

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST



June 2021

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CWUR'S WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2021-22

Current Context: The Centre for World University Rankings (CWUR) released World University rankings for 2021-22.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The list is topped by Harvard University.**
- The second and third ranks are marked by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford University respectively.
- **From Indian Institutes, the list is topped by IIM Ahmedabad. It is placed at world rank 415th.**
- The IISc Bangalore is at 459th position and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research is at 543rd position.
- **The parameters considered for rankings are:** Quality of Education, Alumni Employment, Faculty Quality and Performance in Research.

'AMBITAG'--- IIT ROPAR

Current Context: The IIT Ropar has developed India's first indigenous temperature data logger named 'AmbiTAG' for cold chain management.

KEY FACTS

- It is India's first-of-its-kind IoT based device that will allow secure transportation of vaccines, blood and body organs, perishable products (food and dairy), etc.
- The 'AmbiTAG' also attains the objective of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.
- The 'AmbiTAG' records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.
- The temperature recorded by it further helps to know whether the product which is being transported from anywhere in the world is still usable or perished because of temperature variation.
- The temperature variation for such products is vital as it decides its quality and life; particularly critical for vaccines including the Covid-19 vaccine.
- Therefore, the 'AmbiTAG' continuously records the temperature of its immediate surroundings from -40 to +80 degrees in any time zone for a full 90 days on a single charge.
- The 'AmbiTAG' is developed by IIT Ropar's Technology Innovation Hub named AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) and its Startup ScratchNest.

5TH BRICS WORKING GROUP MEET ON HPC AND ICT

Current Context: South Africa hosted the 5th BRICS Working Group Meeting on High-Performance Computing (HPC) and Information Communication Technology (ICT) in an online manner.

KEY POINTS

- Around 50 dignitaries from BRICS nations participated in the meet.
- India was represented by Sanjeev Kumar Varshney, Advisor DST.
- The dignitaries discussed the usage of HPC and AI to tackle pandemic COVID-19 and to use it in sustainable developmental projects.
- They assured to cooperate with each other to use HPC technologies for weather-climate-environment based applications.
- India discussed the development of supercomputers by C-DAC under National Supercomputing Mission. This is in order to develop and deploy a user-friendly early warning system for flood prediction.
- China proposed AI+HPC+5G- based digital twin platform and an open-source ecosystem.
- Brazil and South Africa proposed the flagship project on Digital Earth.
- **Static Part:**
 - 2021 Presidency of BRICS: India

‘GOA INSTITUTION FOR FUTURE TRANSFORMATION (GIFT)’

Current Context: The Government of Goa established ‘Goa Institution for Future Transformation (GIFT)’.

DETAILS

- **The GIFT is on the line of Think Tank NITI Aayog.**
- It will perform the role of assisting, advising and guiding the government to frame the policies and implement them.
- GIFT will also monitor sustainable development goals and will evaluate various developmental plans, programmes and schemes.
- It will be mentioned under Article 309 of the Indian Constitution to attain autonomy.
- The GIFT will also represent as knowledge hub Goa, which will work to showcase best practices to attain sustainable development of the State.
- **Static Part:**
 - National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Goa: Bhagwan Mahavir (Mollem) NP, Bondla WLS, Cotigao WLS, Mhadei WLS, Bhagwan Mahaveer WLS, Netravali WLS

NCPDR LAUNCHED ‘BAL SWARAJ’ PORTAL

Current Context: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) launched the ‘Bal Swaraj’ portal.

ABOUT

- **The ‘Bal Swaraj’ is basically an online tracking portal, which tracks and monitors children who lost either or both parents due to coronavirus.**
- The ‘Bal Swaraj’ consist of a link named ‘COVID Care’ which allows the officers to upload the data about such children who are in need to be taken care.
- The portal monitors the children affected by COVID-19 right from their production before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), to the restoration of the children to their parent, guardian, or relative, and its subsequent follow-up.
- Also, the commission will be able to access data on whether the child is getting his/her entitlements, benefits, and entitled monetary gains, through the data filled in the portal by the District officers and State officers for each child.
- Therefore, the commission will get an idea of whether the child has been produced before the CWC and if the orders are being passed for him/her.
- Also, the commission will get to know whether the state needs any financial support to deliver the benefits of the schemes particular developed for children.
- **Static Part:**
 - NCPDR comes under the ministry of women and child development and is the monitoring authority for the children in India. Its HQ is in New Delhi

RDSO—1ST STANDARDS BODY TO JOIN THE ‘ONE NATION, ONE STANDARD’ SCHEME

Current Context: The Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) has become the first standards body in India to join the ‘One Nation, One Standard’ scheme of the central government.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The RDSO works to set standards for the Indian Railway Sector.
- Thus now onwards, the RDSO will be recognised as a ‘Standard Developing Organisation’ by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), for the tenure of 3 years.
- The ‘One Nation, One Standard’ scheme is implemented by the BIS.
- The BIS and RDSO will now jointly set the parameters for quality goods and services for the Railways.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RDSO: Lucknow

‘ASIA PACIFIC PUBLIC SECTOR CYBER SECURITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL’

Current Context: Microsoft launched the ‘Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council’.

KEY POINTS

- **The aim behind this council is to develop a strong communications channel to address cyber threats and share best practices to tackle cyber crimes and threats across the globe.**
- The council will be comprised of policymakers and influencers from countries like Indonesia, Korea, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Thailand.
- The council will be supported by cybersecurity professionals.
- It will also lead to developing a partnership among public-private cybersecurity professions and organisations.
- The council will also help to promote a broader sharing of threat intelligence to be better positioned to respond in the event of attacks.
- The council will meet on a quarterly basis in order to share data and best practices to tackle cyber-crimes and threats.

74TH WHA MEETING OF WHO

Current Context: The World Health Organisation (WHO) conducted the 74th edition of the World Health Assembly (WHA) meeting from its HQ in Geneva, Switzerland.

KEY FACTS

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- **The theme for the meeting was:** 'Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world.'
- The President for 74th WHA was Mrs Dechen Wangmo, Health Minister of Bhutan.
- The dignitaries have decided to set the target of achieving at least 10% population of all countries to be vaccinated by Sep 2021 and at least 30% by Dec 2021.
- At the meeting, the 30th of Jan was adopted as 'World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day'.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland
 - President of WHO: Tedros Adhanom

INDIA'S GDP TO BE AT 7.9% FOR FY22—SBI ECOWRAP

Current Context: The SBI economists has revised India's GDP projections in its 'Ecowrap' report.

DETAILS

- **As per the SBI Ecowrap report, India's GDP to be at 7.9% for FY22.**
- Earlier it had projected India's GDP to be at 10.4%.
- The reason behind this revised projection is the second wave of the pandemic which has hit the nation in a severe manner, thereby leading to the lockdown situation in the country.
- Also, the report estimates, 'W-shaped' recovery in FY22. Earlier it was 'V-shaped' recovery for the same.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara

APPOINTMENTS ON 2ND JUNE 2021

Current Context: Kuldiep Singh: He was given an additional charge of DG of National Investigation Agency (NIA). He has replaced Y C Modi. Currently, he is also serving as DG of CRPF.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NIA: New Delhi
- **J B Mohapatra:** He was given an additional charge of Chairman of CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes). He has replaced Pramod Chandra Mody.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CBDT: New Delhi
- **Nagaraj Adiga:** He was elected as the Asia and Oceania Representative in the International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Executive Council for 2021-25.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of IAU: Monaco Cedex
- **T V Narendran:** He was appointed as President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2021-22. He is MD and CEO of Tata Steel.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CII: New Delhi

‘SWASTIIK’ TECHNOLOGY—BY CSIR-NCL, PUNE

Current Context: The CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune has launched a new technology called ‘SWASTIIK’.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The ‘SWASTIIK’ technology uses natural oils to disinfect water.**
- The technology boils liquid as a result of pressure reduction or cavitation. It makes use of natural oils with antimicrobial properties to disinfect water.
- The other techniques to disinfect water makes use of chemical such as chlorination which include the formation of harmful or carcinogenic by-products. Therefore, the ‘SWASTIIK’ technology is safe to disinfect water.
- The technology comes against the backdrop of the National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) and has issued an advisory to states and Union territories to monitor and survey water quality to ensure potable water during the second wave of the pandemic in India.
- The technology was developed by Scientist Dr V.M. Bhandari and his group at CSIR-NCL Pune. They received the support from Water Technology Initiative of the department of science and technology (DST).
- The ‘SWASTIIK’ technology can eliminate harmful bacteria, including antibiotic-resistant strains, economically. THE technology makes use of hydrodynamic cavitation and combines chemistry, biology, and chemical engineering approaches along with natural resources in the form of natural oils and plant extracts.

UNION CABINET APPROVED MOC BETWEEN INDIA AND JAPAN

Current Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoC was approved in the sector of Sustainable Urban Development.**
- The MoC was signed between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism, Japan.
- The MoC between both nations will promote deep, long-term, and strong bilateral cooperation in the sector of Sustainable Urban Development.

- Due to the MoC, the cooperation in the areas like urban planning, affordable housing (including rental housing), smart cities development, sewerage, and water waste management, urban flood management, Transit-Oriented Development, Intelligent transport management system, Disaster Resilient Development, multimodal integration will take place.
- The MoC was signed for 5 years and will be renewed after 5 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

AGRICULTURE MINISTER LAUNCHED HORTICULTURE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Current Context: The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP).

KEY FACTS

- **The Horticulture CDP was launched to ensure the growth of the activities horticulture sector are in a proper manner or not.**
- The programme will be executed in pilot phases and initially, 12 horticulture clusters out of the total 53 clusters are selected for the programme.
- **The Horticulture CDP will be implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.**
- It will work to develop identified horticulture clusters so that they can be represented at the global level.
- To uplift the horticulture sector, the programme leverage geographical specialization and promote integrated and market-led development of clusters.
- The programme will address the issues related to pre-production, production, post-production, harvest management, logistics, branding and marketing.
- The clusters of the pilot phase include Shopian (J&K) and Kinnaur (H.P.) for Apple, Lucknow (U.P.), Kutch (Gujarat) and Mahbubnagar (Telangana) for Mango, Anantpur (A.P.) and Theni (T.N.) for Banana, Nasik (Maharashtra) for Grapes, Siphahijala (Tripura) for Pineapple, Solapur (Maharashtra) and Chitradurga (Karnataka) for Pomegranate and West Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya) for Turmeric.
- These clusters will be implemented through Cluster Development Agencies (CDAs) which are appointed on the recommendations of the respective State/UT Government.

RBI ANNOUNCED FPI INVESTMENT LIMITS IN G-SECS AND SDLS

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the limits for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) investment in government securities (G-secs) for the current fiscal year and State Development Loans

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(SDLs) will be unchanged i.e. will be at 6% and 2% respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for 2021-22.

DETAILS

- The allocation of incremental changes in the G-sec limit over the two sub-categories of 'General' and 'Long-term' will be retained at 50:50 for FY 2021-22.
- The overall increase in limits for SDLs are added to the 'General' sub-category of SDLs.
- As of 31st March 2021, the current FPI limit in G-Sec General, G-Sec Long Term, SDL General, SDL Long Term, and Corporate Bonds, was Rs 9,54,280 crore.
- In debt instruments for April 2021- Sep 2021, the revised FPI investment limit was at Rs 10,14,957 crore and for Oct 2021-March 2022 is Rs 10,75,67 crore.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

APPOINTMENTS ON 3RD JUNE 2021

Current Context: Isaac Herzog: He was appointed as President of Israel. He has replaced Reuven Rivlin.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
 - Currency of Israel: Israeli Shekel
- **Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh:** He was appointed as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff
- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
- **Justice A K Mishra:** He was appointed as Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NHRC: New Delhi
- **Justice Vikramjit Sen:** He was appointed as Chairman of the Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMRC) by the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF).
- **Dr Patrick Amoth:** He was appointed as Chairman of the WHO Executive Board. He is the acting Director of the Health Ministry of Kenya.

BHARTI AXA LIFE INSURANCE SIGNED BANCASSURANCE PACT WITH SHIVALIK SFB

Current Context: The Bharti AXA Life Insurance has signed the bancassurance pact with Shivalik Small Finance Bank.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This bancassurance pact will allow the distribution of Bharti AXA Life Insurance products through Shivalik SFB.
- This partnership is part of measures taken by the bank to have financial inclusion and acceleration of wealth creation for its customers across the country.
- Various insurance products of Bharti AXA Life Insurance like protection, health, savings and investment plans will be distributed to the customers via Shivalik SFB.
- The partnership has allowed 4.5 lakh customers of Shivalik Bank to access the range of products offered by the company to provide financial security.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bharti AXA Life Insurance: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance: Parag Raja
 - HQ of Shivalik SFB: Noida, UP
 - MD and CEO of Shivalik SFB: Suveer Kumar Gupta

AIRINC GLOBAL 150 CITIES INDEX FOR FINANCIAL ATTRACTIVENESS RANKING

Current Context: The AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index for financial attractiveness ranking was topped by Manama, Bahrain for the 3rd consecutive year.

KEY POINTS

- The 7 cities from MENA (Middle East North Africa) region have marked their positions in the top 16 of the index.
- **The parameters used for calculating financial attractiveness are:** Salary levels, cost of living and taxes.
- **From India, New Delhi and Mumbai are the two cities that have marked positions in the index at 113th and 125th ranks respectively.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bahrain: Manama
 - Currency of Bahrain: Dinar
 - HQ of AIRINC: Massachusetts, USA

NITI AAYOG'S 3RD SDG INDIA INDEX 2020-21

Current Context: The Government think tank NITI Aayog released the third edition of India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) index 2020-21.

KEY FACTS

- The index evaluates SDG progress for every states and UTs for the parameters like social, economic and environmental.

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- The index was launched by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Rajiv Kumar.
- **The index was topped by Kerala with a score of 75.**
- **The other top performers are:** Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.
- **The lowest performer is Bihar with a score of 52.**
- **The other lowest performers are:** Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya.
- **Among the UTs, Chandigarh has topped the index and is followed by Delhi and Puducherry.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: PM Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

ICICI LOMBARD PARTNERED WITH MICROSOFT

Current Context: India's private sector general insurer ICICI Lombard has partnered with Microsoft.

DETAILS

- **They have entered into a partnership to strengthen and automate quality control processes.**
- **The daily service calls made by customer service reps of ICICI Lombard will be screened with the help of Microsoft's artificial intelligence (AI) tool named Azure Speech Services and Natural Language Processing (NLP).**
- Microsoft's Azure Speech Services and Natural Language Processing (NLP) provide a wide range of speech recognition and generation capabilities including speech transcription, text-to-speech, speech translation, and speaker recognition.
- The inclusion of Azure's Synthetic instrument will also help ICICI Lombard to enhance the accuracy of its high-quality audits.
- It will also improve high-quality checks which will make ICICI Lombard's service more environment friendly.
- Prior to the inclusion of the AI tool, the company required to perform manual screening of a sample of 20% of the over 1000 calls a day, but the new system will allow screening 100% of the calls.
- Also, the multiplicity of languages related issues like switching between English and Hindi during calls will also be solved with this new system.
- The partnership with Microsoft will automate the Quality Assurance process to remove human bias from customer calls, resulting in improved customer outreach, increased productivity and consistency across the audit system.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Lombard: Mumbai
 - CEO of ICICI Lombard: Bhargav Dasgupta

APPOINTMENTS ON 4TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Adar Poonawalla: He was appointed as Chairman of Magma Fincorp.

