio or home-based workout sessions, personalized diet plans etc.
- **'YES BANK Wellness':** It is priced at Rs 1,999 a year and will provide 20 Reward Points on Pharmacy spends (every Rs 200), 4 Reward Points on other spends (every Rs 200). It will offer 6 complimentary fitness session in a month. The cardholder will be able to avail unlimited doctor consultations on call, free online consultations across medical specialities', and diet plans.
- **'YES BANK Wellness Plus':** It is priced at Rs 2,999 a year and will offer 30 Reward Points on Pharmacy spends (every Rs 200), 6 Reward Points on other spends (every Rs 200).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Yes Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Yes Bank: Prashant Kumar

WE HUB PARTNERED WITH I-HUB

Current Context: India's first state-led incubator which promotes women entrepreneurship, WE Hub (operates under Government of Telangana) has partnered with i-Hub, Government of Gujarat.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Both WE Hub and i-Hub have collaborated to motivate and support startups in raising capital.
- Both the entities will launch a pre-incubation program for 240 aspiring women entrepreneurs in the EdTech, MedTech and Fintech sectors.
- After the pre-incubation program, around 20 women entrepreneurs will be selected for the final virtual/physical co-incubation program.
- This co-incubation program will offer the startup opportunity to the women entrepreneurs.
- The women participating in this will receive guidance from experts at WE Hub and i-Hub.

24TH NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL (NYF)

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

Current Context: The 24th edition of National Youth Festival was held virtually and its closing ceremony was addressed by Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani.

KEY POINTS

- At the event, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijju was also present.
- **Theme for NYF 2021:** Yuvaah: Utsaah Naye Bharat Ka.
- The festival was held to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- The festival was attended by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Services Scheme (NSS).
- The NYF 2021 was organised by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- The festival was held in three phases which commenced from 20th Dec 2020.

CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ADB AND EIB

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) have collaborated to enhance clean and ocean partnership between them in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

KEY FACTS

- **They have also partnered to achieve climate goals under the Paris Agreement.**
- Both ADB and EIB will jointly work to protect the oceans and support the sustainable blue economy.
- Both the entities will work for initiatives which are held in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve SDG and climate protection goals.
- This partnership will help to expand the ocean projects and technical assistance programs of both ADB and EIB.
- **Static Part:**
 - About ADB: HQ: Mandaluyong, Manila, Philippines
 - President: Masatsugu Asakawa
 - About EIB: HQ: Kirchberg, Luxembourg
 - Secretary-General: Marjut Falkstedt

APPOINTMENTS ON 19TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: PM Narendra Modi: He is appointed as the Chairman of the Trust which manages Somnath temple in Gujarat. PM Modi has become second Prime Minister after the former Prime Minister Morarji Desai to hold this authority.

ABOUT

- **Yoweri Museveni:** He is appointed as the President of Uganda.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Uganda: Kampala
 - Currency of Uganda: Ugandan Shilling

148TH SESSION OF WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

Current Context: The 148th session of WHO Executive Board was chaired by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan via video conference.

DETAILS

- The WHO Executive Board session was held to discuss the direction and frame agenda to fulfil the health requirement of WHO Member nations.
- **WHO has announced the year 2021 as the year of global solidarity and survival.**
- During this session, Union Minister applauded the work of medical professionals, scientists, researchers and essential workers around the world who gave their best in dealing with the pandemic COVID-19.
- He also applauded the emergence of a vaccine against COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland
 - Director-General of WHO: Tedros Adhanom

YES MSME

Current Context: The private sector bank, Yes Bank has rolled out YES MSME.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It is a proposition to strengthen MSMEs with fast and easy access to funds and support them with digital solutions.**
- The Yes Bank under YES MSME programme will offer collateral-free funds up to Rs 5 crore.
- The YES MSME programme was launched by Union MSME, Road Transport and Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari.
- The YES MSME proposition will support MSMEs to expand their business, sustain momentum, speed up their growth by offering solutions across lending, deposits, insurance and will offer them digital solutions for branding and marketing purpose.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Yes Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Yes Bank: Experience our Expertise.
 - MD and CEO of Yes Bank: Prashant Kumar

TRIFED SIGNED MOU WITH IFFDC

Current Context: The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has signed MoU with Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-Operative Ltd (IFFDC).

KEY FACTS

- They have collaborated to provide livelihood opportunities to the tribal community.
- Both TRIFED and IFFDC will conduct various training programmes for tribal artisans in their respective sectors so that the artisans will develop entrepreneurship and business skills.
- They will jointly implement tribal development efforts and CSR initiatives for the livelihood upliftment of the tribal community.
- Also, the IFFDC will provide assistance support to FPOs. It will offer training to promoted community organisations of TRIFED.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda
 - About TRIFED: It comes under Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Its HQ is in New Delhi
 - HQ of IFFDC: Gurgaon, Haryana

GLOBAL FIREPOWER INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Global Firepower Index 2021 (GFI 2021) was released recently.

KEY DETAILS

- This index ranks the countries as per their military strength.
- To rank the countries, the GFI makes the calculations by considering 50 individual factors.
- **India is ranked at 4th position (PwrIndx: 0.1214) among 138 countries.** India is having 542 combat aircraft, 17 submarines, 4,730 tanks and 37 attack helicopters.
- **The GFI 2021 is topped by the United States (PwrIndx: 0.0721).** The United States is having 904 attack helicopters, 11 aircraft carriers, 68 submarines and 40,000 armoured fighting vehicles.
- The second and third position is obtained by Russia and China respectively.

RE-APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATION ON 20TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Vishwavir Ahuja: He is re-appointed as the MD and CEO of RBL Bank for a period of three years.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBL Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of RBL Bank: Apno ka Bank

- Chatbot of RBL Bank: RBL Cares
- **Justice Bansi Lal Bhat:** He is re-appointed as Officiating Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NCLAT: New Delhi
- **Mark Rutte:** He has resigned to the Prime Minister of Netherland.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Netherland: Amsterdam
 - Currency of Netherland: Euro

STARTUP INDIA SEED FUND

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Rs 1000 crore 'Startup India Seed Fund.'

