

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST



July 2020

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PM SCHEME FOR FORMALIZATION OF MICRO FOOD PROCESSING ENTERPRISES

Current Context: Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal has launched PM Scheme for Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises (PM FME).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The PM FME scheme is named as 'Sapno Ki Udaan'. The scheme will be implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

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- The scheme has an outlay of **Rs 10,000 crore** and will help to boost unorganized food processing sector and will provide employment opportunities to about 9 lakh workers.
- The process and management of the implementation of the scheme will take place in the Management Information System (MIS).
- The PM FME scheme is launched with an aim of **'Local Brand to Global'** and has an objective of to provide financial, technical and business support for up-gradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

'SWIGGY MONEY'—BY SWIGGY AND ICICI BANK

Current Context: Food Tech giant Swiggy has partnered with private bank ICICI Bank to launch its own digital wallet called as 'Swiggy Money'.

KEY POINTS

- **'Swiggy Money' will enable single-click checkout experience to the users.**
- **'Swiggy Money' is powered by ICICI Bank's 'insta wallet service' which is built on the cloud platform along with API integration.**
- With the help of this, Swiggy customer will be able to use the wallet if the customer is an ICICI Bank account holder.
- However, a non-ICICI Bank account holder can also use this facility after providing of government ID to ICICI Bank.
- The facilities like a discount, instant withdrawals, top-up the wallet with other banks and split pay option are made available on this 'Swiggy Money'.
- **Static Part:**
 - Part: HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakshi
 - HQ of Swiggy: Bengaluru
 - CEO of Swiggy: Sriharsha Majesty

'HAMARA GHAR HAMARA VIDYALAYA'—MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched 'Hamara Ghar Hamara Vidyalaya' campaign in order to maintain academic regularity of the students during the lockdown period arisen due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

DETAILS

- The scheme is prepared by Education Center of Madhya Pradesh and will provide a school-like environment to the students while they are pursuing online learning at their homes as schools are shut down due to COVID-19 with an aim to maintain social distancing and to continue the academic period of students in this pandemic situation as well.

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- Under this scheme, in order to feel like a school environment, a school bell will be heard at the student's house and teachers will begin their teaching session.
- The classes will be held from 10 am to 1 pm with 1-hour classes for every subject.
- The scheme will start from 6th July 2020 and the weekly time table for each subject has been provided to the students via the online platform.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
 - Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Anandiben Patel

APPOINTMENTS ON 1ST JULY 2020

Current Context: KK Venugopal: He is reappointed as **Attorney General of India** for the tenure of one year.

ABOUT

- **Tushar Mehta:** He is appointed as **Solicitor General** for a tenure of three years.
- **Gudni Johannesson:** He is reappointed as **President of Iceland**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Iceland: Reykjavik
 - Currency of Iceland: Icelandic Krona

'NADA APP' LAUNCHED BY SPORTS MINISTER

Current Context: Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has launched the NADA (National Anti-Doping Agency) mobile phone app.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The app aims to bridge the gap between NAD agency and athletes.
- The app will deliver information on various aspects of sports, information about prohibited substances, comprehensive information on commonly prescribed medicines as well as details about dope testing to the athletes.
- NADA app will prove to be the one-step guide for all anti-doping and medication related data.
- Athletes are asked to use this app in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) to update their whereabouts, and to keep themselves updated with the discipline, rules and regulation for the sports they describe.

ASIA'S FIRST CONTINUOUS GALVANIZED REBAR PRODUCTION FACILITY IN PUNJAB

Current Context: Union Minister for Steel & Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan virtually inaugurated Asia's First Continuous Galvanized Rebar Production Facility in Punjab.

KEY POINTS

- **The Continuous Galvanized Rebar Production Facility** is launched by Madhav KRD Group in partnership with International Zinc Association (IZA) in the support of Hindustan Zinc Limited.
- This facility will produce Continuous Galvanized Rebar (CGR) with annual capacity produce to be 30,000 tonnes.
- Advantages of galvanized steel with standard quality of zinc coating will reduce the risk of cracking due to bending.
- And the technology developed will help to minimize damages due to corrosion.
- The development and inauguration is a step forward towards making of an Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Punjab: Captain Amarinder Singh
 - Governor of Punjab: V.P.Singh Badnore
 - **Wild Life Sanctuaries in Punjab:** Abohar WLS, Bir Badson WLS, Bir Bunerheri WLS, Harike Lake WLS, Jhajjar Bacholi WLS, Kathlaur Kushlian WLS, Nangal WLS, Bir Mehaswala WLS.

GOI AND WORLD BANK TO DEVELOP HOUSING PROJECTS IN TAMIL NADU

Current Context: Government of India has signed an agreement with World Bank to develop Housing Projects and provide affordable housing to the low- income groups in Tamil Nadu.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The agreement is signed to strengthen the state's housing sector and associated policies with housing sector.
- **The agreement is signed to develop two housing projects in Tamil Nadu. The two projects accumulates with total loan agreement of \$250 million.**
- **The name of the two projects under this agreement are:** (a)Tamil Nadu Housing Sector strengthening Programme: For thus out of the total loan amount, \$200 million will be utilised (b)Tamil Nadu housing and Habitat Development Project: This project will utilize remaining loan amount of \$50 million.
- The loan amount is granted by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) with a maturity period of 20 years including grace period of 3.5 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM Of Tamil Nadu: Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami
 - Governor of Tamil Nadu: Banwarilal Purohit
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in TN:** Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Cauvery North WLS, Chitrangudi Bird WLS, Gangaikondam Spotted Dear WLS, Kalakad WLS, Kanyakumari WLS, Kodaikanal WLS, Koonthankulam-Kadankulam WLS, Melaselvanoor-Keelaselvanoor WLS, Point Calimere WLS

'TOWARDS A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY REPORT'

Current Context: National Institute for Transforming India (NITI)Aayog in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) has released a report on clean energy transition titled as 'Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post COVID-19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sector'.

ABOUT REPORT

- The report describes the specific actions by which India will be able to review and boost its two main economic sector namely transport and power sector which is highly impacted during lockdown situation arisen due to COVID-19.
- The report has also laid down four principles to boost economy in post COVID-19 situation.
- The principles are (a) Invest in least-cost-energy solutions (b) Support resilient and secure energy systems. (c)Prioritise efficiency and competitiveness. (d) Promote social and environmental equity.
- For boosting of transport sector, the report describes 'Shifting to clean Passengers and Freight Movement' and for power sector , report describes 'Providing clean , affordable and reliable electricity'.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant
 - HQ of RMI India: New Delhi

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS ON 2ND JULY 2020

Current Context: **Sanjay Dwivedi:** He is appointed as **Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC).**

ABOUT

- **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya:** He is appointed as **Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).** He will replace Sanjiv Singh.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IOC: New Delhi
- **Ravinder Bhakar:** He is appointed as **CEO of the Central Board of Film Certifications (CBFC).**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CBFC: Mumbai
 - Chairperson of CBFC: Prasoos Joshi
- **Indra Mani Pandey:** He is appointed as **Indian envoy to United Nations bodies and other international organisations in Geneva.**
- **Ravindra Jadeja:** He is named as the **most valuable player by Wisden.**
- **Shashank Manohar:** He has decided to **step down as the Chairman of ICC (International Cricket Council).**

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICC: Dubai, UAE
 - CEO of ICC: Manu Sahney

DREAM KERALA PROJECT

Current Context: Kerala Government has launched 'Dream Kerala Project to provide job opportunities and rehabilitation opportunities to the migrants who have returned to the state from abroad or from other Indian states.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The project also aims to utilize skillset of the returnees for the welfare of the state.
- The project will be jointly developed in the co-ordination of various departments with state government.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
 - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan

WASTE TO ENERGY PLANT TO BE DEVELOPED IN DELHI

Current Context: An MoU has been signed among Indian Oil, NTOC and South Delhi Municipal Corporation to set up A Waste to Energy Plant at Okhala in Delhi.

HIGHLIGHTS

- These three organisations will be developing waste to energy plant demonstration using **Gasification technology**.
- The will be having the capacity to process 17500 tons of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) per annum. It will be generated from municipal solid waste which will be processed to produce Syngas which will be utilised to generate electricity.
- Apart from this, this plant will be generating less emission and will provide a clean eco-friendly way to handle and process solid waste and thus will generate gas and electricity from the waste.
- The development of this plant is a step forward towards making of an Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NTPC: New Delhi
 - HQ of IOC: New Delhi

'ACCELERATE VIGYAN' SCHEME AND PORTAL—BY SERB

Current Context: The Union Government's Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has launched 'Accelerate Vigyan' Scheme and Portal associated with it.

ABOUT

- **‘Accelerate Vigyan’ is a scheme for research internships.**
- It is launched with an objective to encourage high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower which will lead to research careers and will develop a knowledge economy.
- The portal address associated with it is www.acceleratevigyan.gov.in. The portal will display all the information and registration process for the application of research internship.
- The Accelerate Vigyan’ scheme will work in mission mode and has also started the process to call the applications for the process under ABHYAS scheme for winter.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SERB: New Delhi

FITCH FORECASTS INDIA’S GROWTH TO 8% FOR FY 2022

Current Context: An American Credit rating Agency, Fitch Rating Inc. has released its Global Economic Outlook for the month of June 2020.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the report, India’s growth forecast for the financial year 2021-22 is marked at 8%. Initially, it was marked at 9.5% by the Fitch. However, it has reduced it to 8%.**
- The reduction in the growth forecast is marked due to the negative impact on economic growth due to pandemic COVID-19.
- **For the current fiscal year, the projection of India economy to be contracting by 5% as per Fitch Rating Agency.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Fitch Rating: New York, US

‘PAUDHE LAGAO, PARYAVARAN BACHAO’—DELHI

Current Context: Delhi Government has launched ‘Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao’ campaign.

KEY POINTS

- It is basically mega tree plantation drive to be conducted by the Delhi Government.
- The campaign is launched with an aim to reduce air pollution in Delhi.
- The government has set a target of planting 31 lakh tree saplings in 17 days.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

SPECIAL LIQUIDITY SCHEME FOR NBFCS AND HFCS THROUGH SPV

Current Context: Government of India approved a special liquidity scheme for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) and Housing Finance Companies (HFC) through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

HIGHLIGHTS

- This Special Liquidity Scheme is set up by SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAP) which is the subsidiary of State Bank of India (SBI).
- The finance provided under this scheme to the NBFCs and HFCs will be used to repay existing liabilities and not to expand their assets.
- The scheme will remain open for 3 months so that respective Trust will be able to make subscriptions and the period of lending by the trust will be up to 90 days.
- Commercial Papers and Non-Convertible Debentures will be the instruments used in this scheme.
- Any NBFCs including microfinance institutions which are under RBI and HFC registered under National Housing Bank are eligible to have the benefit of this scheme.

DRUG DISCOVERY HACKATHON 2020

Current Context: The Union Human Resource Development Minister and Union Health and Family Welfare Minister has launched Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020(DDH2020).

DETAILS

- DDH2020 is the first national initiative in the support of the Drug Discovery Process.
- The objective behind this hackathon is to identify drug candidates against SARS-CoV-2 in-silico drug discovery.
- It is basically a joint initiative of Ministry of HRD, AICTE, CSIR, CDAC, MyGov, Schrodinger and ChemAxon.
- The participation from professionals, researchers and students from various fields associated with this is expected in the hackathon.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Human Resource Development Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank
 - Union Health and Family Welfare Minister: Dr Harsh Vardhan

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK JOINS NGFS

Current Context: Asian Development Bank has joined as an observer for France based Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).

KEY POINTS

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- **Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)** is a global forum which brings together all the central banks and supervisors around the globe and commits them to manage the financial risks and develop protection and saving opportunities with respect to climate change and environment.
- After joining as an observer to NGFS, the Asian Development Bank will address climate risk management in the financial sector and will help in implementing climate finance targets and will provide expert assistance to support the transition of emerging Asian countries into sustainable economies.
- ADB will fulfil the NGFS goals like tackling climate change, environmental sustainability, fostering regional co-operation and integration, building climate and disaster resilience and strengthening governance.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

‘MOBILE MASTERJEE’—IIT KANPUR

Current Context: IIT Kanpur has developed a virtual classroom system named as ‘Mobile Masterjee’.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This virtual classroom system is a classroom-to-home teaching setup which will help education system to carry out online learning process in the lockdown situation as schools are also shut down and the academic institutions are unable to start new academic year due to COVID-19.
- It will enable students to record teacher’s lectures and other instructions by using smartphones.
- This virtual classroom system will help rural schools to overcome teaching and learning challenges caused due to pandemic Covid-19.

APPOINTMENTS, EXTENSION AND RESIGNATION ON 4TH JULY 2020

Current Context: V Suryanarayan: He is appointed as **new MD of Cholamandalam MS General Insurance**. He has replaced SS Gopalarathnam.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Cholamandalam MS General Insurance: Chennai, TN
- **Prof Rattan Lal and Dr Uma Lele:** They both are named by **UN Chief to Scientific Group for 2021 Food Summit**.
- **G Srinivasan:** He is appointed as the **head of the panel to study the suitability of Surety Bonds issuance by Indian insurers**. He is appointed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IRDAI: Hyderabad, Telangana
- **Sukhbir Singh:** His tenure as **Chairman of National Highway Authority of India** has been extended by GOI.
- **Karnam Sekar:** He retires as **MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank**.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IOB: Chennai, TN
 - Tagline of IOB: Good People to Grow With
- **Edouard Philippe:** He retires as **Prime Minister of France**.

