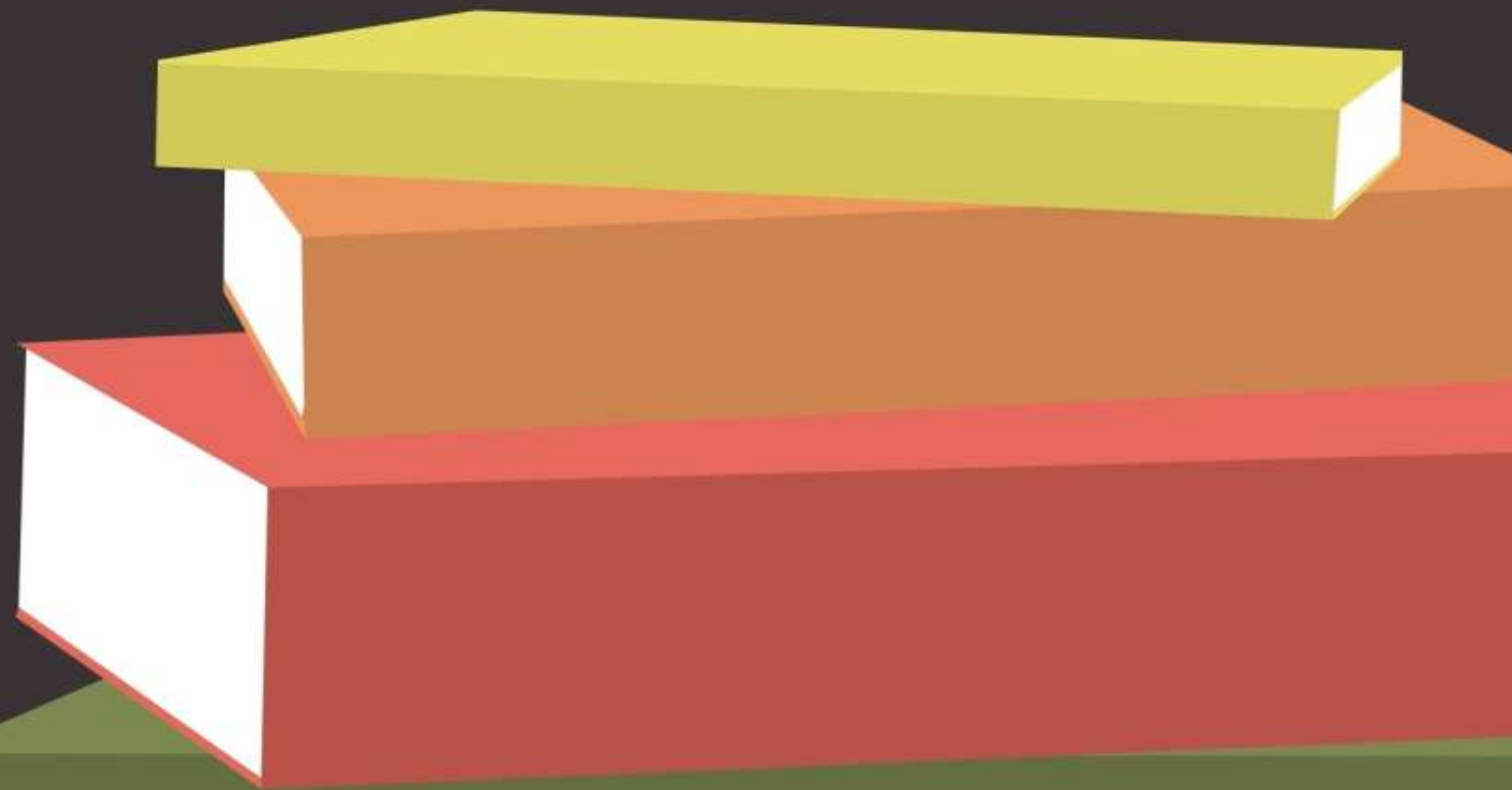


Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest March 2022



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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST: MARCH 2022

JKTPO SIGNED MOU WITH LEAD

Current Context: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) signed MoU with Ladakh Jammu and Kashmir Economic Growth and Development Dialogue (LEAD).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed for the investors in Jammu and Kashmir.**
- The MoU will allow showcasing the sector-wise opportunities in the J&K to the potential investors so that they will make investments.
- The MoU will prove beneficial to various sectors like Agriculture, Textile, handcraft, Pharmaceuticals, Rural Development, IT, ITeS, Food Processing, Dairy products, Engineering and Machine tools, etc.
- It will help Jammu and Kashmir to make it attractive for the investors to invest in.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lieutenant Governor of J&K: Manoj Sinha

APPOINTMENTS ON 1ST MARCH 2022

Current Context: Madhabi Puri Buch: She was appointed as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). She has replaced Ajay Tyagi. She has become the first woman chief of SEBI and also the first non-IAS to head the regulatory body.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
- **Samiran Gupta:** He was appointed to lead microblogging platform Twitter's public policy and philanthropy efforts in India and South Asia.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States
 - CEO of Twitter: Parag Agrawal

INDIA'S GDP TO BE AT 8.9% FOR FY22-- NSO

Current Context: The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released its second advance estimates of national accounts.

KEY POINTS

- **It has been projected that India's GDP for 2021-22 i.e. FY22 to be at 8.9%.**
- Earlier it had estimated the projection to be at 9.2% for the same.
- Also, NSO has estimated GDP contraction for FY 2020-21 to 6.6%.
- Earlier the estimation was 7.3% contraction for the same.
- As per NSO, India's economy contracted 23.8% in April-June in 2020 and 6.6% in the July-September quarter in 2020.

DELHI TO GET INDIA'S FIRST E-WASTE ECO-PARK

Current Context: The Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, announced that India's first e-waste eco-park will soon be established in Delhi.

KEY FACTS

- **It will help to handle the increasing e-waste.**
- It will perform dismantling, recycling, refurbishing, and re-manufacturing of the e-waste by using scientific and technological approaches.
- It will be developed on 20 acres of land.
- It will also have an authorized refurbishing market which will be a secondary product sale marketplace for batteries, electronic goods, laptops, chargers, mobiles, and PCs.
- By using innovative technologies, there will be environmental-safe disposal of e-waste.
- The Delhi cabinet has also agreed to devise 'Delhi Film Policy 2022 which will promote tourism. Delhi will become a major hub for modern film-making. It will fulfill European Standards.

CANADA APPROVES THE USE OF COVIFENZ

Current Context: Canada has approved the use of Covifenz.

DETAILS

- **The Covifenz is the world's first plant-derived Covid-19 vaccine.**
- **It is jointly developed by Medicago Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline Plc.**
- **The vaccine dose can be given to adults between 18 to 64 age.**
- It is made from plant-based proteins and makes use of Glaxo's adjuvant that contains DL-alpha-tocopherol, squalene, polysorbate 80, phosphate-buffered saline.
- It also includes potassium phosphate monobasic anhydrous, anhydrous sodium chloride, sodium phosphate dibasic anhydrous, and water for injection.
- The company used living plants as bioreactors to produce a particle that mimics the target virus. Further, the virus-like particles were developed by undergoing various processes like synthesis, infiltration, incubation, harvest, and purification.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Canada: Ottawa
 - Currency of Canada: Canadian dollar

PM MODI ADDRESSED A WEBINAR ON THE VISION OF GATISHAKTI

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the post-budget webinar on the vision of GatiShakti.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It was organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- **The webinar allowed the dignitaries, industry experts and stakeholders to discuss and share their views to enhance the logistics sector of India.**
- It is the sixth webinar in the series of post-budget webinars which is addressed by PM Modi.
- The webinar was titled `Creating Synergies for Accelerated Economic Growth`.
- PM Modi addressed all the participants on the vision of GatiShakti and its convergence with Union Budget 2022.
- The objective of PM GatiShakti is to create Next Generation Infrastructure by learning from the past.
- The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan is an integrated plan. It will help reduce the gaps faced in the past and will offer the seamless movement of people, goods & services.
- It will help to boost ease of living, ease of doing business parameters.

'BANKSAKHI' PROJECT

Current Context: The Bank of Maharashtra has partnered with Mahagram to launch the 'Banksakhi' project.

KEY POINTS

- **The project is launched in Odisha.**
- The Mahagram is a leading fintech company.
- The 'Banksakhi' project aims to offer access to banking services to the people of Odisha at their doorsteps in a hassle-free manner.
- The financial tech support and infrastructure support will be granted by Mahagram.
- Till now, Mahagram has onboarded more than 11000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to avail banking services.
- Both the entities will offer customer-friendly financial services, the best customer experience in the digital banking process to the people of Odisha.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bank of Maharashtra: Pune
 - CEO of Bank of Maharashtra: A. S. Rajeev
 - Tagline of Bank of Maharashtra: One Family One Bank
 - HQ of Mahagram: Mumbai

UNION BANK OF INDIA PARTNERED WITH AMBIT FINVEST

Current Context: The Union Bank of India has partnered with Ambit Finvest Private Limited.

KEY FACTS

- **They have entered into a co-lending agreement for the MSME sector.**
- The partnership was made to offer credit support to the MSMEs in 11 states of India. The Ambit Finvest has its offices in these 11 states and hence the credit support is granted here.
- The MSMEs who are suffering due to high-interest rates or excluded to avail of other banking services can have low-interest rates of funds to execute their business operations.
- The partnership is the part of Union Bank of India's initiative to grant support to the MSMEs in India by offering them tailor-made financial solutions.
- **Static Part:**
 - Ambit Finvest is an NBFC of the Ambit Group and it is headquartered in Mumbai
 - HQ of Union Bank of India: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Union Bank of India: Good People to Bank with

APPOINTMENTS ON 2ND MARCH 2022

Current Context: Bhushan Patwardhan: He was appointed as Chairman of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). He has replaced Prof Jagadish Kumar who was appointed as chairman of UGC.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - NAAC is an autonomous body established by the UGC
- **Sanjay Pandey:** He was appointed as the new Mumbai Police Commissioner. He has replaced Hemant Nagrale.
- **Ashneer Grover:** He resigned as the MD and Director of BharatPe.

'NAAN MUDHALVAN' SCHEME

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin launched the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme.

DETAILS

- **The scheme aims to provide skills to the 10-lakh youth across the state.**
- The youths will be able to recognize their talents and interests through this scheme.
- A portal to register for the scheme and get related information about the scheme was also launched.
- The career and academic guidance to the students will be granted under the scheme. They will be given proper learnings and training sessions.
- The spoken English lessons will also be granted in order to improve vocab skills among students.
- The sessions on software coding, robotics will also be taken.
- **Static Part:**
 - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu: Cauvery North WLS, Kanyakumari WLS, Palani Hills WLS, Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary, Vettangudi Bird sanctuary

HPCL SIGNED MOU WITH SECI

Current Context: The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) has entered into MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have signed MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of renewable energy, electric mobility, alternative fuels and develop ESG Projects.**
- The MoU was signed to attain the objectives set for green energy and support the efforts being taken by Gol towards a carbon-neutral economy.

- SECI is also working to promote and develop renewable energy resources which include solar energy, wind energy, renewable energy-based storage systems, generating energy from waste, trading of power, and many more. It is also developing renewable energy-based products like Green Hydrogen, green Ammonia, RE-powered EV, etc.
- HPCL diversifies capacity in the renewable energy sector. It is also working to promote and develop electric mobility.

INTERNATIONAL MONSOONS PROJECT OFFICE (IMPO)

Current Context: The International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) was launched by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (IC) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh in a virtual manner.

KEY POINTS

- **The IMPO is hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune for the initial 5 years.**
- The IITM Pune is an institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- It will help to understand the importance of monsoons for the growth of the economy.
- It will help to conduct research related to the international monsoon which will be identified under World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.
- The IMPO will help to solve and understand the seasonal variability of monsoons, give accuracy to the predictions of monsoons and cyclones, enhance knowledge sharing, and boost capacity in areas of monsoon research.
- The IMPO will support the Monsoons Panel, which is formed by the CLIVAR (Climate and Ocean Variability, Predictability, and Change) and GEWEX (Global Energy and Water Exchanges) programs of the World Climate Research Programme.
- It will also support and work with World Weather Research Programme to perform tropical meteorology research.