ABOUT

- **Abhay Bhutada:** He was appointed as MD of Magma Fincorp.
- **Vijay Deshwal:** He was appointed as CEO of Magma Fincorp.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Magma Fincorp: West Bengal
- **Dr Vinay K Nandicoori:** He was appointed as Director for CSIR- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), which is based in Hyderabad.
- **Paresh B Lal:** He was appointed as Grievance Officer for India by WhatsApp.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of WhatsApp: California, US
- **Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair:** He took over as DG of the Assam Rifles i.e. Sentinels of the North-East.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Assam Rifles: Shillong, Meghalaya
- **R S Sodhi:** He was elected to the board of the International Dairy Federation (IDF). He is MD of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd which sells Amul Milk based branded products.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IDF: Brussels, Belgium

INDIA AND ADB SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT

Current Context: India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan agreement to upgrade the roads in Sikkim.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The loan agreement of \$2.5 million was signed between India and ADB.**
- ADB will grant \$2.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) support.
- The loan was signed for the project called 'Sikkim Major District Road Upgradation Project'.
- The project will highly help to help improve connectivity between towns and rural areas of the state.
- This loan for the project will also help to enhance the economy of the state.
- The roads will be upgraded in order to withstand landslides and erosion calamity.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
 - CM of Sikkim: P. S. Golay
 - Governor of Sikkim: Ganga Prasad Chaurasia

NR SAVINGS ACCOUNT SCHEME FOR THE SEAFARER SEGMENT – FEDERAL BANK

Current Context: The Federal Bank launched the NR savings account scheme for the Seafarer segment.

KEY FACTS

- **It was launched for mariners.**
- The services under the schemes are integrated into the digital platform so that digital banking under the schemes can be performed by the mariners.
- The scheme grants preferential exchange rate for monthly inward remittances, premium debit card with domestic airport lounge access, linked zero balance NRO account, and bespoke financial planning and customised wealth management products and services.
- The scheme is available in two variants namely NRE SB(Non-Resident External Saving Account) and NRO SB (Non-Resident Ordinary Saving Account).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Federal Bank: Aluva, Kerala
 - Tagline of Federal Bank: Your Perfect Banking Partner
 - MD and CEO of Federal Bank: Shyam Srinivasan

RBI'S JUNE 2021 POLICY REVIEW MEETING

Current Context: The Governor of RBI, Shaktikanta Das headed the monetary policy committee's (MPC) meeting. The meeting was about the review of policy measures in June 2021.

KEY POINTS

- During the meet, it was announced to keep key lending rates unchanged for the sixth consecutive time.
- **The MPC decided to continue with the previous lending rates to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.**
- **Following are the policy measures taken by the RBI:**
- The Policy Repo Rate is kept at 4%, the Reverse Repo Rate is kept at 3.35%.
- The Marginal Standing Facility Rate is at 4.25%, Bank rate at 4.25%.
- The CRR is at 4% and the SLR is kept at 18%.
- The central bank has projected India's GDP growth to be at 9.5% for the FY2021-22. Earlier it had projected India's GDP to be at 10.5% for the same fiscal year. But due to the second wave of pandemic and its impact on the economy, the RBI has reduced the GDP forecast for India.
- Also, the India's GDP contracted at -7.3% for FY21.
- Also, the projection for Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is at 5.1% for FY 2021-22.
- RBI Governor announced that G-SAP 2.0 worth Rs 1.2 lakh crore will be taken in the second quarter of FY22 to support the market.
- **Members of MPC are:** Dr Michael Debabrata Patra, Dr Mridul K. Sagar, Prof. Ashima Goyal, Prof. Jayanth R Varma, Dr Shashanka Bhide.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - 25th Governor of RBI: Shaktikant Das

- Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

UNION CABINET APPROVED VARIOUS MOUS

Current Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved various MoUs of India with other nations.

DETAILS

- **Followings are the MoUs and agreements signed:**
 1. **MoU between India and Argentina:** It was approved for the sector of Mineral Resources. It was signed between the Ministry of Mines of GOI and the Secretariat of Mining Policy of the Ministry of Productive Development of Argentina's government. This will enhance cooperation between both the nations in minerals resources sector like mineral exploration and development, extraction, mining and beneficiation of lithium. Exchanging technical information will also take place. Due to the MoU, the formation of a joint venture in areas like base metals, critical and strategic minerals for the mutual benefit of both the nation will also take place.
 2. **MoU between India and Maldives:** It was approved for the sector of Sustainable Urban Development. It was signed between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GOI and the Ministry of National Planning, housing and infrastructure of Maldives's Government. The MoU will help to create employment opportunities in the area of Sustainable Urban Development. The Joint Working Group will also be framed to implement and execute the initiatives of the MoU.
 3. **Cabinet approved the Model Tenancy Act. This will help to enhance rental housing in the country. It will lead to creating rental housing market, which will thus raise rental housing stock for all the income groups and the issue of homelessness will be solved.**
 4. **Cabinet signed the agreement on 'Cooperation in the field of Mass Media' with the member nations of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). This will help to create innovations in the mass media sector.**

ICICI BANK TO OFFER 'SWIFT GPI INSTANT' FACILITY

Current Context: ICICI Bank has entered into a partnership with SWIFT to grant a facility called 'SWIFT gpi Instant'.

ABOUT

- **The 'SWIFT gpi Instant' facility will help overseas partner banks to send instant remittances on behalf of their customers to the beneficiary in India.**
- **Due to this facility, the beneficiary will get the credit to the bank account instantly.**
- **By launching such a facility, ICICI Bank has become the first bank in Asia-Pacific and the second globally.**
- **The facility is in line with ICICI Bank's commitment to grant customer-centric solutions with quick and hassle-free money transfers.**

- Due to the 'SWIFT gpi Instant' facility, personal remittances of up to Rs 2 lakh will be processed instantly and credited into the beneficiary account held with any bank which is enabled to receive foreign remittance through IMPS in India.
- The facility will be active 24X7 for all 365 days. The data relating to the charges taken by intermediary banks will be displayed on the 'SWIFT gpi' platform in order to have transparency.
- The end to end tracking of payments from initiation till fulfilment through an instant automated status update will take place.
- To avail of the facility for sending instant remittances to India non-residents can visit their Bank overseas and initiate remittance transaction via 'SWIFT gpi Instant'.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakhshi.

MOD SIGNED CONTRACT WITH MAHINDRA TELEPHONICS INTEGRATED SYSTEMS LIMITED

Current Context: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Mahindra Telephonics Integrated Systems Limited, Mumbai.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The contract was signed to procure 11 Airport Surveillance Radars with Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar for the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.**
- The MoD will perform the procurement activity under the Buy and Make category with the cost of Rs 323 crore.
- The contract will also help to satisfy the goal under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The Airport Surveillance Radars will enhance the safety and efficiency in flying operations of the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.
- These radars will raise air domain awareness.
- Airport Surveillance Radars with Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar will be more accurate as compared to the conventional ones especially when several aircraft are in close proximity in a specific area of airspace.
- This will also enhance employment opportunities and skill development.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
 - HQ of Mahindra Telephonics Integrated Systems Limited: Mumbai

INDUS BEST MEGA FOOD PARK

Current Context: The Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park in a virtual manner.

KEY POINTS

- It was inaugurated at Raipur, Chattisgarh.
- The Indus Best Mega Food Park will grant value addition, long shelf life to the Agri produce, price satisfaction for farmers, excellent storage facility and an alternate market source for the farmers.
- It will enhance growth in the food industries sector and a source of various employment opportunities.
- It is set up at the cost of Rs 145 crore.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghe
 - Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey.
 - Thermal Power Plants in Chhattisgarh: Korba Super Thermal Power Plant, Sipat Super Thermal Power Station or Rajiv Gandhi Super Thermal Power Station, NSPCL Bhilai Power Plant

SAGE (SENIORCARE AGING GROWTH ENGINE) PROGRAMME AND ITS PORTAL

Current Context: The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched an initiative called SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) and the SAGE portal.

KEY FACTS

- The SAGE programme was launched to support the elder people of India.
- The portal will be a 'one-stop access' of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
- The start-ups under this programme will be selected as per the innovative products and services which they will grant in the areas like health, housing, care centres, technological access linked to finances, food and wealth management, and legal guidance.
- The programme will allow the youth in taking care of elders through their startups and their products and services.
- The programme will also lead to developing an elderly care a national movement than just a government programme.

DAC APPROVED RS 43000 CR RFP TO CONSTRUCT SUBMARINES

Current Context: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the Request for Proposal (RFP) of the Indian Navy for a mega submarine tender worth Rs 43,000 crore.

DETAILS

- It is approved under Project P-75 India (P-75I) as a Strategic Partnership Model.
- This will enable to construction of six conventional diesel-electric submarines.

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- The tender was issued to Larsen & Turbo (L&T) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- **The DAC also allotted Rs 6000 crores to modernize the Indian Navy's Air Defence Guns and Ammunition. This was approved under the Buy and Make (India) category.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh

APPOINTMENTS ON 7TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari: He was appointed as Vice Chief of Air Staff in the Air headquarters. Also, Air Marshal Ballabha Radha Krishna would be succeeding Chaudhari at the Western Command in Delhi while Air Marshal RJ Duckworth would be taking charge of the Central Air Command in Prayagraj.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
- **Professor Ajit Mishra:** He was appointed to head the committee to grant technical support and suggestions to fix minimum wages and national floor minimum wages. This decision is a part of the centre's move to implement the code of wages 2019 which will mandate a standard national level flow wages. He is the director of the Institute of Economic Growth. The appointment was made by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, GOI.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of State (IC) of Labour and Employment: Santosh Kumar Gangwar
- **Vishwavir Ahuja:** He was re-appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of RBL Bank for a period of one year. The re-appointment was made by RBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBL Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of RBL Bank: Apno Ka Bank
- **Simone Inzaghi:** He was appointed as a Coach by Inter Milan for two years. He has replaced Antonio Conte.
- **V Bhoopal Reddy:** He was appointed as pro-tem Chairman for the Telangana State Legislative Council.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Telangana: K. Chandrashekar Rao
 - Governor of Telangana: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- **Ranjitsinh Disale:** He was appointed as the World Bank Education Advisor for the period June 2021 to June 2024. He is a primary teacher from Maharashtra's Solapur, who won the Global Teacher Prize 2020.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, USA
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass

LADAKH LAUNCHED 'YOUNTAB SCHEME'

Current Context: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur launched the 'YounTab scheme'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The scheme is launched for the students.**
- Under the scheme, 12,300 tablets with pre-loaded online and offline content, including textbooks, video lectures and online class applications will be distributed to government school students from 6th to 12th classes.
- The scheme is an initiative of the Department of School Education with technical support from the Information Technology Department.
- The 'YounTab scheme' aims to offer educational support during a pandemic and the long term technology infusion in the education system.
- **Static Part:**
 - Ladakh was established as a separate UT on 31st Oct 2019 after Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act was passed

NTPC JOINED UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT'S CEO WATER MANDATE

Current Context: The NTPC Ltd (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) has signed up to the prestigious United Nations Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.

KEY FACTS

- The CEO Water Mandate is a UN Global Compact initiative that analyses the efforts and commitments made by companies to maintain their water and sanitation objectives in order to attain Sustainable Development Goals.
- It was developed to guide the companies to implement and develop water management strategies and frame policies for the same.
- The CEO Water Mandate is a platform through which the companies can enter into partnership with alike businesses, UN agencies, public firms, civil society firms and stakeholders to work to maintain their water and sanitation objectives.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NTPC Ltd: New Delhi

E-100 PROJECT LAUNCHED BY PM NARENDRA MODI

Current Context: Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launched the E-100 pilot project in Pune, Maharashtra.

KEY POINTS

- He launched three E100 ethanol dispensing stations in Pune.
- The E-100 pilot project aims to develop a network for the production and distribution of ethanol all over India.
- During the launching ceremony, PM Modi also launched 'Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025'.
- The report describes a detailed roadmap for the development of the ethanol sector in India.
- He addressed the event by mentioning that ethanol is the important priority of 21st century India and the focus will be made on it to get its better impact on the environment as well as on the lives of farmers.
- **Static Part:**
 - Stadium in Maharashtra: Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium, Nehru Stadium, Brabourne Stadium, Mahindra Hockey Stadium, Dadaji Kondadev Stadium, Wankhede Stadium, D Y Patil Sports Stadium, Major Dhyanchand Hockey Stadium

BILL GATES & EU PLEDGE \$1 BILLION TO ENHANCE GREEN TECHNOLOGY

Current Context: The Energy Investment Programme founded by Bill Gates and European Union jointly have set up a plan to raise up to \$1 billion to launch the low-carbon technologies as Europe is betting on meeting its climate change goals.

DETAILS

- Under this partnership, Breakthrough Energy which is founded by Gates will raise capital and philanthropic funds to match funding provided by the EU.
- Both the entities aim to raise up to 820 million euros, or \$1 billion, from 2022 to 2026 jointly.
- The funds will be used to target hydrogen produced from renewable energy, sustainable aviation fuels, technology to suck CO2 out of the atmosphere, and to have long-duration energy storage.
- EU has entered into this partnership as it has set a target to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- The funds raised by Bill Gates and European Union will be used to build large scale commercial demonstration projects which will reduce the cost of technologies and thus will be adopted to boost green energy technologies.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of EU: Brussels, Belgium

THE ASIA UNIVERSITY RANKING 2021

Current Context: Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021 was released.

HIGHLIGHTS

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- **In the top 100 list, IISc Bangalore, IIT Ropar and IIT Indore have secured ranks in Asia.**
- IISc Bangalore is ranked at 37th position, IIT Ropar is ranked at 55th position and IIT Indore is ranked at 78th rank position.
- **The 1st rank is marked by Tsinghua University based in China.**
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are marked by China's Peking University and the National University of Singapore respectively.
- **The parameters considered for the ranking evaluation are:** Teaching, Research, Knowledge transfer and International Outlook.

APPOINTMENTS ON 8TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Hitendra Dave: He was appointed as CEO of HSBC India. He has replaced Surendra Rosha, who was appointed to the Asia-Pacific CEO position.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HSBC: London, UK
- **Sanjeev Sahai:** He was appointed as Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PNGRB: New Delhi
- **Virendra Nanavati:** He was elected as a member of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) Bureau at the FINA General Congress which was held in Doha, Qatar. He is serving as Vice-President of the Indian Olympic Association. He has thus become the first Indian to be a Bureau member of the FINA.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FINA: Lausanne, Switzerland

PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX (PGI) 2019-20

Current Context: The third edition of the Performance of Grading Index (PGI) for 2019-20 was released by the Department of School Education and Literacy of the Ministry of Education.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the grading index ranks, the states of Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar has attained the highest grade (Grade I++) for 2019-20.**
- **The score for the top-performing states/UT are:** Punjab (929), Chandigarh (912), Tamil Nadu (906), Kerala (901), Andaman and Nicobar (901).
- The index analyses the performance made by states and UTs in the school education sector. By using 70 indicators, the ranking for every state was given.

- The indicators were divided into 5 parameters like access; governance and management; infrastructure; equity and learning outcomes.
- The grading system has 10 levels. Level 1 indicates top-notch performer with a score level in the range of 951 to 1000 points. Level II, also known as Grade 1++, indicates a score between 901 and 950. Those with Grade 1+ (or Level III) have scored between 851 and 900. The lowest is Grade VII, and it means a score between 0 and 550 points.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Education: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY MISSION-- KERALA

Current Context: The government of Kerala launched the 'Knowledge Economy Mission'.