‘ZIPDRIVE’ INSTANT AUTO LOAN FACILITY—BY HDFC BANK

Current Context: HDFC Bank has announced to offer instant auto loan named as ‘Zipdrive’ to its customers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This instant loan facility will be offered to its customers in about 1000 cities i.e. in tier 2 and tier 3 cities of India.
- The Zipdrive loan facility will be offered only for customers with preapproved offers.
- This instant auto loan is a technology-enabled loan product and the credit assessment is done by banking software and the loan will be offered within 10 seconds.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
 - MD of HDFC Bank: Aditya Puri

‘ELYMENTS’—FIRST INDIAN SOCIAL MEDIA SUPER APP

Current Context: Vice President of India, Venkiah Naidu has launched ‘Elyments’ app which is the first Indian Social Media Super App.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The app is developed by 1000 IT professionals.
- The app offers high end to end users privacy and offers private and group chats along with audio and video calling functions.
- The development of this app is seen to be one step forward in ‘Make in India’ initiative and a step to boost tech startups in India.
- It is available in 8 languages and also offers secure payment options.

NHAI TO SETUP INVIT COMMITTEE FOR INVESTMENT MANAGER BOARD

Current Context: National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to establish Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT), which will be India's first government or semi-government trust.

KEY POINTS

- The InvIT will be promoted under the Indian Trust Act, 1882 and SEBI Regulations, 2014.
- The Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) will facilitate investment in highway sector. For this purpose, a new company will be setup which will act as an investment manager to NHAI InvIT
- It will mobilize resources from market for monetizing completed highway projects of NHAI that have a toll collection track record of atleast one year.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NHAI: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NHAI: Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi

INDIAN ECONOMY TO CONTRACT BY 6.4% -- BY CARE RATINGS

Current Context: Care (Credit Analysis and Research Limited) Rating has forecasted that Indian Economy to contract 6.4% for the financial year 2020-21.

DETAILS

- This contraction value in GDP is cited because the economic activities are getting continuously hindered due to lockdown situation of COVID-19.
- The rating agency has also expected a positive growth will come from agriculture and government sector.
- As per the report, two-third of the economic sector will operate at 50-70% by the end of the third quarter for FY 2020-21.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Care Rating: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Care Rating: Ajay Mahajan

'BALARAM YOJANA'—ODISHA

Current Context: Government of Odisha has launched 'Balaram Yojana' with an aim to provide agricultural credit of Rs 1.40 crore to landless farmers who are facing problems due to COVID-19.

ABOUT

- **The state government has designed this scheme in partnership with NABARD Bank.**
- The government will provide landless farmers loan amounts via joint liability groups (JLG) to about 7 lakh farmers in the next 2 years.
- The scheme will remain open for 3 months so that respective Trust will be able to make subscriptions and the period of lending by the trust will be up to 90 days.
- The Institute on Management of Agricultural Extension (IMAGE) will manage the implementation of the scheme at the state level and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) will manage at the district level.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik
 - Governor of Odisha: Ganeshi Lal
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Odisha:** Simlipal NP, Bhitarkanika NP, Tikarpada WLS, Chilika WLS, Sunabeda WLS, Kotagarh WLS, Hadagarh WLS, Karlapat WLS

INDIA FIRST LIFE INSURANCE PARTNERS BANK OF BARODA FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

Current Context: India First Life Insurance partners with Bank of Baroda Financial Services Ltd to offer group insurance cover.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The partnership will provide financial support to the BOB credit card supporters in order to carry out hospitalization on COVID-19 diagnosis.
- The customer who will choose India First Life Insurance Hospi Care plan will be able to avail financial benefits if diagnosed with COVID-19 positive and for any other health issue.
- The partnership offers COVID-19 Diagnosis Cash Benefit or hospitalization cash benefit amounting to Rs 5000 and Rs 10,000.
- The cash benefit will be offered if hospitalized for 2 or 4 times in a year.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of India First Life Insurance: Mumbai
 - HQ of BOB: Baroda (Vadodara)

INDIA'S MOM MISSION CAPTURED IMAGE OF MARS MOON PHOBOS

Current Context: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the images of 'Phobos'. Phobos is a closet and the biggest Moon of Mars.

KEY POINTS

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- The images were captured by Mars Color Camera (MCC) which is on boarded on India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM).
- The images were taken when MOM was 7200 km from Mars and at 4200 km from Phobos.
- The images are generated from 6 MCC frames with a spatial resolution of 210m.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ISRO: Bengaluru
 - Chairman of ISRO: K Sivan

'MISSION VRIKSHAROPAN 2020' DRIVE—UTTAR PRADESH

Current Context: Uttar Pradesh Government has launched 'Mission Vriksharopan 2020' drive.

ABOUT MISSION

- Under this campaign, more than 25 crore saplings were planted.
- This tree plantation was organized on account of Guru Purnima.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
 - **National Parks ,Wild Life Sanctuaries and Bird Sanctuaries in UP:** Dudhwa National Park & Tiger Reserve, Chandraprabha Wildlife sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Pilibhit Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Hastinapur WLS

CBSE PARTNERS WITH FACEBOOK

Current Context: Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has partnered with tech giant Facebook to launch a training program for teachers and students on digital safety and online well being.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The training program will be conducted for three weeks in which 10 thousand teachers and 10 thousand students will be trained. This will be the first phase of the training.
- During the second phase, 30 thousands students will be provided training on digital safety.
- The moto behind this initiative is to ensure digital safety as nowadays schools are shut down due to lockdown amidst COVID-19 and the academic learning process is carried out via online platforms.

INDIAN RAILWAYS SETS UP A SOLAR POWER PLANT IN BINA

Current Context: Ministry of Railways has decided to set up solar power in Bina, Madhya Pradesh in order to directly power the Railway Overhead line.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This move is proven to be first time in the world that such a unique power plant has been installed. Because for the first time in the world, the power generated by solar power plant will be directly fed to overhead power lines of the national transporter which will provide power to the traction system of the electric locomotives to run the trains.
- The project of 1.7 Megawatt solar power plant is setup by Indian Railways. The project is setup in partnership with Bharat Heave Electrical Limited (BHEL) on railway land. The solar power plant project is set up at Bina Traction Sub Station.
- With the help of this initiative, the solar power plant will produce around 25 lakhs unit of energy annually and will save about Rs 1.37 crore for Indian Railways every year.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Indian Railways: Piyush Goyal
 - HQ of BHEL: New Delhi

E-PORTAL 'LEAD' FOR STUDENTS LAUNCHED BY DELHI GOV.

Current Context: Government of Delhi has launched an e-portal 'LEAD' for the students in order to strengthen the online education.

KEY POINTS

- An e-portal LEAD stands for 'Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi'.
- LEAD e-portal contains 10,000 instruction materials and educational academic course for classes I to XII.
- The portal is developed by State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and Government of Delhi.
- All the teaching and learning material will be displayed on this portal.
- The portal will display the academic contents as per CBSE, NCERT and Delhi Government's curriculum structure for each academic year of students online.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

DRDO TO SET UP RESEARCH CELL AT IIT HYDERABAD

Current Context: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has decided to set up a research cell at IIT Hyderabad.

ABOUT

- The research cell will be named as 'DRDO-IIT-H Research Cell'.

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- For this purpose, these two entities signed an MoU at a virtual event organized at DRDO DG-Missiles and Strategic Systems (MSS) Office in Hyderabad.
- The 'DRDO-IIT-H Research Cell' will carry out basic and research programs in various technological areas with a seamless execution between DRDO and IIT-Hyderabad
- The cell will work to enhance the scientific and technological aspects of the country and will also inculcate resources from scientific and technology-based industries
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDOG Satheesh Reddy

APPOINTMENTS ON 7TH JULY 2020

Current Context: K S Reddy- He is appointed to **head an 11 member committee to assess COVID-19 impacts on Human Rights**. The committee is setup by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NHRC: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NHRC: Justice H.L. Dattu
- **Injeti Srinivas-** He is appointed as **Chairman of IFSCA (International Financial Services Centers Authority)** for a tenure of three years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IFSCA: Gandhinagar, Gujrat
- **Rajeeva Swarup-** He is appointed as **Chief Secretary of Rajasthan**. He has replaced D B Gupta.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Ghelot
 - Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra

INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN SIGNS 5 AGREEMENTS

Current Context: India has signed **5 MoU with Afghanistan for High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) programme**.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The MoU signed will help to develop educational infrastructure in four regions of Afghanistan.
- Under these 5 MoUs, construction of classrooms, infrastructure for higher education, roads within the campus of Albironi University will be developed.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Afghanistan: Kabul
 - Currency of Afganistan: Afghani

WORLD BANK FINANCIALLY SUPPORTS NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME

Current Context: World Bank and Government of India has signed a loan agreement to financially support Namami Gange Programme.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Namami Gange Programme aims to rejuvenate the Ganga river.
- **The loan amount of \$400 million has been sanctioned by World Bank to make Ganga a clean and healthy river.**
- The loan amount of \$400 million comprises a loan of \$381 million and a proposed guarantee of up to \$19 million.
- The loan amount will be utilised by India to develop and strengthen the management of the river basin, which is home to more than 500 million people.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, United States
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass

NMPB SIGNS MOU WITH ICAR NBPGR

Current Context: AYUSH Ministry's National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) has signed an MoU with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR).

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU between two entities is signed with an aim to conserve Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources (MAPGRs).**
- The preservation and conservation of MAPGRs will take place at ICAR- NBPGR.
- For the purpose of preservation and conservation of MAPGRs, ICAR-NBPGR has designed space as a storage module in the National Gene Bank and Regional Station.
- The professionals working in preservation of MAPGRs will be provided with the training.
- The professionals will thus develop modalities for seed storage of MAPGRS and will be responsible for submitting in reports for same.

MASTERCARD TIES UP WITH SBM BANK INDIA

Current Context: MasterCard has partnered with SBM Bank India in order to provide its customers with an online real-time domestic and cross border payments facility.

DETAILS

- The online real-time payment facility will be done through 'MasterCard Send'.

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- With the help of this partnership, the customer will get benefits of quick, convenient and secure payment experience.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBM Bank India: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of SBM Bank: Sidharth Rath
 - HQ of MasterCard: New York, United States
 - CEO of MasterCard: Ajay Banga

APPOINTMENTS AND EXTENSIONS ON 8TH JULY 2020

Current Context: Sijo Kuruwila George- He is selected as a member of the Central Government's Expert Committee on Science and Technology policy led by Harkesh Mittal.

ABOUT

- Jayant Krishna- He is appointed as the **first India based CEO of UKIBC (UK India Business Council)**. He will be replacing Richard Heald.
- **Justice Bansi Lal Bhat- His tenure has been extended as the acting chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) by 3 months.** His tenure is extended by Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NCLAT: New Delhi

'NEKARA SAMMAN YOJANA' -- KARNATAKA

Current Context: Government of Karnataka has launched a scheme called 'Nekara Samman Yojana' for the weaver's community.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **To build this scheme, the state government has allotted Rs 10.96 crore.**
- The silk, cotton and wool weavers are eligible to take benefit of this scheme.
- During the first phase of this scheme, Rs 2000 will be transferred to 17,744 handloom weavers via direct benefit transfer medium.
- The people who are working in the power loom sector will also get one-time financial support of Rs 2000 each under this scheme.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Karnataka: BS Yediyurappa
 - Governor of Karnataka: Vajubhai Vala
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Karnataka:** Nagarhole NP, Bandipur NP, Anshi NP, Bannerghatta NP, Malai Mahadeshwara NP, Melkote Temple WLS, Nugu WLS

11TH GLOBAL REAL ESTATE TRANSPARENCY INDEX 2020

Current Context: United States Property Consultant Jones Lang LaSalle's (JLL), India has released 11th Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2020.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- As per the report, **India ranks at 34th position** with a total score of 2.69 under semi-transparent zone
- The report consist of rankings for 99countries and territories and 163 cities.
- As per the report, the list is **topped by United kingdom** with a score of 1.31 and the United States is ranked at 2nd position with a score of 1.35 points.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of JLL: Chicago, Illinois, United States
 - CEO ad country head for India: Ramesh Nair

'BHAVISHYA' SAVING ACCOUNT—BY FINO PAYMENTS BANK LTD

Current Context: Fino Payments Bank Limited has launched 'Bhavishya' Saving Account.

KEY POINTS

- The 'Bhavishya' Saving Account is launched for the minors who are in between the age group of 10-18 years.
- This saving account is launched with an aim to inculcate banking and saving habits in children.
- The account can be opened via Electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC) mode with no requirement of maintaining a minimum monthly average balance.
- Also on opening the account, a free platinum RuPay Debit card is given.
- The minors are supposed to have mobile number for security purpose. When the minor becomes 18 years old, the account will get upgraded to a regular saving account after submission of Re-KYC details.
- The maximum limit for account is Rs 50,000. Also the account can be utilised to take benefit of various government schemes for children.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Fino Payments Bank Ltd : Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Fino Payments Bank Ltd: Rishi Gupta

4TH VIRTUAL MINISTERIAL MEET ON CLIMATE ACTION

Current Context: The 4th edition of 'Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)' was held virtually.