16TH THE WEALTH REPORT 2022

Current Context: Knight Frank's 'The Wealth Report 2022' was released. The 16th edition of the report was released.

KEY FACTS

- The report provides an annual assessment about wealth creation which is enhancing or giving structure to the investment markets, along with its highest opportunities and risks as well.
- As per the report, the number of ultra-high nets worth individuals i.e. UHNWIs at the global level has increased by 9.3% in 2021 to 6,10,569 which is from 5,58,828 in 2020.

- At the global level, India is ranked at 3rd position in the report. Thus, India is the 3rd billionaire populous country at the global level. India has 145 billionaires.
- The digital adoption and equity markets have helped India to attain this spot.
- The most billionaire country which has topped the report is the United States. It has 748 billionaires.
- In India, the number of UHNWIs has increased by 11% YoY in 2021.
- From the Indian cities, Bengaluru witnessed the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs at 17.1% to 352. It is then followed by Delhi and Mumbai respectively.

UCO BANK PARTNERED WITH FISDOM

Current Context: The UCO Bank has entered into a partnership with Fisdom.

DETAILS

- **They have partnered to grant fintech services to the bank's customers.**
- Various fintech services like Demat account, stockbroking services, pension funds, tax filing, etc. will be offered by the bank.
- UCO Bank will offer a 3-in-1 personal banking experience to its customers.
- The services can be availed via UCO Bank's mobile app named 'UCO mBanking Plus' or via an internet banking platform.
- The customers will be able to learn, perform investments, track their financial performance and redeem from financial instruments.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UCO Bank: Kolkata
 - Tagline of UCO Bank: Honours your Trust
 - HQ of Fisdom: Mumbai

PNB HOUSING LAUNCHED WATERSHED DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS IN RAJASTHAN

Current Context: The Peהל Foundation which belongs to PNB Housing has partnered with Gurugram based NGO named Sehgal Foundation.

ABOUT

- **They have partnered to launch an integrated watershed development project named Jal Khushhali, in the Karauli district of Rajasthan.**
- It will help to reduce the economic burden on the small and marginalized farmers of the region. It will prove beneficial to the communities living in Chainpura and Muhana villages of Nadoti block in Karauli district.
- The Jal Khushhali project will help to harvest groundwater, perform rejuvenation of existing natural resources, increase farm yields by setting up ponds and two check dams.

- It will also help to improve water quality, develop sanitation infrastructure and conduct awareness campaigns about water conservation practices.

MEITY STARTUP HUB PARTNERED WITH GOOGLE

Current Context: The MeitY Startup Hub has partnered with Google.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MeitY Startup Hub is an initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**
- **They have partnered for the program named Appscale Academy.**
- **Under the program, both entities will support a group of 100 Indian mid-stage startups to develop their apps and games.**
- The startups are shortlisted as per their application of the product, quality of the product scalability, and innovation. Around 400 startups had applied for the program, out of which 100 are selected.
- The 6 months of training will be given under the program in which the 100 selected startups will be trained through a customized curriculum.
- There will be virtual instructor-led webinars, self-learning material, and mentorship sessions.
- Topics like app quality, app design, growth, go global, google play policy, and data safety will be covered.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw
 - HQ of Google: California, United States
 - CEO of Google: Sundar Pichai

NASA LAUNCHED THIRD IN A SERIES OF NEXT-GENERATION WEATHER SATELLITES

Current Context: NASA, has successfully launched the third in a series of next-generation weather satellites.

KEY FACTS

- **It is known as Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES). It is named GOES-T.**
- **Once it gets positioned in its geostationary orbit it will be renamed from GOES-T to GOES-18.**
- It will further function above the US West Coast and the Pacific Ocean. Here it will monitor weather sweeping in from the west to the east over the US.
- It was launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket.
- It will be used by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The satellite will be helpful to forecast weather and hazardous environmental conditions in the Western Hemisphere.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of NASA and NOAA: Washington D.C., United States
- Administrator of NASA: Bill Nelson

INDIA AND NEPAL SIGNED MOU

Current Context: India and Nepal have entered into MoU during a virtual ceremony. The MoU was signed for the long-term supply of urea and DAP (Di-ammonium phosphate) fertilizers.

KEY POINTS

- **It will be supplied to Nepal from India under the Government to Government (G2G) agreement.**
- The MoU was signed by India's Secretary (Chemical and Fertilizer), Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, and Nepal's Secretary (Agriculture and Livestock Development), Dr. Govinda Prasad Sharma.
- The MoU will also enhance agriculture cooperation between both countries.
- It will enhance the economy and food security in Nepal.
- The MoU was signed to fulfill the shortages of fertilizer being faced and enhance agricultural productivity in Nepal.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu
 - Currency of Nepal: Nepalese Rupee

3RD NIC TECH CONCLAVE

Current Context: The 3rd NIC Tech Conclave was inaugurated by Union Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi.

DETAILS

- **The event was organized by National Informatics Centre (NIC).**
- **Theme of the conclave:** 'Next-Gen Technologies for Digital Government'
- The IT experts from industrial backgrounds shared their views in various areas like Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, NextGen Database Solutions, Cyber Security, Future of Cloud, and various e-Governance Solutions, etc.
- The conclave aims to enhance the IT sector, develop ICT technologies and their use in various cases.
- The conclave provided the platform to understand new technologies and applications.

APPOINTMENTS ON 4TH MARCH 2022

Current Context: Junaid Kamal Ahmad: He was named as the Vice President of the international lending agency. He will lead the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) as Vice President, Operations. The MIGA is one of the five organizations under the World Bank Group. He is the country director for the World Bank in India since September 2016.

ABOUT

- **Akshaye Widhani:** He was appointed as the CEO of Yash Raj Films (YRF), which is a film production and distribution company.
- **Amitabh Bachchan:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador of UpGrad which is an online higher education company.
- **TS Ramakrishnan:** He was appointed as the MD and CEO of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Mutual Fund Asset Management Limited. He has replaced Dinesh Pangtey.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Limited: Mumbai

INDIA SIGNED HCA WITH ITU

Current Context: India has signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) with International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The HCA was signed to set up an area office and innovation center of ITU in New Delhi.**
- It was signed during World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly-20 (WTSA-20) held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It was signed between Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications, and H.E. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of ITU, in a virtual manner.
- The government of India will fund the office.
- It will be in operation by mid-2022.
- The area office and innovation center of ITU in New Delhi will serve South Asian nations to implement ITU initiatives, grant technical assistance, frame policies on ICTs.
- The innovation center will help to perform R&D in telecommunication technologies.
- The signing of the HCA will lead to providing a legal and financial framework to establish an area office and innovation center.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ITU: Geneva, Switzerland

DST PARTNERED WITH INTEL INDIA

Current Context: The Department of Science and Technology (DST) which comes under the Government of India has partnered with Intel India.

KEY POINTS

- They have launched the 'Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators' program.
- The program was launched by the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (IC), Dr. Jitendra Singh.

- The program will help to inculcate digital knowledge among the students from classes 6 to 10.
- The digital readiness will be built among the students who are registered under DST's INSPIRE-Awards MANAK scheme.
- The program will develop innovative and creative thinking abilities among the students at the pan India level.
- Intel India will be committed to promoting AI readiness in the country and will work in parallel with GOI's vision to leverage AI technology in various sectors to address its socio-economic challenges.
- Both entities will work together to build an AI-ready generation by empowering the students with the knowledge and skills to leverage AI in an inclusive way in various sectors.

TDB SIGNED MOU WITH SKYSHADE DAYLIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED

Current Context: The Technology Development Board (TDB) has signed MoU with Skyshade Daylights Private Limited, Hyderabad.

KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed to promote start-ups in Daylight Harvesting Technology.**
- The TDB is a statutory body of the Department of Science & Technology.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister of State (IC) Science & Technology; Minister of State (IC) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- Science & Technology has decided to promote Start-up in the latest Daylight Harvesting Technology. This will reduce carbon footprint and enhance energy efficiency.
- As per the MoU, TDB will grant Rs 5 Crore of the 10 Crore project to the Skyshade company.
- The company will use the funds to develop new technologies for basement illumination on a 24x7 basis.
- The company will design & build operations of large skylight domes to build atriums and solar thermal technologies.
- They have also launched two more innovative solutions named as Human centric-climate adaptive building facades and Central integrated daylighting system which will also help to serve the objective of MoU.
- Daylight Technology means bringing natural sunlight inside the rooms. The solar energy spectrum has 45% energy as visible light which is useful to harvest building illumination to about 9-11 hours a day. This will reduce electric light consumption.

LICENSE OF SARJERAODADA NAIK SHIRALA SAHAKARI BANK CANCELLED

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank.

DETAILS

- **The bank is based in Sangli, Maharashtra.**
- The Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank was inadequate with capital and earning prospects and so the license was cancelled.
- The bank was not in compliance with regulations set under Section 11(1), Section 22(3) (d) read with section 56 of Banking Regulation Act 1949.
- The bank is not allowed to conduct banking business.
- However, every depositor will receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) on liquidation.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
 - Chairman of DICGC: Dr. MD Patra

PAYU PARTNERED WITH VTEX

Current Context: PayU has partnered with VTEX with an aim to grant multiple payment solutions to the merchants of VTEX.

ABOUT

- VTEX is the largest global digital commerce platform.
- The merchants of VTEX will be able to access the PayU platform and its payment solutions.
- Thus the payment methods will be simplified to the valuable merchants of VTEX which includes global players operating in different industries in India.
- The VTEX merchants can grant customized bank-based offers on debit and credit cards to the customers.
- The partnership will make purchases more affordable, convenient and thus will improve business.
- The merchants will also be able to monitor and track business performance, make refunds, get access to transaction data, have a look at trends, and many more.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of VTEX: London UK

AXIS BANK SIGNED MOU WITH IPE GLOBAL LIMITED

Current Context: India's one of the major private sector banks, Axis Bank has signed an MoU with IPE Global Limited.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed for granting loans for the healthcare sector.**

- They have signed MoU for the SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Finance Facility with finance of upto USD 150 million.
- The funds will support various health enterprises and innovators.
- The SAMRIDH signifies Sustainable Access to Market and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare.
- Thus, Axis Bank will grant loans upto USD 150 million through SAMRIDH in order to support the healthcare sector.
- SAMRIDH is supported by USAID and IIT Delhi and the technical support is given by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the GoI, the National Health Authority, and NATHEALTH.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Axis Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry
 - HQ of IPE Global Limited: New Delhi
 - MD of IPE Global Limited: Ashwajit Singh

'SAMBHAV' AND 'SVAVLAMBAN' INITIATIVES

Current Context: The Union Minister of State for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma launched 'Sambhav' and 'Svavlamban' initiatives.

KEY POINTS

- These initiatives were launched at the International Summit on Plastics Recycling and Waste Management.
- Both the initiatives were launched to solve the issue of plastic waste in India.
- These initiatives will motivate entrepreneurs, especially from aspirational districts to develop solutions to recycle plastic which is the foremost step towards innovation and sustainability in the Plastic industry.
- They should develop solutions for plastic waste management and recycle plastic profitably.
- The International Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management was organized by MSME Ministry in association with The All-India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA).

INDIAN OIL PARTNERED WITH KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

Current Context: The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank.

KEY FACTS

- They have partnered to launch the Indian Oil Kotak co-branded fuel credit card.
- The customers will get more value through various rewards programs upon spending on fuel and on special non-fuel and frequent-spend categories.

- Thus, the partnership will offer the best value to its customers and enhance customer satisfaction and the growth of their respective businesses as well.
- The branch reach and customer engagement will be enhanced due to the partnership.
- **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
 - HQ of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd: New Delhi

MONOLITHIC MICROWAVE INTEGRATED CIRCUITS (MMICS)

Current Context: The Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (MMICs) are developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) which will be used in radar imaging satellite modules of EOS 04 i.e. Earth Observation Satellite 04.