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The 'Startup India Seed Fund' is launched to form new startups and promote existing startups.**
- The fund will help to advance the growth prospects of startups.
- This Rs 1000 crore of 'Startup India Seed Fund' will offer initial capital support to every startup.
- This fund will make India a global giant in startup and its services in the next five years.
- This initiative was announced by Prime Minister at the Prarambh Startup India International Summit.

2ND INDIA INNOVATION INDEX

Current Context: The 2nd India Innovation Index was launched by NITI Aayog.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It was released by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Rajiv Kumar.**
- The index describes the efforts taken by the government to transform India into an innovation emerged nation.
- The India Innovation Index analyses performances undertaken for innovation by states and UTs and rank them accordingly.
- **The India Innovation Index 2.0 is topped by Karnataka with a score of 42.50.**
- The second and third rank is secured by Maharashtra (score: 38.03) and Tamil Nadu (score: 37.91) respectively.
- The last three rank positions are marked by Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar.
- **Among the UTs, Delhi topped the index.** Chandigarh is in the second position.
- **Among North-Eastern and Hill states, Himachal Pradesh has secured the top position.** The second and third position in this category is marked by Uttarakhand and Manipur respectively.

- **The index ranking was calculated by considering 5 major enabler parameters:** Human Capital, Investment, Knowledge workers, Business environment and Safety and Legal environment.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

CABINET APPROVED MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND UZBEKISTAN IN SOLAR ENERGY SECTOR



Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

Current Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved MoU between India and Uzbekistan in the solar energy sector.

KEY POINTS

- **As per the MoU, both the countries will work collaboratively for the research and project activities of solar energy.**
- In this partnership, National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy from India and International Solar Energy Institute from Uzbekistan will play the major roles to conduct solar energy projects.
- Both India and Uzbekistan will jointly work in the areas of Solar Photovoltaic, Storage technologies and Transfer of Technology.
- They will also work to implement a pilot project in the International Solar Alliance member countries.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Uzbekistan: Tashkent
 - Currency of Uzbekistan: Uzbekistani Som

MEITY PARTNERED WITH AMAZON WEB SERVICES

Current Context: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has entered into a partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS).

KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered to establish Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India.**
- This Quantum Computing Applications Lab will be the first in the world to support the nation's government missions.
- Under this partnership, AWS will be providing hosting, technical and programmatic support to the researchers.
- The lab will allow researchers, scientists and experts access to Amazon's Bracket cloud-based quantum computing service.
- The Quantum Computing Applications Lab will provide acceleration to quantum computing-based research and development and will also enhance research activities in the quantum computing sector.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad
 - HQ of Amazon: Seattle, Washington DC, USA
 - CEO of Amazon: Jeff Bezos

APPOINTMENTS ON 21ST JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Siddhartha Mohanty: He is appointed as MD of LIC (Life Insurance Corporation). Currently, he is serving as MD and CEO of LIC Housing Finance. He has replaced TC Susheel Kumar.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LIC: Mumbai
 - Chairman of LIC: M R Kumar
- **Rajiv Lochan:** He is appointed as MD of Sundaram Finance Ltd. He has replaced T.T. Srinivasaraghavan.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Sundaram Finance Ltd: Chennai, TN
- **Sanjeev Kumar:** He is appointed as Chairman and MD of TCIL (Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd). Currently, he is serving as Technical Director of MTNL. He has replaced Rajiv Gupta.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of TCIL: New Delhi
- **Kiren Rijju:** He is appointed as the additional charge of Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy). He will hold this additional charge till Union Minister Shripad Yesso Naik resumes the work.
- **Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth:** She will become 1st woman fighter pilot to take part in Republic Day parades 2021.

'INSTAFX' MOBILE APP—ICICI BANK

Current Context: India's Private sector bank, ICICI Bank launched a new mobile application called 'InstaFX'.

DETAILS

- **The 'InstaFX' app is launched to help the customers of any bank to get 'ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card' swiftly.**
- Thus by doing so, ICICI Bank has become first in the country to offer this facility to money changers.
- With the help of this app, authorised money changers, who are partners of the bank will be able to complete the KYC verification and validation of customers digitally and in a real-time format.
- It thus offers ease of convenience to the users who are not even the customers of ICICI Bank.
- **Static Part:** Who is a money changer? A Person or a firm who has a business of exchange of coins or currency of the country to the other.
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakshi

PACT SIGNED FOR SUBMARINE RESCUE REPORT—BY INDIA AND SINGAPORE

Current Context: India and Singapore entered into a pact for Submarine Rescue Report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **They signed this pact at the 5th Defence Ministers Dialogue between India and Singapore.**
- The Submarine Rescue Dialogue was signed to deepen military cooperation between both nations.
- The pact was signed by India's Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Singapore's Defence Minister, Ng Eng Hen.
- Due to this pact, navies of both the nations will be able to extend submarine rescue assistance to each other and to conduct bilateral rescue exercises.
- Both nations will be able to conduct visits between them to enhance interoperability and proficiency in submarine rescue operations.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Singapore: Singapore
 - Currency of Singapore: Singapore Dollar

MORTH SIGNED MOU WITH DRDO

Current Context: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) signed MoU with the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to corporately work to attain sustainable geo-hazard management.

KEY FACTS

- Under this MoU, both entities will collaboratively work to exchange technical data for sustainable geo-hazard management.
- They will work to monitor and supervise mitigation measures, investigate geohazards and avalanches and accordingly formulate measures to mitigate geo-hazards on national highways.
- This will help to increase safety against the adverse effects of landslides and natural calamities on the national highways of India.
- Under this MoU, expert solutions will be provided by DRDO and accordingly maintenance and development of National Highways will be performed by MoRTH.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways: Nitin Gadkari
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy

1ST VIRTUAL INDIA-EU MARITIME SECURITY DIALOGUE

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

Current Context: The 1st virtual maritime security dialogue between India and the European Union (EU) was held recently.