KEY FACTS

- **The mission aims to enhance job prospects in the state by supporting knowledge workers.**
- **The mission is headed by Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) and they will submit the report describing mission work progress before 15th July.**
- The mission is basically a single programme under which efforts will be taken to provide employment to educated people and support 'knowledge workers'.
- Under the mission, basic facilities and social security system for knowledge workers who are working close to their homes and interacting with employers will be provided.
- The funds for the mission will be allotted through a 'knowledge economy fund'.
- **Static Part:**
 - Dams in Kerala: Kakki Reservoir, The Idukki Dam (Periyar River), Cheruthoni Dam, Kulamavu Dam (Periyar river), Idamalayar Dam (Idamalayar River)

WB APPROVED \$500MN PROGRAM TO ENHANCE MSME SECTOR OF INDIA

Current Context: The World Bank (WB) approved the \$500 million program to uplift the MSME sector of India.

DETAILS

- **The \$500 million programs will help GOI to raise liquidity access support to the MSMEs, small businesses which are impacted severely by COVID-19.**
- The funds will be utilised to revitalize the MSME sector as it has set the target to improve the performance of 555,000 MSMEs.
- The program is expected to mobilize financing of \$15.5 billion, as part of the government's \$3.4 billion MSME Competitiveness, 'A Post-COVID Resilience and Recovery Programme (MCRPP)'.

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- The \$500 million support is the part of the Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP) Program, which is the second support from World Bank for India's MSME sector upliftment
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington, D.C., United States
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass

CSE'S STATE OF INDIA'S ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2021

Current Context: The State of India's Environment Report 2021 was released. It was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the report, India is ranked at 117th position on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations member states in 2015.**
- **The SDG score for India is 61.9/100.**
- Initially, India was at 115th position, thus India has dropped by 2 places from last year in the ranking.
- The reason behind the dropped position of India is major challenges like ending hunger and achieving food security (SDG 2), achieving gender equality (SDG 5) and building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation (SDG 9) remain in the country.
- India ranks below four South Asian countries namely Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- As per state-wise preparedness, Jharkhand and Bihar are least prepared to meet the SDGs goals by 2030. Jharkhand lags in 5 out of 17 SDGs and Bihar lags in 7 out of 17 SDGs.
- The best performing states/UTs working to attain 17 SDGs by 2030 are Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CSE: New Delhi
 - DG of CSE: Sunita Narain

APPOINTMENTS ON 9TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Abdulla Shahid: He was appointed as President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He has replaced 75th President, Volkan Bozkir from Turkey. He is serving as Foreign Minister of Maldives.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UN General Assembly: New York, US
- **Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar:** He has assumed the charge of Director General Naval Operations.
- **Static Part:**

- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
- **Anup Chandra Pandey:** He was appointed as Election Commissioner by Union Government for the tenure of 3 years. He has replaced Sunil Arora.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Election Commission: New Delhi
- **Kuwait's Husain Al-Musallam:** He was appointed as President of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) at the FINA General Congress held in Doha, Qatar.

INDIA ELECTED AS MEMBER OF ECOSOC FOR 2022-24

Current Context: India is elected as a member of the UN Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) for the term 2022-24.

KEY FACTS

- The ECOSOC is one of the 6 main firms of the UN and it brings together people and issues to promote collective action for a sustainable world.
- India is elected as 54th member for ECOSOC, in the Asia-Pacific states category along with Afghanistan, Oman and Kazakhstan.
- The ECOSOC works to attain sustainable development through three major pillars namely, economic, social and environmental.
- **From African states, the members which were elected are:** Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Mauritius, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- **From the Eastern European states, the members which were elected are:** Croatia and the Czech Republic.
- **From the Latin American and Caribbean States, the members which were elected are:** Belize, Chile and Peru.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ECOSOC: New York and Geneva
 - President of ECOSOC: Oh Joon

RBI IMPOSED PENALTY ON BOI AND PNB

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty on the Bank of India and Punjab National Bank.

DETAILS

- A penalty of a total of Rs 6 crore was imposed on the banks.
- The penalty was imposed for not following norms related to Frauds – Classification and Reporting.
- The Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 4 crore and Punjab National Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore, thus totalling Rs 6 crore penalty.

- The RBI mentioned that the statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE) of the Bank of India was conducted with reference to its financial position as of March 31, 2019. The bank had also conducted a review and submitted a Fraud Monitoring Report (FMR) dated January 1, 2019, pertaining to the detection of fraud in an account.
- After examining the reports related to the ISE and the FMR, it was observed non-compliance with the norms like a breach of stipulated transaction limits; delay in transfer of unclaimed balances to DEA Fund; delay in reporting fraud to RBI and sale of a fraudulent asset by Bank of India. For these reasons, the penalty was imposed on BoI.
- The RBI mentioned that the statutory ISE of Punjab National Bank was conducted with reference to its financial position as of March 31, 2018 (ISE 2018) and March 31, 2019 (ISE 2019).
- Thus by examining the risk assessment reports for ISE 2018 and 2019 it was revealed that PNB did not follow norms and was responsible for delay in reporting of frauds and not ensuring data accuracy and integrity while submitting data on the CRILC platform/ to RBI. For these reasons, the penalty was imposed on PNB
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
 - HQ of BoI: Mumbai
 - Tagline of BoI: Relationship Beyond Banking
 - MD and CEO of BoI: Atanu Kumar Das
 - HQ of PNB: New Delhi
 - Tagline of PNB: The Name You can Bank Upon
 - MD and CEO of PNB: S S Mallikarjuna Rao

IN TO RECEIVE THREE MH-60 'ROMEO' MULTI-ROLE HELICOPTERS FROM THE US

Current Context: The Indian Navy will receive the three MH-60 'Romeo' multi-role helicopters from the United States (US) in July 2021.

KEY POINTS

- **These three MH-60 'Romeo' multi-role helicopters are part of the first set of 24 such multi-role helicopters.**
- In Feb 2020, India and the US had signed a pact worth \$2.4 billion to buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from Lockheed Martin.
- The MH-60 Romeo helicopters are equipped with multi-mode radars and night vision devices. They are armed with Hellfire missiles, torpedoes, and precision-guided weaponry.
- These helicopters can be operated from cruisers, aircraft carriers destroyers, and frigates. They can target submarines, ships and can be part of rescue operations at sea.
- The MH-60 Romeo helicopters are said to replace Sea Kings.
- **Static Part:**

- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
- Capital of the US: Washington, D.C
- Currency of the US: United States Dollar
- President of the US: Joe Biden

KIADB SIGNED MOU WITH HDFC BANK

Current Context: The Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) signed MoU with HDFC Bank.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to provide a wide range of financial products and services to the customers.**
- This partnership will attract more investment in Karnataka, as the partnership will enable the acquisition of industrial lands more affordable.
- The KIADB has thus nominated HDFC Bank as its banking partner which will finance its customers.
- The HDFC bank will offer attractive affordable financial solution and services to the companies under KIADB for upto 75% of the project.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of KIADB: Bengaluru
 - CEO of KIADB: N Shivashankara
 - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan
 - Tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world

APPOINTMENTS ON 10TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: **Girish Chandra Chaturvedi:** He re-appointed as Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank by RBI.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakshi
- **Chris Broad:** He was appointed as match referee for the World Test Championship Final of Cricket which will be held between India and New Zealand.
- **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh:** He was re-appointed as MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank by RBI. He is re-appointed for a period of three years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bandhan Bank: Kolkata, West Bengal
- **M K Jain:** He was re-appointed as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India by the Appointment Committee of Cabinet. His tenure is extended by 2 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

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- Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors of RBI: Michael Patra, MK Jain, Rabi Sankar and M Rajeshwar Rao
- **Secretary-General António Guterres:** He was officially approved as UN Chief for the second term beginning 1st Jan 2022 by United Nations Security Council.
- **Choguel Kokalla Maiga:** He was appointed as the Transitional PM of Mali.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mali: Bamako
 - Currency of Mali: West African CFA Franc

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2022

Current Context: The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) which is based in London has released the QS World University Rankings 2022.

KEY FACTS

- **The ranking compares universities with various parameters and then ranks Universities from across the globe.**
- **The 6 parameters which were considered for rankings are:** Academic reputation (AR), employer reputation (ER), citations per faculty (CPF), faculty/student ratio, international faculty ratio and international student ratio.
- Total 8 Indian universities have marked the positions among the best 400 global universities in the QS World University Rankings 2022.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, IIT-Delhi, and IISc Bangalore are among the top 200 list.
- **IIT Bombay is marked at the rank position of 177th, IIT Delhi is marked at 185th rank and IISc Bangalore is ranked at 186th position.**
- **The first rank is achieved by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).**
- The second is marked by the University of Oxford.
- The third rank is marked by Stanford University and the University of Cambridge jointly.

INDO-THAI CORPAT

Current Context: The 31st India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) commenced between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy.

DETAILS

- **It is being conducted in the Andaman Sea from 9th June to 11th June 2021.**
- India is represented by the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, which is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel.
- Thailand is represented by HTMS Krabi, which is an Offshore Patrol Vessel.

- The Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies are also participating in the exercise.
- The main motto behind conducting CORPAT between India and Thailand is to enhance maritime linkages between them and secure international trade in this important part of the Indian Ocean.
- The exercise will also help the Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate interoperability and develop strong bonds of friendship with the Royal Thai Navy.
- The CORPAT restricts unlawful activities like Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy. It allows the exchange of information to prevent smuggling, illegal immigration, and SAR operations at sea.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Thailand: Bangkok
 - Currency of Thailand: Thai Bhat

HARYANA GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED 3 INITIATIVES

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar announced three major initiatives or schemes to encourage, promote and protect the plantation of trees in the state.

KEY POINTS

- **The following are the initiatives or schemes:**
 - **Oxy Van (Oxygen Forest) in Panchkula:** Under this, Oxy Van has identified pieces of land on which 3 crore trees would be planted. The Oxy Vans will occupy 10% of the 8 lakh hectares of land of the state. The Oxy Van, Panchkula, will be established in Bir Ghaggar over an area of 100 acres with a total cost of Rs 1 crore.
 - **Oxy Van (Oxygen Forest) in Karnal:** It will come along the Old Badshahi Canal with an area of 80 acres. It will be comprised of Chit Van (Forest of Beauty), Paakhi Van (Forest of Birds), Antriksh Van (Forest of Zodiac Signs), Tapo Van (Forest of Meditation), Arogya Van (Healing/herbal Forest), Neer Van (Forest of Waterfalls), Rishi Van (Sapt Rishi), Panchvati (Five Trees), Smaran Van (Forest of Memories), and Sugandh Suvaas/Sugandh Van (Forest of Fragrance). The total project will cost Rs 5 crore. It will be established jointly by the state's forest department, GOI and the Municipal Committee of Karnal.
 - **Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme (PVDPS):** Under this scheme, Rs 2500 will be provided in name of Pran Vayu Devta for maintaining the trees above 75 years. The pension amount will increase every year on the line of old age Samman pension.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar
 - Governor of Haryana: Satyadev Narayan Arya
 - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Haryana: Abubshahar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary, Khol Hi-Raitan Wildlife Sanctuary, Nahar Wildlife Sanctuary

ARAB-INDIA ENERGY FORUM

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Current Context: The 1st edition of the Arab-India Energy Forum was held with an aim to enhance energy cooperation and intra-regional power trading between India and Arab.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The forum was co-chaired by India and the Kingdom of Morocco.
- The inaugural session was addressed by RK Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy and Mines of Morocco, and Kamal Hasan Ali, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs of the League of Arab States (LAS).
- The dignitaries discussed the potential and the challenges to enhance cooperation in the fields of intra-regional power trading, energy transition, nuclear power generation, and hydrocarbons.
- The forum observed the exchange of expertise solutions in the field of energy efficiency programmes for various economic sectors, fostering regional power-sharing arrangements, accelerated development of new and renewable energy, tight gas extraction, enhanced oil recovery, and safe nuclear power generation.
- The dignitaries also discussed regulatory policies in their respective nations in the sector of Energy.
- The second edition of the Arab-India Energy Forum will be held in India in 2023.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Morocco: Rabat
 - Currency of Morocco: Moroccan Dirham

APPOINTMENTS ON 11TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Ukhnaa Khurelsukh: He was appointed as the 6th President of Mongolia. He has replaced Khaltmaa Battulga.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mongolia: Ulaanbattar
 - Currency of Mongolia: Mongolian Togrog
- **Spoorthi Priya:** Facebook has appointed Spoorthi Priya as its Grievance Officer for India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Facebook: California, US
 - CEO of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg
- **M R Kumar:** His tenure has been extended till March 2022 to be the Chairman of LIC.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LIC: Mumbai
 - Founded: 1956

GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has published Global Liveability Index 2021.

KEY FACTS

- The data for the survey was conducted from 22nd Feb 2020 to 21st March 2021.
- New Zealand and Australian cities have dominated the Global Liveability Index 2021 because of their strong response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Auckland of New Zealand has been named as best in the Global Liveability Index 2021 rankings because of the ability of New Zealand city to contain Covid-19 at a faster rate.**
- Japan's cities namely, Osaka and Tokyo are marked at 2nd and 4th positions in the rankings respectively.
- The 3rd rank is marked by Adelaide of Australia.
- **The least liveable cities in the world are Damascus of Syria.**

DIC AND ICAR ENTERED INTO MOU AGREEMENT

Current Context: The Digital India Corporation (DIC) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have entered into an MoU agreement.

KEY POINTS

- **They have signed MoU to help India's farmers by granting them location-specific Demand-based Tele Agricultural Advisories.**
- The 'Demand-based Tele Agricultural Advisories' will be granted by integrating DIC's Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS) with the Kisan Sarathi Program of ICAR.
- The system will be implemented through the network of ICAR so that it will benefit Indian farmers.
- Both DIC and ICAR will develop an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform which will operate a multi-media and multi-way advisory communicable system which will support Agri based activities at every local level.
- All the technical support to build the system will be granted by DIC. The DIC will host and manage the platform.
- Initially, IIDS will be implemented at ICAR. Through IIDS farmers will be able to access data and experts will be able to access farmers' data.
- **Static Part:**
 - About DIC: It is set up by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The HQ of DIC is in New Delhi
 - About ICAR: It is set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Its HQ is in New Delhi

INDIAN BANK PARTNERED WITH FISDOM

Current Context: The Indian Bank has entered into a partnership with Fisdom, which is a wealth-tech company.

DETAILS

- **They have partnered to offer wealth management products and services to the bank's customers.**
- The wealth products and services will be granted through Indian Bank's network of 6000 branches and its digital platforms like mobile banking application and internet banking portal.
- During the first phase of the partnership, the customers of the bank can perform investment in any mutual fund of their choice and the National Pension System. The investment can be performed through the lender's IndoASIS mobile app and its internet banking portal.
- The customers will be able to access and view details related to funds, investment schemes and track mutual funds' performance in real-time.
- The upcoming phases of partnership will introduce various new features in order to enhance customer experience.
- Fisdom will grant solution across investments, savings and protection plans.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Indian Bank: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - Tagline of Indian Bank: Your own bank
 - HQ of Fisdom: Bengaluru

INDIA AND KUWAIT SIGNED MOU

Current Context: India and Kuwait have signed an MoU agreement to enhance the cooperation to recruit Indian workers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU will enable Indian domestic workers who are working in the Gulf nation with legal protection under the law.**
- **The legal framework will be in the lines of recruitment laws.**
- The MoU document was signed by Indian Ambassador Sibi George and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait Majdi Ahmad Al-Dhafiri. The agreement was signed in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.
- India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is on his three days visit to Kuwait. The visit is in line with the time when 2021-22 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between India and Kuwait.
- The MoU will secure the rights of domestic workers and the employer who are present in the Gulf nation.
- The MoU will grant a 24-hour assistance mechanism for domestic workers.
- Also, a joint committee will be set up to review the MoU activities on a periodic basis.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Kuwait: Kuwait City
 - Currency of Kuwait: Kuwaiti Dinar

APPOINTMENTS ON 12TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: K Nagaraj Naidu: President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid has appointed India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador K Nagaraj Naidu as his Chef de Cabinet.