ABOUT

- The meeting from India was participated by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar.
- The meeting was co-chaired by the European Union (EU), China and Canada.
- The respected authorities and officers in the meeting discussed continued action taken by them in their countries on climate change with regard to Paris agreement under UNFCCC (United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change).
- The objective of the meet was demonstrating the continued political commitment to global climate action.
- **Static Part:**
 - Secretariat UN Climate Change: Bonn, Germany

BHARAT DYNAMICS LTD SIGNS LATOT WITH DRDO-DRDL

Current Context: Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a License Agreement and Transfer of Technology (LAToT) with Defence Research and Development Organisation- Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDO-DRDL).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The LAToT is signed for the purpose of Akash Missile Weapon System of Indian Army Variant.**
- Akash Missile is the first medium range Surface to Air Missile which is developed in India by DRDO and manufactured by BDL.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: G Satheesh Reddy
 - HQ of BDL: Hyderabad, Telangana
 - Chairman and MD of BDL: Siddharth Mishra

CBDT SIGNS MOU WITH SEBI

Current Context: Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed MoU with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for the purpose of data exchange between two organisations.

ABOUT

- Upon signing the MoU, both organisations will now be able to transfer and share the information on an automatic and regular basis.
- In order to carry out the regular exchange of data between two entities for the purpose of carrying out their functions under various laws, the data will be shared on request and suo moto basis.
- To manage this initiative, Data Exchange Sharing Group has been formed.
- The Data Exchange Sharing Group will monitor the data exchanging activities and will ensure effectiveness on data sharing mechanism.

- **Static Part:**

- HQ of CBDT: New Delhi
- Chairman of CBDT: Pramod Chandra Mody
- HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
- Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi

INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT BY 3% IN FY21

Current Context: BofA Securities, which is a foreign brokerage, has stated that India's GDP will contract by 3% for financial year 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The lower contraction in GDP is predicted because the country is facing economic crisis due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.
- **BofA Securities has also predicted that India's GDP will contract this fiscal with estimates ranging upto 7% negative growth.**
- It also stated that RBI will monetize the fiscal deficit by purchasing government bonds.

RAJNATH SINGH E-INAUGURATED 6 BRIDGES IN J&K

Current Context: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh e-inaugurated 6 bridges in Jammu and Kashmir.

KEY POINTS

- The bridges are built to provide connectivity in sensitive border areas which are close to International Border and Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The bridges are developed under the Project Sampark by Border Road Organisation.
- **The name of 6 bridges are:** Tarnah-I Bridge (160m), Tarnah-II Bridge (300m), Palwan Bridge (91m), Ghodawala Bridge (151m), Pahadiwala Bridge (16m) and Panyali Bridge (31m).

BHUBANESWAR LAND USE INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM (BLUIS)

Current Context: Chief Minister of Odisha has launched Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System (BLUIS) which is the web and mobile based solution to monitor the unauthorized change of land use.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This system will help to prevent the encroachment of government lands.
- The BLUIS will detect all the changes that are taking place on government lands and will provide an alarm if any unauthorized activity is detected by it on government land.
- It is a repository system which is made by using high resolution satellite imagery.

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- It is incorporated with GPS, which provides the exact location to authorities along with video and image evidence to them.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik
 - Governor of Odisha: Ganeshi Lal

TAMIL NADU TOPS IN MARKET BORROWINGS—BY RBI

Current Context: As per the data by Reserve Bank of India, Tamil Nadu state has topped in market borrowings among all the states in India.

DETAILS

- Tamil Nadu has raised Rs 30,500 crores in fiscal year 2020-21 which is accounted for 17% of the borrowings done through the issue of the bonds.
- After Tamil Nadu, the ranking is followed by Maharashtra , Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Tamil Nadu: K Pisaniswami
 - Governor of Tamil Nadu: Banwarilal Purohit
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

IIT-HYDERABAD PARTNERS WITH NVIDIA

Current Context: Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad has partnered with NVIDIA which is a multinational company to establish research AI centre.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The centre will be named as 'NVIDIA Artificial Intelligence(AI) Technology Centre'(NVAITC).**
- Both entities will work to enhance AI technology application in fields like agriculture, smart cities and language understanding.
- The projects on which they will be working are increasing crop yields using AI technology and its algorithm and in developing a safe transportation system and providing better ways to manage traffic.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NVIDIA: California, United States

REWA SOLAR PROJECT IN MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Asia's Largest Solar Power Project in Madhya Pradesh via video conference. The project is named as Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power Project.

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It is the 750 MW ultra solar power plant which is comprised of 3 solar generating units of 250 MW each.
- The project is developed by Rewa Ultra MegaSolar Limited (RUMSL), which is a joint venture of Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (MPUVN) and Solar Energy Corporation of India.
- The projects will help to remove emission to 15 lakh tonne of carbon dioxide every year and will also supply energy to customers outside the state also.
- The project will prove helpful to Delhi Metro which will be getting 24% of energy and 76% of energy will be given to DISCOMs of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

INDIA GLOBAL WEEK 2020

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the inaugural session of 3-day virtual India Global week 2020.

ABOUT

- **India Global week 2020 session is based on the theme 'Be The Revival: India and a Better New World'.**
- The session is organised in the United Kingdom by India Inc. Group.
- The aim behind this session is to connect global leaders and captains of industry to discuss aspects relating to opportunities in India as well as the global economic revival post-coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Various officials from 30 countries belonging to fields like banking, technology, pharma, geopolitics, defence, art and culture participated in the session via video conference.
- **Static Part:**
 - CEO of India Inc Group: Manoj Ladwa

ADB RENEWS MOU WITH IEA

Current Context: Asian Development Bank (ADB) has renewed MOU with International Energy Agency (IEA).

KEY POINTS

- The MoU is renewed with the aim to further increase the collaboration on sustainability with a focus on energy sector resilience in Asia and the Pacific as this sector is a key promoter of growth and human development, especially during recovery from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The MoU will pave the way to overcome unique knowledge and bridge the experience gap that prevents the development of sustainable energy systems in ADB's developing member countries and enhance IEA's data collection and capacity building efforts in Asia and the Pacific.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
- HQ of IEA: Paris, France

BOEING COMPLETED DELIVERIES OF 37 HELICOPTERS TO IAF

Current Context: Boeing which is a United States defence equipment manufacturing company has completed its delivery of AH-64E Apache and CH-47F(I) Chinook military helicopters to the Indian Air Force (IAF) unit.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Boeing has delivered its last set of five numbers of AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to IAF at Air Force Station, Hindan. Thus, it has completed delivery of all 22 numbers of AH-64E Apache helicopters to India.
- Along with this, Boeing has delivered last five of the 15 numbers of CH-47F(I) Chinook heavy-lift helicopters to IAF.
- Earlier, India has entered with a defence agreement with Boeing to deliver 22 Apache helicopters and 15 Chinook helicopters through the Foreign Military Sales Programme of US government in September 2015. The agreement between the two countries was signed for \$3 billion.
- **Static part:**
 - HQ of Boeing: Chicago, United States
 - President and CEO of Boeing: David L. Calhoun

FLIPKART TO PROMOTE ART, CRAFT AND HANDLOOM SECTOR OF KARNATAKA

Current Context: E-commerce industry Flipkart has entered into an agreement with the government of Karnataka to promote arts, crafts and handloom sector of the state.

KEY POINTS

- **For this purpose, the E-Commerce giant Flipkart has signed MoU with Department of MSME and Mines of the government of Karnataka.**
- This initiative of promoting art, craft and handloom sector is taken by Flipkart under its Samarth programme, which will allow local artisans, weavers and craftsmen of Karnataka to showcase their products.
- This partnership will provide branding, digital marketing platform to local artisans, weavers and craftsmen of Karnataka and will thus help to increase their income source as well.
- Thus, the e-commerce platform for the sale of art-work, craft-work and handlooms will prove beneficial to the local artisans, weavers and craftsmen of Karnataka, as their businesses are rest at a halt due to the outbreak of coronavirus and the state is facing lockdown situation.

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- **Static part:**

- HQ of Flipkart: Bengaluru
- CEO of Flipkart: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- CM of Karnataka: BS Yediyurappa
- Governor of Karnataka: Vajubhai R Vala
- **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Karnataka:** Nagarhole National Park, Bandipur National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Anshi National Park, Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Brahmagiri wildlife sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

7TH SBI BANKING & ECONOMICS CONCLAVE

Current Context: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das addressed the 7th SBI Banking & Economics Conclave.

ABOUT

- In the conclave, the governor delivered various policy measures taken in order to deal with the economic crisis being faced by the country amidst COVID-19 lockdown.
- The RBI Governor claimed that Repo points cut by 135 points between February 2019 and the onset of the pandemic.
- The overall capital adequacy ratio for scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) stood at 14.8% as in March 2020, compared to 14.3% in March 2019. The CRAR of PSBs had improved from 12.2% in March 2019 to 13.0 per cent in March 2020.
- The gross NPA ratio and net NPA ratio of SCBs stood at 8.3 % and 2.9% in March 2020, compared to 9.1% and 3.7% as of March 2019, respectively.
- The Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) improved from 60.5% in March 2019 to 65.4% in March 2020, indicating higher resiliency in terms of risk absorption capacity.
- The profitability of SCBs had also improved during the year. The gross and net NPAs of NBFCs stood at 6.4% and 3.2% as on March 31, 2020, as against 6.1 % and 3.3% as on March 31, 2019. Their CRAR declined marginally from 20.1 % to 19.6 % during 2019-20.
- RBI Governor further claimed that the coronavirus pandemic has represented our economic and financial system's largest test of resilience and robustness. The new RBI initiatives seek to accelerate a cyclical turnaround in economic activity at a time when COVID-19 has struck the world along with other calamities, causing poverty and endangering thousands of people's lives and livelihoods. According to Governor, COVID may result in higher non-performing assets (NPAs) and capital erosion of banks.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

APPOINTMENTS AND EXTENSION ON 12TH JULY 2020

Current Context: Lee Hsien Loong: He has become **Prime Minister of Singapore.**

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Singapore: Singapore city
 - Currency of Singapore: Dollar
- **Gyanendro Ningombam:** He is appointed as **President of Hockey India**. He has replaced Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Hockey India: New Delhi
- **Rajkiram Rai:** He gets an **extension as CMD of Union Bank of India** for 2 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UBI: Mumbai

PANEL FORMED FOR 'INDIAN PANDEMIC RISK POOL'-- BY IRDAI

Current Context: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), being the regulatory provider has formed a panel which will examine the degree of convenience of 'Pandemic Risk Pool'.

KEY POINTS

- **The panel will be headed by Suresh Mathur, Executive Director of IRDAI.**
- The panel will be consisting of 9 members who are representatives of well-known industries.
- The panel will analyse various risk being faced by insurance providers in India.
- The risks include business interruption losses without concurrent material damage loss, employment loss, inadequacy in financing policies etc. And the panel will submit the report within 8 weeks.
- The 'Indian Pandemic Risk Pool' is responsible to provide guidance, assistance and remedial measures to the insurance companies during situations like floods, earthquake or pandemic like COVID-19. All the assurity of claiming activities will be taken by such pool.
- **The panel will also study the need of setting up Pandemic Risk Pool, will recommend structure and operating model for the pool and will examine other related matter to the subject.**
- **Static part:**
 - HQ of IRDAI: Hyderabad

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2020 REPORT-- NITI AAYOG

Current Context: National Institution for Transforming India Aayog(NITI Aayog) has released India's 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The title of the report is “Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local”.**
- The report describes the actions to be adopted and implemented for the 2030 Agenda in India.
- NITI Aayog is responsible to examine the ways to lead the Sustainable Development Growth (SDG) at National as well as Sub-National Level.
- And HLPF is the international platform to review and take the follow-up of the process on SDG goals.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

INDIA'S FIRST E-LOK ADALAT AT CHHATTISGARH

Current Context: India's first e-Lok Adalat is launched in Chhattisgarh.

DETAILS

- **The decision and development of e-Lok Adalat in Chhattisgarh has taken place because of the Chhattisgarh State Legal Service Authority and the High Court.**
- The e-Lok Adalat is launched to ensure the administration of justice, conduction of hearings of the court, various internal court activities and to solve the financial crisis of the parties and lawyers even in the lockdown situation which has arisen due to outbreak of COVID-19.
- The E-Lok Adalat was inaugurated through video conferencing by high court Chief Justice P R Ramchandra Menon.
- **The E-Lok Adalat is launched with an aim to carry out court cases via the virtual platform in the pandemic situation of COVID-19 and to maintain social distancing.**
- The virtual hearing will be conducted through video conferencing.
- The parties and lawyers can present their cases through Whatsapp video call in case of any difficulties in video conferencing.
- Thus because of e-Lok Adalat, social distancing will be followed in law-court areas as well, without any hindrance in law activities.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel
 - Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Chhattisgarh:** Kanger Valley National Park, Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) National Park, Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Badalkhol Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhairamgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Pamed Wild Buffalo Wildlife Sanctuary

INDIA: SECOND LARGEST FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTOR IN THE UK

Current Context: UK Government has released new data in the Department for International Trade (DIT) inward investment statistics for 2019-2020.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- As per the statistical analysis, India has become the second-largest Foreign Direct Investor in the United Kingdom (UK).
- The list is topped by the United States.
- As per the analysis, India has made an investment in 120 projects and has created 5,429 new jobs in the UK.
- Whereas, the United States has invested in 462 projects and has created 20,131 new jobs in the UK.