KEY POINTS

- **India was represented by Joint Secretary Sandeep Arya and Director Joanneke Balfort represented European Union External Action Service side.**
- The dignitaries held discussions about regional cooperation activities, maritime security and developments of mutual interest.
- Their discussions were with an aim to increase their strategic partnership in order to frame the India-EU Roadmap to 2025.

'AURA' CREDIT CARD—AXIS BANK

Current Context: India's private sector bank, Axis Bank has launched 'AURA' credit card.

DETAILS

- **The AURA Credit Card comes up with health and wellness benefits features at an affordable cost to the users.**
- **To launch this card with exclusive benefit features, Axis Bank has partnered with Poshvine, Decathlon, Practo, Fitternity, IndushealthPlus, 1MG etc.**
- The AURA Credit Card offers a discount to the users on annual medical health check-ups.
- It provides 4 free online video consultations for a month along with round the clock access to doctors. This facility is provided by Procto.
- The Fitternity provides 4 free online fitness sessions for a month via this card.
- Also, the credit card offers, 16 recorded training sessions for a month, yoga sessions and various cross-functional training sessions.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Axis Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Axis Bank: Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi
 - MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry

16TH GLOBAL RISKS REPORT 2021

Current Context: The World Economic Forum has released the 16th Global Risks Report 2021.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The findings and analysis of the report are based on Global Risk Perception Survey (GRPS).**
- **This GRPS was taken over 650 members of the WEF's leadership communities.**
- **The report was drafted by Marsh McLennan, SK Group and Zurich Insurance Group.**

- **The main moto of the report is to enable better preparation by government and institutional organisations during the time of crisis.**
- The report describes that the top 3 risks by likelihood are extreme weather, climate action failures and human environmental damage. This is very likely to happen in the next 10 years. And the top 3 risks by impact are infectious diseases, climate action failures and weapon of mass destruction, these are the amount of impact they are expected to create.
- The report states that pandemic COVID-19 has resulted in a widespread impact on major rankings of 2021 as compared to the Global Risks Report Rankings of 2020. The pandemic has caused loss to the lives, hampered economic development, especially of poorest nations. The pandemic has also resulted in amplifying wealth inequalities across the world.
- The report also highlights about carbon emission which reduced due to lockdown situation of COVID-19 pandemic in many nations, but it also highlights that the carbon emission is expected to increase when the recovery process starts.
- The report has asked the global communities to learn from the responses of the pandemic in order to increase global resilience in future. This includes analytical frameworks, creating new forms of partnerships and trusts through consistent discussions.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of the World Economic Forum: Cologny, Switzerland

INDO-FRENCH JOINT EXERCISE DESERT KNIGHT-21

Current Context: Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force commenced the bilateral Air exercise called Ex Desert Knight-21.



- **It is held at Air Force Station of Jodhpur, Rajasthan.**
- **Particularly, this Ex Desert Knight-21 includes fielding of Rafale aircraft from both sides.**
- This exercise is an indication of growing interaction between the two premier Air Forces of India and France.
- The Indian side is represented by Mirage 2000, Rafale, Su-30 MKI, IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft, AWACS and AEW&C aircraft.
- France is represented by Rafale, A-400M Tactical Transport aircraft and AirbusA-330 Multirole tanker transport.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of France: Paris
 - Currency of France: Euro

SAAW (SMART ANTI AIRFIELD WEAPON)

Current Context: The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) successfully conducted test firing operation of SAAW (Smart Anti Airfield Weapon).

KEY POINTS

- **It was test-fired from Hawk-i aircraft off the Odisha coast.**
- **The SAAW is developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad of DRDO.**
- It is developed under HAL's Hawk-i Program.
- Also, SAAW is the first smart weapon which is fired from an Indian Hawk.
- Basically, SAAW is a long-range precision-guided anti-airfield weapon which is able to engage ground targets with precision up to a range of 100km.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HAL: Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - Chairman and MD of HAL: R Madhavan
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy

7TH MASCRAGE 2021

Current Context: The '7th MASCRAGE 2021-Movement against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade' was inaugurated by Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.

KEY FACTS

- **It was organised by FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy).**
- The aim behind the MASCRAGE 2021 is to combat illicit trade activities in the post-pandemic period of COVID-19.
- This event observed the discussions on developing innovative policy solutions to avoid illicit trade and damage to the economy and thus maintain the health and safety of the community worldwide.
- **Static Part:** Dr Harsh Vardhan: Union Minister of Science and Technology, Health and Family Welfare and Earth Sciences.

INDIAN ARMY SIGNED MOU WITH SIDM

Current Context: Indian Army has signed MoU with Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

DETAILS

- **The MoU was signed to boost indigenisation and innovation.**
- MoU was signed with an aim of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and to reduce the dependency on foreign manufactured defence equipment and technologies.
- The MoU was signed on the occasion of 25 years of Army-Industry Partnership with CII. The SIDM, which is the company of CII organised the seminar to mark the occasion.
- The seminar was virtually addressed by MM Naravane, Chief of the Army Staff.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIDM: New Delhi
 - President of SIDM: Jayant Damodar Patil

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATION ON 23RD JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Jayant N Khobragade: He is appointed as India's next Ambassador to ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Secretariat.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ASEAN: Jakarta, Indonesia
- **Rishabh Pant:** He is appointed to manage commercial interest and marketing rights of JSW Sports, which is the sports arm of JSW Group.
- **Static Part:**
 - Founder of JSW Group: Sajjan Jindal
- **Nazhat Shameem Khan:** She is Fiji Ambassador and has won Presidency Election of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). She has replaced Austria's Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberge.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNHRC: Geneva, Switzerland
- **Ukhnaa Khurelsukh:** He has resigned to be the Prime Minister of Mongolia.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mongolia: Ulaanbaatar
 - Currency of Mongolia: Mongolian Tugrik