ABOUT

- **Benedetto Vigna:** He was appointed as CEO of Ferrari. He has replaced interim CEO, John Elkann.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Ferrari: Maranello, Italy
 - Founder of Ferrari: Enzo Ferrari
- **Debbie Hewitt:** She was appointed as the first chairwoman of England's Football Association. She has replaced Greg Clarke.
- **Ashish Saraf:** He was appointed as Vice-President and Country Director for India by Thales, which is the French defence and aerospace group. He has replaced Emmanuel de Roquefeuil.

PAYNEARBY PARTNERED WITH INDIAFIRST LIFE INSURANCE

Current Context: PayNearby has partnered with IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited to launch the 'Poorna Suraksha' insurance solution.

KEY POINTS

- The 'Poorna Suraksha' is a cost-effective 3-in-1 insurance solution that will offer financial protection to more than 15 lakh retail partners during the pandemic period.
- The 'Poorna Suraksha' is the part of Shop Owners Benefit Program of PayNearby. It grants insurance like life, health and disability with affordable premium amounts.
- The life cover is Rs 2 lakhs, disability cover is Rs 1 lakh and hospital cash support of Rs 15,000.
- The premium amount associated with the insurance solution is just Rs 3 per day with an allotment fee of Rs 111.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PayNearby: Mumbai
 - HQ of IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited: R M Vishakha

RBI CHANGED THE RULES REGARDING ATM CASH WITHDRAWALS

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made changes in the rules pertaining to the cash withdrawal from the Automated Teller Machine (ATM).

KEY FACTS

- **The rules include higher charges on transactions beyond the free permissible limit, a new free ATM transaction limit and a rise in interchange fee.**
- The rules were changed as per the recommendations of the committee setup under the Chairmanship of the Chief Executive, Indian Banks' Association. The committee was formed in June 2019. The role of the committee was to review ATM charges and fees with a particular focus on interchange structure for ATM transactions.
- The RBI has allowed a free cash withdrawal limit from its own bank. Due to this rule, customers will now be able to perform five free financial and non-financial transactions every month from their own bank ATMs.
- Also, ATM cardholders can perform three free financial and non-financial transactions in metro centres while five in the non-metro transaction from other bank ATMs.
- The banks are allowed by RBI to raise charges on ATM transactions beyond the free ATM transaction limit.
- The interchange fee amount is raised from Rs 15 to Rs 17 for financial transactions while from Rs 5 to Rs 6 for non-financial transactions, which will be effective from 1st August 2021.
- The customer of the bank will have to pay Rs 21 instead of Rs 20 (currently) for each ATM cash withdrawal beyond the free transaction limit in effect from 1st Jan 2021.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

CHIEF MINISTER SISHU SEVA SCHEME-- ASSAM

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Assam, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma launched Chief Minister Sishu Seva Scheme.

DETAILS

- **The scheme was launched to grant the service to the children who lost their parents due to COVID-19.**
- **He also handed over the cheques of financial assistance support to a few of such beneficiaries.**
- The scheme will grant financial support of Rs. 7,81,200 in the bank accounts as a fixed deposit in the name of each beneficiary.
- From this amount, the monthly assistance of Rs. 3500 will be given to the beneficiaries till the age of 24 years.
- On completion of 24 years of age, the principal amount parked as a fixed deposit against each beneficiary would be credited to their bank accounts.
- For this scheme, the Assam's government would give Rs. 3500 per month per child including Central government support of Rs. 2000.

- The state government also announced to enrol the children below 10 years and adolescent girls with no guardian in one of the child care institutions and support them with adequate funds to continue their education.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Assam: Himanta Biswa Sarma.
 - Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi

EDUCATION MINISTER RELEASED AISHE 2019-20 REPORT

Current Context: Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The report is annually released by the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education. The report highlights key performance indicators for the current status of higher education in India.**
- **The AISHE 2019-20 report is the 10th edition.**
- The report describes that, from the last 5 years i.e. 2015-16 to 2019-20, the enrolment of the students has increased by 11.4%.
- The enrolment of female students to pursue higher education has increased by 18.2%.
- The total enrolment for higher education was at 3.85 crores in 2019-20. Of the total, 49% constitutes female enrolments. Uttar Pradesh has topped for the highest enrolment by students. The second and third positions are marked by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu respectively.
- The Gross Enrolment Ratio for 2019-20 was at 27.1%.
- The Gender Parity Index (GPI) was at 1.01 in 2019-20. The index reveals improvement in the relative access to higher education for females of eligible age group compared to males.
- The Pupil- Teacher Ratio in Higher Education was 26:1 in 2019-20. PTR is the number of students who attended school or university to the number of teachers in the institution.
- Around, 3.38 crore students enrolled for UG and PG level educational programmes. Also, 2.03 lakh students pursued PhD in 2019-20.
- The all India average College density was at 30. It indicates the number of colleges per lakh eligible population.

IIT BOMBAY TO LAUNCH 'KOITA CENTRE FOR DIGITAL HEALTH' (KCDH)'

Current Context: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has announced to launch of the 'Koita Centre for Digital Health' (KCDH).

DETAILS

- **The centre will be launched under the aegis of the Koita Foundation.**

- The KCDH will be responsible to manage academic programmes, research and industry collaboration in the Digital Health sector.
- Its research area will be associated with clinical applications (including electronic patient records and medical imaging), healthcare data management (including healthcare data privacy and security), healthcare analytics, healthcare AI/ML, consumer health, public health and public policy.
- The centre will grant minor, dual degree, Masters and PhD programs in Healthcare Informatics subject.
- Thus the KCDH will prove beneficial to address the healthcare challenges, particularly are exposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Koita Foundation: Mumbai
 - Founders of Koita Foundation: Rizwan Koita and Rekha Koita

1ST INDIA-AUSTRALIA JWG MEETING ON CYBER SECURITY COOPERATION

Current Context: The first meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cyber Security Cooperation was held recently.

KEY FACTS

- India was represented by Paulomi Tripathi, Director (Oceania) in the Ministry of External Affairs and Australia was represented by Rachel James, Special Advisor, Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology at Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- The JWG on Cyber Security Cooperation is set up under the framework of arrangement on cyber and cyber enabled critical technology cooperation between both the nations with an aim to implement a 2021-2025 plan of action under the framework.
- The dignitaries discussed enhancing security for critical and confidential data associated with the 5G network and IoT.
- They also agreed to enhance cooperation in the multilateral fora and assured each other to share data related to cybersecurity, legislation and national cyber strategies.
- They discussed issues related to the emerging technologies in the cyber sector and assured cooperation in the private sector and academia of both nations in order to increase skills in the cybersecurity domain.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Australia: Canberra
 - Currency of Australia: Australian Dollar
 - Prime Minister of Australia: Scott Morrison

KAVACH PERSONAL LOAN FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS

Current Context: The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched the 'Kavach Personal Loan' scheme for COVID-19 patients.

KEY POINTS

- Under the scheme, SBI will offer collateral-free personal loans up to Rs 5 lakh at an annual interest rate of 8.5% for 60 months which is inclusive of three months moratorium.
- The loan support will help COVID-19 patients to meet their medical expenses either for themselves or family members.
- The loan under the scheme will be offered under the collateral-free personal loan category.
- The 'Kavach Personal Loan' scheme is a part of the COVID loan book created by banks as per RBI's COVID relief measures.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara

SIDM SIGNED MOU WITH SOFF

Current Context: The Society of Indian Defense Manufacturers (SIDM) has signed an MoU with the Swedish Security and Defense Industry (SOFF).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The MoU was signed during the webinar titled 'India-Sweden Defense Industry Cooperation'. The webinar was held under the theme of 'Capitalization of Growth Opportunities'.
- It was organised by the Department of Defense Production, Ministry of Defence, through SIDM and SOFF.
- From India, the chief guest was Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and from Sweden, the chief guest was Peter Hultquist, Defence Minister of the country.
- The MoU was signed to promote bilateral defence industrial relations between India and Sweden.
- Under the MoU, a Joint working group will be framed to manage the operations of the MoU.
- During the webinar, the first edition of 'SIDM Member Directory 2020-21 – A 360 Overview of the Indian Defense and Aerospace Sector' was released by Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.
- It mentions the capabilities of 437 companies associated with the defence and aerospace sector and grants them access to information on the Indian industry.
- Also, Union Defence Minister invited the firms from Sweden to invest in Defense Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- He also assured cooperation with Sweden in the shipbuilding industry area.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIDM: New Delhi
 - President of SIDM: Jayant D Patil
 - HQ of SOFF: Stockholm, Sweden
 - Secretary-General of SOFF: Robert Limmergaard

CURTAIN RAISER EVENT FOR THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA- AYUSH MINISTRY

Current Context: The Ministry of Ayush organised a curtain raiser event for the 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY).

KEY FACTS

- **The event was organised in association with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).**
- The event observed the participation of Yoga Gurus and experienced Yoga exponents through a virtual platform.
- The event was organised to motivate community across the world to pursue yoga on daily basis in order to improve inner and outer health.
- The event was held under the theme of IDY 2021 “Be With Yoga, Be At Home”.
- **During the event, a mobile app called “Namaste Yoga” was also launched.**
- The app will serve as an information platform for the community and will help to create awareness and the importance of yoga in life.
- **Static Part:**
 - Minister of the State (IC) of Ayush: Shripad Yesso Naik.

NEW FUND OFFER OF HDFC BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND

Current Context: The HDFC Mutual Fund launched a new fund offer (NFO) for retail investors.

DETAILS

- **The name of the NFO is HDFC Banking and Financial Services, Fund.**
- It allows investment in the banking and financial services sector across segments and market capitalization for banking, broking, asset management, wealth management, insurance, NBFC, and other companies which work to grant financial services.
- The fund will invest in companies that are leaders and/or are gaining market shares due to features like superior execution, scale, and better adoption of technology.
- It will focus on new listings like pre-IPO participation in lending, insurance, capital market businesses and fintech.
- The NFO will remain active till 25th June 2021. And as it is an open-ended fund, one can also invest thereafter.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HDFC MF: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of HDFC MF: Navneet Munot

'ENVISION' MISSION TO STUDY VENUS

Current Context: The European Space Agency (ESA) is planning to develop its own mission to study the planet Venus. The ESA wants to study the holistic view of Venus from its inner core to the upper atmosphere.

KEY POINTS

- **In this regards, the ESA has announced to launch of the 'EnVision' mission.**
- It will be launched by 2030.
- The 'EnVision' mission will help ESA to determine how and why Venus and the Earth evolve in a different manner, even though both of them are in a habitable zone to the Sun.
- The orbiter Envision will be loaded with a sounder that will study the underground layering of Venus. It will be also loaded with a spectrometer to study the atmosphere & surface of Venus, it will also monitor trace gases in the atmosphere.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ESA: Paris, France

APPOINTMENTS ON 14TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Rebeca Grynspan: She was appointed as Secretary-General of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development). She is an Economist from Costa Rican. She has replaced Isabelle Durant.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNCTAD: Geneva, Switzerland
- **Sanjay Yadav:** He was appointed as Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court.
- **Former Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri:** He was appointed to chair the Grievance Redressal Board which is part of the DPCGC (Digital Publisher Content Grievance Council). He was appointed by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). The board members will address content grievances associated with video online streaming services of the council members.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IAMAI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of IAMAI: Amit Agrawal
 - President of IAMAI: SubhoRay
- **Akshay Kumar:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of Biotechnology Firm Mylab Discovery Solutions.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Mylab Discovery Solutions: Pune

‘YUVA SHAKTI CORONA MUKTI ABHIYAN’-- MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: The Madhya Pradesh Government launched ‘Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan’.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Abhiyan was launched to make people of the state aware of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **The translation of ‘Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan’ is ‘free from Corona with the help of the youth power campaign’.**
- The campaign was basically launched by the higher education and the technical education department of the state in partnership with the public healthcare and family welfare department of the state.
- The trainings to the lead colleges of the districts, principles of polytechnics, engineering colleges and district vaccination officer were given by Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Anupam Ranjan and Secretary, Technical Education, Mukesh Gupta; State-level officials of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and UNICEF.
- Under this campaign, students from the colleges will form groups and they will be given information about the impact of COVID and the importance of vaccination. These trained groups will further provide information to their families and the people in the surrounding areas about the benefits of vaccination and the prevention of COVID.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lakes in MP: Bhoj Wetland, Lower Lake, Moti lake, Sarangpani lake, Tawa Reservoir, Upper Lake
 - Dams in MP: Gandhi Sagar Dam(Chambal River), Tawa Reservoir(Tawa Reservoir), Indira Sagar Dam(Narmada River)

RBI EXTENDED RBIA SYSTEM

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) system for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs).

KEY FACTS

- **This will lead to boost the quality and effectiveness of the internal audit system of HFCs.**
- The extension is applicable for all deposit-taking HFCs and non-deposit-taking HFCs having asset size of Rs 5,000 crore and above.
- Such kinds of HFCs will have to place an RBIA framework by 30th June 2022.
- The RBIA is an audit methodology that connects organisations’ overall risk management framework and offers assurance to the BODs and senior management of the quality and effectiveness of the internal audit system. It performs risk management and governs systems and processes.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - 25th Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

‘JIVAN VAYU’--- IIT ROPAR

Current Context: The Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar developed a device named as ‘Jivan Vayu’.

DETAILS

- The ‘Jivan Vayu’ is a substitute for CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) machine.
- It can deliver high flow oxygen up to 60 Litres Per Minute (LPM).
- It can function without electricity. It is suitable for both kinds of oxygen generation units namely, O2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals.
- It is basically designed for a 22mm CPAP closed-circuit tube and is customizable to the tube size.
- It is manufactured using 3D printing and was tested mechanically.
- The ‘Jivan Vayu’ is capable to deliver high flow oxygen (20–60 LPM) and can maintain a continuous positive pressure of up to 20 cm H₂O.
- It maintains FiO₂ of above 40% and PEEP (positive end-expiratory pressure) of 5-20 cm H₂O.
- The device will prove beneficial during the pandemic period of COVID-19 especially when the power supply is a major concern for saving the lives of those who are on medical equipment like ventilators and oxygen concentrators.
- The device is developed by Dr Khushboo Rakha, Assistant Professor, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering. It was developed at the Advanced Materials and Design Lab of IIT Ropar.

PULITZER PRIZE 2021 WINNERS

Current Context: Columbia University announced the 2021 Pulitzer Prizes. This was the 105th class of prizes.

ABOUT

- The prizes were given in areas like Journalism, Books, Drama and Music.
- The awards are particularly given for the achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States.
- Following is the list of winners:
 - **JOURNALISM:** (1) The New York Times for the category of Public service (2) Wesley Morris of The New York Times for the category of Criticism (3) Robert Greene of the Los Angeles Times for the category of Editorial writing (4) Megha Rajagopalan, Alison Killing and Christo Buschek of BuzzFeed News for the category of International Reporting (5) Staff of the Star Tribune, Minneapolis, Minn for the category of Breaking News Reporting (6) Andrew Chung, Lawrence Hurley, Andrea Januta, Jaimi Dowdell and Jackie Botts of Reuters for the category of Explanatory Reporting (7) Kathleen McGrory and Neil Bedi of the Tampa Bay Times for the category of Local Reporting (8) Mitchell S. Jackson, freelance contributor, Runner’s World for the category of Feature Writing (9) Lisa Hagen, Chris Haxel, Graham Smith and Robert Little of National Public Radio for the category of Audio Reporting
 - **BOOKS, DRAMA, AND MUSIC:** (1) The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich for the category of Fiction (2) The Hot Wing King, by Katori Hall for the category of Drama (3) Postcolonial Love

Poem by Natalie Diaz for the category of Poetry (4) Stride, by Tania León for the category of Music (5) Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy by David Zucchino for the category of General nonfiction (6) The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X by Les Payne and Tamar a Payne for the category of Biography or autobiography

CENTRAL ATHLETE INJURY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CAIMS)

Current Context: The Central Athlete Injury Management System (CAIMS) was launched by Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.