'ATL APP DEVELOPMENT MODULE'-- NITI AAYOG

Current Context: NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission has launched the ATL App Development Module for school children across the country.

KEY FACTS

- The ATL App Development Module is an online course, which is completely Free.
- It provides six project-based learning modules and online mentoring sessions with the help of which students can learn to build mobile apps in various Indian languages and showcase their talent.
- The learning modules included in it are launched with the guidance from Indian startup Plezmo.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

ACQUISITION OF RAVEN AND SPIKE FIREFLY BY INDIAN ARMY

Current Context: Indian Army is set to increase its weapon and ammunition inventory by acquiring unmanned aerial vehicle 'Raven' from the United States and a variant of Rafael 'Spike Firefly' from Israel.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Thus, the 'Raven' and 'Spike Fly' are soon to become part of the Indian army's weapon inventory.
- Raven is handy launching remotely controllable unmanned vehicle whereas Spike Firefly is state-of-the-art ammunition device. Both the weapons will add lethality to the Indian Army's inventory.

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- The Indian Army will be acquiring 200 quantities of RQ-11 UAV. RQ-11 UAV can fly up to 10 km at an altitude of 500 feet and can speed up to 95km/hour. It will help the infantry troops to conduct reconnaissance of the battle theatre ahead and the enemy troops placement. Whereas the Spike Firefly will be able to deliver a precision strike on enemy troops hiding within a range of 1 km.
- The first slot of acquisition will include purchasing of 4-6 jets by the end of July 2020.
- Also, the Indian Air Force is set to purchase Rafael multi-role fighter jets from Paris by the end of July 2020.
- **Static Part:**
 - Israel Capital: Jerusalem
 - Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel

NATGRID SIGNS MOU WITH NCRB

Current Context: The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has signed a MoU with National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

KEY POINTS

- **Upon signing the agreement, NATGRID will be able to access the complaints on First Information Reports (FIR) and stolen vehicles.**
- Thus, now NATGRID will be able to access the database of centralised online Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). CCTNS is linked with around 14,000 police stations. Ans it is mandatory for all the police stations to provide the FIR data in CCTNS.
- Thus now the NATGRID organisation will get easy access on FIR of the suspect and of the complainer such the contact numbers, family background professional background, address, details about the complaint etc.
- **Therefore, the agreement has linked intelligence and investigation agencies.**
- The agreement will be at work till 31st December 2020.

‘SHUDH’ UV SANITIZING DEVICE— IIT KANPUR

Current Context: IIT Kanpur has developed and launched an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing device named as ‘SHUDH’.

ABOUT

- **The acronym for SHUDH is- Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper.**
- The UV Sanitizing device can be controlled using a smartphone thus allowing sanitization from a distance, thereby following social distancing norms.
- With the help of a smartphone, the on/off operation of the device, its speed and location of the product can be controlled.

- SHUDH is having 6 UV lights built on it, each of them is of 15 watts and the monitoring of these UV lights is possible from a distance.
- As per the initial test, it has resulted that SHUDH in its full operation can disinfect 10x10 sq.ft. room in 15 minutes, which makes it vulnerable to be utilised in hospitals, hotels, schools, malls etc to kill coronavirus.

'VISA SECURE' TECHNOLOGY—BY VISA AND FEDERAL BANK

Current Context: The payment technology global holder Visa has come up with partnership with Federal Bank to launch a modernized technology to the bank account holders to carry out safe banking transactions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The technology is named as 'Visa Secure'.**
- With the help of Visa Secure, the user will get an additional authentication cover so that he/she can carry out fraud less and safe online transactions.
- This technology will enhance online payment security and will give a focus of the bank on customer-centric digital solutions.
- The Visa Secure technology provides multiple payment channels like mobile, web, app based etc. thus by giving better experience for online shopping in quick, simple and secure manner.
- The Visa Secure follows standards of the EMV 3DS (3D Secure) protocol and is built on the EMVCo 3DS 2.0 protocol.
- **Static part:**
 - HQ of Federal Bank: Aluva, Kerala

GOOGLE ANNOUNCES DIGITIZATION FUND FOR INDIA

Current Context: The global tech giant Google has announced to invest \$10 billion in India with an aim to digitize the Indian Economy. The funds are allotted under 'Google for India Digitisation Fund'.

DETAILS

- **The announcement of this investment was made during the virtual meeting between PM Narendra Modi and Google CEO Sundar Pichai.**
- The investment of USD 10 billion will be utilised by India for 5-7 years in giving a digital platform to various sectors of the Indian economy.
- **The primary focus of digitization will be on:** (a) Affordable access to Indian languages (b) Enhancing AI in areas like health, agriculture, and education (c) Empowering business (d) Developing new products and services.
- **Static part:**
 - HQ of Google: California, United States

APPOINTMENTS ON 14TH JULY 2020

Current Context: Hemang Amin: He is appointed as interim CEO of BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India). He has replaced Rahul Johri.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BCCI: Mumbai
- **Andrzej Duda:** He is re-elected as **President of Poland**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Poland: Warsaw
 - Currency of Poland: Polish Zloty

BSE SIGNS MOU WITH IIT ALUMNI COUNCIL

Current Context: Bombay Stock Exchange has signed MoU with IIT Alumni Council in order to boost the number of startups in India and to provide high investing depth to such new startups.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The partnership will look to revitalize the startups in India by providing them a wide range of funds.
- Both the entities together will encourage a listing culture of startups with minimum listing time, less complexity and in minimum cost rate.
- They will together provide proper streamlining, automation and standardizing documentation process for the new startups.
- IIT Alumni Council which is the body of alumni, students and faculty across all the 23 IITs with over 100 city chapters globally, will provide AI platform for the listing purpose of startups under this partnership.
- BSE will ensure the transparency in the process, improve the governance of startups, market discovery of share price and will increase retail participation.
- **Static Part:**
 - BSE HQ: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of BSE: Ashish Kumar Chauhan

#REIMAGINE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY UNICEF INDIA AND FICCI

Current Context: The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) India has partnered with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) to launch #Reimagine Campaign.

KEY POINTS

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- The campaign will provide support to the most vulnerable population and children due to current pandemic COVID-19 and its aftermath in India.
- Both entities will take corrective actions and measures to reduce the losses caused due to COVID-19 to businesses and will boost employment.
- To give a narrative touch to the campaign, Ogilvy, a New York based advertising agency is offering free of charge support.
- To provide financial support to the campaign, FICCI-Socio Economic Development Foundation (SEDF) will provide its support in the form of cash and core assets.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNICEF: New York, United States
 - HQ of FICCI: New Delhi

‘DIGITAL CHOUPAL’— NABARD

Current Context: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), on account of its 39th foundation day organized ‘Digital Choupal’.

DETAILS

- This year it is the first version of ‘Digital Choupal’.
- The ‘Digital Choupal’ was conducted by video conference and was participated by various entities with whom NABARD has signed projects.
- The participated members shared their experience about the projects they are involved in with NABARD.
- Also on its occasion of 39th foundation day, NABARD announced Rs 5,000 crore of refinance scheme for banks and financial institutions.
- Also, NABARD announced another Rs 5,000 crore for converting Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), into multi service centers. Of which, 5,000 PACS will be upgraded in 2020 followed by 15,000 PACS in FY 2022 and 15000 PACS in FY 2023.
- From the Rs 5,000 crore allotted to refinance scheme for banks and financial institutions, Rs 2,150 crore will be used for watershed development projects.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
 - Chairman of NABARD: G R Chintala

INDIAN RAILWAY’S MISSION ‘GREEN RAILWAY’

Current Context: Indian Railways has decided to accomplish its mission of ‘Green Railway’ by 2030.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Under this mission, Indian railways have decided to achieve net-zero carbon emission.

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- The mission aims to electrify its railways, improve energy efficiency of locomotives and trains by 2030.
- Also, the ministry of railways, under this mission has set a target to achieve green certification for its railway stations, to build bio-toilets in the coaches and switching to a renewable source of energy.
- Already under this mission, Indian Railways has completed electrification of more than 40,000 Route km (RKM) (63 per cent of Broad Gauge routes) in which 18,605 km electrification work has been done during 2014-20.
- For the current year, Indian Railways has fixed a target of electrification of 7000 RKM. They have decided to electrify all routes on board gauge (BG) network by 2023.
- **Static part:**
 - Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal

APPOINTMENTS ON 15 JULY 2020

Current Context: Rudrendra Tandon: He is appointed as **India's next ambassador to Afghanistan**. He has replaced Vinay Kumar.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Afghanistan: Kabul
 - Currency of Afghanistan: Afghani
- **Vikram Doraiswami:** He is appointed as **India's next ambassador to Bangladesh**. He has replaced Riva Ganguly Das.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka
 - Currency of Bangladesh: Taka
- **Vidhu P Nair:** He is appointed as **India's next ambassador to Turkmenistan**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Turkmenistan: Ashgabat
 - Currency of Turkmenistan: Manat
- **Hemant Harichandra Kotalwar:** He is appointed as **India's next ambassador to Czech Republic**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Czech Republic: Prague
 - Currency of Czech Republic: Koruna

'ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS'—REPORT BY TIFAC

Current Context: An autonomous organisation under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India namely Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), has released a report which describes the list of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) which are in need of prioritized manufacturing and the associated advantages.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The report is entitled 'Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients- Status, Issues, Technology Readiness, and Challenges'.
- The report states that the API's production is needed to be scaled up to a certain level at the pharma industries where the APIs are economically viable.
- The report focuses on enhancing engineering and technological aspects for the APIs and to achieve, boost chemical engineering sector with defined targets so that it will develop a skilled workforce and the researchers in the associated fields and which will thus lead to the uninterrupted synthesis of molecules.
- Also, the TIFAC mentioned in the report to create mega drug manufacturing cluster with advanced infrastructure and technology platform which will reduce the process of cost optimization and for fluorination, to have an investment in fermentation sector, to achieve techno-economic feasibility
- They also aim to attain attention to the technologies like hazardous reaction, flow chemistry, cryogenic reactions and membrane technology.
- Also, the TIFAC has asked GOI to encourage the chemical and pharma based industries to work in collaboration with advanced technology.

'COROSURE' TEST KIT FOR CORONAVIRUS—IIT DELHI

Current Context: IIT Delhi has developed a low cost testing kit for the COVID-19.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The kit is named as 'Corosure' and it is considered to be the world's most affordable corona testing kit.
- The kit was launched by Union HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.
- The cost price of the kit is Rs 650, which can perform 2 million tests in a month.
- The kit is probe free Reverse transcription-polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) COVID-19 diagnostic kit. The current testing kit used in the country and worldwide is a probe-based. Whereas the Corosure is probe free testing kit which gives equivalent accuracy to the current one.
- It has also received approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

'PRAGYATA' GUIDELINES FOR ONLINE DIGITAL EDUCATION

Current Context: Union HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has released a set of rules, guidelines to be followed for conducting online digital education.

DETAILS

- The set of guidelines is named as 'PRAGYATA'.

- The 'motto behind developing the set of guidelines is that nowadays the academic education is being carried out via digital online platform by all the schools, colleges and universities as the COVID-19 has led to the shutdown of the academic institutions in India.
- So to have an efficient, effective and safe learning process, this PRAGYATA guidelines was released by Union HRD minister.
- The PRAGYATA guidelines include 8 steps of online digital education.
- The 8 steps are: Plan- Review-Arrange-Guide-Talk-Assign-Track-Appreciate.
- **The guidelines outline suggestions for administrators, school heads, teachers, parents, and students in the following areas:** 1. Need assessment; 2. Concerns while planning online and digital education like duration, screen time, inclusiveness, balanced online and offline activities, etc level-wise; 3. Modalities of intervention including resource curation, level-wise delivery, etc.; 4. Physical, mental health, and wellbeing during digital education; 5. Cyber safety and ethical practices including precautions and measures for maintaining cyber safety and 6. Collaboration and convergence with various initiatives.

5TH CONFERENCE ON AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES

Current Context: Union Minister of State for Defence Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the fifth edition of the conference on Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies.

ABOUT

- **The theme for the conference was: Empowering India with Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission.**
- **The conference was organized by Tamil Nadu Technology Development and Promotion Centre (TNTDPC), Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).**
- The members in the conference discussed to uplift the Indian aerospace and defence sector by manufacturing aerospace and defence equipment in India itself and thus to make India a self-reliant defence production country.
- The Union Minister of State for Defence also stated to achieve the target of 26 billion US dollar domestic production by 2025 and has expected that aerospace and defence industry in India to reach around 70 billion dollars by 2030.