GUJARAT SIGNED MOU WITH APSEZ

Current Context: The Government of Gujarat signed MoU with Adani Port & Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to build the country's largest multi-modal logistic park in Gujarat.**
- The multi-modal logistic park will be constructed in 1450 acre of land with allotted funds of Rs 50,000 crore.
- It will be completed by 2023.
- The multi-modal logistic park will be having a dedicated air cargo complex which will handle large size cargo aircraft.
- It will offer direct air, rail and road connecting the facility.
- It will also offer employment opportunities to around 25000 people.
- The direct rail connectivity with dedicated freight corridor which is part of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) will be offered by the multi-modal logistic park.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- **Static Part:**

- CM of Gujarat: Vijay Rupani
- Governor of Gujarat: Acharya Devvrat
- Thermal Power Plant in Gujarat: Mundra Thermal Power Project, Ukai Thermal Power Station, Sikka Thermal Power Station, Wanakbori Thermal Power Station, Gandhinagar Thermal Power Station

15TH INDIA DIGITAL SUMMIT 2021

Current Context: 15th India Digital Summit 2021 (IDS-2021) was inaugurated by Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad.

KEY POINTS

- **The 15th IDS 2021 was organised by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).**
- **The theme for 15th IDS 2021: 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat-Start of New Decade'.**
- The summit observed discussions related to frame digital initiatives in areas like policies, businesses, advertisement, start-ups, commerce etc.
- The participants discussed agendas like (a) Digitally recharging SMEs (b) Digital policies from a global perspective but Indian reality (c) Nurturing Indian start-ups.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IAMAI: Mumbai

'SHRAMSHAKTI' PORTAL AND 'SHRAMSAATHI' TRIBAL TRAINING MODULE

Current Context: The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda launched the 'ShramShakti' portal.

KEY FACTS

- It was launched virtually during the programme held at Panjim, Goa in the presence of CM of Goa, Pramod Sawant.
- **The 'ShramShakti' portal is a National Migration Support Portal.**
- The portal will allow GOI and states government to collect data related to the tribal migrant workers and will allow ease in the formulation of national level programs for the migrants.
- The portal will allow migrants to be linked with various welfare schemes as it will collect real-time data of the migrants.
- The portal will address the data gap and will empower the migrant workers, who are in search of job opportunities.
- The portal will collect data like livelihood options, demographic profile, migration pattern, and skill mapping of the tribal migrants.
- **The Union Minister also launched 'ShramSaathi', which is a tribal training module.**

- This module will offer proper management for safe and productive livelihood migration of workers.

COAL MINISTER'S AWARD

Current Context: The Ministry of Coal, GOI has announced and conferred the Coal Minister's Award.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Ministry also inaugurated Coal Handling Unit at Krishnashila Coal Project in Uttar Pradesh and launched the Project Passion.**
- **Coal Minister's Award 2020:** This award is conferred to three units of CIL (Coal India Limited) namely (a) Northern Coalfields Ltd of Madhya Pradesh (b) Central Coalfields Ltd of Jharkhand (c) Western Coalfields Ltd of Maharashtra.
- **Coal Handling Unit at Krishnashila Coal Project, UP:** It is having a coal handling capacity of 4 million tonnes per annum. It will provide coal to Anpara Thermal Power Station of UP's Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd and Renusagar Power Division of Hindalco.
- **Project Passion:** The Union Coal Minister launched Project Passion which is an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) of CIL. This project will help to enhance business performance and will lead to the growth of the organisation by maintaining digital integrity. It will be implemented in 2 phases.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Coal Minister: Pralhad Joshi.
 - HQ of CIL: Kolkata, West Bengal

IIM INDORE SIGNED MOU WITH MPIDC

Current Context: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indore has signed MoU with Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (MPIDC).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have signed MoU to frame a roadmap to attain goals under Aatmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh initiative.**
- The MoU is signed for the tenure of three years.
- Under this MoU, IIM Indore will help the state to draft New Industrial Policy and will provide training sessions.
- The IIM Indore will also help in improving ease of doing business in the state, thus to increase the number of employment and investment opportunities in the state.
- Both IIM Indore and MPIDC entered into MoU to develop an ecosystem of businesses in the Madhya Pradesh.
- Both entities will work for re-branding of self-reliant and prosperous Madhya Pradesh.
- **Static Part:**

- Folk Dance of MP: Tertali, Jawara, Matki Dance, Grida Dance, Phulpati Dance

GRAYQUEST PARTNERED WITH SBM BANK INDIA

Current Context: India's Education Fintech Company named GrayQuest has entered into a partnership with SBM Bank India.

DETAILS

- They have partnered with SBM Bank India with an aim to offer support to its clients with affordable funds to pay their children's academic fees in monthly payments.
- Until now, the education fintech company GrayQuest has joined hands with 2000 leading schools, universities and colleges for financial support.
- Both the entities collaborated with an aim to enhance access to education in India by providing financial support to pay academic fees.
- To take the benefit of this partnership, parents will have to convert their annual or semester education fees into affordable monthly payment by signing up for monthly payment option with GrayQuest in an online manner.
- GrayQuest will also offer complimentary insurance cover and other 50 exclusive rewards to the children.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of GrayQuest and SBM Bank India: Mumbai

AVALOKANA SOFTWARE

Current Context: The CM of Karnataka launched Avalokana software.