KEY POINTS

- **The CAIMS was launched to streamline the sports medicine and rehabilitation support that is granted to the athletes.**
- The system will grant the best of sports injury management support and will standardize the injury treatment protocol for athletes in India.
- The support will commence for athletes who are a part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) development group who will be participating in the 2024 games.
- The system will work to grant on-time treatment to the athletes who are injured, and rehabilitation support will be offered at the athlete's geographical location within India.
- The CAIMS committee members include experts like Dr SKS Marya, Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, Dr BV Srinivas and Shrikant Iyengar.
- The management structure of CAIMS include: Athlete Wellness Centre, On-field Sports Medicine Experts, National Resource Referral Teams and Central Core Team.

NATO SUMMIT 2021

Current Context: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit was held in Brussels, Belgium.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The meet was the 31st edition of formal discussion among the heads of state and heads of government of the NATO alliance.
- **During the meet, the leaders agreed to have the 'NATO 2030 Agenda'.**
- The 'NATO 2030 Agenda' will be a comprehensive initiative that will ensure that NATO is ready to face any future challenges.
- The agenda will strengthen political consultation, the resilience of society, reinforce defence and deterrence.
- It will also develop a technological edge for the members of the NATO Alliance.
- The 'NATO 2030 Agenda' will enhance the next strategic concept before the next summit which is to be held in 2022.
- The leaders also agreed to a new cyber defence policy in order to have secured political consultations, technological capabilities and military planning.

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NATO: Brussels, Belgium
 - Founded: 4th April 1949

SJVN LTD SIGNED MOU WITH NIWE

Current Context: The hydroelectric power generation organisation named SJVN Ltd has signed an MoU with the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE).

KEY FACTS

- The MoU was signed for the purpose of having 'Technical Consultancy Services for development of Solar, Wind, Hybrid (Wind & Solar) and Hybrid (Wind, Solar & Battery Storage) Energy Projects of SJVN.
- The NIWE will grant feasibility and techno-commercial support to SJVN Ltd to attain the objective framed under the MoU.
- Both the entities will jointly prepare detailed project reports, frame estimations and bid documents to develop each project of SJVN Ltd.
- The SJVN Ltd and NIWE will jointly take efforts to attain GOI's target to achieve 175 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by the year 2022 and 450 gigawatts of Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.
- The partnership will also lead to achieving the Shared vision of SJVN, of becoming a 25000 MW Company by 2040.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NIWE: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

WORLD GIVING INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) released World Giving Index 2021.

KEY POINTS

- As per the index ranking, India is ranked at 14th position in the index among 114 nations. India is termed to be the 14th most charitable nation in the world with a score of 44%.
- The index is topped by Indonesia.
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are marked by Kenya and Nigeria respectively.
- The rankings of the index are calculated by considering the year 2020 and impacts of lockdowns in almost all countries due to pandemic and how the nations performed in charitable giving in such hard times.
- The data for the report of the index was collected by Gallup's World view World Poll by asking 3 questions to the people. The questions were, have they helped any stranger, given any money support, and have they volunteered for a good cause last year.
- As per the survey for India, 61% of Indian have helped strangers, 36% of Indians granted money to support and 34% of Indians volunteered for a good cause.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: June 2021

- **The poor performing nations in terms of charitable giving are:** Belgium (112 ranks), Portugal (113 ranks) and Japan (114 ranks).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CAF: London, UK

APPOINTMENTS ON 16TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Mukesh Sharma: He was appointed as Honorary Member of WHO's Global Air Pollution and Health-Technical Advisory Group (GAPH-TAG). He is serving as a Professor at IIT Kanpur.

ABOUT

- **Naftali Bennett:** He was appointed as 13th Prime Minister of Israel. He has replaced Benjamin Netanyahu.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
 - Currency of Israel: Israeli New Shekel
- **Vinoo Mankad:** He was among 10 icons who were inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. The other icons are: Aubrey Faulkner (South Africa), Monty Noble (Australia), Sir Learie Constantine (West Indies), Stan McCabe (Australia), Ted Dexter (England), Desmond Haynes (West Indies), Bob Willis (England), Andy Flower (Zimbabwe) and Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka).

UJJIVAN SFB PARTNERED WITH MOENGAGE

Current Context: The Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) entered into partnership with MoEngage which is the customer engagement platform.

DETAILS

- **They have partnered to provide digital banking experiences in the unserved and underserved areas of the country.**
- They will work jointly to connect the bank with customers in the unserved and underserved regions through multiple digital touchpoints.
- They will offer accessibility like the website, app, email, text message, social media and branches to drive business growth, particularly in such areas.
- Under this partnership, Ujjivan SFB will target SMS campaigns with the aim to encourage digital repayments.
- The campaign will grant options to the customers to make payments either digitally or through cash deposit.
- The campaign will be driven by MoEngage in 12 different regional languages and will educate the community on how to pay online bills.
- The partnership will thus enhance digital knowledge related to banking among the community of unserved and underserved regions.

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Ujjivan SFB: Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - MD and CEO of Ujjivan SFB: Nitin Chug
 - Tagline of Ujjivan SFB: Build a better life
 - HQ of MoEngage: California, US
 - CEO and Co-Founder of MoEngage: Raviteja Dodda

‘REPORT IT, DON’T SHARE IT!’--- FACEBOOK

Current Context: The major platform of social media, Facebook has launched a new initiative called ‘Report it, Don’t share it!’

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The initiative creates awareness for the people to not post and share any child abuse content on the Facebook platform.**
- **The initiative is launched by Facebook in partnership with civil society organisations like Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation and Arpan.**
- The launching of the initiative took place by rolling out an animated video that showcased the negative impact that the circulation of child abuse content could have on the child who’s the subject of such content, even if it’s about condemning the act.
- The initiative encourages people to report abusive or harmful content if they come across the social media platform.
- The tech giant has asked people to report child abuse content by calling 1098 and to the Childline India Foundation.
- Also, if the content exists on Facebook’s family of apps, it can be reported on fb.me/online child protection.
- Facebook has also included an option to choose “involves a child” under the “Nudity and Sexual Activity” category for reporting child abuse content from Facebook and Instagram.
- **For this initiative, Facebook has selected Bollywood actress Neha Dhupia who runs a community ‘Freedom to Feed’ on Instagram, to promote the initiative.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Facebook: California, US
 - CEO of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg

RBI ALLOWED PREPAID MOBILE RECHARGES THROUGH BBPS

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed prepaid mobile recharges through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

KEY FACTS

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operates BBPS. The BBPS is an interoperable platform for recurring bill payments.
- The decision was announced in regards to constant development in distinct biller categories and to allow mobile prepaid customers with additional options to recharge.
- Also, 'mobile prepaid recharges' as a biller category will be inducted in BBPS. The changes for the same will be implemented on or before 31st August 2021.
- Also in May 2021, around 213.59 million bill payment transactions took place through the BBPS platform.
- BBPS grants bill payment services to consumers through a network of agents, retail shops, bank branches and digital channels like internet banking of banks, banking mobile apps, also through multiple payment modes like Card, UPI, AePS, wallet, cash with instant confirmation.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI and NPCI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
 - MD and CEO of NPCI: Dilip Asbe

PM MODI ADDRESSED UN HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON DDLD

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the UN 'High Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land degradation and Drought (DDLD)'.

KEY POINTS

- PM Modi is the President of the 14th session of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- The UN High-Level Dialogue on DDLD was attended by Executive Secretary of UNCCD, Ibrahim Thiaw along with the leaders from various organisations.
- The objective of the event was to discuss the challenges associated with DDLD and to enhance SDG implementation, restore ecosystems and climate change adaptation etc.
- PM Modi addressed the event by discussing India's efforts to restore the degraded lands. He highlighted that in the last decade, around 3 million hectares of forest cover was added in India, which resulted in an increase in the combined forest cover to one-fourth of India's total area.
- Also, India has kept a target to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 and thus achieve a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
- Also, the Centre of Excellence will be developed in India to have a scientific way to address land degradation issues.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNCCD: Bonn, Germany

ADB GRANTS \$484 MILLION LOAN TO GOI

Current Context: The Government of India (GOI) has signed a loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to upgrade transport connectivity and have industrial development in the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu. The CKIC is part of the East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) of India, which stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu.

ABOUT

- In this regards, a loan agreement of USD 484 million was signed between GOI and ADB.
- The CKIC project will grant seamless road connectivity across industrial clusters, transport gateways and consumption centres which will prove beneficial to the industrial sector of the state.
- The loan amount will also help to reduce logistics and production costs for CKIC's targeted industries to boost their competitiveness.
- Under the project, around 590 km of state highways in the CKIC focused areas will be upgraded so that they will connect 23 of the 32 districts between Chennai and Kanyakumari.
- The project will transform the industries by developing essential transport, energy and urban infrastructure of the state.
- It will also lead to creating employment opportunities along the corridor.
- The project will also enhance road safety by using advanced technologies for road monitoring and enforcement.
- Various climate change adaptation measures will be incorporated in highway upgradation like improvement in the drainage, raised road embankments in critical sections, and resizing of bridges and culverts.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
 - Ports in Tamil Nadu: Chennai Port, V.O.Chidambaranar Port, Ennore Port

MOU BETWEEN MOPSW AND MOCA

Current Context: The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) have signed MoU to develop Sea Plane services in India.

DETAILS

- The MoU will lead to having the development of the Non-Scheduled/Scheduled operation of seaplane services in India.
- The development will take place under the RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme- Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme of GOI.
- The MoU will also lead to developing new water aerodromes and the operationalization of new seaplane routes in the country.
- This will also boost tourism services and will impart eco-friendly transportation facilities in the country.

- The MoPSW will develop the waterfront infrastructure of the aerodrome and its locations. It will also obtain statutory clearance to start seaplane operations.
- The MoCA will grant funding support under RCS-UDAN Scheme.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister (IC) of Ports, Shipping and Waterways: Mansukh Mandviya
 - Union Minister (IC) of Civil Aviation: Hardeep Singh Puri

‘DEEP OCEAN MISSION’

Current Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM Modi has approved ‘Deep Ocean Mission’.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The mission was proposed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).**
- **The ‘Deep Ocean Mission’ will allow exploring the deep ocean for resources.**
- **It will also lead to developing deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.**
- The mission supports the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India. It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- **The mission will be executed for 5 years and the estimated cost for the mission is Rs 4077 crore which will be allocated in a phased manner.**
- The estimated cost for the first phase for the 3 years (2021-2024) would be Rs.2823.4 crore.
- **The 6 major components of Deep Ocean Mission are:** (1) Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining, and Manned Submersible (2) Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services (3) Technological innovations for exploration and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity (4) Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration (5) Energy and freshwater from the Ocean (6) Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology.
- The technologies which are required to perform deep sea mining are not commercially available and also possess strategic implications. Therefore, efforts will be made to indigenize technologies by collaborating with leading institutes and private industries.
- The research vessel which will be required to explore the Deep Ocean will be built in an Indian shipyard which will create employment opportunities.
- Also due to this mission, capacity development will take place in Marine Biology. The startups, MSME and major industries working to develop specialised equipment, ships and allied infrastructure are expected to observe growth in the upcoming years due to this mission.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Earth Science: Dr Harsh Vardhan

APPOINTMENTS ON 18TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Satya Nadella: Microsoft Corporation appointed CEO Satya Nadella to be their Chairman. He has replaced John Thompson.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Microsoft Corporation: Redmond, Washington, U.S
- **Sumant Sinha:** He was named as one of the SDG Pioneer of the Year by the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). He is one among the ten such global leaders who were named SDG Pioneer 2021. He is CMD of ReNew Power. He has worked to attain SDG by implementing UNGC's ten principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. He was particularly recognized as SDG Pioneer 2021 for his contributonal work towards SDG Target 7 called 'Providing advanced accessibility to the affordable energy'.
- **Anand Mohan Bajaj:** He was appointed as a Member of the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He has replaced Tarun Bajaj, who was appointed as Revenue Secretary. Currently, he is serving as Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi
- **Yuvraj Singh:** He was appointed as the Brand Ambassador of PUMA Motorsports in India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi

'ICICI STACK FOR CORPORATES'

Current Context: India's private sector bank, ICICI Bank launched 'ICICI STACK for Corporates'.

KEY POINTS

- The 'ICICI STACK for Corporates' is a comprehensive set of digital banking solutions for the corporate sector and its entire entities like promoters, group companies, employees, dealers, vendors and stakeholders.
- The 'ICICI STACK for Corporates' solution enables the corporate sector and its associated entities to meet their banking requirements in a seamless manner.
- The solution allows ICICI Bank to grant customised digital banking services to companies in over 15 leading industries like financial services, IT/ITES, pharmaceuticals, steel etc.
- It offers a digital banking platform to the corporates and allied partners like channel partners, dealers, vendors, employees, promoters, directors and signatories.
- The solution offers industry-first features and the solution can further be tailor-made for companies within an industry.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of ICICI Bank: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Aapka
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakshi
 - The bank was established by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI).

5TH GLOBAL TECH EVENT VIVATECH

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the fifth edition of the global tech event VivaTech via video conference.

KEY FACTS

- VivaTech is the largest global tech event in Europe which was held in Paris.
- It was jointly organised by Publicis Groupe, which is a prominent advertising and marketing conglomerate and Les Echos which is a leading French media group.
- At the event, PM Modi was invited as the Guest of Honour and to address the keynote.
- The event observed the participation of the President of France Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sanchez and Ministers and MPs from various European countries.
- While addressing the event, PM Modi highlighted India's strides in the world of tech and start-up.
- He invited the world to invest in India by mentioning strong features of India like Talent, Market Culture of Openness, Eco-system and Capital.
- The event also observed the participation of stakeholders in technology innovation and the startup ecosystem. Various exhibitions, awards, panel discussions and startup contests were organised in the event.

CONFERENCE OF BRICS NETWORK UNIVERSITIES

Current Context: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay hosted the 'Conference of BRICS Network Universities'.

DETAILS

- IIT Bombay is the lead institution of India for the BRICS Network University.
- The conference was held as a part of India's Chairmanship of the 13th BRICS Summit in 2021.
- **The theme of the conference was:** 'Electric Mobility'.
- The main moto of the BRICS Network University is to enhance educational cooperation and to have research and innovation works.
- Around 18 experts from BRICS nations participated in the conference and discussed electric mobility. Around 100 students, researchers and faculty members from the BRICS Network Universities were part of a conference.
- They held the discussion on topics like traffic management, hydrogen technology, hybrid vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and linkage between e-mobility and livelihoods.