DETAILS

- **The ISRO had launched EOS 04 in Feb 2014.**
- The MMICs are a type of integrated circuit (IC) device and play a vital role in various applications of various sectors.
- They operate at microwave frequencies ranging from 300 MHz to 300 GHz.
- The MMICs are small in size and hence occupy less physical space in the application and can be produced on a large scale i.e. mass production is possible. They are high in performance and available at a reasonable cost.
- They have the abilities like mixing of microwaves, power and low-noise amplification, and high-frequency switching.
- To fabricate MMICs, gallium arsenide (GaAs) is used and now they can even be fabricated using silicon (Si) technology.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ISRO: Bengaluru
 - Chairman of ISRO: S Somanath
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr. G Satheesh Reddy

NSE PARTNERED WITH TELANGANA

Current Context: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India Limited has partnered with the government of Telangana.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- They have partnered to support MSMEs of the state for listing.

- The listing of MSMEs will grant them better access to funds which will lead to their overall growth and will grant them national visibility.
- Therefore, both entities will conduct awareness drives, seminars, camps, sessions, roadshows, and workshops to encourage and educate MSMEs in fundraising on the NSE Emerge platform.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Telangana: K. Chandrashekar Rao
 - Governor of Telangana: Tamilisai Soundararajan

GREENFIELD AIRPORT IN HOLLONHI, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Current Context: The Greenfield Airport in Hollonhi, Arunachal Pradesh will be built by the Airports Authority of India.

KEY FACTS

- **The total funds of Rs 645 crore for the same will be utilized.**
- It is 15 kilometers from Itanagar, which will offer air connectivity to Arunachal Pradesh's central city.
- In this funds, airport pavement, airside, terminal building, and city side works will be done.
- The airport will have airport pavement, airside, terminal building, and city side works.
- Also, the terminal structure of the airport will be 4100 square meters and can accommodate 200 people during peak times.
- The airport will commence its operations from 15th Aug 2022.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Khandu
 - Governor of Arunachal Pradesh: B. D. Mishra

NAARISHAKTI CONVERSATION ON 'STEM AND FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR YOUNG WOMEN'

Current Context: The UNICEF YuWaah held the NaariShakti topic conversation on 'STEM and Financial Literacy for Young Women'.

KEY POINTS

- STEM signifies Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.
- It was held as a part of the Ministry of Women and Child Development's Iconic Week celebrations.
- The event observed the guest as Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Women and Child Development.
- The panel discussion on 'Young Women in STEM: Opportunities, Challenges, and Solutions' was held.
- The panel discussion leads to the decision that there must be gender equality in STEM.
- Women must be motivated to pursue careers in STEM as it will benefit not only them but the entire country.

APPOINTMENTS ON 7TH MARCH 2022

Current Context: Justice DN Patel: He was appointed as Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) for the tenure of 4 years.

ABOUT

- **Vidya Balan:** She was appointed as the brand ambassador of Bharti AXA Life Insurance.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bharti AXA Life Insurance: Mumbai
- **Sanjiv Kapoor:** He was appointed as CEO of Jet Airways.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Jet Airways: New Delhi

PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT INAUGURATED BY PM MODI

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Pune Metro Rail Project.

HIGHLIGHTS

- During this occasion, he also interacted with differently-abled, visually impaired students who were invited to be present inside the metro coach.
- PM Modi and the students interacted with each other during a 10-minute ride in the Pune Metro.
- A total of funds of Rs 11,420 Crore were required for this project.
- It has a total length of 33.1 km and 30 stations.
- It is also the first metro project in India having Aluminum body coaches.
- The project is implemented by Maharashtra MetroRail Corporation (MAHA-METRO) which is the joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra.
- PM Modi inaugurated an exhibition at Garware Metro Station and RK Laxman Art Gallery.
- He unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the Pune Municipal Corporation.
- He also participated in the event of celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Symbiosis Institutions. He inaugurated 'Symbiosis Arogya Dham'.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
 - Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

STUDY IN INDIA (SII) 2022 MEETING

Current Context: The Study in India (SII) 2022 meeting was inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

KEY FACTS

- It was organized by the High Commission of India.
- The event was inaugurated by the Education Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Dipu Moni and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami.
- The event objective was to have an educational exchange between both countries which will enhance knowledge sharing and boost partnership from both ends.
- The event observed the participation of students from various educational institutions.
- Also, 19 educational institutions from India took part in the Education Fair in Dhaka.
- The Study in India program is an opportunity to connect the next generations of the two countries.
- The program is a flagship project which was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018.

NIESBUD SIGNED MOU WITH MORD

Current Context: The National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

KEY POINTS

- The NIESBUD is an autonomous entity under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- The MoU was signed to develop a sustainable model to promote entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.
- And for this purpose, the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) will be conducted.
- Therefore, due to this partnership, an innovative entrepreneurship culture will be developed, and will also develop the economical and social value of the community.
- The SVEP is the sub-entity of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Rural Development ministry.
- Both entities will offer support to the entrepreneurs serving in rural areas. They will be helped to set up enterprises at the village levels.
- They will be helped to set up startups serving non-Agri sectors.
- Beneficiaries will be benefited from knowledge related to the startups, financial support, advisory support.
- The rural entrepreneurs will get access to the banks to perform their financial work.
- Support in ICT and other digital tools will also be granted.

INDO-PACIFIC MILITARY EXCHANGE 2022 CONFERENCE

Current Context: The Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange (IPMHE) 2022 Conference was inaugurated by Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh.

DETAILS

- The conference is co-hosted by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and US Indo-Pacific Command.
- It is held under the theme of 'Military healthcare in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world'.
- It is being held from 7th to 10th March 2022.
- While addressing the conference Union Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted medical service as the major entity of any defence force.
- The medical services serving in the military sector have their own valuable duties and are the vital ones to respond to natural or man-made calamities.
- Thus, the objective of the conference is to develop and enhance cooperation in the military medicine sector.
- Various topics like operational or combat medical care, tropical medicine, field surgery, marine medicine emergencies, etc. will be discussed during the conference.

BHARTI AIRTEL PARTNERED WITH AXIS BANK

Current Context: Bharti Airtel has partnered with Axis Bank.

ABOUT

- They have partnered to launch 'Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card'.
- The credit card will offer various benefits like cash backs, discounts, vouchers that can be redeemed in a digital manner, pre-approved instant loans, Buy Now Pay Later offerings to the customers.
- The partnership will benefit tier 2 and tier 3 markets to adopt digital payment methodology.
- Axis Bank will also leverage Airtel's suite of digital services like the C-PaaS platform.
- Various cyber security services will also be implemented.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Axis Bank: Mumbai MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry

MICROSOFT TO SETUP ITS 4TH DATA CENTRE IN INDIA

Current Context: Major tech giant company, Microsoft will be establishing its fourth data centre in India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It will be set up in Hyderabad.
- Microsoft's data centre will be one of the largest data centres in India.
- It will commence its operations by 2025.
- Currently, Microsoft has data centres in India at Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai.

- The data centre in Hyderabad will fulfill the demand for Microsoft's cloud services for public and private firms.
- To set up the data centre, Microsoft has signed a definitive agreement with the Telangana government.
- The total investment will be Rs 15,000 crore.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Microsoft: Redmond, Washington, United States
 - CEO and Chairman of Microsoft: Satya Nadella

9TH SLINEX (SRI LANKA-INDIA NAVAL EXERCISE)

Current Context: The 9th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between India and Sri Lanka named SLINEX has commenced from 7th March and will be held till 10th March 2022.

KEY POINTS

- **It is being held at Visakhapatnam.**
- The objective of the SLINEX is to enhance interoperability and develop mutual understanding between the navies of both countries.
- It is being held in two phases. The first phase is the Harbour Phase which was held at Visakhapatnam on 7th and 8th March 2022. The second phase is the Sea Phase which will be held at the Bay of Bengal. On 9th and 10th March 2022.
- India's Navy is being represented by INS Kirch and Sri Lankan Navy is being represented by SLNS Sayurala.
- They will explore various multi-faceted maritime operations.
- The harbour phase includes practices like professional, cultural, sporting, and social exchanges. The sea phase includes practices like surface weapon firing, anti-air weapon firing, seamanship evolutions, aviation operations cross-deck flying, and advanced tactical manoeuvres.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Sri Lanka: Sri Jayewardenapura Kotte, Colombo
 - Currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan Rupee

'DONATE-A-PENSION' INITIATIVE

Current Context: The Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched the 'Donate-a-Pension' initiative.

KEY FACTS

- **The initiative is launched under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM).**
- It is launched to contribute to the celebrations being observed by the ministry for the 'Iconic Week' which is being observed from 7th to 13th March 2022 as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

- The initiative aims to encourage people to donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, nurses, etc. in their houses or establishment or any other eligible unorganized worker.
- The donar can pay one year's initial contribution at one time or for more than a year period as well.
- The donation amount for the year is a minimum of Rs 660 to a maximum of Rs 2400, which depends on the beneficiary's age.
- The minimum donation tenure is one year.
- Thus, the initiative allows any citizen to pay the premium amount on behalf of an unorganized worker under the PM-SYM.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Labour and Employment: Bhupender Yadav

APPOINTMENTS ON 9TH MARCH 2022

Current Context: Nitin Chugh: He is appointed as the Group Head of Digital Banking at the level of Deputy MD by SBI for the tenure of 3 years.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairperson of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- **Mary Kom:** She was appointed as the brand ambassador for Lupin Ltd's Women's Cardiovascular Health Awareness Initiative named Shakti Campaign. The campaign aims to create awareness of heart diseases among women.

'UPI123PAY'

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has launched UPI for the feature phone and it is named 'UPI123Pay'.

DETAILS

- Along with this, 'DigiSaathi' was also launched which is the 24x7 helpline facility for digital payments.
- The new payments system for feature phone users named 'UPI123Pay' has four different technologies.
- The one is through the use of Interactive Voice Response (IVR) numbers. In this, the number is dialed and a secured call can be initiated from a feature phone and after getting registered can start financial transactions without connection to the internet.

- The second is through the use of apps on feature phones. Various UPI functions will be available on apps that run on feature phones and due to this all kinds of UPI transactions except scan and pay can be performed.
- The third one involves proximity sound-based payments. In this, the sound waves are used to enable networking and have contactless offline and proximity data communication on any device.
- The fourth is a quintessential Indian way, which is the missed call-based technique. The user will receive a callback from a standard number to authenticate and perform transactions.
- The three-step process has to be followed to use UPI 123PAY.

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC AGREEMENT FORMED BETWEEN FLIPKART AND GOOGLE CLOUD

Current Context: The multi-year strategic agreement was signed between Flipkart and Google Cloud.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It was signed to assist Flipkart to accelerate its innovation and cloud strategy domains.**
- It will help Flipkart to attain its next phase of expansion and attain the goals of enrolling India's next 200 million buyers and lakhs of vendors.
- Due to this partnership, robust app access will be granted by Flipkart.
- It will perform excellently even during peak purchasing seasons when traffic increases.
- Flipkart will leverage secure, scalable global infrastructure and powerful networking technologies of Google Cloud.
- The Data platform of Flipkart will be improved because of Google Cloud's superior data analytics and machine learning capabilities.
- Flipkart will be able to access and evaluate traffic and transactional data. It will be able to get real-time insights about client purchasing and their shopping patterns.
- Therefore, it will get an idea of trends and fulfill the demand in a more efficient way.
- The Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning abilities of Google Cloud will be added to Flipkart's platform to give a better consumer experience.

STAR WOMEN CARE INSURANCE POLICY

Current Context: The Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd have launched 'Star Women Care Insurance Policy'.

KEY POINTS

- The policy is a woman-centric comprehensive health cover policy specially dedicated to granting health security to women at every stage of their lives.
- It is available as both an individual policy and a floater policy.
- Women between the age group 18 years up to 75 years are eligible to opt for the policy.