KEY POINTS

- The software is launched for the purpose of the state government to allow access to data related to expenditures and sanctions incurred on 1800 programmes of the state.
- The Avalokana software is an e-governance tool and provides to have a track on SDG goals, Scheduled caste sub-plans, tribal sub-plans and centrally sponsored welfare schemes.
- The software will also help the state government to take a decision on releasing funds by referring to expenditure data saved in it.
- This will help in increasing the government hold over resources.
- **Static part:**
 - CM of Karnataka: B S Yediyurappa
 - Governor of Karnataka: Vajubhai Vala
 - Dams in Karnataka: Tungabhadra Dam, Almatti Dam (Krishna River), Lakhamagouda dam (Ghataprabha River), Supa Dam (Kali river)

MAHARASHTRA TO START 'JAIL TOURISM'

Current Context: The government of Maharashtra will be launching 'Jail Tourism' initiative from Yerawada prison of Pune on 26th Jan 2021.

ABOUT

- The initiative will be inaugurated by CM of the state in presence of Deputy CM on the occasion of Republic Day.
- **This 'jail tourism' initiative will be launched with an aim to allow people to visit the historical prisons in the state as memories of many freedom fighters imprisoned there have been preserved.**
- In this initiative, school students, college students and other people can visit historical places.
- The first phase of the initiative will be launched from Pune's Yerawada prison as many freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Tilak, Motilal Nehru, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Sarojini Naidu, Subhas Chandra Bose had been imprisoned in it.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
 - Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

UDYAM SARATHI APP—UTTAR PRADESH

Current Context: The CM of Uttar Pradesh launched the 'Udyam Sarathi' mobile application.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The 'Udyam Sarathi' app is launched for the youths to assist them for employment opportunities.**
- **The app will help youths to avail information related to self-employment and job vacancies in industries of the state.**
- Youths will be able to search for employment opportunities in multiple departments and sectors of the state and central governments.
- The app is developed under the 'One District One Product' scheme.
- The app was launched on the occasion of the 71st Foundation day of the state.
- The UP is celebrating its 71st foundation day from 24th Jan to 26th Jan 2021 by conducting various programmes under the theme, 'Respect for self-reliant Uttar Pradesh, women young farmers, development of all.'
- **Static part:**
 - CM of UP: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of UP: Anandiben Patel
 - National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in UP: Dudhwa NP, Bakhira Bird Sanctuary, Katarniaghat WLS, Parvati Aranga Bird Sanctuary, Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Suhelwa WLS, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

OPERATION SARD HAWA

Current Context: The 'Operation Sard Hawa' was launched by the Border Security Force (BSF).

KEY POINTS

- **It was launched on the western international border of Rajasthan.**
- The operation was conducted to check the instances of infiltration because of dense fog in the region.
- The operation was also conducted to verify and increase security in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BSF: New Delhi
 - DG of BSF: Rakesh Asthana

PADMA AWARDS 2021 BY MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Current Context: On the eve of Republic Day, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced the name of personalities who will be conferred with Padma Awards by President Ram Nath Kovind.

KEY FACTS

- Total 119 names of the personalities from various fields were announced who will be conferred with Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awards.
- These awards are given in areas of art, social work, public affairs, sports, science and engineering, industry, medicine, literature, education, civil services, trade etc.
- **Padma Shri:** It is awarded for distinguished service.
- **Padma Bhushan:** It is awarded for distinguished service of higher-order.
- **Padma Vibhushan:** It is awarded for exceptional services.
- **Name of the winners for Padma Vibhushan:** Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Late singer SP Balasubramaniam, Dr. Belle Monappa Hegd, Narinder Singh Kapany, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, B. B. Lal.
- **Names of the winners for Padma Bhushan:** Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra, Tarun Gogoi (Posthumous), Chandrashekhara Kambara, Sumitra Mahajan, Nripendra Misra, Ram Vilas Paswan (Posthumous), Tarlochan Singh, Kalbe Sadiq (Posthumous), Rajnikant Devidas Shroff.

CAQM TO PARTNER WITH TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

Current Context: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has decided to enter into a partnership with technical institutions of India to develop a Decision Support System (DSS).

DETAILS

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- **The DSS will help to improve air quality in Delhi and NCR.**
- **The CAQM will be joining with the experts from** India Meteorological Department (IMD) of Delhi, The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), IIT Delhi, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) of Pune, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).
- The experts from these technical institutes will provide an expert technical solution to CAQM to develop DSS which will be based on AI technology.
- The DSS will utilize AI methods to simulate the scenario, and will accordingly take necessary measures to tackle air pollution and will improve air quality.
- The DSS will be incorporated with GIS, Decision Support Tools (DST) and many other features.
- **Static Part:**
 - About CAQM: It comes under the control of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its HQ are in Delhi.

16TH GLOBAL CLIMATE RISK INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Bonn, Germany based environmental think tank named Germanwatch released the Global Climate Risk Index 2021.

KEY FACTS

- This is the 16th edition of the Global Climate Risk Index and is drafted by analyzing the impact of extreme climate conditions on the country and on the economy.
- The report is drafted by considering data from Munich Re's NatCatSERVICE.
- **As per the index ranking, India is at 7th position among the countries that are most affected by climate change in 2019.**
- **Top 3 most affected countries in 2019 are:** Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Bahamas.
- **Top 3 most affected countries in the last 20 years (2000-2019) are:** Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti.
- **Static part:**
 - Capital of Germany: Berlin
 - Currency of Germany: Euro

AMPHEX - 21

Current Context: The tri-service joint amphibious exercise named AMPHEX - 21 was conducted by the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The exercise was held in the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands.**
- The aim behind conducting AMPHEX - 21 exercise was to validate and enhance India's capabilities to protect its territorial integrity.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- It also aimed to boost the operational synergy and joint warfighting capabilities of the three services.
- The tri-services executed multi-domain and high-intensity based offensive as well as defensive manoeuvres in Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.
- They conducted multi-faceted maritime operation by employing amphibious assault ships, surveillance platforms and complex manoeuvres at sea.
- The Airborne insertion of Marine Commandos of Navy and Special Forces of the Army, naval gunfire support, the amphibious landing of forces and follow-on operations were also the part of the exercise.
- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Defence Staff: General Bipin Rawat

'PANKH ABHIYAN'—MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: The Government of Madhya Pradesh launched the 'PANKH Abhiyan'.