MOC SIGNED MOU WITH MOPSW

Current Context: The Ministry of Culture (MoC) signed MoU with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed for the purpose of developing cooperation in the Development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.**
- The NMHC is the country's first of its kind complex facility which is meant for the legacy of the maritime heritage of India
- The NMHC will be developed at the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) site at Lothal, Gujarat.
- It will be an international tourist destination through which the maritime heritage of India from ancient to modern times will be showcased.
- It will be given an edutainment approach by the use of the latest technology in order to spread awareness about India's maritime heritage.
- The area of around 400 acres will be accommodated by NMHC.
- The NMHC will be comprised of various unique structures like National Maritime Heritage Museum, Light House Museum, Heritage Theme Park, Museum Themed Hotels & Maritime themed eco-resorts, Maritime Institute.
- Thus it will recreate the ancient Lothal city, which is one of the prominent city of the Indus Valley Civilization dating to 2400BC.
- Both the ministries will support each other to develop NMHC during each phase of its construction, operation, sustenance, maintenance etc.
- The technical understanding of the design, lighting and digital technology for the NMHC will be provided by MoC.
- The NMHC fundraising will take place through National Culture Fund (NCF). Through NCF, MoC will grant Rs 15 crore to develop NMHC.
- MoC will also provide needed collaboration to NMHC for all maritime heritage subjects under its project 'Mausam'.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of the state for Culture: Prahlad Singh Patel
 - Union Minister of the state for Ports, Shipping and Waterways: Mansukh Mandaviya

WORLD COMPETITIVENESS INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Institute for Management Development (IMD) released World Competitiveness Index 2021.

KEY POINTS

- **As per the index rankings, India is ranked at 43rd position.**
- **The index ranking is topped by Switzerland.**
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are marked by Sweden and Denmark respectively.
- **Ranks of India in 4 parameters are:** Government Efficiency (46th Rank), Economic Performance (37th Rank), Business Efficiency (32nd Rank) and Infrastructure (49th Rank).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Institute for Management Development (IMD): Lausanne, Switzerland

H-ENERGY SIGNED MOU WITH PETROBANGLA

Current Context: Hiranandani Energy (H-Energy) entered into MoU with Petrobangla , which is the Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation of Bangladesh.

KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed for the long-term supply of re-gasified LNG from India to Bangladesh through a cross-border natural gas pipeline.**
- The H-Energy will provide supply for LNG to Bangladesh through 250 km 'Kanai Chatta (West Bengal), Shrirampur (Bangladesh) Natural Gas Pipeline, which will be commissioned in 2023.
- The H-Energy has received authorization from Petroleum and Natural gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to build its own and operate Kanai Chatta-Shrirampur natural gas pipeline. The pipeline will connect H-Energy's LNG terminal in West Bengal passing through various regions of the state and further connecting to the Bangladesh border, which will further allow cross border supply of re-gasified LNG into Bangladesh.
- The H-Energy will be responsible to source LNG and supply R-LNG to Petrobangla, which will further supply R-LNG to the gas-based producers in Bangladesh.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of H-Energy: Mumbai
 - HQ of Petrobangla: Dhaka, Bangladesh
 - Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka
 - Currency of Bangladesh: Taka

'CUSTOMIZED CRASH COURSE PROGRAMME FOR COVID19 FRONTLINE WORKERS'

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Customized Crash Course Programme for Covid 19 Frontline Workers' via video conference.

DETAILS

- **The training session will be conducted in 111 training centres spread over 26 states. The programme will grant training to one lakh frontline workers.**
- The programme was launched with the aim to keep the nation ready to fight against Corona in its next phase. Therefore, to meet the challenges, the COVID-19 workers will be trained through this programme.
- The training for 6 job roles namely Home Care Support, Basic Care Support, Advanced Care Support, Emergency Care Support, Sample Collection Support, and Medical Equipment Support will be given to the Covid 19 Frontline Workers.
- The 'Customized Crash Course Programme for Covid 19 Frontline Workers' is designed as a special programme under the Central Component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0. It is allotted with the financial support of Rs 276 crore.

- **Static Part:**

- The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 is an initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: Mahendra Nath Pandey

15TH GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) of Sydney announced the 15th Global Peace Index (GPI).

ABOUT

- The GPI is the measure of global peacefulness across the world.
- **As per the index, India is ranked at 135th position in GPI among 163 independent states and territories.**
- The score of India in GPI is 2.553 and it means 'Low State of Peace' category.
- **The index is topped by Iceland and is thus termed to be the most peaceful country in the world.**
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are marked by New Zealand and Denmark respectively.
- The countries are ranked by considering 23 indicators in 3 domains of societal safety and security, ongoing domestic and international conflicts, and degree of militarization.

INDIA AND BHUTAN SIGNED MOU

Current Context: India and Bhutan have entered into MoU with an aim to develop cooperation in the area of the environment.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Both the nations will cooperate with each other in the area of climate change, waste management etc.
- Due to the MoU, technological and scientific approaches will be shared to maintain the quality of the environment and deal with issues related to climate change, waste management etc.
- Both nations will share best practices to prevent air pollution, chemical management, climate change, waste management etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bhutan: Thimphu
 - Currency of Bhutan: Bhutanese Ngultrum

US-INDIA HYDROGEN TASK FORCE

Current Context: India and the United States jointly launched a Hydrogen Task Force.

KEY FACTS

- The hydrogen task force was launched under their Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) to enhance India's energy security efforts.
- The announcement for the same was made by US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- **The US-India Hydrogen Task Force was launched by the United States Department of Energy, Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the USISPF.**
- The task force will be the representing platform for industries, stakeholders and will allow accessibility to the technology, innovative policy reforms and will allow recommendations as well.
- The task force will fill the gap between research activities of both nations and will impart unique industry perspectives to research activities in order to achieve the goal of decarbonizing high-polluting industrial sectors and a clean and green planet.
- Due to the hydrogen task force, the US and India will be able to solve the climate crisis by finding ways to scale up access, affordability, and deployment of critical hydrogen technologies.

RBI APPROVED CFSL TO TAKE OVER PMC BANK VIA SFB

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave 'in-principle' approval to Centrum Financial Services Ltd (CFSL) to form a small finance bank (SFB), which will take over the beleaguered Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank).

DETAILS

- With this approval, the Jaspal Bindra-led Centrum Capital (a holding entity for CFSL) and BharatPe will infuse Rs 1,800 crore into the small finance bank.
- Both Centrum and BharatPe will hold 50% shares in SFB and the assets and liabilities of the multistate cooperative bank will be transferred to it.
- To commence the operation, it will take 120 days.
- The approval by RBI given to Centrum is in accordance with the offer made by Centrum through the expression of interest (Eoi) to take over PMC Bank.
- During the first year, Rs 900 crore will be infused by the partners to start the business operations and acquire PMC Bank and during the second year, equity funding of Rs 900 crore will take place.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PMC Bank: Mumbai
 - HQ of BharatPe: Delhi
 - CEO of BharatPe: Ashneer Grover
 - HQ of CFSL: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of CFSL: Ranjan Ghosh

42ND FAO CONFERENCE

Current Context: The 42nd session of the Food and Agriculture's Organisation (FAO) conference was held in a virtual manner.

ABOUT

- The conference was addressed by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.
- The conference was held as the major governing body of UN's FAO and it is being held once in 2 years.
- At the conference, FAO Members adopted the Strategic Framework 2022-2031.
- The Strategic Framework 2022-2031 was adopted to support Sustainable Development through the agri-food systems for Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment, and a Better Life, with an aim that no one should be left behind.
- Indian side firstly congratulated FAO for completing 75 years of dedicational service on 16th Oct 2020 and also thanked FAO for contributing support for India's proposal to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- Various initiatives taken by GOI like KISAN RAIL, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana were discussed at the conference.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FAO: Rome, Italy
 - DG of FAO: QU Dongyu

PM NARENDRA MODI LAUNCHED M-YOGA APP

Current Context: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressed the 7th event of International Yoga Day on 21st June 2021.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- While addressing the event, he launched M-Yoga App which will be available worldwide.
- The app will be comprised of yoga training videos in different languages for people across the world.
- The app is launched by India in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Ayush.
- The videos will be based on Common Yoga Protocol.
- While addressing the event, PM Modi mentioned the importance of Yoga especially during the state of pandemic and how does yoga help to maintain health and provide fast relief from COVID-19.
- The event was also addressed by the Minister of State for Ayush Kiren Rijiju as well as a live yoga demonstration by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland
 - DG of WHO: Tedros Adhanom
 - Theme for International Yoga Day 2021: Yoga for wellness

APPOINTMENTS ON 21ST JUNE 2021

Current Context: Aashish Chandorkar: He was appointed as the Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission in the World Wide Organisation (WTO) for the tenure of 3 years.

ABOUT

- **Antonio Guterres:** He was re-elected as the Secretary of United Nations for the 2nd 5-year tenure i.e. till 31st Dec 2026.
- **Ebrahim Raisi:** He will become President of Iran. He will be replacing Hassan Rouhani.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Iran: Tehran
 - Currency of Iran: Iranian Toman

TWO SCHEMES LAUNCHED IN BIHAR FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar launched two ambitious schemes to support the youth and women of the state.

KEY FACTS

- **The two schemes are:** (1) 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojna' (2) 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyami Yojna'.
- Main objective of both the schemes is to promote entrepreneurship among youth and women of all sections under the state's 'Mukhaya Mantri Udyami Yojna' scheme.
 - **'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojna':** Under this scheme, the unemployed youth of the state, will be granted Rs 10 lakh support to commence an enterprise or industry or business. Out of Rs 10 lakhs, Rs 5 lakh will be the subsidy amount and the remaining Rs 5 lakh will be the loan amount having the simple interest of 1% which is to return in instalments.
 - **'Mukhaya Mantri Udyami Yojna':** Under this, the unemployed women of the state will be granted Rs 10 lakh support to commence an enterprise or industry or business. Out of Rs 10 lakhs, Rs 5 lakh will be the subsidy amount that women do not have to return and the remaining Rs 5 lakh will be an interest-free loan.
- **Static Part:**
 - Folk Dance of Bihar: Jhijhian, Jat-Jatin, Jhumeri Dance, Sohar-Khilouna, Sama Chakeva

TRIBAL MINISTRY PARTNERED WITH NCERT

Current Context: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have joined hands with NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training).

KEY POINTS

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: June 2021

- They have collaborated to fulfil the objective of the ministry to attain academic excellence in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).
- Both the entities will attain excellence among 120 EMRS teachers and principals of 3 states which completed 40 days' NISHTHA programme called as National initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement Program.
- They will work for NISHTHA Capacity Building Programme for EMRS Principals and Teachers.
- They will also develop competencies among teachers and school principals and will work to improve the quality of education through Integrated Teacher Training.
- The first batch of 120 EMRS teachers and principals were selected from 3 states viz., Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and were trained on 18 holistic and comprehensive modules like Learning Outcomes, Assessment Practices, learner-centred pedagogy, Art-Integrated Learning, Gender Equality, Covid Response of Schools, POCSO Act, Pedagogy of Science, Mathematics, Language, Social Science Subjects etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda

INDIA—5TH LARGEST RECIPIENT OF FDI IN 2020

Current Context: As per the UN Report, named as World Investment Report 2021 which was released by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India is the 5th largest recipient of inflows in the world for 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- India received USD 64 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2020, and thus is placed at 5th position for the same.
- Also as per the report, there is an increase of 27% to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019. The increase is due to the acquisitions in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry.
- The global FDI has reduced by 35% in 2020 i.e. to USD 1 trillion from USD 1.5 trillion in 2019.
- The United States remained at 1st position for the largest recipient of FDI in 2020. The 2nd position was marked by China for being the largest recipient of FDI in 2020.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNCTAD: Geneva, Switzerland

UNION BANK OF INDIA SIGNED MOU WITH NSIC

Current Context: The Union Bank of India signed MoU with National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC).

KEY POINTS

- The MoU was signed to grant support to MSMEs through credit requirements.
- The MoU was signed under the 'NSIC Band Credit Facilitation Scheme'.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: June 2021

- As a part of this MoU, the branch offices of NSIC which operate as a Finance Facilitation Centre (FFC) will support the MSME sector by offering them a loan from the Union Bank of India.
- The NSIC Branch will provide support to the MSME unit by assisting them in completing all documentation as required for further submission to the Bank.
- The MoU agreement was signed by PK Das, FGM-Delhi on behalf of the Union Bank of India and P R Kumar CGM, NSIC.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Union Bank of India: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Union Bank of India: Rajkiran Rai G
 - Tagline of Union Bank of India: Good People to Bank with
 - HQ of NSIC: New Delhi

APPOINTMENTS ON 22ND JUNE 2021

Current Context: N Venkatram: He was appointed to be the new member of the Takeover Panel set up by SEBI. He is MD and CEO of Deloitte India. The panel is headed by Justice N K Sodhi. The other members of the Takeover Panel are Darius Khambata and Thomas Mathew T.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi
- **Montek Singh Ahluwalia:** He was named a member of a high-level advisory group of sustainable and inclusive recovery and growth formed by the World Bank and IMF. The group will be led by Mari Pangestu, Ceyla Pazarbasioglu and Lord Nicholas Stern.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank and IMF: Washington DC, US
 - President of World Bank: Dabid Malpass
 - MD of IMF: Kristalina Georgieva

INDIA PARTICIPATED IN NAVAL EXERCISE WITH THE EU NAVAL FORCE

Current Context: The Indian Navy participated in a joint naval exercise with the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) which was held in the Gulf of Eden.

KEY FACTS

- **The Indian side was represented by the Indian Naval Ship Trikand.**
- The European side was represented by 5 warships namely, Italian Navy Ship ITS Carabiner, Spanish Navy Ship ESPS Navarra and two French Navy Ships FS Surcouf and FS Tonnerre.

- The motto of the joint naval exercise was to enhance war-fighting skills in order to have peace, security in the maritime sector.
- The navies participated in exercise through high-tempo naval operations at sea, including anti-submarine exercise, advanced air defence, tactical manoeuvres, cross deck helicopter operations underway replenishment, boarding operations, man overboard drills, search and rescue and other maritime security operations.
- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Indian Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
 - HQ of EUNAVFOR: Rota, Spain

‘ASHIRBAD’ SCHEME-- ODISHA

Current Context: Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik launched the ‘Ashirbad’ Scheme.

DETAILS

- **The scheme aims to provide financial support to the orphan children of the state who have lost either or both parents due to Coronavirus.**
- Under the scheme, Rs 2,500 per month will be provided to the children who have lost both parents due to coronavirus and Rs 1500 per month to those who have lost a single parent due to the coronavirus on or after 1st April 2020.
- The amount will be transferred to the bank accounts of the guardians or caretakers of such children. The amount will be transferred till they attain the age of 18.
- The CM of the state also announced that children will be able to avail benefits under the state’s green passage scheme for higher education, Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana which will allow them to avail free medical services, central and state food security scheme.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lakes in Odisha: Anshupa Lake, Chilika Lake, Kanjia Lake
 - Stadium in Odisha: Barabati Stadium, Kalinga Stadium, Dilip Tirkey Stadium

‘MUKHYAMANTRI COVID-19 PARIWAR AARTHIK SAHAYATA YOJANA’

Current Context: The government of Delhi launched ‘Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana’.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The yojana aims to grant financial assistance to the families who lost a member due to Coronavirus.**
- Under the scheme Rs, 50,000 ex-gratia will be given to such families along with additional Rs 2,500 per month if the deceased was the sole breadwinner.

- Also the CM of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal assured to provide free education and financial assistance to children who have lost one or both parents.
- Also, the government will consider a single member of the affected family to be enrolled as a civil defence volunteer.
- There is no income criterion to apply to get ex-gratia under this scheme, but the deceased and dependant must be from Delhi.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Lt Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

INDIA AND FIJI SIGNED MOU

Current Context: India and Fiji entered into an MoU agreement to develop cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.