- They don't have to undergo any premedical tests to avail this policy.
- The premium amount can be paid in quarterly or half-yearly installments and the policy terms can be for 1 year, 2 years, or 3-years.
- It covers regular hospitalization along with the cover for assisted reproduction treatment, delivery (pre and post-natal cover), multiple medical consultations, preventive health check-ups, voluntary sterilization as well as child hospitalization.
- Thus, mothers can grant health cover for their newborn child, in which the newborn child will get health cover of up to 25% of the Sum Insured from day 1 and 100% of the sum insured from the next subsequent year onward.
- It has the feature of 'Star Mother Cover' which covers hospital room rent of the insured mother if the insured child is less than 12 years old and is hospitalized in the ICU.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd: Chennai

AIM PARTNERED WITH SNAP INC.

Current Context: The NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission has partnered with Snap Inc, which is the camera firm that owns the social media platform Snapchat.

KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered to develop Augmented Reality (AR) skills among youths of India.**
- **They will also launch a nationwide Lensathon (AR-making hackathon).**
- The hackathon will encourage the participation of females in AR.
- In the two years of time span, Snap Inc is expected to train over 12,000 teachers affiliated with the Atal Tinkering Labs on Augmented Reality.
- These trained teachers will further educate millions of students affiliated with ATL's network of schools.
- Snap Inc has also collaborated with the Atal Incubation Centers (AICs) which will support the Indian startup ecosystem in the AR domain.
- **Static Part:**
 - Mission Director of AIM: Dr. Chintan Vaishnav

MOU APPROVED BETWEEN INDIA'S ICMR AND GERMANY'S DFG

Current Context: The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V. (DFG) of Germany.

DETAILS

- **The MoU was approved to enhance cooperation in the field of scientific research and technological development.**

- The MoU will allow both countries to explore fields like medical sciences, perform research in toxicology, rare diseases, etc.
- Both the entities will have joint fundings to conduct scientific projects, workshops, seminars, etc. at high scientific standards.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Germany: Berlin
 - Currency of Germany: Euro

'KAUSHALYA MATRITVA YOJANA' — CHHATTISGARH

Current Context: The Chhattisgarh government launched 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana'.

ABOUT

- It was launched during a state-level women's conference held at BTI Ground in Raipur by CM of the state, Bhupesh Baghel.
- The launch took place by handing out Rs 5000 checks to five beneficiaries for safe motherhood.
- The scheme aims to give financial support to the women so that they can opt for good nutrition for themselves and their newborn children.
- It will help to prevent female foeticide.
- The funds of Rs 5000 will be granted to women to bring up their second girl child. That is on the birth of a second daughter, women recipients are eligible for a lump payment aid of Rs. 5,000.
- Also, the books titled 'Kanya Vivah Yojana Coffee Table Book' and the 'Sakhi One Stop Centre Telephone Directory' were released by the CM.
- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey

'AAMA YOJANA' AND 'BAHINI SCHEME' — SIKKIM

Current Context: The government of Sikkim will be launching two new initiatives namely 'Aama Yojana and 'Bahini Scheme'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'Aama Yojana' aims to grant help to non-working mothers.
- The 'Bahini Scheme' aims to support girl students in Sikkim.
- 'Aama Yojana': It aims to develop a habit of saving among non-working mothers. The state government will offer funds of Rs. 20,000 each in the bank accounts non-working mothers on an annual basis.
- The women who are enrolled in the electoral roll of the state are eligible to take the benefit of the scheme. The funds of Rs. 100 crores are allocated in the budget for this particular scheme.

- **'Bahini Scheme'**: It aims to reduce the dropout rate of girl students in education. Many girl students drop out from education due to the lack of accessibility or availability of Sanitary Napkins and any other menstrual health reasons. So, under the scheme, over 18,000 girl students who study in class 9 and above are provided with free sanitary napkins in the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Sikkim: Khangchendzonga NP, Fambong Lho WLS, Kitam Bird sanctuary, Pangolakha WLS

INDIA AND SINGAPORE SIGNED MOU

Current Context: India and Singapore have entered into MoU to enhance cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed between India's Department of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Trade & Industry of Singapore.**
- **Therefore, due to this MoU, industries and research institutes of both countries will develop new products which will tackle economic and societal challenges.**
- The MoU document was signed between Dr. S Chandrasekhar, Secretary of DST, and Dr. Lee Chuan Teck, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Trade & Industry of Singapore.
- The MoU will allow the sharing of experiences faced in national research programs, framing innovation policies and programs for both countries.
- They will share scientific and technological information.
- They will conduct workshops, training sessions, scientific seminars, and conferences to meet the objective of MoU.
- The MoU will be effective for the period of 5 years and will be extended further for 5 more years.
- Thus both countries will perform joint research and development projects, which will be having industrial R&D to advance technology development for commercial outcomes.

WALMART GLOBAL TECH PARTNERED WITH IIT MADRAS

Current Context: Walmart Global Tech (WGT) has partnered with IIT Madras.

KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered to develop and speed up research in new areas of technology.**
- They have partnered to have research and corporate social responsibility projects.
- The projects will be executed by IITM students and WGT associates and will be facilitated by the Centre for Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research (IC&SR) at IITM.
- The space in the IIT Madras Research Park will be utilized by WGT to work with the incubated startups of IIT Madras.

INDIA- 2ND IN GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN DIGITAL SHOPPING IN 2021

Current Context: As per the London & Partners analysis of Dealroom.co-investment data, India is the second-largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies.

DETAILS

- **This sector of India has increased by 175% i.e. USD 8 billion in 2020 to USD 22 billion in 2021.**
- **The list is topped by the United States.**
- In India, Bengaluru has topped among the cities with USD 14 billion worth of venture capital investment in digital shopping for 2021.
- As per the report, the demand for online shopping has increased during a series of lockdowns in the world due to the spread of pandemics.
- India and the UK are two of the world's leading hubs for digital shopping companies and have the highest global investment and unicorns.

'MATRUSHAKTI UDAYMITA SCHEME'—HARYANA

Current Context: The Haryana government launched the 'Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme'.

ABOUT

- **Under the scheme, support will be provided to the women entrepreneurs.**
- The women whose family annual income is less than 5 lakh rupees as per the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) verified data will have the benefit of the scheme.
- So, women can get access to soft loans by financial institutions to the extent of 3 lakh rupees.
- The interest subvention of 7% will be provided for the period of 3 years.
- The scheme will be executed through the Haryana Women Development Corporation.
- So, the women who want to become an entrepreneur can opt for the scheme.
- **Static Part:**
 - National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Haryana: Kalesar NP, Sultanpur NP, Abubshahar WLS, Bir Shikargah WLS, Khaparwas Bird Sanctuary, Khol Hi-Raitan WLS

SKOCH STATE OF GOVERNANCE RANKINGS

Current Context: The SKOCH State of Governance rankings was released by the SKOCH Group.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The states were assigned ranks according to their performance in various projects at state, district, and Email Article Print Article municipal levels.**
- **The first position was retained by Andhra Pradesh for the second consecutive year.**

- The 2nd and 3rd ranks were marked by West Bengal and Odisha respectively.
- The SKOCH State of Governance report is released annually and it verifies the project level outcomes being implemented by various states and ranks those states accordingly.
- Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Odisha have performed remarkably in implementing the welfare projects in various sectors like agriculture, transport, eGovernance, and ease of doing business.

3RD NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT FESTIVAL (NYPF)

Current Context: The 3rd edition of the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) was organized by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

KEY POINTS

- **It was organized at the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi.**
- The inaugural session was addressed by Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and the valedictory function was addressed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- The main moto of the NYPF is to listen to the views and voices of youths between the age group of 18 to 25 years.
- In this event, the top three National level youth winners get an opportunity to speak before the Lok Sabha Speaker during the valedictory function.
- The certificate of participation was also distributed to the youths.
- This event is based on the idea given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Mann Ki Baat Address held on 31st December 2017.
- So, the third edition of this event was held on 14th Feb 2022 at the district level in a virtual manner.
- In the District Youth Parliaments event, more than 2 lakh 44 thousand youth across the country had participated.
- It was further followed by State Youth Parliaments in a virtual manner.

APPOINTMENTS ON 12TH MARCH 2022

Current Context: Yoon Suk-yeol: He was appointed as the new President of South Korea.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of South Korea: Seoul
 - Currency of South Korea: South Korean Won
- **Ashwani Bhatia:** He was appointed as whole-time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He is the MD of the State Bank of India (SBI).
- **Ajay Bhushan Pandey:** He was appointed as Chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of three years. He is a former finance secretary.

INDIA, NEPAL AND BANGLADESH FINALIZED MOU TO IMPLEMENT BBIN MVA

Current Context: India, Nepal, and Bangladesh have finalized to commence the MoU to implement Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA).

KEY FACTS

- **The BBIN MVA will help to enhance regional trade and connectivity.**
- The BBIN connectivity project was conceived after the SAARC failed to agree on a regional motor vehicles agreement during the summit held in 2014 in Nepal, because of opposition from Pakistan.
- The commencement of MoU to be signed by India, Bangladesh, and Nepal to implement the BBIN MVA was finalized at the meeting held in New Delhi recently. Bhutan was an observer for the meeting.
- India was represented by Smita Pant, joint secretary in External Affairs Ministry.
- The technical and knowledge support for the meeting was received by Asian Development Bank.
- The dignitaries discussed passengers and cargo protocols that are required to operate BBIN MVA to regulate passenger, personal, and cargo vehicular traffic among the participated nations.

INDIA'S REAL GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO BE AT 7.8% FOR 2023-- CRISIL

Current Context: The GDP growth rating agency named CRISIL has retained India's real GDP growth forecast at 7.8% for the financial year 2023 i.e. 2022-23.

DETAILS

- It was 8.5% projected in the same during Economic Survey.
- As per the agency, there will be nominal growth to come at 12-13%, higher than the 11.1% Budget Estimate, and the headline inflation to average 5.2%.
- The estimated growth will be driven by Govt's efforts to enhance infrastructure spending and rise in private capital expenditure.
- However, the downside risk to the growth is projected due to the ongoing Russia Ukraine war and rising commodity prices.
- India will expect a growth rate of 8.9% in the current fiscal year ending 31st March 2022.

MSME INNOVATIVE SCHEME AND MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022

Current Context: The Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane has launched the MSME Innovative Scheme and MSME Idea Hackathon 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Both the programs will help the entrepreneurs to launch new businesses.**

- **MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design, and IPR):** It is the combination of the existing three sub-schemes namely Incubation, Design, and IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) for MSMEs. In this MSME Innovation Scheme, all these 3 sub-schemes will operate as an individual program.
- The MSME Innovation Scheme will promote and develop untapped creativity of the MSME sector. It will be a hub for innovation activities that will guide the development of new ideas and built them into viable business proposition which benefits society directly.
- MSME Innovative is a new concept for MSMEs. It's the combination of innovation in incubation, design intervention, and protecting IPR in a single mode approach. This will help to generate awareness amongst MSMEs about India's innovation.
- **The Details of the sub-schemes are:**
 - **Incubation:** It aims to promote and support untapped creativity and adopt technologies in MSME sectors in order to implement ideas. The funds up to Rs. 15 lakh per idea and up to Rs. 1 crore for relevant plants and machines will be provided.
 - **Design:** It aims to promote India's manufacturing sector and design expertise on a single common platform. Expert advice and solution to the real-time design problems in a cost-effective way will be provided. The funds up to Rs. 40 lakhs for design project and up to Rs. 2.5 lakh for student projects will be provided.
 - **IPR:** It aims to promote IP culture and hence generates awareness of Intellectual Property Rights in MSMEs. Various measures to protect ideas, technological innovation, and knowledge-driven business strategies are developed. Thus, MSMEs will utilize IPR tools through IP Facilitation Centre in an effective way. The funds upto Rs. 5 lakhs for Foreign Patent, Rs. 1.00 lakh Domestic Patent, Rs. 2.00 lakh for GI Registration, Rs. 15,000 for Design Registration, Rs.10,000 for Trademark in the form of reimbursement will be granted.
 - **MSME Idea Hackathon 2022:** The MSMEs, innovators, students are invited through various host institutions to take part in this hackathon which will be executed till 24th March 2022.

BIS SIGNED MOU WITH IIT ROORKEE

Current Context: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has signed an MoU with IIT Roorkee.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed to establish 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at IIT Roorkee.**
- This will be the first Standardization Chair of BIS which will be set up in an academic institution.
- It will also support financially to IIT Roorkee.
- It will be an R&D center and will grant training in Standardization and Conformity Assessment.
- It will establish standards on crucial areas like IIT's BlockChain applications for e-governance.
- It will focus on standardization and conformity assessment, especially in civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, and earthquake engineering.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BIS: Manak Bhawan, Old Delhi
 - Director-General of BIS: Pramod Kumar Tiwari

EPF INTEREST RATE REDUCED TO 8.1% FOR FY22, LOW TO FOUR DECADES

Current Context: The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has reduced its interest rate on provident fund deposits to 8.1% for 2021-22 i.e. FY22.

KEY FACTS

- This reduction is 0.4% lower than the previous year. It was 8.5% in 2020-21 and 2019-20.
- However, this reduction in the interest rate on provident fund deposits is witnessed as is the lowest in more than four decades.
- In 1977-78, EPFO had credited 8.0% as the interest rate, and since then it has been either 8.25% or more.
- The 8.1% interest rate was recommended by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) in a meeting which was held under the chairmanship of Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav.
- The 8.1% annual rate of interest will be credited on EPF accumulations in accounts of members for the FY2021-22.
- After paying an 8.1% interest rate, EPFO will have a surplus of around Rs 450 crore.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of EPFO: New Delhi

AIM PARTNERED WITH KIDEX VENTURE PRIVATE LIMITED

Current Context: The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog partnered with KidEx Venture Private Limited.

DETAILS

- They have partnered to leverage KidEx's existing technology platform which is named 'IKIGAI'.
- Under the partnership, the 'IKIGAI' to host AIM's flagship programs.
- The AIM's flagship programs like 'Tinkerpreneur', 'ATL Marathon', and other ATL (Atal Tinkering Labs) related programs, challenges will be hosted.
- The programs will be available to more than 1 crore students affiliated with ATL's network in digital mode at zero cost.
- Both the entities will help at least 10 Lakhs young learners to avail of AIM proprietary programs on Innovation & Entrepreneurship.
- KidEx will adopt and execute 100 schools under ATL initiatives and the partnership of ATL with KidEx will augment the innovation experience for ATLs.
- The partnership will be executed for 2 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - Mission Director of ATM: Chintan Vaishnav

PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK ASKED TO STOP THE ONBOARDING OF NEW CUSTOMERS BY RBI

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd to stop the onboarding of new customers with immediate effect.

ABOUT

- **RBI has also directed Paytm Payments Bank to appoint an IT audit firm that will perform a comprehensive System Audit of its IT system.**
- The decision by RBI was taken under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- After the completion of the audit, RBI will review the reports and as per the reports, it will take further decisions for onboarding of new customers.
- The RBI has not disclosed reasons for the decision. However, in the past RBI has found various deficiencies with the bank and in the recent supervisory inspection at Paytm Payments Bank it was detected with a gap with regard to KYC and customer onboarding.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm Payments Bank: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
 - Chairman of Paytm Payments Bank: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

ODISHA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH NABARD TO ENHANCE FISH PRODUCTION

Current Context: The government of Odisha has signed an agreement with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The agreement was signed to create fish infrastructure in order to enhance fish production in the state.**
- The Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund will support the development of infrastructure in the marine sectors of the state.
- The funds of Rs 119.8 crore are sanctioned for the same.
- They have set the target to attain sustainable growth of 8-9% to enhance fish production capacity to 20 million tonnes by 2022-23.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
 - Chairman of NABARD: Govinda Rajulu Chintala
 - Dance forms of Odisha: Odissi, Sambalpuri, Chhau dance, Ghumara Dance, Gotipua
 - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Odisha: Badrama WLS, Karlapat WLS, Lakhari Valley WLS, Debrigarh WLS

APPOINTMENTS ON 14TH MARCH 2022

Current Context: Prabha Narasimhan: She was appointed as the CEO and MD of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited. She has replaced Ram Raghavan.

ABOUT

- **Justice AK Sikri:** He was appointed as Chairman of the high-powered committee set up to consider the cumulative and independent impact of the Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Priyojana i.e. Char Dham Highway Development Project.
- **Debasish Panda:** He was appointed as the chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). He has replaced Subhash Chandra Khuntia.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IRDAI: Hyderabad

LIVQUIK- 1ST PPI INSURER TO ATTAIN RBI'S PPI INTEROPERABILITY GUIDELINES

Current Context: LivQuik has become the first Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) insurer to gain full interoperability directed by RBI for their PPIs.

KEY FACTS

- As per the powers mentioned under Section 18 read with Section 10(12) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007 it is mandated to all the PPI issuers to offer interoperability for full KYC wallets by 31st March 2022.
- The interoperability will enable the customers to perform optimization of their payments and expenditure under their wallets by connecting a card on Visa or RuPay networks or enabling UPI.
- The LivQuik has partnered with M2P Fintech to enable UPI on PPI.
- **Static Part:**
 - LivQuik was founded in 2012 and is an RBI authorized Prepaid Payment Instrument Issuer and Full-Fledged Money Changer (FFMC)

PM MODI DEDICATED BUILDING OF RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY TO THE COUNTRY

Current Context: The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi dedicated the building of Rashtriya Raksha University to the nation.

KEY POINTS

- The Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) is a new campus building complex at Lavad village near Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- He also addressed the first convocation of RRU Gandhinagar.
- The RRU had commenced its operations from 1st Oct 2020.
- It grants diplomas to doctorate-level academic programs in areas like policing and internal security, police science and management, criminal law and justice, IT, AI and cyber security, coastal and maritime security, internal defence and strategies, and many more.
- While addressing the ceremony, he assured that Rashtriya Raksha University will help to create a better security environment and criminal justice system in India.

MV RAM PRASAD BISMIL AS THE LONGEST VESSEL TO SAIL ON BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

Current Context: The Ministry of Ports, shipping & Waterways has recently said that the MV Ram Prasad Bismil has become the longest vessel to sail on the Brahmaputra River.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The ship is **90 meters long, 26 meters wide and 2.1 meters** loaded with the draft.
- The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** as well as **Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA)** worked together.
- The **Government of India** with **Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh** has funded with the ratio of **80:20** respectively.
- The ship was loaded with **1,793 MT of Steel rods** from **Tata Steel in Jamshedpur** - had a requirement of a draft of 2.0 meters.
- The vessel carried a **consignment of 200 MT food grains** for **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** from Patna to Pandu, successfully completing the Pilot Movement cargo between **Ganga, the National Waterway 1 (NW1), and Brahmaputra, the National Waterway 2 (NW2)**.

IN 5 YEARS MOBILE BROADBAND SUBSCRIBERS INCREASED TO MORE THAN DOUBLE

Current Context: In 5 years, **Mobile Broadband subscribers** have increased more than doubled to **765 million** from **345 million**.

KEY POINTS

- **In 2021**, according to the data, the data traffic has reached **17GB Per month**.
- The report has been given by **Finnish Telecom equipment maker Nokia**.
- The title of the report is '**Mobile Broadband Index Report 2022**'.
- India has recorded the highest growth since last year.
- **4G mobile Data** has reached **31% in 2021**.

HAL AND SAFRAN HELICOPTER ENGINES SIGNED MOU

Current Context: HAL has recently signed an MoU with a French firm Safran Helicopter Engines to extend cooperation on chopper engines.

KEY FACTS

- A modern facility of **Helicopter Engines MRO Pvt Ltd (HE-MRO)**, a joint venture of HAL and Safran at **Sattari, 40 km** from Panaji, in Goa.
- Capacity to **repair 50 engines** a year.
- **The full-capacity goal of 150 engines** in the coming years will be operational by the end of 2023.
- **Aim:** to constantly improve serviceability and reduce cycle time to aid the operational preparedness of the armed forces.

N CHANDRASEKARAN APPOINTED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF AIR INDIA

Current Context: Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran has been appointed the Chairman of Air India.

ABOUT

- Currently, there are **3 executive directors** who were appointed by the government.
- The **Tata Group** took over the **airline on January 27, 2022**.
- Last Year in October, **Tata Group** has emerged as the **winning bidder for 100%** of Air India.

IZEALIENT TECHNOLOGIES ACQUIRED BY RAZORPAY

Current context: Razorpay, a fintech unicorn has recently acquired **payments startup IZealiant** Technologies for an undisclosed sum.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This acquisition of **Razorpay is the 5th one since 2014**.
- By this acquisition, IZealiant will strengthen Razorpay's banking solution arm and aim to build up the innovative payment technologies of banking.
- RazorPay is recently working with 45 banks in India and has launched various solutions like A card of tokenization solution, Mandate HQ, etc.

'MODI@20: DREAMS MEET DELIVERY' BOOK TO BE RELEASED SOON

Current Context: Bharatiya Janata Party is to release the book titled '**Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery**' by April 2022.

KEY POINTS

- The book contains the political life of PM Modi for the past 20 years from Gujarat CM to PM of India.
- The book is compiled by **Bluekraft Digital Foundation**.

NATIONAL VACCINATION DAY: 16TH MARCH

Current Context: On March 16, National Vaccination Day is celebrated every year.

DETAILS

- It is celebrated to increase the importance of vaccines in the human health system.
- This day has been created to make people aware of how vaccination is beneficial to everyone.
- In **1995**, **1st dose** of the oral polio vaccine had started.
- The Theme of the National Vaccination Day 2022 is "**Vaccines work for all**".

MUNISH VARMA HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS A MANAGING PARTNER AT SOFTBANK

Current Context: Munish Varma has recently resigned from the board of **One97 Communications**, the parent firm of **Paytm**, and became Managing Partner at **SoftBank**.

ABOUT

- He was a non-executive and non-independent director on the board of the company which owns the Paytm app.
- Recently SoftBank is holding **17.4% of the stake at Paytm**.

BRO AND GRSE IS TO CONSTRUCT 27 DOUBLE-LANE MODULAR BRIDGES

Current Context: **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** and state-owned warship building firm **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd.** has recently signed MoU to construct **27 carriageway** double lane galvanized modular bridges of **7.5 meters**.

KEY FACTS

- The contract will be for 2 years.
- The cost of the bridge is Rs. 60 crores.
- The bridge was constructed on strategically important "**Flag Hill-Dokala**" road in Sikkim at an altitude of **11,000** feet under Project Swastik of BRO.

INDIA'S 1ST HYDROGEN-POWERED FUEL CELL CAR TO BE LAUNCHED

Current Context: Recently, the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has inaugurated **1st pilot project of hydrogen-based** advanced fuel cell Electric vehicles.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This vehicle will make a huge shift from fossil fuel and it will also conserve our environment.
- This project has been initiated by **Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.** along with **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**.
- This project will help in running the vehicles on hydrogen on roads and climate conditions.
- The **Toyota Mirai (Future)** is powered by a **Hydrogen fuel cell battery pack**.
- It is capable of providing a **range of 650km**.
- It was **1st launched in 2014** as the world's 1st hydrogen fuel electric vehicle.

MAHILA MONEY AND VISA LAUNCHED PREPAID CARD FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Current Context: **Mahila Money, Visa, and Transcorp** has collaborated and launched **Mahila Money Prepaid cards** for women entrepreneurs.

KEY POINTS

- This prepaid card will help women entrepreneurs to use the card for **digital payments** more effectively.
- This card will **fill up the gap of the community** and fulfill the convenience of the bank account with added flexibility and will pave the way for financial and economic freedom for millions of women.
- According to the survey, **All-India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS)**, has found that around **80.7% of the women in the rural areas** and **81% of the women in urban** have their bank accounts.
- Also, approx. **55% of the women** do not use their bank account accounts actively.
- **Mahila Money** offers **loans** to the **women** to build up their businesses and products so that they can meet up to their working capital and grow with more opportunities.

HARISH CHANDRA MISHRA HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE LOKAYUKTA OF DELHI

Current Context: Retired **Jharkhand High Court Judge Harish Chandra Mishra** has been appointed as the **Lokayukta of Delhi**.

KEY FACTS

- The post of Lokayukta of Delhi was vacant since **December 2020**, after the **retirement of Rewa Khetrapal**.
- Mishra is appointed in the post for a **tenure of 5 years**.

- He will also join as the **Acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High court**.

FIRST ENERGY CAFÉ IS LAUNCHED IGL AND KINETIC GREEN

Current Context: Recently, **Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)** and **Kinetic Energy** have launched the first “**Energy Café**”.

DETAILS

- This is a **battery swapping station** that is designed under the collaboration to aim at **revolutionizing the electric vehicle industry of India**.
- Under this, both the collaborators will roll out a deep network of battery swapping stations.
- The range in **Delhi Region** is electric **two and three-wheelers**.
- Through a **mobile application** also customers can locate the **nearest swapping station**.

MOODY SLASHES THE GROWTH ESTIMATE OF INDIA 2022 TO 9.1%

Current Context: Recently, **Moody’s** slashed India’s growth estimate from **9.5% to 9.1%**.

ABOUT

- While India is a good importer of crude oil and country is particularly vulnerable to high oil prices.
- Also, India is a surplus producer of grains, agricultural products, etc.
- It also forecasted the **2023 growth at 5.4%**.

WORLD SPARROW DAY 2022

Current Context: **World Sparrow Day** is celebrated on **March 20** every year.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is celebrated to **raise awareness about the conservation of Common house sparrows**, which are increasingly vanished due to urbanization, high pollution levels, global warming, and loss of ecological resources among other reasons.
- It is an initiative of the **Nature Forever Society**.
- World Sparrow Day was **first observed in 2010**.
- The theme for World Sparrow is “**I love sparrows**”.

CYCLONE ASANI TO MOVE OFF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR TOWARDS MYANMAR

Current Context: **Cyclone Asani** is estimated to move off the **Andaman Island** towards **Myanmar** and **South Bangladesh coast**.

KEY POINTS

- This has been projected by **Indian Meteorological Department**.
- This cyclone will not make landfall in the Andaman Islands.
- According to the forecast, it is expected that the weather system will move towards northward.
- It is likely to have proceeded affect in terms of precipitation wind and waves as anticipated and specified within the bulletin.
- According to the bulletin which is recently issued by IMD, the discouragement over **southeast Bay of Bengal** and connecting **south Andaman Ocean** moved north-north-eastwards at a speed of **12 kmph**.

SUZUKI MOTOR ANNOUNCED RS. 10,440 CRORES TO INVEST TO BUILD ELECTRIC CAR

Current Context: Suzuki Motor has recently announced the investment of Rs. 10,440 crores to build a new electric car and battery factory in India.

KEY FACTS

- This is expected to happen till **2025** in both **Japan and India**.
- The Japanese automaker is likely to invest around **Rs. 3000 crores** for the new plant to increase the production of Electric Vehicles in India and **Rs. 7,300 crores** to manufacture electric batteries.
- Also, **Hyundai and Tata Motors** have announced elaborated plans for the electrification of their products.
- The segment has made an estimation of 5,500- 6,000 sales of the last FY- and saw a jump of 60-75% over FY20.
- Also, **Toyota has tied up to enter the non-IC engine vehicle business** and India will be a key part of this plan.
- The new plant is to up near the **existing Suzuki plant in Gujarat**.
- The Plant will be **owned by Suzuki Motor Gujarat, a 100% subsidiary** of Suzuki Motor Corporation, and supplies to Maruti.

RAID BY INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT FOUND RS. 224 CRORES

Current Context: Income of **Rs. 224 crores** were found by **Income Tax Department** in the raid of the unicorn startup group.

DETAILS

- The **Unicorn startup group** is based in **Pune and Thane in Maharashtra**.
- The group is engaged in wholesale and retail of development materials and contains a pan-India nearness with a yearly turnover surpassing **Rs 6,000 crore**, the Central Board of Coordinate Charges, the policy-making body for the tax office.

RELIANCE RETAIL VENTURES ACQUIRED CLOVIA

Current Context: Reliance Retail Ventures (RRVL) has recently acquired 89% of the stake in Purple Panda Fashions, owned by the Clovia business.

ABOUT

- Clovia business is an industry leader in the bridge-to-premium intimate wear category.
- It has an investment of Rs. 950 crores with the secondary stake investment.
- This will **strengthen its portfolio in the innerwear segment which has already acquired Zivame and Amante brands.**
- Through this partnership, it will benefit from Reliance's scale and retail expertise, extending the presence of the brand and bringing together a stronger value proposition through world-class quality, design, and fashion in the intimate wear category.
- It also recently entered into a joint venture with **fashion designers Rahul Mishra and Anamika Khanna.**
- The Clovia was **launched in 2013.**

21ST MARCH OBSERVED AS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

Current Context: International Day of Forests Day is celebrated on 21st March every year.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The aim behind celebrating the day is to increase **awareness about the unprecedented role forests play in sustaining lives on this planet.**
- According to the data of the **United Nations**, woodlands are home to almost 80 percent of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, with **more than 60,000 tree species.**
- The day was declared as International Day of Forests by **United Nations General Assembly in 2012.**
- This is to promote awareness about the value of **all types of forests.**
- The theme of the day of the year 2022 is '**Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption**'.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Current Context: The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination this year focuses on the theme '**Voices for Action Against Racism**'.

KEY FACTS

- The main aim behind celebrating this day is to mark **the importance of strengthening meaningful and safe public participation** and representation in all areas of decision-making to prevent racial discrimination.

- The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is watched every year on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and murdered 69 individuals at a quiet exhibit against apartheid “pass laws” in 1960.
- In 1979, the **General Assembly** embraced a program of activities to be undertaken amid the moment half of the Decade for Activity to Combat Prejudice and Racial Discrimination. On that event, the General Assembly chose that a week of solidarity with the people groups battling against racism and racial discrimination, starting on **21 March**, would be organized yearly in all States.

WOMEN TRANSFORMING INDIA AWARDS TO BE ORGANIZED BY NITI AAYOG

Current Context: The **NITI Aayog** has declared the **fifth version of the Women Transforming India Awards (WTI)**, on March 21 beneath its lead **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**.

KEY POINTS

- WTI Grants would be given to 75 women achievers to celebrate their commitment towards a ‘Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat’.
- The nominations took place between October 1, 2021, and February 21, 2022.
- The awards will be conferred **by Kiran Bedi**.
- Applications for the WTI Awards '21 were invited under one or more than one of the following seven categories: Public and Community Service, Manufacturing Sector, Non-manufacturing Sector, Financial Products enabling Economic Growth, Climate Action, Promote Art, Culture and Handicrafts and Digital Innovation.
- Among other attendees are sports champions **Shiny Wilson, Karnam Malleswari, Lovlina Borgohain, Mansi Joshi, Pranati Naik, Simranjit Kaur**, and women defence officers.
- The **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** is a portal that aims to build a vibrant ecosystem for women-led enterprises, strengthen industry linkages and increase awareness of existing programmes and services.
- More than **900 women entrepreneurs** have been benefitted through **77 programs** and events hosted on the platform.

INDIA-INDONESIA HOLDS SECOND SECURITY DIALOGUE IN JAKARTA

Current Context: The moment **India-Indonesia Security Dialogue (IISD)** was held in **Jakarta**.

DETAILS

- It was co-chaired by National Security Adviser **Ajit Doval** and **Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Issues of Indonesia, Mohammad Mahfud**.
- The IISD is a forum that brings the coordinating minister for **Political, Legal, and Security Affairs of Indonesia** and the **National Security Adviser of India**.

- The importance of traditional friendly relationships and **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** between the two countries.

CLASSICAL WIND MUSIC INSTRUMENT NARASINGHAPETTAI NAGASWARAM GOT GI TAG

Current Context: The **Narasinghapettai nagaswaram**, a classical wind music instrument which is made by an artisan at **Kumbakonam** recently, got **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag.

ABOUT

- The GI registry has issued registration **certificate number 420**.
- A major portion of the '**Narasinghapettai nagaswaram**' is made from the **aacha (Hardwickia binata)** tree and many a time the artisans use the wood from parts of old houses.

PM INAUGURATES BIPLOBI BHARAT GALLERY AT VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL KOLKATA

Current Context: It has been inaugurated on the occasion of **Shaheed Diwas**.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The gallery displays the **contribution of the revolutionaries** in the freedom struggle and the events that led up to 1947.
- It further showcases the armed resistance of revolutionaries against British colonial rule, the birth of a revolutionary movement, the spread of the movement, the formation of INA and contribution of Naval Mutiny.

WINGS INDIA 2022

Current Context: Asia's largest Civil Aviation Event organized by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA)** and **FICCI** jointly.

KEY POINTS

- To be conducted at - **Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad**.
- Theme – **India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry**.
- Wings India Award 2022 will be conferred at the event to Aviation-related Companies/institutes/organizations.
- Agenda- Transform India into World's top aviation hub.

AADI BAZAAR – EXHIBITION OF TRIBAL ART & CRAFT

Current Context: Aadi Bazaar, a celebration of the spirit of tribal craft, culture, cuisine & commerce inaugurated at Bhopal Haat, Bhopal.

KEY FACTS

- Organized by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Ltd. (TRIFED), Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Location - Bhopal (10day event)
- It will have more than 70 stalls representing more than 15 states.
- About: Aadi Bazaars are a part of TRIFED's efforts to improve the livelihoods of the underprivileged tribal people who have been majorly impacted in the past 2 years due to pandemics.

INS SHIVAJI AS THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN MARINE ENGINEERING

Current Context: Skill Development Ministry recognizes INS Shivaji as the Centre of Excellence in Marine Engineering.

DETAILS

- INS Shivaji, an Indian naval station in Lonavla, Maharashtra which houses the Naval College of Engineering has been conferred with the status of Centre of Excellence (COE).
- Relevant Ministry - **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).**
- It's the first Military organization to be recognized as COE.

3RD EDITION OF EX-DUSTLINK

Current Context: Indian Army Contingent for Joint Exercise with Uzbekistan Army Departs for Yangiariq in Uzbekistan.

ABOUT

- It's a joint training exercise between Indian and Uzbekistan Armies.
- This year it is being conducted at **Yangiariq, Uzbekistan** from 22 to 31 March 2022.
- Focus - To **Counter-Terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain** under a United Nations Mandate.
- **Grenadiers battalion** of the Indian Army has been nominated for the exercise.

MISS JIYA RAI SWIMS ACROSS PALK STRAIT IN RECORD TIME

Current Context: Jiya Rai - Youngest and fastest female swimmer in the world to swim across the Palk Strait.

KEY FEATURES

- Swam across the Palk Strait from **Talaimannar (Sri Lanka) to Dhanuskodi (India)**, a distance of 29 km, in 13 hours and 10 minutes.
- She has Autism Spectrum Disorder and is the recipient of the prestigious **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Purashkar - 2022**.

DELHI MOST POLLUTED CAPITAL CITY FOR 4TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Current Context: As per **World Air Quality Report 2021**, Delhi is the most polluted capital city out of 107 capital cities.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Report prepared by – **IQAir – Swiss air quality technology company**.
- Delhi is followed by **Dhaka (2nd)** and **N'Djamena (3)**.
- **Bhiwadi** (near Alwar in Rajasthan) is the **most polluted city**.

SUJLAM 2.0 CAMPAIGN FOR GREYWATER MANAGEMENT

Current Context: Under the aegis of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal shakti.

KEY POINTS

- Launched by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti.
- Theme- 'Groundwater: making the invisible visible'
- Greywater is described as gently used wastewater that comes from sources such as a bathroom, kitchen, laundry, etc.
- Agenda – Manage greywater through people's participation (at the local level) by the construction of household and community soak pits.

ALL INDIA NATION-WIDE PENSION ADALAT

Current Context: Inaugurated by K. Rajaraman (Secretary & Chairman, Digital communication Commission).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Organized by - the Controller General of Communication Accounts (CGCA).
- Motto - To resolve pensioner's grievance giving vision to PM Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Minimum Government Maximum Governance".
- Aim to solve grievances of pensioners within 30days.

SHAHEED DIWAS OBSERVED ON 23RD MARCH

Current Context: Shaheed Diwas, also known as Martyrs' Day, is celebrated on March 23 every year.

KEY FACTS

- 23rd March is celebrated as Shaheed Diwas as on this date in 1931, freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged to death by British rules.
- The 3 revolutionaries were hanged after getting arrested in 1928 for the murder of British police officer John Saunders.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY OBSERVED ON 23RD MARCH

Current Context: On March 23, 1950, World Meteorological Organization came into force.

ABOUT

- This day is celebrated to observe the creation anniversary of the WMO.
- WMO collects weather data from all over the world and helps us understand its impact on our lives.
- The theme for this year – “early warning and early action”.

INDIA'S 1ST EVER SAI NCOE FOR MTB AND BMX TO BE SET-UP IN SHIMLA

Current Context: India's first-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross is being set up in Shimla.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Being set up by - **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** in collaboration with **Sports Department of Government of Himachal Pradesh**
- It is being built to train athletes for 18 Olympic medals in the discipline of Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross.

INDIA-OMAN SIGN PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION (POC)

Current Context: It has been signed to sustainably harness resources in the field of Science and Technology.

KEY POINTS

- For the period – 2022 to 2025
- Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology will coordinate and implement on behalf of the Indian government.

- Knowledge sharing in the following fields under the program –
 - Medicinal Plants and processing,
 - Real-time Air Quality Monitoring,
 - Electronic platform for knowledge sharing in the field of Genetic Resources,
 - Plastic Bio-fuel, and Bio-diesel Research,
 - Software development for Graduate Programs – Linking Industry with Academia,
 - Blockchain and FinTech solutions,
 - Training programs – Big-data, coding & testing, STEM teaching, and other areas of S&T cooperation.

IGSTU SIGNS MOU WITH TATA STEEL AND LOI WITH BASF CHEMICALS INDIA PVT. LTD.

Current Context: A new MoU and LoI have been signed to foster Science and Technology led innovations through Indo-German R&D networking, including industrial research partnership in PPP mode.

KEY FACTS

- **Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC)** and **Tata steel** have signed MOU to jointly facilitate research on globally relevant technology & Innovation areas of Climate change, Greening of the Industrial sector, and joint research in emerging technologies.
- IGSTC signed a Letter of intent (LOI) with **BASF** to foster Science and Technology led innovations through Indo-German R&D networking.
- About IGSTC – This center was established by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Govt of India, and the **German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)**

“DARE2ERAD TB” LAUNCHED ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD TB DAY

Current Context: Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the launch of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB- “Dare2eraD TB” by the Department of Biotechnology, M/o Science & Technology, on the occasion of World TB Day.

DETAILS

- Launched by - Department of Biotechnology, M/o Science & Technology.
- Aim - To realize dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of a “TB MukT Bharat” by the year 2025.
- Initiatives under the umbrella program –
 - InTGS - Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance Consortium.
 - InTBK Hub- Indian TB Knowledge Hub- Webinar Series.
 - Host Directed therapies against TB and developed an evidence-based regimen for treating extra-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

4TH EDITION OF POSHAN PAKHWADA

Current Context: POSHAN Abhiyan launched by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 8th March 2018 has reached a long way in ensuring wider people's participation.

ABOUT

- Nodal Ministry - **Ministry of Women and Child Development**
- Aim –
 - identification & celebration of Healthy Child
 - integration of modern and traditional practices for healthy India
- Under this program, special focus will be on the following:-
 - **Measurement of height and weight of children under 6 years** at Anganwadi
 - generating awareness in women about the importance of water conservation and promoting rainwater harvesting structures
 - Cure Anaemia
 - Promote traditional food.

RESERVE BANK INNOVATION HUB SET UP IN BENGALURU

Current Context: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru, set up with an initial capital contribution of **Rs 100 crore** to encourage and nurture financial innovation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Aim- to encourage and nurture innovation in the financial sector in India and work towards financial inclusion.
- Chairman of the Board of the Hub – **Senapathy Gopalkrishnan**

UN CUTS INDIA'S GDP BY 2% FOR 2022

Current Context: UNCTAD report revised India's GDP growth to 4.6% for FY2022.

KEY FACTS

- In its economic growth report, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report downgraded India's growth projection for FY2022 from 6.7% to 4.6%.
- **Reason for revision** – Ongoing Ukraine war led to fluctuations in oil prices, inflation, and financial instability.
- **Static Information:**
 - UNCTAD – Intergovernmental organization and part of UN Secretariat

- Founded in – 30 December 1964
- HQ – Geneva Switzerland
- Secretary-General - Rebeca Grynspan

SBI SIGNS CO-LENDING PACT WITH 5 HFC'S FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Current Context: SBI has signed a co-lending pact with five Housing Finance Companies to further its reach to underserved sectors.

KEY POINTS

- SBI has signed a co-lending pact with PNB Housing Finance Ltd, IIFL Home Finance Ltd, Shriram Housing Finance Ltd, Edelweiss Housing Finance Ltd, and Capri Global Housing Finance Ltd.
- Purpose – To sanction loans to unserved and underserved sectors and accelerate effective and affordable credit to small home buyers in India and contribute to the vision of “Housing for All by 2024.
- **Static Information –**
 - SBI (Public Sector Bank)
 - HQ- Mumbai
 - Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara

SEBI LEVIES 5 LAKH PENALTY ON AXIS BANK

Current Context: SEBI has levied a penalty of INR 5lakh on Axis Bank for violation of Merchant Banker Regulations.

DETAILS

- SEBI imposed a 5 lakh penalty on Axis Bank for the violation of Regulation 27 of SEBI (Merchant Bankers) Regulations, 1992.
- Regulation 27 states – **“Information to the Board.** - Every merchant banker shall submit to the Board complete particulars of any transaction for the acquisition of securities of any body corporate whose issue is being managed by that merchant banker **within fifteen days from the date of entering into such transaction.”**
- In its order, SEBI specified that during the period August 2016- August 2019, Axis Bank bought debt papers of nine companies of which it was a merchant banker. Further, as per the provision of Merchant Banker regulations, it failed to inform the same SEBI within 15 days. Hence the penalty.
- **Static Information:**
 - **SEBI – Securities market regulator of India**
 - Nodal Ministry – Ministry of Finance
 - HQ – Mumbai
 - Founded on – 12 April 1992
 - Chairperson – Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch
 - **Axis Bank –**

- HQ- Mumbai
- CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry

IIE SIGNS MOU WITH MORD TO PROMOTE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN RURAL INDIA

Current Context: IIE has signed MOU with MoRD to improve the impact of the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship** (under the aegis of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**) has signed MOU with the **Ministry of Rural Development** to promote entrepreneurship amongst rural youth.
- The agreement has been signed to promote **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**.
- **Core Objective of MOU** – to promote employment opportunities in rural India by particularly developing self-employment avenues for unemployed rural people.
- **IIE, Guwahati**, will act as a National Resource Organisation (NRO) for the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP).
- **Static Information:**
- **SVEP**
 - It is a sub-scheme under the Centrally sponsored Programme **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
 - It was launched in **May 2015**.
 - **Aim** -To push for non-farm livelihoods, especially skill-based work and small enterprises, thereby creating jobs and stimulating long-term economic growth and producing social benefits in rural India.

EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX 2021

Current Context – NITI Aayog released the 2nd edition of the Export Preparedness Index recently.

KEY FACTS

- **NITI Aayog along with the Institute of Competitiveness** released the 2nd edition of **Export Preparedness Index 2021**. It takes into account the export achievements.
- **Gujarat** ranked the winner for the **2nd consecutive year**.
- **Ranking is based on 4 pillars in the index** -
 - Trade Policy
 - Business Ecosystem
 - Export Ecosystem -
 - Export Performance
 - As per the index, the coastal states are the best performers
- **Static Information** –

- **NITI Aayog** – Think tank of India
- **Chairperson** – Prime Minister
- **CEO** – Amitabh Kant
- **Formed on** – January 1, 2015

NORTH-EAST FESTIVAL - ISHAN MANTHAN

Current Context – Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DONER Shri G Kishan Reddy launch the Ishan Manthan Festival at Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts(IGNCA).

KEY POINTS

- It's a 3-day festival to celebrate the culture, art, handicrafts, cuisine, music of North-east India
- Government has increased the budget for the North-East region in the last 7 years by 110% to promote the region at global level.

NITI AAYOG COLLABORATION WITH AIM AND GIZ “HER&NOW” PROJECT

Current Context – NITI Aayog has collaborated with AIM and the “Her&Now” Project to end gender-based barriers for women Entrepreneurs in India.

ABOUT

- “**Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women (Her&Now)**” – It's an Indo-German Development Cooperation Project which was implemented by **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** and the **Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.
- Under the collaboration, “Her&Now” will help impart ‘WINcubate Training Programme’ at Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) Incubation centres.
- ‘**WINcubate Training Programme**’ was developed jointly by ‘her&now’ and Indian NGO Dhriiti.
- WINcubate Training Programme includes all the best practices to **promote women's entrepreneurship**.

OXYGEN PLUS – SMART-PHONE BASED, FIELD-PORTABLE OXYGEN KIT

Current Context – GRS India (start-up) with support from North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) designed an oxygen kit that comes in a field-portable smart backpack.

DETAILS

- **GRS India** is a DIPP (Department of Industry and Internal Trade) recognized start-up
- **NECTAR** is an autonomous organization **under the Department of Science and Technology**.
- The product is suitable for **easy transportation in the hilly terrains** of the North East.

- It can also be used by frontline workers, paramedics, fire tenders, nurses, doctors for oxygen support during medical emergencies, trauma as well as disasters.

ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON 5 CHINESE PRODUCTS

Current Context – On the recommendation of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) – the **Ministry of Finance has imposed anti-dumping duty on 5 Chinese products, namely.**

HIGHLIGHTS

1. flat-rolled products of aluminium,
 2. sodium hydrosulphite,
 3. silicone sealant,
 4. hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) component R-32 and
 5. hydrofluorocarbon blends
- **Static Information:**
 - **Anti-Dumping Duty-** This duty is levied when a country is exporting goods to another country at a price that is lower than the actual value of the good. This is considered as an unfair trade practise, hence its levy is permitted by WTO. It is seen as a tool to maintain fair trade and not a measure to protect the domestic market.

RASHTRIYA SANSKRITI MAHOTSAV 2022

Current Context: The mega festival Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022 was inaugurated in **Rajamahendravaram(Rajahundry), Andhra Pradesh** by the **Governor of Andhra Pradesh - Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan.**

KEY FACTS

- It's a flagship festival of the **Ministry of Culture.**
- Aim – to promote, preserve and spread the cultural heritage of India
- This is the **12th Edition** of this festival and is going to be celebrated in **Telegu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.**

WEBINAR SERIES “SWACHH TALKS”

Current Context: SBMU launched the peer-learning webinar series “SwachhTalks” on 25th March 2022.

KEY POINTS

- Theme – **SafaiMitra Suraksha in 100 lighthouse cities.**

- Nodal Ministry – Launched under the aegis of **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** under **Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0**.
- Aim- The agenda of this webinar is to **end manual scavenging in identified 100 cities** and shift to machine-based drainage cleaning to ensure the safety and security of our SafaiMitra.
- The following 6 cities presented their good practices:-
 1. In population more than 10lakh – Indore and Navi Mumbai
 2. In population between 3-10lakh – Nellore, and Jamshedpur
 3. In population less than 3lakh – Dewas, and Karimnagar

DRDO TESTS MEDIUM RANGE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE

Current Context: DRDO successfully tested two Indian Army versions of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) at Chandipur, Odisha on March 27, 2022.

DETAILS

- The missile intercepted aerial targets and destroyed them.
- MRSAM is a Surface to Air Missile developed jointly by **DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries**.
- **Static Information**
 - DRDO
 - HQ – New Delhi
 - Founded in 1958
 - Falls under - Department of Defence Research and Development (Ministry of Defence)
 - Chairman - Dr. G Satheesh Reddy

NMCG ORGANIZES YAMUNOTSAV

Current Context: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organized Yamunotsav at **ITO bridge, Yamuna Ghat**.

ABOUT

- NMCG organized it in association with a group of NGOs at ASITA East River Front.
- NMCG is constructing 3 Sewage treatment plants at the cost of Rs 2300 crore to prevent all major drains and dirty water from falling in the Yamuna river.
- **Static Information**
- **NMCG**
 - It registered as a society and is the implementation arm of the National Ganga Council.
 - It was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986
 - Falls under the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water resource, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation)

PARAM SHAKTI- PETASCALE SUPERCOMPUTER

Current Context: Param Shakti which is a Petascale Supercomputer has been dedicated to the nation under **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**.

KEY FEATURES

- NSM is a joint initiative of **MeitY** and the **Department of Science and Technology**.
- The supercomputer was inaugurated by **Governor of West Bengal – Jagdeep Dhankar**.
- This state-of-the-art supercomputing facility has 17,680 CPUs along with 44 GPUs'. It was made in pursuance of an **MOU signed between IIT Kharagpur and CDAC**.

DECENTRALISED WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY PARK

Current Context: A Decentralised Waste Management Technology Park has been inaugurated at New Jaffrabad, East Delhi.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Waste to Wealth Mission in collaboration with the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) inaugurated the park.
- IT has the facility for onsite processing of fresh Municipal solid waste. The pilot program consists of the following:-
 - End-to-end solutions for waste management
 - Semi-automated segregation of municipal solid waste
 - on-site compaction and treatment of the waste
 - conversion of open dumpsites to decentralized waste processing sites.
- **Aim** - Zero waste and zero energy which can be replicated.
- Waste to Wealth Mission is a mission of the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India**.

MATUA DHARMA MAHA MELA

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the **Matua Dharma Maha Mela** on 28th March 2022 via video conferencing.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mela celebrated on the occasion of the 211th birth anniversary of Shree Harichand Thakur Ji.
- **Held at - Shreedham Thakurnagar, Thakurbari, West Bengal**
- **Organized by – All India Matua Mahasangha.**

- About Shree Harichand Thakur – He devoted his life to the betterment of oppressed, deprived, and downtrodden people during the undivided Bengal which led to a social and religious movement in pre-independence Bengal and the formation of Matua Dharma.

SECRETARY (TELECOM), MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION RELEASED TWO TEC REPORTS

Current Context: For a hassle-free roll of 5G services Secretary (Telecom) released two Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) reports.

KEY POINTS

- Name of the two reports –
 - **The rollout of Small Cells for 5G Networks by leveraging Street Furniture** – this report will facilitate a standard approach for the proliferation of denser small cell infrastructure in the country which is required for the smooth launch of the 5G network
 - **IoT/ ICT Standards for Smart Cities** – This report consists of international guidelines, best practices, standards to develop smart infrastructure in different verticals of a smart city.
- **Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)** is the technical arm of the **Department of Telecommunications**.

INDIAN AGRICULTURE TOWARDS 2030

Current Context: NITI Aayog and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched the book "Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems."

KEY FACTS

- Launched by **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) Shri Narendra Singh Tomar**.
- **Published by – Springer**
- The book broadly discusses ways for enhancing Farmer's income, Nutritional Security of people, and sustainable food and farm systems.

MEGA INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON MSMES' COMPETITIVENESS & GROWTH

Current Context: Ministry of MSME has organized a 2-day summit in association with the **Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad**.

DETAILS

- It is being held at India International Centre, New Delhi.
- It will be attended by entrepreneurs, academicians, policymakers, industry leaders, thought leaders, business chambers, industry associations, startups, social impact organizations, MSMEs, SHGs from India and across the world.
- Inaugurated by - **Narayan Tatu Rane (Union Minister of MSME)**

3RD NATIONAL WATER AWARDS

Current Context: President Ram Nath Kovind is going to felicitate the winners of the 3rd National Water Awards in New Delhi.

ABOUT

- List of winners –
 - **1st – Uttar Pradesh**
 - 2nd – Rajasthan
 - 3rd – Tamil Nadu
- The awards were first launched in 2018 by **the Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- In the same event the president will also launch the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022**.

LEGAL SERVICE CLINIC

Current Context: National Commission for Women has launched a Legal Service clinic in collaboration with **Delhi State Legal Service Authority (DSLISA)**.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It will act as a single-window facility for resolving the grievances of women.
- **Free legal assistance** will be given to women.
- **National Commission for Women**
 - Chairperson – **Ms. Rekha Sharma**

4TH FOUNDATION DAY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS

Current Context: NESTS will celebrate its 4th Foundation Day on April 2, 2022.

KEY POINTS

- NESTS is an autonomous organization established under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.

- Its foundation day will be celebrated in **Jamshedpur, Jharkhand**.
- Chief Guest of the event - **Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda**.
- About NESTS –
 - Aim of this society is to provide high-quality education to the tribal students in their own environment.
 - MoTA and NESTS have so far opened 123 schools and 140 schools are in progress.
 - They aim to construct 45 schools by 452 **on the lines of Navodya Vidyalaya**.
 - The construction of schools is being **monitored by NITs and IITs of the respective state**.

NATIONAL LAND MONETIZATION CORPORATION (NLMC)

Current Context: Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of NLMC on March 9, 2022.

KEY FACTS

- NLMC will be a **wholly-owned government of India company**.
- Initial Authorized share capital – **INR 5000 crore** & paid-up share capital of INR 150 crore.
- Objectives of NLMC –
 - It will monetize surplus land and building assets of Central public sector enterprises and government agencies.
 - It will own, hold, manage and monetize assets of surplus assets of CPSE which are 100% GOI owned under a strategic disinvestment plan.

SAGAR PARIKRAMA

Current Context: Programme 'Sagar Parikrama' was launched by the government of India on the occasion of the 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

DETAILS

- By the Department - **Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
- Aim –
 - interaction with the fisherman and make them aware of various fisheries-related schemes and programs being implemented by the Government
 - promote responsible fisheries
 - protection of marine ecosystems.
- The Programme will cover all coastal states.
- The 1st phase was organized in **Gujarat from Mandvi** and ended at **Porbandar, Gujarat**.

ASSAM AND MEGHALAYA AGREEMENT

Current Context: CM of Assam and Meghalaya signed a historic agreement in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

ABOUT

- The agreement is for the settlement of inter-state border dispute.
- Agreement has solved 6 out of 12 issues between Assam and Meghalaya and about 70 percent of the border has become dispute-free.

NATIONAL DISCOURSE ON FOOD, NUTRITION, HEALTH AND WASH (FNHW)

Current Context: Ministry of Rural Development along with Roshni Centre and PCI organized the program National Discourse on Food, Nutrition, Health and WASH (FNHW).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Topic - “Leveraging DAY-NRLM’s Women Collectives for strengthening Health Seeking Behaviour among SHG households for improved health outcomes”.
- Organized by - Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), UNICEF supported Roshni Centre, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supported PCI.
- Aim – To address the issue of malnutrition at the household level in women and other health-related problems faced by women.

LAKSHYA ZERO DUMPSITE PROGRAMME

Current Context: GOI has approved the INR 433.74 crores Legal Waste Remediation Proposal of Maharashtra and the INR 178.6 crore proposal of Telangana.

POINTS

- It is one of the aims of **Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0** to deal with the legacy of dross and dregs which result in **garbage hills built up at dumpsites**.
- Nodal Ministry - **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs**

INK MANUFACTURING UNIT VARNIKA

Current Context: Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) set up ink manufacturing unit **Varnika**.

KEY FEATURES

- It was set up in **Mysuru** to enhance the security of banknotes.
- It has a manufacturing capacity of 1500 MT.
- It has been dedicated by **Shaktikanta Das** (RBI governor) to the nation.
- **BRBNMPL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI.**

3% HIKE IN DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

Current Context: Central government has approved the hiking of DA for central government employees by 3%.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This will make the Dearness Allowance 34%.
- It will benefit approximately 4.8 million employees and 6.9 million, pensioners.
- The same has been done as per the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

BIMSTEC SUMMIT 2022

Current Context: PM Narendra Modi attended the 5th BIMSTEC summit hosted virtually by Sri Lanka.

KEY FACTS

- Theme - "Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People".
- The main outcome of this year's Summit was the adoption and signing of the BIMSTEC charter. It formalized the BIMSTEC grouping into an organization with flags, emblems, and listed principles to adhere to.
- India pledged 1 million US dollars to strengthen the capacity of the BIMSTEC Secretariat.
- About BIMSTEC
 - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
 - HQ – Dhaka, Bangladesh
 - Member countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar
 - Secretary General - H. E. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell

FILM MEDIA UNITS MERGED WITH NATIONAL FILMS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Current Context: Ministry of I&B via 3 orders transferred the 'production of documentaries and short films', 'organization of film festivals', and 'preservation of films' to the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).

KEY POINTS

- NFDC is a PSU under the Ministry of I&B.
- Production of documentaries and short films has been transferred from Films Division to NFDC.
- The organization of film festivals has been transferred from the Directorate of Films Festivals.
- Preservation-related activities have been transferred from the **National Film Archives of India**.
- **About NFDC**
 - Owned by - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
 - HQ – Mumbai
 - CEO & MD – Mr. Ravinder Bhakar

EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECLGS) 3.0

Current Context: The scope of the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** has been enhanced till **31.3.2023**.

ABOUT

- New borrowers under ECLGS 3.0 who borrowed after 31.03.2021 but up to 31.01.2022 will now be eligible **to avail of emergency credit facilities**.
- Increase in additional credit support from existing 40% of fund-based credit outstanding to 50% of fund-based credit **outstanding under ECLGS 3.0. (Subject to existing maximum of Rs. 200 crores per borrower)**
- Eligible borrowers in the civil aviation sector – can avail of the **fund and non-fund-based emergency credit facilities**. (subject to a maximum of 400 crores per borrower)

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF CHETAK HELICOPTER

Current Context: Chetak Helicopter completed **60 years** of service to the nation.

DETAILS

- Ministry of Defence is conducting a conclave titled 'यशस्वत् षट् दशकम्'
- Theme of the conclave- 'चेतक – आत्मनिर्भरता, बहुविजता एवं विश्वस्तता के छः गौरवशाली दशक'.
- Organized by - **Air Force Station Hakimpet** under the aegis of **Indian Air Force & Training Command**.
- Scheduled at - **National Industrial Security Academy Convention Centre, Secunderabad**.

IONS MARITIME EXERCISE 2022 (IMEX 22)

Current Context: 1st edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) - (IMEX-22) was conducted at Goa and in the Arabian Sea from 26 – 30 Mar 22.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Aim - To **enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** operations among member navies.
- It had 2 phases – Phase 1 which was Harbour Phase was conducted at Marmugao Goa & phase 2 which was a sea phase was conducted in the Arabian Sea.
- 15 IONS member navies, namely **Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE, and the UK** also participated in the exercise.
- This exercise will help regional navies to collaborate and respond collectively to natural disasters in the region and has paved way for further strengthening regional cooperation.

SEBI TIGHTENS RULES FOR PASSIVE BREACHES BY FUND MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Current Context: Passive breach happens when scheme asset allocation deviates from that mentioned in this scheme information document (SID) unknowingly.

KEY FEATURES

- In its circular, SEBI has given 30 days' time to all fund management companies to rectify the same.
- On failing to do so, they are required to give written justification to the Investment Committee (IC) which can extend the timeline up to 60days.
- On failing to meet the above timeline the fund management company will be barred from launching any new scheme till the time the portfolio is rebalanced. Further, it will not be allowed to levy exit load, if any, on the investors exiting such schemes.