DETAILS

- The scheme was launched to mark the occasion of National Girl Child Day.
- The 'PANKH Abhiyan' is launched under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme with an aim to empower the girl child of the state.
- **The significance of 'PANKH Abhiyan' is:** 'P' for Protection, 'A' for Awareness of their rights, 'N' for Nutrition, 'K' for Knowledge and 'H' for Health.
- **Along with this scheme, the CM of the state also declared scholarships of Rs 6.47 crore for 26,099 girls under Ladli Laxmi Yojana.**
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of MP: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
 - Governor of MP: Anandiben Patel
 - Folk Dance of MP: Tertali, Jawara, Matki Dance, Phulpati Dance, Grida Dance
 - Nuclear Power Plant in MP: Chutka Nuclear Power Plant

BHARAT PARV-2021

Current Context: The annual event Bharat Parv-2021 was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on 26th Jan 2021.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The event was organized by the Ministry of Tourism.**
- The event will be conducted from 26th Jan to 31st Jan 2021.
- **The event was conducted to observe and celebrate the spirit of India and showcase its cultural diversity.**
- **The theme for Bharat Parv-2021: Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.**

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- In this event, all the states and UTs will showcase their tourism destinations, handicrafts, cuisine and other features.
- During the inauguration, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed by praising the cultural diversity of India.
- He also praised the importance of event undertaken by the tourism ministry to flourish and promote the cultural diversity of India.
- The event was held to achieve the vision set by PM Modi that every person of India should visit at least 15 destinations by the year 2022.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism and Culture: Prahlad Singh Patel

AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH SCHEME FOR CAPF

Current Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs launched Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme for the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).

DETAILS

- **For this purpose, the MoU was signed between the National Health Authority (NHA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- The scheme is launched for CAPF personnel and their dependents.
- The scheme will prove beneficial 28 lakh personnel of Assam rifles, CAPF and National Security Guard, and their dependents.
- **The scheme will be beneficial to:** Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG), Assam Rifles and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- While launching the scheme, Union Minister Amit Shah distributed the 'Ayushman CAPF' Health cards to some of the personnel from 7 CAPF.
- **Static Part:**
 - CEO of NHA: Dr Indu Bhushan

INDIA'S ECONOMY TO CONTRACT BY 8% -- BY IMF

Current Context: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised the growth forecast for India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per IMF, India's GDP to contract by 8% in the fiscal year 2021-22.**
- Earlier it has projected the GDP contraction of 10.3%.
- IMF has released this updated prediction in its World Economic Outlook.
- Also, the IMF has projected that Indian economy to rise to 11.5% in FY2021-22.
- For 2020, global growth to contract at 3.5% and the global economy to grow by 5.5% in 2021.

- **Static part:**
 - HQ of IMF: Washington DC, US
 - MD and Chairman of IMF: Kristalina Georgieva
 - Chief Economist of IMF: Gita Gopinath

14TH JOINT WORKING GROUP MEET OF INDIA-UK ON COUNTER-TERRORISM

Current Context: India and United Kingdom virtually conducted the 14th edition of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.

KEY POINTS

- Both the nations strongly condemned the terrorism activities in all forms.
- Both nations assured to deepen cooperation in order to combat global terrorism and cross-border terrorism in South Asia.
- They also assured to enhance bilateral cooperation to combat counter-terrorism, extremism and radicalization, financing of terrorism, prevention of internet exploitation for cyber-crimes etc.
- They held discussions to have law enforcement, capacity building and maritime & aviation security.
- **Static part:**
 - Capital of UK: London
 - Currency of UK: Pound sterling

INDIA PLEDGED USD 150,000 FOR UN PEACEBUILDING

Current Context: India has announced that it has pledged to provide USD 150,000 to United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for 2021.

KEY FACTS

- Announcement of this was made by India's permanent representative to the United Nations, TS Tirumurti.
- This fund amount will help to offer support to the UN for its activities and programmes for 2021.
- The funds will be particularly used for peacebuilding with a broader context and to tackle COVID-19 pandemic.
- The UN Peacekeeping works to help nations to transform from conflict situations to peace.
- The UN Peacebuilding fund helps to offer support for the UN's key instrument in order to tackle conflict situations and strengthen the response across the UN peace and security pillars.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATION ON 28TH JANUARY 2021

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

Current Context: J K Shivan: He is appointed as MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Dhanlaxmi Bank: Thrissur, Kerala
 - Tagline of Dhanlaxmi Bank: Tann Mann Dhan
- **Marcelo Rebelo De Sousa:** He is re-elected as President of Portugal for 2nd term.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Portugal: Lisbon
 - Currency of Portugal: Euro
- **Jayati Ghosh:** She is appointed by the UN to its 2nd term of the high-level advisory board on economic and social affairs.
- **Static Part:**
 - Secretary-General of UN: Antonio Guterres
- **Giuseppe Conte:** He has resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Italy.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Italy: Rome
 - Currency of Italy: Euro

DRDO CONDUCTED MAIDEN TEST LAUNCH OF AKASH-NG MISSILE

Current Context: The DRDO successfully conducted the maiden test launch of new generation Akash-NG Missile.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The test was conducted from ITR off the Odisha coast.**
- The Akash-NG Missile is a surface to air missile having the test range of 30km.
- It is used by Indian Air Force for the interception of high manoeuvring aerial threats.
- During the testing activity, the performance of the command and control system was validated along with the configuration of onboard avionics and aerodynamic equipments of the missile.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy

51ST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2021

Current Context: The 51st edition of International Film Festival 2021 concluded in Panaji, Goa.