AAI SIGNS MOU WITH BEL—FOR COOPERATION IN CIVIL AVIATION SECTOR

Current Context: Airport Authority of India has signed an MoU with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in order to have cooperation in the Civil Aviation Sector.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The MoU was signed via video conference.
- **AAI and BEL now will jointly work to uplift the global opportunities in airport business in Asia and the Pacific region.**
- Under this partnership, BEL will provide expert support in the execution of MEA projects and AAI will be the development partner.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BEL: Bangalore
 - HQ of AAI: New Delhi

APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATION AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 16 JULY 2020

Current Context: Ashok Lavasa: He is appointed as **Vice President of the Asian Development Bank**. He has replaced Diwankar Gupta.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
- **Elyes Fakhfakh:** He has submitted his **resignation from the Prime Minister of Tunisia**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Tunisia: Tunis
 - Currency of Tunisia: Dinar
- **Brett Lee:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador for Sports Adda**, which is the Indian Sports news and updates platform.

UNICEF AND SAP INDIA TO OFFER CAREER COUNSELLING

Current Context: The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) India has partnered with SAP India which is a software company to provide career counselling to the youths of India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The initiative was launched on account of World Youth Skills Day.
- Both the entities have decided to offer career counselling to the young minds of India so that they will improve their skillsets and attain jobs.
- In order to provide digital education, industrial and managerial skills to the young people, UNICEF has partnered with YuWaah, which is UNICEF's Generation Unlimited initiative.
- The partnership will make youth compatible to participate and be part of modern technology and invent new services with the help of technology.

- The associated entities will improve digital and life skills, provide career options, reimagine the models in states of India in partnership with GOI and impact one million people by 2022.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNICEF: New York, United States

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLAND— NABARD

Current Context: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has decided to launch development projects in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The development projects are launched for worth Rs 44 lakhs.**
- The projects are launched under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan with an aim to develop rural entrepreneurship.
- The upliftment of the region will take place with the formation and development of Self Help Groups.
- Under this, NABARD will conduct 385 village-level programmes in which training to the newly formed SHG will be given.
- The SHGs formed and developed will include Bamboo handcrafting, Mushroom cultivation.
- The development projects to uplift the tour and travel will also be conducted by the bank.
- NABARD has also partnered with Centre of Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) to carry out agricultural programmes for Rs 20 lakhs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Island: Admiral D K Joshi
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Andaman and Nicobar Island:** Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Mount Harriet National Park, Cuthbert Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Rutland Island, Saddle Peal National park, Barren Island Wild Life Sanctuary, Dil Sanctuary.

P7 HEAVY DROP SYSTEM FOR IL 76 AIRCRAFT—DRDO

Current Context: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed the P7 Heavy drop system.

KEY POINTS

- **The P7 Heavy drop system is capable of para dropping military stores weighing up to 7 tons from IL 76 aircraft.**
- The P7 Heavy drop system is developed under the Make in India initiative.
- The designing part of the system is made by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), which is an R&D Lab of DRDO in Agra, UP.

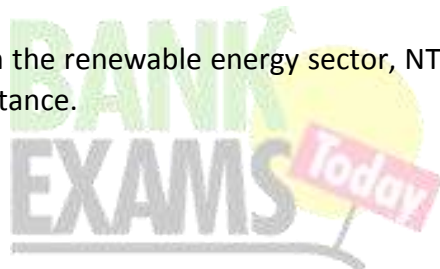
- The manufacturing part is done by L&T and the parachutes are manufactured by Ordnance Factory which is comprised of five main canopies, five brake chutes, two auxiliary chutes, one extractor parachute.
- The P7 Heavy drop system is made of ferrous and nonferrous materials.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G Sathesh Reddy

NTPC SIGNS MOU WITH NIIF

Current Context: National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed MoU with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

DETAILS

- **They have signed MoU with an aim to explore investment opportunities in order to enhance the renewable energy sector.**
- Both the organisation together will work to develop India's vision to build a sustainable and robust energy sector.
- To achieve an enhancement in the renewable energy sector, NTPC will provide technical expertise and NIIF will provide financial assistance.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NTPC: New Delhi
 - HQ of NIIF: Mumbai



DIGITAL INDO- ITALIAN BUSINESS MISSION ON FOOD PROCESSING

Current Context: Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harisimrat Kaur Badal virtually addressed the opening ceremony of Digital Indo- Italian Business Mission on Food Processing.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The event included digital conferences, trade fairs, and Business-to-Business service (B2B) meetings.**
- The mission is launched with an aim to provide a platform for Indian and Italian food processing industries.
- The trade fair of this mission showcased the products and services related to the food sector by 23 Italian companies.
- The B2B meeting between India and Italy in this mission included the discussion of food sector areas like Fruits and Vegetables, Cereals, Milk and Dairy Processing, Packaging and Bottling of food items.

- The Union Minister for Food Processing addressed the session by highlighting the vast opportunities in the food sector. She addressed that the food sector can be expanded at a global level through mega food parks, agriculture export zones, food industrial parks etc.
- She also motivated food processing industries to be the part of the digital platform for expansion of food sector globally.

INDIA AND ISRAEL TO WORK IN CYBER SECURITY CO-OPERATION

Current Context: India and Israel have signed MoU to work together in the expansion of cooperation in Cyber Security.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a unit of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and Israel's National Cyber Directorate (INCD).**
- Both entities of India and Israel will work together in dealing with cyber threats which has risen along with digitization due to COVID-19 pandemic situation which has led to exploring virtual opportunities to most of the countries.
- The MoU will provide protection from cyber threats and will allow the countries to carry out digital activities like shopping, banking, learning etc virtually in this pandemic situation.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
 - Currency of Israel: Israeli Shekel
 - India's Ambassador to Israel: Sanjeev Singla

ASPIRE-- E-PORTAL BASED ON AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Current Context: International Centre of Automotive Technology (ICAT) has launched e-portal on automotive technology which is named as ASPIRE.

KEY POINTS

- **The ASPIRE e-portal stands for Automotive Solutions Portal for Industry, Research and Education.**
- Along with this, ICAT declared that the Department of Heavy Industry (DHT) which is the body under GOI has released the e-platforms to promote innovation, R&D and product development in various sector of India. And ASPIRE is one of the e-portal among them.
- The ASPIRE portal will provide a platform for Indian Automotive Industries so that they can adapt and innovate new technologies and become self-reliant.
- ASPIRE portal will bring together various stakeholders from associated avenues.

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- The portal will collaborate various automotive original equipment manufacturer (OEM), Tier 1,2,3 companies, R&D sectors from academic and institutional areas and will assign them to work together in technology advancement in the country.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICAT: Manesar, Haryana

GLOBAL MANUFACTURING RISK INDEX 2020

Current Context: Cushman & Wakefield has released Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI),2020.

ABOUT

- **As per the ranking released, India is stood at the third position in the Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020.**
- **The list is topped by China and followed by the United States.**
- As per the index, India is considered to be the third most-suitable location for global manufacturing among 48 countries.
- In terms of **costing vice scenario**, India has received a third rank position after China and Vietnam at first and second position respectively.
- In terms of **risk vice scenario**, India ranks at 30th position, in which Canada has topped.

APPOINTMENTS ON 17TH AND 18TH JULY 2020

Current Context: Ossouka Raponda: She is appointed as the **first women Prime Minister of Gabon**. She has replaced Julien Nkoghe Bekale.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Gabon: Libreville
 - Currency of Gabon: Central African CFA Franc
- **Roshni Nadar Malhotra:** She is appointed as new **Chairman of HCL Technologies**. She has replaced her father Shiv Nadar.
- **Chabdrikapersad 'Chan' Santokhi:** He is elected as **President of South American Country 'Suriname'**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Suriname: Paramaribo
 - Currency of Suriname: Suriname Dollar
- **Shyam Srinivasan:** He is appointed as **MD and CEO of Federal Bank** by Reserve Bank of India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Federal Bank: Aluva, Kerala

INDO-US STRATEGIC ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

Current Context: A Virtual meeting between India and the United States was helping for Indo-US Strategic Energy Partnership.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The virtual meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan and by US Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette.
- **Both the countries announced to perform research and uplift the new areas on transformational power generation based on supercritical CO₂ (sCO₂) power cycles and advanced coal technologies, including carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS).**
- They also reviewed progress, accomplishment and highlighted new areas in power or energy sector on which the work is to be done.
- Also, both the countries announced to work together in smart grid and energy storage projects. The projects will be managed and developed by 30 major entities from India and the United States.
- The entities in the virtual meet also discussed about the policy and its directions to be followed for developing and managing smart grid projects and in order to properly utilize distributed energy resources.

KRTTISCAN -UV BAGGAGE SCAN SYSTEM FOR CORONA DISINFECTION

Current Context: The Vehant Technologies, Noida in partnership with International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad has developed KritiScan, UV Baggage Disinfection System.

KEY POINTS

- **The system is used to disinfect the bags passing through conveyor at airports, railway and bus station and at various work destinations. It can scan and disinfect the bags, luggage within few seconds.**
- The process of scanning and disinfecting is fast, dry and chemical free. And thus the system helps to control the spread of corona virus through bags and luggages.
- The KritiScan, UV Baggage Disinfection System makes use of UVC which is of 254nm with appropriate UVC irradiation which inactivates viruses, germs and microbes.

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) SESSION, 2020

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Session. The session was held in New York, United States.

ABOUT

- The theme for the session was “Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary”.
- PM Modi addressed the session by describing that India has granted vast support to fight against COVID-19 to many countries and as well in India itself through its Indian Pharma organisations.
- PM Modi also elaborated India’s motto of ‘Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas’ in order to achieve Sled Development Goals by leaving no one behind.
- He also assured to fulfil the responsibility to have a healthy planet by focusing on environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.
- He also discussed various movements like ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’, women empowerment, financial inclusion, housing and health care initiatives etc in the session being carried out in India at the vast level.

GLOBAL SKILL INDEX 2020

Current Context: The report of Global Skill Index 2020 was made by ‘Coursera’, which is the world’s largest online learning platform.

ABOUT INDEX

- In terms of **data science domain scenario**, India has received rank at 51st Position in global view and 12th rank position in terms of Asia Pacific region view. The category is topped by Russia.
- In terms of **business domain scenario**, India has received rank at 34th Position in global view and 8th rank position in terms of Asia Pacific region view. The category is topped by Switzerland.
- In terms of **technology domain scenario**, India has received rank at 40th Position in global view and 10th rank position in terms of Asia Pacific region view. The category is topped by Russia.

3RD G20 FINANCE MINISTERS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS MEET

Current Context: The 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meet was conducted. It was participated by Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The meeting was held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia via video conference.
- The entities participated in the virtual meet, discussed the global economic outlook marked during the pandemic situation of COVID-19.
- They also discussed the other priorities of the G20 Finance track for the year 2020.
- FM Minister highlighted revitalizing measures being taken by India during the post-COVID-19 period and remedies to cure the financial crisis being faced due to the pandemic.

- During the first G20 FMCBG meet, a plan was laid down by the participants which included health response, economic response, sustainable recovery etc. And the 3rd meet reviewed whether the plan is carried out effectively or not in the G20 nations.

CIPET ACCREDITED TO TEST AND CERTIFY PPE KITS

Current Context: The Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) has been accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) to test and certify Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) kits.

KEY FACTS

- The CIPET comes under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.
- The CIPET had initially developed the testing facility of PPE kits at its IPT Centre, Bhubaneswar and had sent an approval of accreditation to NABL.
- After conducting an online audit of the PPE Testing kits, NABL has granted the accreditation to CIPET.

INDIAN NAVY CONDUCTED NAVAL EXERCISE AT ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLAND

Current Context: Indian Navy has conducted a naval exercise in Andaman and Nicobar Island.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The exercise was conducted with aircraft and warships from Andaman and Nicobar Command and Eastern Naval Command.
- The Poseidon-8I aircraft was part of the exercise. It is equipped with Harpoon Block-II missiles, MK-54 lightweight torpedoes, rockets.
- Also the destroyer, frigates and submarines were showcased in the exercise.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Island: Devendra Kumar Joshi
 - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

‘HOPE MISSION’ TO MARS—BY UAE

Current Context: United Arab Emirates (UAE) successfully launched ‘Hope Mission’ to Mars.

KEY POINTS

- Under this mission, the UAE will provide a complete picture of the atmosphere at Mars for the first time.

- The mission will study atmospheric condition on Mars on a daily and seasonal basis.
- The mission launched from Japan's Tanegashima Space Centre.
- It is expected to enter Mars orbit by February 2021.
- The Hope Mission is also called as '**Emirates Mars Mission**'.
- The mission is termed as UAE's first interplanetary exploration which cost to \$200 million.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi
 - Currency of UAE: Dirham

KURMA MOBILE APP—TO TRACK AND CONSERVE INDIAN TURTLES

Current Context: Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar has lauded and appreciated a mobile application to track, report and conserve the Indian turtles.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The name of the app is 'KURMA'.**
- The app was launched on the occasion of World Turtle Day i.e. on 23rd May 2020.
- It is developed by Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN) and Turtle Survival Alliance – India and Wildlife Conservation Society, India.
- With the help of this app, one can submit the track or sight location of tortoise or turtle in one's surrounding area.
- And with the help of that location database, the rescue team will be able to provide support, thus by adopting and taking care of turtle or tortoise.

CBDT SIGNS MOU WITH MSME FOR DATA SHARING

Current Context: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed MoU Ministry of MSME.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU will allow the sharing of data by CBDT to MSME ministry.**
- With the help of this agreement, the sharing of ITR (Income Tax Return) is possible for CBDT to the ministry of MSME.
- This will thus help to appropriately classify the MSME as Micro, Medium and Small ones.
- To have a tracking record of this data sharing process, a Nodal Officer and Alternate Nodal Officer will be appointed to manage the process.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of MSME: Nitin Gadkari
 - HQ of CBDT: New Delhi

- Chairman of CBDT: Pramod Chandra Mody

ZORAM MEGA FOOD PARK—MIZORAM

Current Context: The Zoram Mega Food Park was inaugurated at Mizoram.

DETAILS

- **It was inaugurated by Union Food Processing Minister, Harisimrat Kaur Badal.**
- The food park is launched to provide a platform to the food processing industry so that it will give a boost to the food sector, especially in the northeastern States.
- It will prove highly beneficial to farmers, growers, processors and also to the consumers.
- The food park will also provide employment opportunities in the food sector to about 5000 people.
- The Zoram Mega Food Park will provide benefit to about 25,000 farmers.
- An investment of Rs 250 crore in 30 food processing units will be made and which is expected to provide a turnover of Rs 500 crore annually through this food park.
- The Zoram Mega Food Park is equipped with 3000 metric tonnes capacity dry warehouse and 1000 metric tonnes of cold storage capacity.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Mizoram: Pu Zoramthanga
 - Governor of Mizoram: P S Sreedharan Pillai

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SIGNS CONTRACT WITH BEML

Current Context: The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract agreement with Bharat Earth Movers Limited to procure Mine Plough (MP) for tank T-90 S/SK.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A total 1,512 MP will be procured under this contract.
- The procurement cost under this contract is Rs 557 crore.
- The mine ploughs will provide mobility to the tanks while negotiating mine field.
- The contract is expected to complete until 2027.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Defence: Rajnath Singh
 - HQ of BEML: Bengaluru

APPOINTMENTS ON 21ST JULY 2020

Current Context: P Praveen Siddharth: He is appointed as **Personnel Secretary to the President Ram Nath Kovind**. Currently, he is serving as Officer on Special Duty at President's Office. He will be replacing Vikram Singh.

ABOUT

- **Ashwini Kumar Tiwari:** He is appointed as **MD and CEO of SBI Cards**. He has replaced Hardayal Prasad.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SBI: Rajnish Kumar

CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 2019 APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED IN INDIA

Current Context: The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has successfully approved and implemented in India to protect, conserve and enhance rights of Indian consumers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.**
- In the new Consumer Protection Act is introduced to grant protection to the consumers including from traditional sellers to the new e-commerce retailers and platforms.
- The norms, rules, considerations in the act was briefed by Union Minister of Consumers Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan via video conference to the media.
- The act provides **strict rules and norms for e-commerce business platforms** in order to avoid cheat business and to maintain the trust of consumers on e-commerce.
- **Features in Consumer Protection Act, 2019:** Consumer protection Councils, Consumer disputes redressal commissions, Mediation, Product Liability, and Punishment for the manufacturers or the seller under the crime of adulteration of items.
- There will no fee charged to file the case up to Rs 5 lakhs as per the Consumer disputes redressal commissions rules and norms.
- The manufacturer or the seller will be punished for 6 months jail or a fine amount of up to Rs 1 lakh will be sanctioned if the consumer suffers an injury in the form of health, wealth after purchasing and utilizing the product. And in case of death of the consumer, the manufacturer and the seller will have to face 7 years of jail and fine of Rs 10 lakh.
- **The act also proposes Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) which will conduct the investigation process if consumer rights are violated. Thus CCPA will maintain rights and will protect the consumer.**

CBIC SIGNS MOU WITH CBDT FOR BILATERAL DATA EXCHANGE

Current Context: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has signed MoU Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The two entities has signed MoU to carry out the bilateral data exchange between them.**
- The bilateral data exchange between them will take place on an automatic and regular basis.
- Also, both the organisation will exchange data on request and on spontaneous basis from their respective databases.
- To have a tracking record of this data exchange process, a Data Exchange Steering Group will be appointed to manage the process and thus will improve data sharing mechanism.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CBIC: New Delhi
 - Chairman of CBIC: M Ajit Kumar
 - HQ of CBDT: New Delhi
 - Chairman of CBDT: Pramod Chandra Mody

‘MANODARPAN’ INITIATIVE FOR STUDENTS

Current Context: The Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched an initiative called ‘Manodarpan’.

KEY POINTS

- **The initiative is launched with an aim to provide psycho-social support to the students, their parents and teachers.**
- The ‘Manodarpan’ will address the mental stress and will build healthy mental and emotional strength of students so that they can have stress free education.
- The website for the initiative is <http://manodarpan.mhrd.gov.in/>.
- The initiative is a part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- **The features of the ‘Manodarpan’:** Guidelines which describes advice of mental health, National toll-free helpline number, a handbook on psycho-social support, interactive online chat platform, webinars, short films which will boost mental health.

‘OLA CORPORATE’—ENTERPRISE MOBILITY SOLUTION

Current Context: India’s human mobility service provider company Ola has launched an ‘Ola Corporate’ solution.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **‘Ola Corporate’ is an enterprise mobility solution service.**
- It will roll out the enterprise offering the customers in Australia, New Zealand, and the UK.
- The ‘Ola Corporate’ enterprise solution has garnered 10,000 corporate users when it was launched in the India market.
- The solution offers a wide range of safety features to the customer rider and follows hygiene sanitization and social distancing norms during the pandemic situation of COVID-19.

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- It carries out hassle-free pick and drops facility by providing an online charge payment facility to the consumer.
- **Static Part:**
 - CEO of Ola: Bhavish Aggarwal
 - HQ of Ola: Bengaluru

APPOINTMENTS ON 22ND JULY 2020

Current Context: Kulmeet Bawa: He is appointed as **President and Managing Director for SAP (Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing)**. He will be replacing Deb Deep Senugupta.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SAP: Germany
- **Ramesh Boddur:** He is appointed as **MD and CEO of Karur Vysya Bank**. He has replaced PR Seshadri.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Karur Vysya Bank: Karur, Tamil Nadu
 - Tagline of Karur Vysya Bank: Smart Way to Bank

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED 'DHRUVASTRA' ATGM

Current Context: India successfully carried out the firing test of indigenous Anti-tank Guided Missile (ATGM) named as 'Dhruvastra'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'Dhruvastra' ATGM was formerly known as HELINA (Helicopter Launched Nag Missile). Hence it is termed as Helicopter version of 'Nag Helina'.
- The test-firing was conducted by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) at Chandipur, Odisha.
- To observe the working and operation of 'Dhruvastra', firing test was conducted in direct and top attack mode.
- 'Dhruvastra', a variant of Helina weapon system is being inducted into Indian Air Force (IAF).
- It is having a maximum range capability of 7km in LOBL (Lock On Before Launch) mode.
- It is having warhead penetration capability of 800mm.
- Image Infra-Red Seeker provides fire and forgets capability to 'Dhruvastra'.
- It can support 4 twin launchers and can be attached to 8 missiles.
- It is developed under IGMDFP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme) of DRDO.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi

- Chairman of DRDO: G Sathesh Reddy

G20 DIGITAL MINISTERS MEETING

Current Context: The G20 Digital Ministers Meeting was held on 22nd July 2020 and was addressed by Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad via video conference.

ABOUT G20 DIGITAL MINISTERS MEETING

- **Saudi Arabia was the hosting country of the meet.**
- The meeting was held as a part of Sherpa Track for the G20 Leaders' Summit 2020.
- **The three main tracks/ points discussed in the meeting were:** (a) Sherpa Track. (b) Finance based governmental discussion (c) Civil Society organisations participate via engagement group.
- **The theme for G20 Digital Ministers Meeting:** 'Realizing the opportunities of 21st Century for all'.
- Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad highlighted the actions taken by India to combat COVID-19. He also highlighted the use of digital technologies in combating and defeating the pandemic.
- He also discussed India's agenda like to create empowerment opportunities, to safeguard the planet and to boost technologies and its usage in vast areas of the economy.
- He also focused his view on the point that data must belong to the sovereign nation in order to maintain privacy and security in the digital era and to build trustworthy digital solutions with the help of AI technology and to enhance cybersecurity.

IIT-ROPAR TO PROVIDE SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN PUNJAB COLLEGES & INSTITUTES

Current Context: The Punjab Government has signed MoU with IIT-Ropar in the area of skill development.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The IIT Ropar will provide technical mentorship to the state's engineering colleges at Gurdaspur and Ferozepur, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Skill Institute, Chamkaur Sahib, Polytechnics and ITI Institutes.
- Under this agreement, IIT Ropar will develop an academic model for 10 ITI institutes and to 5 government polytechnics.
- IIT- Ropar will also work to develop a defence manufacturing corridor in Punjab colleges and institutes.
- Other areas in which IIT Ropar will train the students include controlling water wastage in irrigation by manufacturing small devices.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Punjab: Amarinder Singh
 - Governor of Punjab: VP Singh Bandore

- **Wild Life Sanctuaries in Punjab:** Bir Motibagh WLS, Bir Dosanjh WLS, Abohar WLS, Bir Aswan WLS, Nangal WLS, Kathlaur Kushlian WLS, Harika Lake WLS, Bir Bhadson WLS, Bir Mehaswala WLS

‘UPI AUTOPAY’ RECURRING PAYMENT FACILITY—BY NPCI

Current Context: National Payment Corporation of India has rolled out a feature for recurring payments. The feature is known as ‘UPI Autopay’.

ABOUT

- The ‘Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Autopay’ was launched virtually at Global Fintech Fast event.
- With the help of UPI application, it will enable recurring of e-mandate of recurring payments like mobile phone bills, electricity bills etc.
- It will also carry out EMI payments upto Rs 2000 and for above Rs 2000 EMI payments, the user will have to execute UPI PIN for every EMI transaction above Rs 2000.
- To enroll to this facility, the user will have to create e-mandate via UPI ID, QR Scan or Intent.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NPCI: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of NPCI: Dilip Asbe

APPOINTMENTS ON 23RD JULY 2020

Current Context: Prof. R Narayanaswamy: He is appointed to head the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

ABOUT

- **Sumit Deb:** He is appointed as MD and CEO of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). He has replaced Bijendra Kumar.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NMDC: Hyderabad, Telangana
- **P C Kandpal:** He is appointed as MD and CEO of SBI General Insurance Company Limited. He has replaced Pushan Mahapatra.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI General Insurance Company Limited: Mumbai
- **Sanjiv Bajaj:** He will be appointed as Chairman of Bajaj Finance. He will be replacing his father Rahul Bajaj.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bajaj Finserv: Pune

UBI AND LIC SIGNS CORPORATE AGENCY AGREEMENT

Current Context: Union Bank of India (UBI) has signed a corporate agency pact with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The corporate agency agreement will allow UBI to distribute LIC Insurance products to its customers.**
- The agreement comes after the amalgamation of Union Bank of India with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank.
- Union Bank of India will offer LIC insurance products like pension plans, children plan, education plans, health insurance, ULIPs etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LIC: Mumbai
 - Chairman of LIC: MR Kumar
 - HQ of UBI: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of UBI: Rajkiran Rai G
 - Tagline of UBI: Good People to Bank with

DRDO SETS UP COVID-19 TESTING FACILITY AT LEH

Current Context: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has setup a COVID-19 testing facility at DIHAR (Defence Institute of High Altitude Research) , Leh.

KEY POINTS

- **The testing facility was inaugurated by Lt Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur.**
- The COVID-19 testing facility developed in Leh will help to enhance the rate of the testing process in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- In order to set up COVID-19 testing facility, DRDO ensured that the facility follows all the rules and guidelines framed by Indian Council of Medical research (ICMR).
- The DIHAR, Leh based COVID-19 Testing facility is capable of taking and testing 50 samples per day.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: G Sathesh Reddy
 - LT Governor of Ladakh: RK Mathur

INSTA CLICK SAVINGS ACCOUNT—BY BANK OF BARODA

Current Context: The Bank of Baroda has launched 'Insta Click Savings Account'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'Insta Click Savings Account' is a paperless digital self-assisted saving account.
- In order to access this account in real time, user will have to use the Baroda M Connect plus application. On accessing this application the user will get MPIN on registered mobile number via which the user can access this account digitally.
- The aim behind launching this 'Insta Click Savings Account' is that BOB is working to digitize its all work by 2023 and become 100% paperless.
- **Features of 'Insta Click Savings Account':** Account requires authentication from the customer, account can be opened instantly, no minimum balance amount is required to maintain in the account, card less withdrawal facility, account can be funded using virtual ID or UPI ID or by IMPS or NEFT.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BOB: Vadodara, Gujrat
 - MD and CEO of BOB: Sanjiv Chadha
 - Tagline of BOB: India's International Bank

'TIANWEN-1'—CHINA'S FIRST INDEPENDENT MISSION TO MARS

Current Context: China has successfully launched its first independent mission to mars named as 'Tianwen-1', which means 'Question to Heaven'.

DETAILS

- 'Tianwen-1' is a combined orbiter, lander and rover.
- It aims to explore and study the climatic and environmental condition of Mars planet.
- To reach Mars, the 'Tianwen-1' will travel for seven months and then will orbit the mars for about 2-3 months before attempting to land on the planet.
- It was launched from the southern island of Hainan, China.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of China: Beijing
 - Currency of China: Renminbi

APPOINTMENTS ON 24TH JULY 2020

Current Context: Arun Kumar: He is nominated as **Vice-Chairman of the UIC (International union of Railways)**. UIC is the Paris based security platform. Currently he is Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF).

ABOUT

- **Alok Mishra:** He is appointed as **CEO and Director of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN)**. He has replaced Harsh Shrivastava.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of MFIN: Gurgaon, Haryana

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ANALYSIS OF QR CODE--RBI

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has released a 'Report of the Committee for Analysis of QR (Quick Response) Code'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The report is released under the chairmanship of Prof Deepak B Phatak.** He is an eminent professor of IIT, Mumbai.
- To prepare this report the committee members examined and reviewed the current system of QR codes in India and its impact in the digital payment system.
- Upon examining and reviewing the current QR system, the members studied the ways to improve the existing QR code and suggested measures to be adopted for the same.
- **The committee suggested recommendations for QR Codes depending upon 4 main pillars namely:** Interoperability and Scalability, innovation, Security and Customer education and Awareness.
- **Points suggested in the report are:** Government should grant controlled interchange instead of zero MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) on QR code/UPI/ Rupay Debit card transactions. Merchants who accept payments via electronic mode should be granted with tax incentives. To enhance the usage of QR codes for payment by consumers in India, the government should provide incentives schemes. Proper standardization process should be adopted by banks and non-bank applications in order to offer ease to the customer in transactions via QR codes. QR codes should be equipped with multi-currency and multi-language support. To focus on security of QR codes.
- **Static Part: What is QR Code?:** It is a 2D (two dimensional) bar code which consists of black squares arranged in a square grid on a white background. To read and interpret QR code, image devices like smartphone cameras are used. Three types of QR Code payments supported in India are Bharat QR, UPI QR and Proprietary QR.

INDIA-RUSSIA JOINT TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT & ACCELERATED COMMERCIALIZATION PROGRAMME

Current Context: The Department of Science and Technology (DST) in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) launched the India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment & Accelerated Commercialization Programme.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Both entities launch this programme in collaboration with the Foundation of Assistance to Small Innovation Enterprises (FASIE) of the Russian Federation.**
- The programme was launched with an aim to develop and connect Indian and Russian Science and Technology in order to uplift the SMEs and start-ups.

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- Both the countries will jointly work in the field of R&D for technology upliftment and to enhance the bilateral scientific cooperation between them.
- They will focus on the areas like AI, Pharma, renewable energy, environment, robotics drones etc.
- The programme will be conducted in two annual cycles with 5 projects to funded during each cycle.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FICCI: New Delhi
 - Chairman of FICCI: Monica N Patnaik

SCO HEALTH MINISTERS DIGITAL MEET

Current Context: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Health Ministers Digital Meet was held on 24th July 2020.

ABOUT MEETING

- **The meeting was attended by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.**
- **The meeting was chaired by Russian Federation, Minister of Health Mr. Mikhail Murashko.**
- The health ministries discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on health of people and on the economy of the countries.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan proposed to set up a sub-group on traditional medicine under the current institutional meeting of SCO health ministers which will fulfill the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SCO: Beijing, China

APPOINTMENTS ON 25TH JULY 2020

Current Context: Riva Ganguly Das: She is appointed as **Secretary East in Ministry of External Affairs** by GOI. She has replaced Vijay Thakur Singh.

ABOUT

- **Partha Pratim Sengupta:** He is appointed as **MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**. He has replaced Karnam Sekar.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IOB: Chennai
 - Tagline of IOB: Good People to Grow with
- **Naveen Tahilyani:** He is appointed as **MD and CEO of Tata AIA Life Ltd.** He has replaced Rishi Srivastava.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Tata AIA Life Ltd: Mumbai
- **Sahil Seth:** He is appointed as **honorary advisor for BRICS CCI (Chambers of Commerce Industry)**.

RBI RELEASED 21ST ISSUE OF FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT, JULY 2020

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has released the 21st issue of Financial Stability Report, July 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **FSR is the study and assessment of FSDC (Financial Stability and Development Council).**
- The reports draw the study of risks to financial stability, resilience to the financial system in order to develop and regulate the financial sector of the country.
- The COVID-19 has affected the fiscal, monetary and regulatory inventions on a large scale. Also, the non-financial sector has affected large economic losses due to the pandemic.
- To resolve these issues arisen due to the outbreak of a pandemic, the GOI and financial sector regulators eased operational constraints so that market integrity will be maintained.
- During the first half of 2019-2020, bank credit was considerably weakened, which was thus slid down further with moderate rate becoming broad-based across bank groups.
- **As per the report, Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) was 15% in September 2019 which edged down to 14.8% in March 2020. The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) reduced to 8.5% from 9.3%. Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) improved to 65.4% from 61.6% from September 2019 to March 2020.**
- The report has suggested that the GNPA ratio of all SCBs may rise from 8.5% in March 2020 to 14.8% by March 2021.
- The report revealed that total bilateral exposures among the financial system entities declined marginally during 2019-2020, with inter-bank continuing to shrink and with a better capitalization of PSBs, there might be a reduction in contagion losses to the banking system under a various scenario in relation to the previous year.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

IIT DELHI PARTNERS WITH TRIFED FOR UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN

Current Context: IIT Delhi has signed MoU with TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India) for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) which comes under the flagship of HRD Ministry, GOI.

KEY POINTS

- The partnership will work to boost livelihood opportunities and income source for the tribal community.

- Both the entities will develop new processing technologies, product innovative technologies for tribal community and mentorship to the tribals to utilize digital systems.
- The UBA programme will connect higher educational institutes in order to uplift the tribal community in terms of their economic and social development.
- The associated entities in this initiative will promote to enhance the livelihood of tribes via Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, developed under Van Dhan Yojana.
- The tribal forest dwellers will be exposed to new processing technologies, product innovation, under this partnership.

AMAZON PAY PARTNERS WITH ACKO GENERAL INSURANCE LTD

Current Context: Amazon Pay (Payment unit of Amazon India) has partnered with Acko General Insurance Ltd to launch vehicle insurance.

DETAILS

- **Under this partnership, customers will now be able to purchase two-wheeler and four-wheeler insurance policy in less than 2 minutes with no paperwork.**
- **Features of vehicle insurance policy are** zero paperwork, one-hour pickup, 3 day assured claim servicing, one-year repair warranty, instant cash settlements.
- Customers will be able to purchase vehicle insurance via Amazon pay page. Here they can select options like add-ons like zero depreciation, engine protection etc.
- The customers will be able to make insurance payments through Amazon Pay balance, UPI or cards.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Amazon Pay: Seattle, Washington DC, United States
 - HQ of Acko General Insurance Ltd : Mumbai

WORLD'S MOST SURVEILLED CITIES-COMPARITECH

Current Context: England based organisation has released a report on World's Most Surveilled Cities.

KEY POINTS

- **Among the 150 major cities around the world, from India, the list is topped by Hyderabad at 16th rank position having the maximum number of CCTV surveillance.**
- **The list is topped by Taiyuan, China.**
- The cities were ranked on the basis of a number of cameras per 1000 people.
- The second rank was received by Wuxi, China and Third-ranked is received by London, UK.
- From India, Chennai is at 21st rank position and Delhi is at 33rd rank position.

RBI SIGNS CURRENCY SWAP FACILITY WITH SRI LANKA

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has signed an agreement of USD 400 million currency swap facility with Sri Lanka.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The currency swap facility agreement will be valid until November 2022.
- The agreement is signed to help Sri Lanka to meet with its short-term international liquidity requirements.
- The foreign exchange reserves will also be boosted for Sri Lanka which declined due to the COVID-19 in the country.
- The currency swap agreement was signed under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
 - Capital of Sri Lanka: Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte
 - Currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan Rupee

IIM KOZHIKODE DEVELOPS 'VELI BAND'

Current Context: IIM Kozhikode has developed a device called 'Veli Band'.

KEY FACTS

- **It is wearable hand band developed with an aim to maintain social distancing during this pandemic situation of COVID-19.**
- It sends out a warning via an alarm system to maintain distance among people if the social distancing norms are not followed.
- It is developed by Qual India Pvt Ltd, which is a startup funded by IIM Kozhikode.
- Veli Band helps to maintain social distancing and location/contact tracing.
- It notifies via vibrations, sounds, buzzer and LED flashing if another band is within 3 feet of distance.
- It is incorporated with rechargeable battery, Bluetooth technology for detection purpose.

HIGH THROUGHPUT COVID-19 TESTING FACILITIES LAUNCHED BY PM MODI

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched High Throughput COVID-19 Testing Facilities via video conference.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The facilities will boost and ramp up the testing capacities for COVID-19 in India.
- And will help to enhance early detection and treatment in order to contain the spread of coronavirus at vast scale and to save the lives of people.
- The facilities are launched at : (A) ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, Noida (B) ICMR-National institute of Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai (C) ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Disease, Kolkata.
- These High Throughput COVID-19 Testing will conduct over test of 10,000 samples per day.
- They are launched to reduce turn-around time and exposures of lab personnel to infectious clinical materials.

GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (FRA) 2020 REPORT

Current Context: Food and Agriculture (FAO), the United Nations has released the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 report.

ABOUT REPORT

- As per the report, India has received 3rd rank in 10 countries in terms of gaining forest area during 2019-2020.
- As per the report, 0.38% annual gain in forest in reported for India.
- The list is topped by China, followed by Australia and Chile.
- FRA has acknowledged the Indian Government's Joint Forest Management programme which has resulted in an increase in community managed forest covered area in the Asian continent.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FAO: Rome, Italy

AMENDMENTS IN INDIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Current Context: During this pandemic situation of Coronavirus, and to support Indian companies, the Government of India has amended certain Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS), including the standards and norms relating to leases.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The ministry of corporate affairs has amended Ind-AS 103 and Ind-As 116 and some other standards.
- The Ind-AS 116 standard defines lease as a contract, or any section of particular contract which conveys the right to use an asset for a tenure of time in exchange of consideration. It is related to principles of presentation, recognition and disclosure of leases. The Ind-AS 103 standard is related to business combinations.
- The amendment rules were set and finalized by the ministry in guidance and consultation with National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

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- Previously before relaxing norms under Ind-As 116, there were practical difficulties being faced by the companies in the current situation of pandemic in terms of lease payments. Therefore to solve this problem, GOI and the ministry has amended the rules under this standard. This will provide lease concessions to the Indian companies.
- Amendments in the Ind-AS 103 will help entities to determine whether a transactions need to be accounted as a business combination or as an asset acquisition.

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA PARTNERS WITH UNIKEN

Current Context: Bank of Maharashtra has partnered with Uniken, an organisation which works in the field of digital security.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- They have partnered to work and provide Omnichannel security.
- The Omnichannel security will be provided to Bank of Maharashtra's online banking app named as MahaSecure.
- Uniken's REL-ID technology will work to provide Omnichannel security.
- The Uniken's REL-ID technology has defence-in-depth functionality which provides online security from malware attacks by providing safe transactions facility for banking.
- By adopting REL-ID the user is offered with security in digital transactions, eliminating clunky SMS, OTPs and tokens, delivering world-class transaction capability and reducing fraud dramatically with one simple invisible solution that makes customers happy.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Uniken: United States
 - CEO of Uniken: Bimal Gandhi
 - HQ of Bank of Maharashtra: Pune, Maharashtra
 - Tagline of Bank of Maharashtra: One Family One Bank

'MAUSAM APP' LAUNCHED BY DR HARSH VARDHAN

Current Context: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Earth Science, Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched an app for a weather forecast.

ABOUT APP

- The name of the app is 'Mausam'.
- The app was launched on the occasion of the 14th foundation day of the ministry of earth sciences.
- Mausam app is developed by International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Indian Institute of Tropical Metrology (IITM), Pune and by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

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- The app will provide data related to the weather forecast, nowcast and warnings on weather disaster if any occurs.
- It is also designed to provide data to display current temperature, humidity and speed of the wind and its direction of flow. This data will be provided for around 200 cities in the country.
- The app will provide weather forecast for the next 7 days to the user.
- It will also provide colour coding based alerts and warnings in red, yellow and orange colour.
- Along with this app, Union Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan also launched Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet) which will act as a destination for research, publications and e-resource of all institutions that are under the ministry of earth sciences.

APPOINTMENTS ON 28TH JULY 2020

Current Context: Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi: He has assumed the charge as **Commandant of Indian Naval Academy (INA)**. He has replaced Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
- **Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid:** He is Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia and now has been appointed as **Interim Prime Minister of Somalia**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Somalia: Mogadishu
 - Currency of Somalia: Somalia Shilling
- **Hichem Mechichi:** He is appointed as **Prime Minister of Tunisia**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Tunisia: Tunis
 - Currency of Tunisia: Tunisian Dinar

‘BIS-CARE’ MOBILE APP’

Current Context: ‘BIS-Care’ is a Mobile App of Bureau of Indian Standards.

ABOUT APP

- The app is launched by Union Minister of Corporate Affairs, Food, Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan.
- Along with this app, Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Training Portals were launched.
- The BIS-Care app will help consumers in checking and verifying the authenticity of the ISI mark and hallmark on the products and goods they purchase.
- The app will also help them to lodge a complaint if any regarding the fake authentication marks on goods and products.

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bureau of Indian Standards: New Delhi

‘INDIA REPORT- DIGITAL EDUCATION JUNE 2020’—BY HRD MINISTRY

Current Context: Union Minister for Human Resource Development has virtually released a report titled ‘India Report- Digital Education June 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The report is prepared by digital division of HRD ministry by analyzing the data from educational departments of states and UTs in India.**
- The report describes the innovative measures adopted by educational and academic systems in India during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The innovative measures adopted to conduct e-learning during COVID-19 pandemic are DIKSHA Program, Swayam Prabha TV Channel, Online MOOC Courses, On Air-Shiksha Vani, DAISY by NIOS for differently-abled, e-pathshala etc.
- Other ways adopted to conduct online education are Telecasting educational content via TV Channels, an E-learning portal, webinars, chat groups, distribution of books, mobile phones and tablets to the economically weaker section.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union HRD Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

INDIA HANDED OVER 10 BROAD-GAUGE RAILWAY LOCUS TO BANGLADESH

Current Context: Indian Railways handed over 10 broad-gauge railway locomotives to Bangladesh.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This will help Bangladesh to enhance its railway mode of transport in the country.
- The 10 broad-gauge railway locos were flagged off from the Gede station of the Eastern railway in West Bengal's Nanda district and will reach at Darshana on the other side.
- The locomotives were flagged off by external affairs minister Dr S Jaishankar and railway minister Piyush Goyal.
- Thus India is on the verge to offer inter-country and intra-country mobility solution to Bangladesh.
- The locomotives can attain a speed of 120 kmph and are having a life span of 28 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka
 - Currency of Bangladesh: Taka

'CO-BRANDED CONTACTLESS CREDIT CARD'- BY IRCTC AND SBI CARD

Current Context: Indian Railway Catering and Tourism and Corporation (IRCTC) in partnership with SBI Card have launched 'Co-branded Contactless Credit Card'.

DETAILS

- The 'Co-branded Contactless Credit Card' is launched on the RuPay platform.
- Launching of the card was made by Piyush Goyal.
- The card is made by **Near Field Communications (NFC) technology** which provides transactions at point-of-sale (POS) machines by tap and pays options.
- The NFC technology provides security for online transactions to the user.
- The card will also provide safe, convenient and improved travel experience to all rail passengers.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IRCTC: New Delhi
 - Chairman and MD of IRCTC: Mahendra Pratap Mall
 - HQ of SBI Card: Gurgaon, Haryana

'IMPLICATIONS OF AI ON THE INDIAN ECONOMY' REPORT

Current Context: National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and Google has together released a report titled as 'Implications of AI on the Indian Economy'.

ABOUT

- As per the report, Artificial Intelligence can boost India's GDP by 2.5%.
- The NASSCOM, ICRIER and Google state that AI intensity which is measured as the ratio of AI to total sales can give 2.5% enhancement to GDP on an immediate basis term.
- Thus as per the report, a positive relationship can be noted between AI utilizing firms and total factor productivity growth.
- The report states that the investment of Rs 7000 crore announced in the union budget for AI, will lead to increase in AI technology and its application area in the country and will ultimately increase India's GDP.
- As per the report, Indian AI market for start-ups has attracted USD 762.5 million in 2019.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NASSCOM: New Delhi
 - HQ of ICRIER: New Delhi

MOES NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE

Current Context: Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) has announced the winners for 'MoES National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science'.

ABOUT

- Following is the list of the winners in various category.

Sr No.	Category	Winner
1	Lifetime Excellence Award	Prof. Ashok Sahni
2	National Awards for Atmospheric Science and Technology	Dr .S Suresh Babu
3	National Award for Geoscience and Technology	N V Chalapathi Rao
4	National Award for Ocean Technology	Dr M A Atmanand
5	Anna Mani Award for Women Scientist	Dr Lidita D S Khandeparker
6	Young Researcher Award	Dr Indra Sekhar Sen
7	National Award for Ocean Science and Technology	Dr V.V. S. S. Sarma

- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Earth Science: Dr Harsh Vardhan

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020- A NEW EDUCATION POLICY

Current Context: Union cabinet has approved the new education policy which is named as National Education Policy 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Along with this approval, the Ministry of Human Resource Development is renamed as Ministry of Education. Both the decisions were taken in the cabinet meeting chaired by PM Narendra Modi and the announcement of the decisions was made by Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.
- Under the National Education Policy 2020, major reforms are made especially in the higher education sector.
- **Highlights of National Education Policy 2020:**
 - 50% Gross enrollment ratio to be achieved by 2035
 - Merging of UGC and AICTE
 - UG Programme tenured for 3 or 4 years and PG Programme tenured for 1 or 2 years with multiple entry/exit.
 - M Phil degree to be discontinued
 - Flexibility of subjects. Students will be able to select major and minor disciplines irrespective of subject combinations. This will increase intake in multi-disciplinary courses

- 5-year course for integrated bachelor and master education
- Formation of vocational training courses for middle school students with an internship of 10 days
- Program coding will be included in the school academic subjects
- e-courses will be included in regional languages
- Formation of virtual labs
- National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) will also be created.
- There will be no rigid separation between streams such as Arts & Sciences.
- The mother tongue will be a medium of instruction till 5th grade. And many major reforms are made in the National Education Policy 2020.

‘BANDICOOT’, FIRST MANHOLE CLEANING ROBOT IN GUWAHATI, ASSAM

Current Context: First manhole cleaning robot or an automatic sewer cleaning device named as ‘BANDICOOT’ is inaugurated at Guwahati, Assam.

KEY POINTS

- The robot was inaugurated by Guwahati Development Department Ministry.
- **Thus Guwahati has become the first city in North East India to have a manhole cleaning robot.**
- The robot is developed by Indian Startup company named as Genrobotics. It is developed under the Make in India initiative.
- Indian Oil Corporation under the CSR initiative has granted the funds to develop BANDICOOT.
- Such manhole cleaning robot was first utilised in Gurugram and Coimbatore initially and Guwahati has become the third city in India to have such robot.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal
 - Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi

POWER FINANCE CORPORATION SIGNS MOU WITH IIT KANPUR

Current Context: The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed MoU with IIT Kanpur to work in the upliftment of the smart grid technology.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The two entities will be working to provide training, carry out research activities and to generate entrepreneurship development for Smart Grid Technology in India.**
- PFC will provide support to IIT Kanpur in terms of the development of infrastructure to conduct research and development in smart grid technology.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: July 2020

- Financial support of Rs 2,38,97000 will be provided by PFC to IIT Kanpur.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PFC: New Delhi
 - Chairman and MD of PFC: Ravinder Singh Dhillion

APPOINTMENTS ON 29TH JULY 2020 & 30TH JULY 2020

Current Context: N. Sivaraman: He is appointed as **MD and Group CEO of ICRA Limited**. He has replaced Naresh Takkar.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICRA Limited: Gurgaon, Haryana
- **Anil Kumar Jha:** He is appointed as a head member of the **Expert Appraisal Committee**. The committee will work to form, maintain environmental rules. The committee will define rules and penalty if environmental laws are violated and not obeyed.
- **Naveen Tahilyani:** He is appointed as **MD and CEO of TATA AIA Life Insurance**. He is appointed by IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of TATA AIA Life Insurance: Mumbai
 - HQ of IRDAI: Hyderabad
- **Archana Soreng:** She is the **Indian Climate Activist** and has been selected as a member of **Antonio Guterres new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change**.

5TH ANNUAL MEET OF THE BOARD TO GOVERNORS OF AIIB

Current Context: Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman attended the virtual 5th Annual Meet of the Board to Governors of AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The theme for the meet was 'AIIB 2030- Supporting Asia's Development over the Next Decade'.**
- The delegated participated in the meet discussed the impact of the Bank's future and covered the official business aspects.
- They also held a discussion on the election of president of AIIB.
- Union Finance minister praised AIIB for granting financial assistance of about \$ 10 billion to India to tackle COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of AIIB: Beijing, China
 - President of AIIB: Jin Liqun

GOVERNMENT'S SCHEMES FOR PROMOTION OF BULK DRUGS AND MEDICAL DEVICES PARKS

Current Context: Union Minister of Chemical and Fertilizers D V Sadananda Gowda has launched 4 schemes for the promotion of Bulk Drugs and Medical Devices parks.

KEY FACTS

- **Highlights of the schemes:** The application for the scheme will remain open for 120 days from the date of issuing guidelines. The applicants will receive approval within 90 days after the closure of application form. The total financial outlay of the scheme is Rs. 6,940 crores. Every two schemes for bulk drug parks and medical devices parks has been formulated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- **Scheme for promotion of bulk drug parks:** Under this, Rs 3000 crore outlay has been decided to create 3 drug parks. The scheme is valid for 4 years. It will be implemented via the State Implementing Agency (SIA). The grant-in-aid will be 90 per cent of the project cost in case of North-East and hilly States and 70 per cent in case of other States. Maximum grant-in-aid for one bulk drug park is limited to Rs 1000 crores.
- **Scheme for promotion of medical devices parks:** Under this, Rs 3420 crore outlay has been decided. The scheme is valid for 6 years. The schemes will boost domestic manufacturing of medical devices. A financial incentive will be given at a rate of five per cent of the sales of domestically manufactured medical devices.
- **PLI scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of KSMs, DIs, & APIs:** Under this, Rs 6490 crore outlay has been decided. It will promote domestic manufacturing of Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates (DIs) / Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in India. The scheme is valid for 9 years.

INDIA'S MOU WITH ZIMBABWE

Current Context: Union Cabinet has approved the MoU of India with Zimbabwe in the field of cooperating in Traditional Systems of Medicines and Homeopathy.

DETAILS

- **This MoU will prove beneficial to both the countries in the sector of traditional medicines.**
- Under this MoU, the supply of medicines and mandatory documents for demonstration and study to traditional medicines will take place between two countries.
- A regulatory mechanism for teaching, practice, drugs and drugless therapies will take place.
- Appointments, accommodation of scientist, pharma experts, teaching professionals will take place between the two countries to achieve the objective and cooperation in traditional systems of medicines and homeopathy.
- Under this MoU, the countries will mutually recognize systems of medicines, Pharmacopoeias and Formularies.

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Zimbabwe: Harare
 - Currency of Zimbabwe: US Dollar, RTGS Dollar

FIRST UDAN-RCS HELI SERVICE IN UTTARAKHAND

Current Context: The first helicopter service by Pawan Hans under the UDAN-RCS scheme was launched in Uttarakhand by Hardeep Singh Puri, MoS I/C, Civil Aviation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The UDAN-RCS Heli service in Uttarakhand will provide aerial connectivity and mobility between Dehradun, New Tehri, Srinagar and Gauchar.**
- This aerial connectivity service will connect hilly regions of Uttarakhand.
- The distance will be covered in an average time of 20-25 minutes and will prove as an assistance to Char Dham Yatra Pilgrims.
- To have the affordable travel charges, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) will be offered to the passengers as well as operators under the UDAN Scheme.
- The fare charges of these routes is Rs 2900/ seat.
- **Static Part:**
 - **CM of Uttarakhand:** Trivendra Singh Rawat Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya
 - **National parks and Wildlife sanctuaries in Uttarakhand:** Corbett National Park, Gangotri National Park, Govind National Park, Nanda Devi National park, Rajaji National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park, Askot Musk Deer WLS, Nandhaur WLS, Kedarnath WLS, Mussoorie WLS, Govind Pashu Vihar WLS, Sonanadi WLS.
 - **Governor of Assam:** Jagdish Mukhi
- **UDAN Scheme:** It stands for Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik. The scheme aims to provide aerial connectivity to the people at affordable prices and to develop the infrastructure at regional airports. The scheme comes under Ministry of Civil Aviation.

TRIPARTITE MOU SIGNED BETWEEN CSIR, UBA IIT DELHI AND VIJNANA BHARATI

Current Context: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan-IIT Delhi (UBS-IITD) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), New Delhi (It is RSS linked science body) has signed MoU which grant access to CSIR developed technologies to attain the objective of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).

KEY FACTS

- The MoU will help to lay the foundation for UBA in rural India
- **The aim of the MoU is to adopt the CSIR rural technologies and related educational institutes in line with the targets of the people to support initiatives like UBA and VIBHA.**

- This MoU will enable access to the structural networks to achieve the collaboration of district administration, local Panchayat Raj Institutes (PRIs), voluntary organizations and the institutions that participate with UBA.
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of CSIR:** New Delhi
 - **President of CSIR:** Narendra Modi
 - **Vice President of CSIR:** Harsh Vardhanm

BOB FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS LIMITED AND FISERV, INC. TO WORK FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Current Context: The wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BOB) named as BOB Financial Solutions Limited and the Fiserv, Inc. , which is the technology based financial services and payment global provider have joined together to have flexible, scalable solution to accelerate the digital transformation of card issuance and its processing.

HIGHLIGHTS

- They will work together to develop high tech products like contactless credit cards, tokens and integration with branded wallets and virtual credit cards
- They will work to have loyalty management and will build customer trust on digital payment structures developed by them
- BOB Financial Solutions Limited will use and the Fiserv's First Vision TM, which is an end to end managed service solution to have digital transformation
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of Finserv Inc:** Brookfield, US
 - **HQ of BOB Financial Solutions Limited:** Mumbai