KEY POINTS

- The MoU was signed by the Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar and Fiji's Minister of Agriculture, Waterways & Environment Mahendra Reddy in a virtual manner.
- The tenure of MoU is 5 years and will prove to be a milestone in strengthening the multi-faceted cooperation between both nations.
- The MoU will impart cooperation in the areas like dairy and rice industry development, root crop diversification, water resources management, coconut industry development, food processing industry development, agriculture mechanisation, horticulture industry Development, Agri research, Animal Husbandry, pest and disease, value addition and marketing, post-harvest and milling, breeding and agronomy.
- The execution of the MoU will be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India and the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the Republic of Fiji.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Fiji: Suva
 - Currency of Fiji: Fijian Dollar

APPOINTMENTS ON 23RD JUNE 2021

Current Context: Upasana Kamineni: She was appointed as Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes by the World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of WWF India: New Delhi
 - President of WWF India: Arvind Wable

- **Jasprit Bumrah:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of OnePlus Wearables including the OnePlus Watch and the OnePlus Band.
- **Karim Khan:** He is a British Human Rights Lawyer and was appointed as the new Chief Prosecutor of the International Cricket Council (ICC) for a tenure of 9 years. He has replaced Fatou Bensouda of Gambia.
- **Nikol Pashinyan:** He is the Armenian Prime Minister and has won a majority in the snap parliamentary elections with 53.9% of the vote.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Armenia: Yerevan
 - Currency of Armenia: Armenian Dram

AIRTEL AND TCS PARTNERED FOR 5G SERVICES

Current Context: The Bharti Airtel entered into a strategic partnership with the Tata Group for 5G network solutions.

KEY FACTS

- **Both the entities will jointly implement 5G Network Solutions for India and will make it available for commercial development from January 2022.**
- For this purpose, they will make use of open radio access network (ORAN) technology. The ORAN based radio and non-standalone architecture or stand-alone architecture core (NSA/SA) will be used.
- The NSA/SA will control the signalling of 5G radio.
- The Bharti Airtel has roped in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for its system integration capability.
- **Static Part:**
 - CEO of Bharti Airtel: Gopal Vittal
 - Chairman of Tata Group: Natarajan Chandradekaran

ICMED 13485 PLUS

Current Context: The Quality Council of India (QCI) has launched 'Indian Certification of Medical Devices 13485 PLUS Scheme (ICMED 13485 PLUS).

DETAILS

- It was launched to perform verification of medical devices in the areas like quality, safety and effectiveness.
- The latest scheme is the upgraded version of the ICMED scheme which was launched in 2016 to certify medical devices.
- The upgraded version was drafted by QCI and the Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices (AiMeD).

- Under the scheme, quality management systems and product certification standards are integrated to have regulatory norms.
- By integrating quality management systems and product certification standards it witnesses the testing of products by considering reference products and specifications.
- ICMED is an end to end quality assurance scheme for medical devices and the ICMED 13485 PLUS offers an institutional mechanism to assure product quality and safety of medical devices.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of QCI: New Delhi
 - Chairperson of QCI: Adil Zainulbhai
 - Secretary-General of QCI: Dr Ravi P Singh
 - HQ of AiMeD: New Delhi

WORLD'S 1ST GREEN RATING SYSTEM FOR HSR

Current Context: The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) has collaborated with the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) to form the world's first exclusive Green Rating System for High-Speed Rail (HSR).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The MAHSR (Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail) Corridor will be inducted for the Green Rating System for High-Speed Rail (HSR).
- The Green HSR Ratings will be framed by IGBC. The ratings will help railway stations to offer environmental sustainability features to improve the commuter experience.
- A rating system is a tool that will enable new High-Speed Rail (HSR) stations, to apply energy-efficient concepts during design and construction.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IGBC: Hyderabad, Telangana
 - HQ of NHSRCL: New Delhi

G20 EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING

Current Context: The G20 Education Ministers' Meeting was held recently.

KEY FACTS

- **The meeting was held to ensure continuity of quality education during the pandemic state of COVID-19.**
- **India was represented by Minister of State for Education, Sanjay Dhotre.**
- The meeting was hosted by Italy.
- The dignitaries assured to eliminate inequalities in education and workspace.
- At the meeting, India's contribution to uplift education in various areas were mentioned by Minister of State for Education, Sanjay Dhotre.

- He mentioned that India is working to reduce educational poverty, inequalities and early school leaving issues.
- The dignitaries assured to share and cooperate in developing innovative resources and ideas to ensure continuity in education in any vulnerable stages.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Education Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

APPOINTMENTS ON 24TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Dr Tadang Minu: She is from Arunachal Pradesh and has become first in the state and second in India to be appointed as a member of the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of AIBA: Lausanne, Switzerland
- **Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari:** He was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. He has replaced Sanjay Yadav.
- **Laurel Hubbard:** She is a weightlifter from New Zealand and has become the first transgender athlete to compete at the Olympics Games.
- **Mawya Sudan:** She has become the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to be inducted as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force.
- **Dr Pratima Murthy:** She was appointed as the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS).
- **Manpreet Singh:** He was appointed as the captain for India's Men's Hockey Team for Tokyo Olympics.
- **Rani Rampal:** She was appointed as the captain for India's Women's Hockey Team for Tokyo Olympics.

'CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON START-UPS AND RISK FINANCING' (CREST)

Current Context: The IIT Madras has launched 'Centre for Research on Start-Ups and Risk Financing' (CREST).

KEY POINTS

- The CREST will offer academic and thought leadership in areas like innovation, entrepreneurship and risk capital.
- The centre will help to create a data repository on Indian start-ups and ventures. It will solve the issues and remove drawbacks in order to have high-quality research activities.
- The data repository will be developed on innovation, venturing and risk capital which will create infrastructure to carry high-quality research.

- The centre will be a source of information for researchers & policymakers that can result in top-tier publications.
- It will establish a cross-country collaborative research system which will help in the use of unique data sets on start-ups and venture capital.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM SIGNED MOU WITH SURVEY OF INDIA

Current Context: The Government of Assam has entered into MoU with the Survey of India (Sol) which is the National Mapping Agency to implement the SVAMITVA Scheme in Assam.

DETAILS

- The SVAMITVA signifies Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas.
- The SVAMITVA Scheme aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural areas.
- The scheme will be implemented by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and the Assam Government's Department of Revenue and Disaster Management with the support of the Panchayat and Rural Development.
- The Survey of India (Sol) will be the technology partner and will perform the necessary steps for a survey of inhabited rural land by drone.
- The Sol will establish ground-based control stations which will allow a detailed spatial database of properties in rural areas.
- The MoU will help to reduce property related disputes in rural areas and legal cases of the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - About SVAMITVA Scheme: It was launched on a pilot basis on 24th April Union Minister of Panchayati Raj: Narendra Singh Tomar
 - HQ of Sol: Dehradun, Uttarakhand
 - Lakes in Assam: Chandubi Lake, Chapanal Lake, Haflong Lake, Son Beel Lake

WORLD BANK, GOI AND GOV. OF MIZORAM ENTERED INTO LOAN AGREEMENT

Current Context: The World Bank, Government of India and Government of Mizoram have entered into a loan agreement for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The GOI and the Government of Mizoram have signed a \$32 million loan agreement with World Bank.**
- The project aims to improve the management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram.
- The project will benefit under-served areas and vulnerable groups of the state.

- It will improve governance and the management structure of the Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) and its subsidiaries of the state.
- The loan amount will be used to improve the quality and coverage facilities of health services to the communities of the state.
- The state government will also use the loan amount to invest in a comprehensive Quality Assurance program that will deliver the certified health facilities.
- The loan amount will be used to build synergies with the GOI's Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY) and thus will reduce the financial burden of the people to access health services.
- **Static Part:**
 - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Mizoram: Dampa Tiger Reserve, Khawnglung Wildlife Sanctuary, Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary, Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary, Palak (Tokalo) Wildlife Sanctuary

GUJARAT CM LAUNCHED 'AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION SCHEME-2021'

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Gujarat, Vijay Rupani launched the 'Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021' in a virtual manner.

KEY FACTS

- **The scheme aims to make agriculture sustainable and profitable in the tribal areas of the state.**
- It will benefit more than 1.26 lakh, vanbandhu farmers, from tribal areas of the state.
- Under the scheme, the state government will distribute fertilizer-seed assistance worth Rs 31 crores to tribal farmers.
- It will be comprised of 45 kg of urea, 50 kg of NPK and 50 kg of ammonium sulphate.
- Also the seeds of Maize, Karela, Calabash, tomato and millet will be provided to the farmers so that they can cultivate them.
- **Static Part:**
 - Folk dance of Gujarat: Garba, Dandiya Raas, Tippani Dance, Padhar dance
 - Dams in Gujarat: Sardar Sarovar Dam (Narmada river), Ukai Dam (Tapti River), Kadana Dam (Mahi River), Karjan Reservoir (Karjan river)

BRICS GREEN HYDROGEN SUMMIT 2021

Current Context: India hosted BRICS Green Hydrogen Summit 2021 in a virtual manner.

KEY POINTS

- **The anchoring of the event was made by NTPC Ltd.**
- **The motto of the summit was to discuss and address issues faced in the Green Hydrogen sector in areas like technology, finance and efficiency.**

- At the meet, India mentioned the need to have a common international standard for green hydrogen. The standards will help to have safe transportation and storage of new-age emission-free fuel.
- At the summit, the representatives from each BRICS nation shared their initiatives taken by their respective nations for the usage of hydrogen and their future plans in this particular area. They discussed the technologies adopted by them for hydrogen.
- They also discussed integrating hydrogen in the energy policy framework by different nations.
- **Static Part:**
 - Green Hydrogen: When hydrogen is produced by performing electrolysis using renewable energy, it is known as Green Hydrogen. And it contains no carbon footprint

DIGITAL SKILL CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME—NSDC AND WHATSAPP

Current Context: The Digital Skill Champions Programme was launched by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and WhatsApp.

DETAILS

- Under this programme, both NSDC and WhatsApp will provide training to the Indian youth about digital skills and make them capable of employment opportunities.
- Both the entities have identified collaboration in the areas like: WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) and WhatsApp Business App Training session.
- Under the programme, school & university students will be granted training sessions for digital and online skills and further, they will be certified by WhatsApp and NSDC as 'Digital Skill Champions'.
- The courses under the programme are framed as module-based formats.
- The programme will train the students with technology-based learning on campuses across tier III and IV towns and cities.
- The programme will be executed through WhatsApp's project implementation partner, InfiSpark.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of WhatsApp: California, USA
 - CEO of WhatsApp: Will Cathart
 - HQ of NSDC: New Delhi
 - MD and CEO of NSDC: Manish Kumar

'PAY YOUR CONTACT' FEATURE ON KMBL'S MOBILE BANKING APP

Current Context: India's one of the major Private sector bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL) has launched the 'Pay Your Contact' feature.

ABOUT

- It is rolled out on KMBL's mobile banking app which is based on the Unified Payments Interface platform.
- The 'Pay Your Contact' feature allows its customers to send money or make payments to any of their contacts across all payment apps simply by entering the beneficiary's mobile number.
- The feature thus makes payment transactions easy and simple and it is associated with high security.
- The feature is also a solution to interoperability. As almost every Indian with a bank account has a UPI ID, therefore, the customers can transfer the funds easily to any UPI-linked bank account across payment apps with just a mobile number.
- The feature also removes the drawback of remembering or obtaining the bank account number or IFSC code to transfer the payment to the beneficiaries.
- Only one thing the customer has to do is to select a contact saved on one's mobile phone or enter the mobile number of the beneficiary, select the UPI app or a KMBL account linked to the beneficiary's number and effortlessly transfer the money.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Kotak Mahindra Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Kotak Mahindra Bank: Let's Make Money Simple
 - MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank: Uday Kotak

DENMARK SIGNED FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON ISA WITH INDIA

Current Context: The Kingdom of Denmark signed the framework agreement on the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Instrument of Ratification with India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **By doing so, Denmark has become 1st nation to ratify the ISA framework agreement.**
- The copies were signed by Freddy Svane, Ambassador, Royal Danish Embassy.
- The announcement of this was made by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.
- ISA is an alliance of over 120 nations which is initiated by India. It was launched by PM Narendra Modi and then France President Francois Hollande ahead of the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, France.
- The ISA aims to have efficient usage and consumption of solar energy in order to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. It also aims to contribute to implementing Paris Climate Agreement by deploying solar energy.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ISA: Gurugram, Haryana
 - DG of ISA: Ajay Mathur
 - Capital of Denmark: Copenhagen
 - Currency of Denmark: Danish Krone

‘AAROGYAM HEALTHCARE BUSINESS LOAN’—SBI

Current Context: The State Bank of India (SBI) launched the Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan facility.

KEY POINTS

- **The loan facility offers support to the healthcare sector during the COVID-19 pandemic situation.**
- The loan facility can be availed by the entire healthcare ecosystem like hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres, pathology labs, manufacturers, suppliers, importers, logistic firms which are involved in the healthcare sector.
- The healthcare ecosystem can avail of loan up to Rs 100 crore (as per the geographic location) under the Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan facility.
- The loan is to be repayable in 10 years.
- The loan can be availed either as a term loan to support expansion or modernisation or as working capital facilities such as cash credit, bank guarantee/letter of credit.
- The loan under this facility for metro cities can be availed up to Rs 100 crore, for Tier I & Urban centres up to Rs 20 crore and in Tier II to Tier VI centres up to Rs 10 crore.
- Also, the healthcare units availing the loan of up to Rs 2 crore are not supposed to offer any collateral or security to the bank as this will be covered under the guarantee scheme of Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
- Thus the Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan aims to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and deal with the pandemic.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara
 - Founded: 1955

GLOBAL INVESTORS ROUNDTABLE ORGANISED BY USISPF

Current Context: The Global Investors Roundtable was organised by US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

KEY FACTS

- **It was addressed by Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman in a virtual manner.**
- The event observed the participation from some of the largest foreign investors, including Mastercard, MetLife, Prudential, Air Products, Dell, SoftBank and Warburg Pincus etc.
- The dignitaries discussed potential investment opportunities and the role of ongoing policy reforms which will allow Ease-of-Doing-Business in India.
- FM mentioned opportunities for growth and investment in India which will attract foreign investors.
- She mentioned India's macro-economic stability, infrastructure-led economic growth opportunities, financial sector reforms which position the nation as a major player in global supply chains and the reason to rise as a global economic powerhouse.

- She also mentioned that the fiscal situation is under control and is expected to improve in coming days. She highlighted that COVID-19 and its aftermath have shown the Indian economy's resilience and mentioned that the highest ever Goods and Services Tax (GST) were collected amid the pandemic.

IAF AND IN PARTICIPATED IN PASSAGE EXERCISE WITH THE US

Current Context: The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy (IN) participated in the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the United States Navy during its asset transit through Indian Ocean Region.

DETAILS

- **The exercise was held south of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on the western seaboard.**
- The Indian side was represented by INS Kochi, INS Teg, P8I and MiG 29K Aircraft.
- The US side was represented by Nimitz class of aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan, Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey and Ticonderoga class guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh, F-18 fighters and E-2C Hawkeye.
- The exercise was held to boost bilateral relationship between both nations, coordinate in the maritime sector and exchange best practices for maritime air power.
- The participated members conducted advanced air defence exercises, cross deck helicopter operations and anti-submarine exercises.