DETAILS

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- The IFFI 2021 was conducted in hybrid mode i.e. 50 films among 224 films of various categories were screened online.
- **Organizers of IFFI 2021:** Directorate of Film Festival which comes under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Government of Goa and Entertainment Society of Goa.
- **Country of the Focus:** Bangladesh
- **Indian Personality of the Year Award:** Biswajit Chatterjee
- **Opening Film of IFFI 2021:** Another Round
- **Closing Film of IFFI 2021:** Wife of a Spy
- **Chairman of International Jury for IFFI 2021:** Pablo Cesar (Argentina)
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Vittorio Storaro (Cinematographer from Italy)
- **Silver Peacock Best Actor Award (Male):** Tzu Chuan Liu (Taiwan)
- **Silver Peacock Best Actor Award (Female):** Zofia Stafiej (Poland)
- **Golden Peacock Best Film Award:** Into the Darkness
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting: Prakash Javadekar

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX 2020

Current Context: Transparency International has released the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the index ranking, India is at 86th rank position among 180 nations, with a score of 40.**
- The score of India for CPI 2020, is below the average score of the Asia-Pacific region (31 countries) and global average.
- **The index is topped by New Zealand and Denmark, both with the score of 88.**
- The second positions are jointly marked by Switzerland, Finland, Sweden and Singapore with a score of 85 each.
- **The lowest rank in the index is marked by South Sudan and Somalia with a score of 12 each.**
- The index uses a scale of 0 to 100, in which 0 indicates highest corruption and 100 indicates null corruption.
- **Static part:**
 - HQ of Transparency International: Berlin, Germany

35TH PRAGATI MEET

Current Context: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired and addressed the 35th edition of PRAGATI meeting.

KEY FACTS

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- The meeting was held to review activities undertaken in various projects and programmes.
- PRAGATI is an ICT based multi-modal platform.
- **Significance of PRAGATI:** 'Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation'. It aims to look after the timely implementation of central and state governments policies.
- **In the 35th edition of the meet, PM Modi reviewed ten agenda items which included nine projects and one program for 15 states.**
- **The 9 projects are having a cumulative cost of Rs. 54,675 crores.**
- Among the 9 projects, three were from Railways Ministry, three from Road Transport and Highways Ministry and one each from Power Ministry and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- **PM Modi also reviewed progress work under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Priyोजना and he has asked associated sectors of this programme to make use of technology for its effective implementation.**

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN INDIA AND IEA

Current Context: India signed the strategic partnership agreement with the International Energy Agency (IEA) for the purpose of energy security.

DETAILS

- **The MoU will enable cooperation in the global energy security sector.**
- **The MoU was signed between Sanjiv Nadan Sahai, Secretary of Ministry of Power, GOI and Executive Director of IEA, Dr Fatih Birol.**
- Because of this agreement, India will be able to boost energy security cooperation with the major support from IEA member nations.
- India will now keep a focus on IEA's Clean Energy Transition Programme (CETP), Energy Security, Stability and Sustainability and will also increase petroleum storage in the country.
- India will also be able to achieve its goal to become a gas-based economy.
- IEA will implement various activities for India with cooperation with IEA's member nations in order to strengthen the strategic partnership.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IEA: Paris, France

APPOINTMENTS ON 29TH JANUARY 2021

Current Context: Lt Gen Chandi Prasad Mohanty: He is appointed as Vice-Chief of Army Staff. He has replaced Lt Gen SK Saini.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Army Staff: Gen MM Naravane

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- **Swaminathan Janakiraman and Ashwini Kumar Tewari:** They are appointed as Managing Directors of SBI for a tenure of 3 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - Taglines of SBI: With you all the way; Purely banking nothing else; The banker to every Indian; The nation banks on us; A bank of the common man
- **Kaja Kallas:** She is appointed as the first female Prime Minister of Estonia. She has replaced Juri Ratas.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Estonia: Tallinn
 - Currency of Estonia: Euro

KRISHI SAKHA APP—BHARTI AXA GENERAL INSURANCE

Current Context: The Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched the Krishi Sakha App for Indian farmers.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The app will help farmers to get updated with daily farming needs.
- The app will provide farmers with the proper guidance of best farming techniques which they can adopt in their farms and thus increase yields.
- The farmers can also have an access to Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme through this app. Various other schemes related to the welfare of the farmers are also described in the app.
- The Krishi Sakha App will also deliver notifications to the farmers about the weather and climatic conditions. The farmers will also be provided with information related to scientific farming techniques. Various other advices like market price of the crop, land unit conversion, crop calendar and data about forthcoming Agri events etc. are also provided by the app.
- **Static Part:**
 - About of Bharti AXA General Insurance: Its HQ is in Mumbai. The MD and CEO is Sanjeev Srinivasan

4TH FII FORUM 2021

Current Context: The 4th FII Forum 2021 was held virtually by Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Future Investment Institute (FII) hosted the forum.**
- **The forum was held based on the theme of 'The Neo-Renaissance'.**
- The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister Harsh Vardhan where he addressed the forum by discussing 5 major impacts of COVID-19 on global business.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- The 5 major impacts of COVID -19 mentioned by Union Minister Harsh Vardhan are: (a) Impact on Technology and Innovation (b) Importance of Infrastructure (c) Role of Environment (d) Human Resource (e) Business-friendly governance.
- He also discussed the two vaccines against COVID-19 namely Covishield and Covaxin, which are launched by India.
- He also discussed various steps undertaken by India to tackle the pandemic.
- The participants in the forum discussed advanced health technologies.
- **Static part:**
 - Capital of Saudi Arabia: Riyadh
 - Currency of Saudi Arabia: Riyal

GOV. OF KARNATAKA SIGNED MOU WITH AMAZON INDIA

Current Context: The Government of Karnataka's Department of Industries and Commerce signed MoU with Amazon India to boost the e-commerce sector of the state.

KEY POINTS

- **This MoU will help to uplift the MSMEs to a global level with the help of various export programmes of Amazon.**
- Under this MoU, Amazon India will conduct seminars and training workshops for exporters from major MSMEs.
- The participants will be trained with B2C e-commerce exports and with the knowledge of selling through Amazon to 17 major international markets.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Amazon: Washington DC, US
 - CEO of Amazon: Jeff Bezos
 - Lakes in Karnataka: Agara Lake, Lingambudhi Lake, Madiwala Lake, Byrasandra Lake, Kukkarahalli lake, Sankey Lake

ASIA-PACIFIC PERSONALISED HEALTH INDEX

Current Context: The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) recently launched the Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index.

KEY FACTS

- **The index is first-of-its-kind and is a tool to analyse the readiness of eleven health systems in the Asia-Pacific region.**
- This index enables to adopt personalized healthcare systems and measures.
- India ranked at 10th position with a score of 41 in health information indicator.
- India is at 11th rank position with a score of 24 in health services indicator.

- Also, the rank of India is at 9th position with a score of 30 in Personalised Technologies indicator category. This indicator considers the devices, applications, platforms and reimbursement structures associated with the healthcare sector.
- **Overall rank of India is 10th position out of 11 health systems.**
- **The index is topped by Singapore among all the 11 health systems.**
- The second and third positions are marked by Taiwan and Japan respectively.
- The index ranking was calculated by analyzing performance across 27 major indicators associated with personalised health across 4 categories which are called 'Vital Signs'.
- The 'Vital Signs' are Policy Context, Health Information, Personalised Technologies and Health Services.

5TH INDIA-JAPAN ACT EAST FORUM MEET

Current Context: The 5th India-Japan Act East Forum (AEF) Meeting was recently held in New Delhi.

DETAILS

- **India was represented by Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary and Japan were represented by Suzuki Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India.**
- The meeting was held to review the work of major ongoing projects of the North Eastern Region of India.
- The projects are held in areas like hydropower, water management, skill development and sustainable development.
- They also reviewed the work of the projects related to road connectivity, health, bamboo value chain development and forest conservation.
- The Act East Forum (AEF) is a collaboration of India's 'Act East Policy' and Japan's 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' vision.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of State (IC) for Development of North Eastern Region: Jitendra Singh

TEXTILES COMMITTEE SIGNED MOU WITH NISSENKEN QUALITY EVALUATION CENTRE

Current Context: The Textiles Committee of Ministry of Textiles signed MoU with Japan's Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre.

DETAILS

- **The MoU was signed to boost the export of Textile and Apparel to Japan.**
- The partnership will help textile industries to fit the Japanese quality standards by jointly performing testing, inspection and conformity assessment.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: January 2021

- The partnership will also help to impart training sessions, R&D and capacity building in the textile sector.
- Both India and Japan have assured each other to share data of technical information and documentation allied to the textile sector.
- Both the nations have decided to facilitate sourcing across Textiles Value Chain (TVC) from both ends.
- The MoU agreement was signed via video conference by textiles minister Smriti Irani and Yasumasa Nagasaka, Japanese state minister of economy, trade and industry.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

2021: INDO-FRENCH YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Current Context: Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar along with French Minister for Ecological Transition, Barbara Pompili launched 2021 as the Indo-French Year of the Environment.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This will help to enhance the partnership between India and France with respect to sustainable development and an increase in actions related to the protection of the global environment.
- The Indo-French Year of the Environment is the joint platform of India and France to work jointly in the areas of environment, biodiversity, climate change throughout the year of 2021. The partnership in this will be held for the tenure of 2021-22.
- **The themes for Indo-French Year of the Environment:** (a) Environmental protection (b) Climate change (c) Biodiversity conservation (d) Sustainable urban development (e) Development of renewable energies and energy efficiency.
- **Static part:**
 - President of France: Emmanuel Macron
 - Prime Minister of France: Jean Castex

FRAMEWORK FOR STRENGTHENING GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM IN BANKS--RBI

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the framework for strengthening the grievance redress mechanism in banks.

KEY POINTS

- **It is also launched with an aim to address the complaints lodged by customers in a time-bound manner.**

- The framework is based on to having enhanced disclosure of the complaints to be made by the banks, recovery of the cost of redress of maintainable complaints from the banks against whom the number of complaints received in the Offices of Banking Ombudsman (OBOs) which are in excess of their peer group averages.
- The RBI also drafted this framework to have a review of these grievance redress mechanism by itself.
- The framework will lead to having deep insight into the number of complaints and their nature received by the banks.
- It will also help in having a track on the turnaround time of complaint redressal and thus to provide satisfactory customer service and increase the trust of customers on banking systems.
- The framework will also help to identify the steps taken by the banks to address the complaints.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

2ND INDIA JUSTICE REPORT 2020

Current Context: The Tata Trusts in partnership with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS-Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and How India Lives released the 2nd edition of India Justice Report (IJR).

ABOUT REPORT

- **As per the report, Maharashtra is at the top position among the 18 large and mid-size states to provide better justice delivery.**
- The second and third positions are marked by Tamil Nadu and Telangana respectively.
- **Also, in the category of small states, the report ranking is topped by Tripura in providing better justice delivery.**
- Tripura is followed by Sikkim and Goa at second and third ranks respectively.
- The report considers justice delivery in the areas of Police, Judiciary, prisons and Legal Aid and thus gives the rank accordingly.

MOU SIGNED BETWEEN CSIR AND UT LADAKH

Current Context: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) signed MoU with the union territory of Ladakh.

KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed to have the development of UT Ladakh by using Science and Technology (S&T) interventions.**
- This MoU will also help to establish a knowledge partnership between CSIR and the Ladakh.

- The partnership will help to explore development in the sectors like natural resources, the introduction of cash crops in UT and utilization of bioresource endemic to UT.
- During the 1st phase of MoU, 6 of the CSIR institutes will work to develop the union territory of Ladakh through S&T interventions.
- The six of the CSIR institutes are: CSIR-IIIM, CSIR-CMERI, CSIR-NBRI, CSIR-IHBT, CSIR-CLRI and CSIR-NGRI. Among this, CSIR-IIIM of Jammu will be the nodal institution.