RBI RELEASED NEW DIVIDEND PAYMENT NORMS FOR NBFCs

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines on the distribution of dividends by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

ABOUT

- The guidelines for the same were issued to have transparency and uniformity in the practice.
- The guidelines will be effective for the declaration of dividend from the profits of the financial year ending March 31, 2022, and onwards.
- The guidelines will be applicable to all the NBFCs which are under RBI.
- As per the minimum prudential requirements prescribed for declaration of dividend, the net NPA ratio of the NBFC concerned will be less than 6% in each of the last three years, including as at the close of the financial year for which the dividend is proposed to be declared.
- The NBFC should fulfil the regulatory capital requirement for each of the last three financial years, including the financial year for which the dividend is proposed.
- For the core investment company which supposes an NBFC, the maximum dividend payout ratio will be 60%. It will be 50% for other NBFCs. The dividend payout ratio is the ratio between the amount of the dividend payable in a year and the net profit as per the audited financial statements.

- And the proposed dividend will be the inclusion of both dividend on equity shares and compulsorily convertible preference shares eligible for inclusion in Tier 1 capital.
- The NBFCs are supposed to give a detailed report for dividend declared during the financial year to the RBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

MINISTERIAL LEVEL THEMATIC FORUM FOR UN HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY

Current Context: The Ministerial Thematic Forum for UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE) was held in a virtual manner.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It is an initiative of UN-Energy.**
- It was held to promote implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 agenda to attain sustainable development.
- The dignitaries discussed Energy Access, Energy Transition, Enabling SDGs through innovative inclusions, innovation, technology and data, finance and investment in the energy sector.
- The Ministerial Thematic Forum was held to frame high-level dialogue on energy during the 76th session of the UN General Assembly which will be held in Sep 2021 in the USA.
- India, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, Chile, Germany, Nigeria, Poland, Spain and UK were designated as Global Champions for the theme of 'Energy Transition'.
- The dignitaries launched a theme to report on energy transition. The report highlights major suggestions to boost up energy transition across the world.

JIO & GOOGLE CLOUD TO ENTER LONG-TERM STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP FOR 5G TECHNOLOGY

Current Context: The Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited and Google Cloud will be entering into a long-term strategic relationship for the 5G Technology.

KEY POINTS

- Both the entities will jointly work to power 5G in the enterprise and consumer segments of India.
- Reliance will make use of Google Cloud's scalable infrastructure to enable its retail business to achieve better operational efficiency, modernize effect, scaling up growth and grant better performance to its customers.
- The Google Cloud will provide a complete end-to-end Cloud offering for fully automated lifecycle management of Jio's 5G network and services.

- The capabilities of Google Cloud like deep expertise and innovation, telco-specific features like security, performance and resilience will help Jio's 5G service to fulfil the customers demand.
- They will jointly bring up a portfolio of 5G edge computing solutions to help industries address real business challenges.
- Jio will also launch new services in the areas like gaming, healthcare, education, and video entertainment sectors through the partnership with Google Cloud.
- Under this partnership, Reliance will also augment its compute workload for retail business through Google's AI/ML, e-commerce and demand forecasting offerings.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Reliance Jio: Mumbai
 - Founder of Reliance Jio: Mukesh Ambani
 - HQ of Google: California, United States
 - CEO of Google: Sundar Pichai

WOMEN'S CANCER SHIELD—CLOVIA AND ALLIANCE INSURANCE

Current Context: The Clovia brand and Alliance Insurance launched an insurance policy for women. The insurance policy is named 'Women's Cancer Shield'.

KEY FACTS

- **The insurance policy is launched for breast cancer treatment.**
- Under this partnership, Clovia will work to promote the insurance policy to the customers.
- Alliance Insurance will be the insurance partner which will facilitate breast cancer insurance policy.
- The policy if purchased from Clovia's website will offer insurance policy cover of Rs 25,000 to the women in the age group of 18-65 years.
- To use the policy, the tenure is 1 year with a waiting period of 90 days.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Alliance Insurance: Mumbai

QS EXECUTIVE MBA RANKINGS 2021

Current Context: The QS Executive MBA Rankings was released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

DETAILS

- **As per the rankings, the Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) is ranked as the best in India. Globally, it is ranked at 39th position.**
- It is the only institute from India which featured in the top 100 positions of the ranking.
- In terms of the Asia Pacific Category, IIMB is placed at 10th position.

- The overall QS Executive MBA Rankings was topped by France's HEC Paris.
- The 2nd and 3rd position was marked by Wharton School and Spain's IESE Business School respectively.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Limited: London, UK

WORLD BANK APPROVED LOAN FOR KERALA

Current Context: The World Bank has approved USD 125 million assistance support to Kerala.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The loan amount will be used to support the state's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, diseases and pandemics.
- The loan amount is granted to support the financially Resilient Kerala Program.
- The program will perform disaster risk planning, healthcare support, water resource management, agriculture and many other areas.
- In the first phase, the loan amount will be used for disaster risk planning and then in the second phase, it will be used for healthcare support, water resource management and agriculture.
- The World Bank has granted the loan through International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- The loan will be having a maturity of 14 years with a grace period of 6 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, USA
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass
 - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
 - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan

APPOINTMENTS ON 28TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Suresh N Patel: He was appointed as Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India. He will be replacing Sanjay Kothari.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CVC: New Delhi
- **Karnam Malleswari:** She was appointed as first Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Sports University. She is a former Olympic medalist weightlifter.
- **Vandana Aggarwal:** She was appointed to head the committee set up by International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) to examine best practices in ship financing and leasing and frame a roadmap to enable these activities from GIFT IFSC.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of IFSCA: Gift City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Chairperson of IFSCA: Injeti Srinivas

'WINDOWS 11' LAUNCHED BY MICROSOFT

Current Context: The tech giant, Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system 'Windows 11'.

KEY POINTS

- **The 'Windows 11' is termed as the next generation of Windows.**
- It focuses on a new user interface, a new Windows Store with improvement in its performance compared to 'Windows 10' which was launched in July 2015.
- The 'Windows 11' includes a centre-aligned Taskbar and Start button.
- It also supports Android apps via Amazon's app store and also works efficiently in touch mode.
- It will be available as a free upgrade for Windows 10 users in late 2021, required that the user has a compatible PC.
- It will be operated on PCs having a processor that has two or more cores and a clock speed of 1GHz or higher.
- To use the policy, the tenure is 1 year with a waiting period of 90 days.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Microsoft: Redmond, Washington, United States
 - CEO and Chairman of Microsoft: Satya Nadella

MOIL, MP GOV. AND MPSMCL SIGNED MOU

Current Context: The Tripartite MoU was signed among the Madhya Pradesh government, State-owned MOIL and the Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd (MPSMCL) to explore manganese ore mining in 4 districts of MP.

KEY FACTS

- The manganese ore mining will be explored in districts like Balaghat, Jabalpur, Jhabua, and Chhindwara.
- Under the MoU, MOIL has commenced detailed remote sensing studies with the help of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC-ISRO) based in Hyderabad to identify manganese-bearing areas.
- The MOIL has also commenced extensive fieldwork, activities, geological mapping sampling, and their petrological and chemical analysis for delineation of manganese ore-bearing areas which are highlighted by NRSC.
- The state government will help to reserve the areas of exploration for MOIL and MPSMCL.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of MOIL Limited: Nagpur
 - CM of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Anandiben Patel

WORLD BANK APPROVED LOAN FOR SALT PROGRAMME IN AP

Current Context: The lending arm of the World Bank, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has approved the loan to implement the SALT (Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation) programme in Andhra Pradesh.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The loan amount of Rs 1860 crore is approved by the World Bank's IBRD.**
- The SALT Programme will transform Andhra Pradesh's government schools into vibrant and competitive platforms by enhancing teaching practices, learning outcomes and school management in basic education.
- The tenure of the programme is 5 years and will be executed from the academic years of 2021-22 to 2026-27.
- The funds allotted for implementing the SALT programme will be used to include curriculum reforms, classroom practices enhancement and professional skills development among the teachers and staff.
- The programme will prepare students to face the competitive world by including English as a medium of instruction in state's educational institutes.
- **Static Part:**
 - Dams in AP: Srisailem Dam(Krishna River), Somasila Dam (Penna River), Tatipudi Reservoir(River Gosthani), Dummaguden Dam (River Godavari)

MASTERCARD PARTNERED WITH INSTAMOJO

Current Context: The Mastercard has entered into a strategic partnership with Instamojo.

KEY POINTS

- They have entered into a partnership to empower and offer digital solutions for MSMEs and gig workers through an 'easy to use solution' mechanism.
- The solution will support MSMEs so that they can bring their businesses on online platforms.
- Both the entities will transform payment transactions of MSME to the digital mode of transactions.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Mastercard: New York, US
 - HQ of Instamojo: Bangalore

DRDO CONDUCTED FLIGHT TEST OF 'AGNI P'

Current Context: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted a flight test of a new generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile called 'Agni P (Prime)'.

KEY FACTS

- **The test operation was conducted from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha, Balasore.**
- The Agni-Prime is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles.
- It is basically an advanced version of Agni-1 and is made up of composite material.
- The testing of the flight was observed by various telemetry and radar stations that were positioned along the eastern coast.
- The Agni P is having a range of 1,000 and 2,000 km and can hit the target up to a range of 2000 km.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy

GAME AND SIDBI COLLABORATED TO SUPPORT MSME AMIDST COVID-19

Current Context: The Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have collaborated to support the MSME sector during the pandemic situation of COVID-19.

DETAILS

- **Both the entities will help to address challenges faced by MSME due to COVID-19.**
- And as per the agreement of partnership, 25% of the beneficiaries will be women entrepreneurs.
- Both the GAME and SIDBI will focus on enhancing Udyam registration. In this, a unique ID will be assigned to the MSMEs to get the benefit of the scheme.
- They will make use of SIDBI financial schemes to form enterprises.
- Both the entities will enhance credit access to micro-enterprises.
- They will cover competitive clusters and will help MSMEs with a legal framework in order to offer them ease in business.
- The partnership will work to support pilot projects in the areas of financing innovations for MSMEs.
- The GAME and SIDBI will frame campaigns related to Mission Swavalambam and Mass Entrepreneurship development projects of SIDBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of GAME: Bengaluru
 - HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow, UP

APPOINTMENTS ON 29TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: Meenesh Shah: He was appointed as Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for a tenure of 6 months. He is the Executive Director of NDDB.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NDDDB: Anand, Gujarat
- **Praveen Sinha:** He was appointed as Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CBI: New Delhi
- **SD Shibu Lal:** He was appointed as Chairperson of task force committee set up to help the government to bring major bureaucratic reforms through mission Karmayogi.

FM ANNOUNCED RS. 6,28,993 CRORE RELIEF PACKAGE AGAINST COVID-19

Current Context: Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman announced the 'Economic Relief from Pandemic' package of Rs 6,28,993 crore.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The package will support the Indian economy to fight the pandemic COVID-19.**
- **Under this package around 17 measures were announced by FM which are classified in 3 categories of (1) Economic Relief from Pandemic (2) Strengthening Public Health (3) Impetus for Growth and Employment**
- **(1) Economic Relief from Pandemic:** In this category, 8 out of 17 relief measures were announced. The relief measures will provide economic relief to the Indians and Businesses affected by the pandemic with a major focus on the health, travel and tourism sector. Under this, Rs 1.10 lakh crore Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID Affected sectors will be granted. It includes Rs 50,000 crore for the health sector and Rs 60,000 crore for other sectors like tourism. Additionally, Rs 1.5 lakh crore for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) will also be offered under this category. This category also includes a new scheme called Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions in which the amount per loan capped at Rs 1.25 lakh at an interest rate of MCLR (the minimum lending rate for a bank) plus 2% will be offered. The scheme will prove beneficial to 10,700 Regional Level Tourist Guides and to 1,000 Travel and Tourism Stakeholders (TTS). The category also grants free on a month tourist visa to 5 lakh tourists in which the total amount sanctioned is Rs 100 crore. The facility will be available till 31st March 2022 or till 5 lakh visas are issued, whichever is earlier.
- The category of 'Economic Relief from Pandemic' also describes an extension of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ANBRY) from 30th June 2021 to 31st March 2022. It also offers additional Subsidies for DAP & P&K fertilizers. The nutrient based subsidy is increased to Rs 42,275 crore in FY 2021-22. Also, free food grains will be provided under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) from May to Nov 2021 with the financial inclusion of Rs 93,869 crore.
- **(2) Strengthening Public Health:** In this category, 1 out of 17 relief measures was announced in which, Rs 23,220 crores will be allotted for public health with the major focus on children and paediatric care/paediatric beds.
- **(3) Impetus for Growth and Employment:** In this category, 8 out of 17 relief measures were announced. The Climate Resilient Special Traits Varieties will be released. There will be a total revival

of the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC). The category will offer additional support of Rs 33,000 crore to boost project exports through National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) for a tenure of 5 years. Also, Rs 88,000 crore will be provided through equity in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) over 5 years to Export Insurance Cover. To give major support for the 'Digital India' initiative, Rs. 19,041 crore will be sanctioned to provide broadband to each village through BharatNet PPP Model. The FM also announced to extend the tenure of the PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing by one more year i.e. till 2025-26. Also, Rs 3.03 lakh crore will be sanctioned for reform based Result-Linked Power Distribution Scheme. The category will give a streamlined and efficient process for PPP Projects and Asset Monetization.

INDIAN BANK'S 'MSME PRERNA' LAUNCHED IN MAHARASHTRA

Current Context: The Union Minister of MSME and Road, Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari launched Indian Bank's 'MSME Prerana' program in Maharashtra.

KEY FACTS

- **The 'MSME Prerana' is an Indian Bank's flagship Business Mentoring Program.**
- **It offers novel, unique and innovative business mentoring support and empowers MSME Entrepreneurs.**
- The program will begin from Nagpur and then will be executed in the rest of the cities of Maharashtra.
- The program will create awareness about various central and states initiatives for MSME sectors. Also, awareness about the initiatives taken by RBI and financial agencies to uplift the MSME sector will be made through this program.
- The 'MSME Prerana' is designed by Indian Bank in partnership with Poornatha and Co.
- The program will train MSME through capacity building and will conduct workshops in local languages to impart skill development and business understanding ability among the entrepreneurs with the major focus on women entrepreneurs.
- The participants will be trained with various digital platforms like Udayam Registration, TReDS, MSME SAMADHAN, GeM portal etc.
- They will be also trained with the understanding of their business numbers, the concept of the balance sheet, cash flow management, managing their business during the crisis time, decision making, communication and leadership skills.
- The program will further be extended to the states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Gujarat. It was initially launched in Tamil Nadu.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Indian Bank: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - Tagline of Indian Bank: Your own Bank
 - MD and CEO of Indian Bank: Padmaja Chundururu

ENFORCING CONTRACTS PORTAL

Current Context: The 'Enforcing Contracts Portal' was launched by the Department of Justice.

KEY POINTS

- It was launched by Barun Mitra, Secretary of the Department of Justice.
- The portal aims to offer ease of doing business and enhance the 'Contract Enforcement Regime' in India.
- The portal will grant easy access to the latest information on commercial cases in courts of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata.
- Access to a repository of commercial laws will be granted by the portal.
- It will be the complete information source about legislative and policy reforms which are undertaken on the Enforcing Contracts parameters.
- The portal will offer instructive based videos and manuals related to e-filing.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Law and Justice: Ravi Shankar Prasad

APPOINTMENTS ON 30TH JUNE 2021

Current Context: **Jeremy Kessel:** He was appointed as Grievances Officer for India by Twitter.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Twitter: San Francisco, California, US
 - CEO of Twitter: Jack Dorsey
- **Manesh Mahatme:** He was appointed by WhatsApp as the Head of Payments in India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of WhatsApp: Menlo Park, California, US
 - Parent Organisation of WhatsApp: Facebook
 - CEO of WhatsApp: Will Cathcart
- **Shambhu Nath Srivastava:** He was appointed as Chairman of the Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA).