



MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST

OCTOBER 2020

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DEFENCE MINISTER LAUNCHED DISC-4, IDEXFAUJI INITIATIVE AND PMA GUIDELINES

Current Context: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched 'Defence India Startup Challenge-4' (DISC-4) at the iDEX event (iDEX event was launched in 2018 by Department of Defence Production).

HIGHLIGHTS

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- Along with this challenge, the Defence Minister also launched iDEXFauji initiative and guidelines for Product Management Approach (PMA).
- All these initiatives are launched with an aim to facilitate and promote iDEX-DIO (Defence Innovation Organisation).
- These initiatives will scale up innovation and technology utilised in Defence and Aerospace sector.
- **DISC-4:** Under this initiative, 11 challenges from armed forces are made for startups, innovators and MSMEs to carry out innovation ideas in technology related to defence sector.
- **The challenges under DISC-4 are:** (1)Autonomous Underwater Swarm Drones (2)AI based Satellite Image Analysis (3)Predictive, Preventive and Prescriptive Machine Monitoring (4) Reduction of RCS of Naval Warships (5) Super Resolution of Improving Spatial Resolution (6) Computer generated targets for virtual training (7) Target Detection in Chaff Environment (8) Remote real time in-flight health monitoring of aircrew (9) MF-TDMA based Wideband SATCOM Modem (10) Prediction and forecasting of atmospheric visibility (11) Foliage Penetration Radar.
- **iDEXFauji initiative:** It is launched to support innovations which are identified by the Indian Armed Forces. It will strengthen the innovation ideas which are gained from soldiers as it allows the soldiers to become the part of this initiative and be the reason for innovation.
- **Product Management Approach (PMA) Guidelines:** They are launched to develop a ready product under the moto of 'Right product and the Product Right'. The guidelines will monitor the overall product development as per the requirements set by services and OFBs (Ordnance Factory Board).

SHANTI SWARUP BHATNAGAR PRIZE 2020

Current Context: The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize is given every year to mark the outstanding contribution to science and technology.

ABOUT PRIZE 2020

- It is the science award given by CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) for outstanding work in research, applied or fundamental, in physics, biology, chemistry, environmental science, engineering , mathematics and medicine.
- This year the CSIR announced SSB award to 14 scientists. The awards were announced by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan. He is also Vice President of CSIR.
- **The winners for each category of SSB award 2020 are:**

Category	Name of Winner
Biological Science	Dr Subhadeep Chatterjee
	Dr Vatsala Thirumalai
Chemical Science	Dr Jyotirmayee Dash
	Dr Subi Jacob George
Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Science	Dr Abhijeet Mukherjee
	Dr Suryendu Dutta
Engineering Science	Dr Amol Arvindrao Kulkarni
	Dr Kinshuk Dasgupta

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Mathematics Science	Dr UK Anandavardhanan
	Dr Rajat Subhra Hazra
Medicine Science	Dr Bushra Ateeq
	Dr Ritesh Agrawal
Physics Science	Dr Rajesh Ganapathy
	Dr Surajit Dhara

NITI AAYOG AND EMBASSY OF NETHERLAND SIGNS SOI

Current Context: NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and Embassy of Netherland, New Delhi has signed Statement of Intent (SoI).

KEY POINTS

- **The SoI is signed to support Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda for utilising and accommodating cleaner and more energy.**
- The SoI will build a strategic partnership which will create comprehensive collaboration among stakeholders, industrial bodies, policymakers, OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturers) and private sectors.
- This strategic partnership will lead to development of innovative technologies by leveraging skills and expertise among all these entities.
- **Both NITI Aayog and Embassy of Netherland will work collaberately for:** (1) lowering net carbon footprint in sectors like transports and industry (2) release target potential of natural gas and promote bio-energy technologies (3) develop and adopt clean air technologies (4) financial frameworks to deliver and adopt climate change finance.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant
 - Capital of Netherland: Amsterdam
 - Currency of Netherland: Euro

'IB-ENOTE', A GREEN TECH INITIATIVE & 'IND GURU', AN E-LEARNING PLATFORM

Current Context: Indian Bank launched a green tech initiative named as 'IB-eNote'.

DETAILS

- **'IB-eNote' initiative is launched to support paperless working environment.**
- 'IB-eNote' allows the processing and tracking of notes in digital format.
- Feature of Microsoft named as Sharepoint, is customized by Indian Bank in order to support activities of 'IB-eNote' initiative.

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- 'IB-eNote' helps to improve turnaround time, saves cost of papers, reduces printing costs and also other administrative expenses.
- **Also, Indian Bank has launched 'Ind Guru', which is an E-learning platform for its employees. 'Ind Guru' is the technology based learning providing solution.**
- 'Ind Guru' provides skill development and cross functional learning to the employees of the Indian Bank.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Indian Bank: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - MD and CEO of Indian Bank: Padmaja Chundururu
 - Tagline of Indian Bank: Your Own Bank, Banking That's Twice as Good

'DIGITAL SURAKSHA GROUP INSURANCE' - FLIPKART AND BAJAJ ALLIANZ

Current Context: Bajaj Allianz General Insurance in collaboration with E-commerce platform, Flipkart has launched a cyber insurance cover for online financial frauds.

KEY FACTS

- The name of cyber insurance cover is 'Digital Suraksha Group Insurance'.
- **This insurance cover allows customers to protect themselves from finance frauds like cyber-attacks and other malicious activities.**
- 'Digital Suraksha Group Insurance' is an effort of Flipkart to make online shopping safe and secure.
- **Customers can avail this insurance with one year cover at premium of Rs 183 for a cover of Rs 50,000, at premium of Rs 312 for a cover of Rs 1 Lakh and at premium of Rs 561 for a cover of Rs 2 lakh.**
- It will compensate for financial loss due to unauthorized digital financial transactions as a result of identity theft arising out of cyber-attacks, SIM Jacking etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance: Pune
 - MD and CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance: Tapan Singhel
 - HQ of Flipkart: Bengaluru
 - CEO of Flipkart: Kalyan Krishnamurthy

6TH JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION MEET BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH

Current Context: The 6th Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meet by India and Bangladesh was held virtually.

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **India was represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. And Bangladesh was represented by Foreign Minister, A K Abdul Momen.**
- Both the dignitaries discussed the bilateral relations at the meet.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar focused that Bangladesh is the important nation in India's 'Neighborhood First Policy'.
- He also assured to follow the commitment to supply COVID-19 vaccine to Bangladesh.
- Both the ministers focused on their commitment to finalize the agreement for sharing waters of Teesta and also mentioned the need to complete the framework of interim agreement on sharing waters of six rivers namely Muhuri, Gumti, Manu, Khowai, Dudhkumar and Dharla.
- At the meeting, ministers released commemorative postal stamp issued by Bangladesh on the occasion of 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Also, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that India is planning to launch commemorative postal stamp on the occasion birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dec 2020.
- Both the nations discussed to achieve border security, cooperation in energy sector and to initiate 'air travel bubble' flights.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka
 - Currency of Bangladesh: Taka
 - PM of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina

CSIR TECHNOLOGIES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHED

Current Context: Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Health and Family Welfare launched CSIR Technologies for Rural Development.

DETAILS

- CSIR Technologies for Rural Development was launched on the occasion of 40th Foundation Day of CSIR-NISTADS (CSIR- National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies).
- **The CSIR Technologies for Rural Development is the joint initiative of CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research), IIT Delhi, UBA (Unnat Bharat Abhiyan) and VIBHA (Vijnana Bharti).**
- **The initiative is launched to allow CSIR technologies to reach rural community of India.**
- All the associated entities with this initiative will work collaboratively on framework for scientific intervention to create sustainable lifestyle and opportunities in the rural part of India.
- At this launching event, Dr Harsh Vardhan also released CSIR-NISTADS e-Compendium and a e-Coffee Table Book.

RBI DEFERS BASEL III PROVISIONS AMID COVID UNCERTAINTY

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Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has deferred the implementation of Basel III provisions due to uncertainty of COVID-19.

ABOUT

- **In this regard, RBI will repel the final tranche of Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB) and the implementation of Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) by 6 months i.e. 1st April 2021.**
- **Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB):** It is an additional pool that banks build in normal times. Bank makes use of this during the periods of stress. RBI has asked banks to build CCB to the required 2.5% in the stages. The last stage of 0.625% was to start on 30th Sep 2020. But now this is deferred to 1st April 2021. RBI has earlier deferred the implementation by 6 months from 31st March 2020.
- **Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR):** NSFR requires banks to fund their activities with sufficiently stable sources of funding over a time of a year to reduce future funding risks for banks. As per the prescribed timeline, banks were required to maintain 100% of NSFR from 1st April 2020 but now RBI has deferred it for a second time to 1st April 2021.
- **RBI has also extended enhanced borrowing facility provided to the banks under MSF (Marginal Standing Facility) by 6 months i.e. till 31st March 2021. This borrowing limit for scheduled banks is increased from 2% to 3% of their NDTL (Net Demand Time Liabilities).**
- **RBI increased the timeline for additional market borrowing provided to states/UT by 6 months:** In April 2020, RBI increased the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limits and Overdraft (OD) regulations for states and UTs till 30th Sep 2020 in order to deal with crisis arisen due to COVID-19. But now, RBI has extended this timeline by 6 months i.e. till 31st March 2021. Also, RBI has decided to increase the number of days which states and UTs can be overdraft continuously to 21 working days from 14 working days. Also, the number of days for which states and UTs can be in overdraft in a quarter is increased to 50 working days from 36 working days.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

AMBEDKAR SOCIAL INNOVATION AND INCUBATION MISSION (ASIIM)

Current Context: The Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) was launched by Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.

ABOUT MISSION

- **ASIIM is launched under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SC).**
- **Aim of this mission is to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students who are pursuing education in higher educational institutions.**
- **Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SC) will focus on students and youth who are working in Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) and will offer them guidance, mentoring, finance and training.**

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- Under this fund, 117 companies are sanctioned financial assistance to build business ventures. These 117 companies are promoted by SC entrepreneurs.
- The mission is said to be beneficial to around 1000 SC youths who will be trained for the next 4 years.
- **Budget sanctioned for ASIIM is Rs 19,320 lakhs.**
- ASIIM will work in accordance with GOI's Start-Up India Programme.

APPOINTMENT AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 2ND OCT 2020

Current Context: Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah: He is the crown prince of Kuwait and is sworn in as new emir of Kuwait. He has replaced Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Kuwait: Kuwait City.
 - Currency of Kuwait: Kuwaiti Dinar.
- **Ajay Kumar Bhalla:** He is appointed to head the panel set by GOI to examine all Chinese Foreign Investment Proposals. He is also secretary of DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade).
- **Sourav Ganguly:** He is appointed as the **brand ambassador of Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited**, a Kolkata based real estate developer.

CRIME IN INDIA REPORT 2019

Current Context: 'Crime in India 2019' Report was published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

ABOUT REPORT

- **As per the reported crime against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) increased to 7% and 26% respectively in 2019 as compared to 2018.**
- **A total of 45,935 cases are there related to crime against SCs in 2019.** In 2018, there were 42,793 cases related to crime against SCs. Thus it shows an increase of 7.3% in 2019.
- **Uttar Pradesh has recorded the highest number of crimes against SCs in 2019 with the number of 11,829 cases.**
- Uttar Pradesh is followed by Rajasthan with the criminal cases against SCs are 6749.
- **A total of 8257 cases are registered for the crime against Scheduled Tribes (STs). There is increase of 26.5% in crime cases against STs compared to 2018.**
- **Madhya Pradesh has registered the highest crime cases against STs with the number of 1922 cases.**
- Madhya Pradesh is followed by Rajasthan with the criminal cases against STs are 1797.
- **Static Part:**

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- HQ of NCRB: New Delhi

SBI AND HUL SIGNS MOU

Current Context: State Bank of India (SBI) and Hindustan Unilever (HUL) has entered into MoU to offer Digital Payment Solutions and Financial Solutions to retailers and distributors of HUL.

KEY FACTS

- Initially, the services related to this MoU will be available to retailers and distributors of HUL in Mumbai and Bengaluru.
- Under this MoU, SBI will provide paperless OD (overdraft) facility of up to Rs 50,000 to retailers for their billings and finance facilities to distributors of HUL.
- The Point of Sale (PoS) machine will be installed by SBI at various HUL touchpoints so that products and services of HUL reached customers in smaller towns as well.
- SBI will also offer UPI based solutions to retailers to have safe and hassle free cashless payments to dealers through an app called 'Shikhar'.
- A corporate package will be offered to HUL employees which will provide them retail products at competitive prices.
- Also, SBI will be integrating its YONO app with HUL's 'Shikhar' app.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SBI: Rajnish Kumar
 - HQ of HUL: Mumbai
 - Chairman and MD: Sanjiv Mehta

TRIBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Current Context: The Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme was launched by Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda.

ABOUT

- **The programme is the joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India).**
- **The Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme is a three year initiative which will develop the potential of tribal community and will enhance their potential so that they can contribute to socio-economic growth.**
- To promote and to highlight this programme and to commemorate birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, ASSOCHAM conducted a webinar titled as '**Khadi: Symbol of independent Aatma Nirbhar Bharat**'.

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- During the launching event, Union Minister Arjun Munda addressed and motivated all the stakeholders and industry members to join this programme and help in developing abilities of tribal communities for overall social and economic growth of this community.

NABARD LAUNCHED REFINANCE SCHEME FOR WASH PROGRAMME

Current Context: NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) launched refinance scheme for the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) programme.

KEY POINTS

- **The special refinance facility of Rs 800 crore for FY 2020-21 has been sanctioned by NABARD for WASH programme.**
- NABARD offers concessional refinance facilities to financial institutions like RRBs, commercial banks and cooperative banks with the repayment period of upto 36 months.
- This support of NABARD will be transferred to fund the WASH activities, thrust area eligible for 95% refinance.
- This refinance support will also be extended to NBFCs and MFIs.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
 - Chairman of NABARD: G R Chintala

'PATHASHREE ABHIJAN' SCHEME — WEST BENGAL

Current Context: Government of West Bengal launched 'Pathashree Abhijan' Scheme.

ABOUT SCHEME

- Pathashree Abhijan' Scheme is the road repair scheme.
- This scheme will conduct road repair activities for more than 7000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 km in the state.
- **A fund of Rs 500 crores has been sanctioned for 'Pathashree Abhijan' Scheme.**
- The state government has set a deadline of Dec-Jan 2021 to complete the repair activities of the roads under this scheme.
- The list of roads which will be repaired under this scheme are collected with the help of 'Didi Ke Bolo' initiative of state government, which was launched in 2019 to address public grievances.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee
 - Governor of West Bengal: Jagdeep Dhankhar

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DATA GOVERNANCE QUALITY INDEX

Current Context: The Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) was conducted by Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **DGQI is conducted to analyse and assess the performance of various ministries and departments on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).**
- The survey assesses data preparedness based on various standards for various ministries and departments.
- The survey aims to have a healthy competition among departments and ministries so as to promote cooperative peer learning practices to attain their best performances.
- **As per the analysis from the Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI), the Department of Fertilisers marked the 2nd position among 16 ministries and departments.**
- **The Department of Fertilisers also secured 3rd rank position among 65 ministries and departments with a score of 4.11 out of scale of 5.**
- The Department of Fertilisers comes under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.
- To generate this scorecard based on various parameters of analysis, DMEO, NITI Aayog conducted a survey exercise named as 'Self-assessment based review of data preparedness levels'.
- **For this survey exercise, an online questionnaire was framed under the 6 themes of DGQI:** (1) Data Generation (2) Data Quality (3) Usage of Technology (4) Data Analysis, use and Dissemination (5) Data Security (6) HR Capacity and Case Studies.
- To each of these themes, weightage was assigned and sub-weightage to each question of each theme to give a final DGQI score between 0-5 for every scheme.
- **Ministries or Departments were classified in 6 categories namely :** (1) Administration (2) Strategies (3) Infrastructure (4) Social (5) Economic (6) Scientific
- Inputs were collected from 65 ministries and departments implementing 250 CS and CSS schemes and their scores were calculated accordingly.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant
 - Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog: Rajiv Kumar
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
 - Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers: D V Sadananda Gowda

OPERATIONAL INTEGRATION OF AYUSH GRID WITH NDGM

Current Context: A high level committee chaired by Vd. Rajesh Kotech, secretary of Ministry of AYUSH held a meeting and announced the operational integration of Ayush Grid with National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

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KEY FACTS

- Ayush Grid is the emerging IT backbone for the AYUSH sector.
- This integration is made to avail of health benefits to the public.
- This integration of Ayush Grid with NDHM will also accelerate mainstreaming the AYUSH discipline of healthcare.
- To integrate this, initially the Secretary of AYUSH ministry conducted a review to analyse current status of IT initiatives undertaken under Ayush Grid projects.
- And after the review, Secretary observed that in the last two years Ayush Grid has performed successfully to bridge the digital gap in Ayush sector.
- He also observed that Ayush Grid has successfully implemented various critical healthcare IT projects.
- The integration will lead to digitization of AYUSH sector which will transform its fields like healthcare delivery at all levels including research, education, various health programmes and regulation of drugs.
- It will also help in achieving national and global healthcare goals.
- **Static Part: What is Ayush Grid?:** It is a project initiated by Ministry of AYUSH in 2018 to have a IT support to AYUSH ministry.
 - **Activities held by Ayush Grid:** Creation of COVID-19 dashboard, Ayush Sanjivani App, Yoga locator mobile app, AHMIS (AYUSH Health Management Information System)
 - **Union Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH:** Shripad Yesso Naik

TIME USE IN INDIA 2019 SURVEY

Current Context: A survey titled as 'Time Use Survey' was conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

DETAILS

- **The survey shows the measurement of participation of men and women in paid and unpaid activities during the period of January 2019 to December 2019.**
- The survey was conducted by analysing 1.39 lakh households comprising 4.47 lakh people over the age of 6 years.
- This survey gives information related to time spent in unpaid caregiving activities, volunteer work, unpaid domestic services of household members, time spent on learning, leisure activities, self-care activities etc.
- As per the survey report, 38.2% of population engage themselves in employment and related activities They spend around 7 hours and 9 minutes daily each day for this purpose.
- When compared gender-wise, only 18.4% women engage themselves in employment and related activities when compared with 57.3% men.
- Men spend 7 hours 39 minutes and women spend 5 hours 33 minutes in employment and related activities.
- In Unpaid domestic work, women's participation is around 81.2% as compared to men to 26.1%. The Unpaid domestic work includes cleaning, cooking housekeeping and household activities.

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- In Unpaid domestic work, women contribute around 5 hours of time and men contributes 1 hour 37 minutes of time. Thus, women contributes thrice as much as time in Unpaid domestic work than men.
- In Unpaid Care giving activities, women participates to around 27.6% of time and men participates 14% of the time.
- As per the survey in India, participation in culture, leisure, mass-media and sports activities through reading ,watching TV is high i.e. at 86.9%, which comprises to around 165 minutes per day on an average.
- Participation in social activities like chatting, community participation, mass-media is high i.e. at 91.3%, which comprises to around 143 minutes per day on an average.

ISRO SET TO LAUNCH FIRST VENUS MISSION 'SHUKRAYAAN-1' IN 2025

Current Context: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch its first Venus mission in 2025.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The name of ISRO's first Venus Mission is 'Shukrayaan-1'.**
- **ISRO will be launching this mission with participation of French Space Agency CNES and Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF).**
- Venus Mission will be launched to study atmospheric chemistry, compositional variations and dynamics of Venus planet. Through this mission , planet Venus will be explored through satellite instrument VNA (Venusian Neutrals Analyzer).
- To launch this mission, ISRO has selected VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker), which is an instrument co-developed with Roscosmos , Russia's federal space agency and the LATMOS (Atmospheres, Milieux, Observations Spatiales Labrotor) which will be attached to the CNRS.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ISRO: Bengaluru
 - Chairman of ISRO: K Sivan

SWACHH BHARAT AWARDS 2020

Current Context: Union Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Rattan Lal Khataria announced and conferred the Swachh Bharat Awards 2020 to the best performing states/UTs, Gram Panchayats, Districts and Blocks.

KEY POINTS

- **The awards were presented under cleanliness and drinking water categories.**

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- **The categories under which Swachh Bharat Awards 2020 were given are:** (1) Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shauchalaya (SSSS) Campaign (2) Samudayik Shauchalaya Abhiyan (SSA) (3) Gandagi se Mukh Campaign.
- **Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shauchalaya (SSSS) Campaign:** Gujarat (Best State), Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu (Best District), Kachrod, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh (Best Block) Chinnaur (Best Gram Panchayat).
- **Samudayik Shauchalaya Abhiyan (SSA):** Uttar Pradesh (GKRA- Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan) and Gujarat (Non GKRA) (Best State), Prayagraj (GKRA) and Bareilly (Non GKRA) (Best district), Borigaon, Bongaigaon, Assam (Best Gram Panchayat).
- **Gandagi se Mukh Campaign:** Telangana and Haryana (Best State), Moga, Punjab (Best District).

INDIA AND BAHRAIN TO COOPERATE IN FINANCE AND BUSINESS SECTOR

Current Context: India and Bahrain held the bilateral meet to enhance cooperation in financial and business sector.

KEY FACTS

- **The bilateral meet was attended by India's ambassador to Bahrain, Piyush Srivastava and Minister of Finance and National Economy of Bahrain, Shaikh Salman Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.**
- Both the dignitaries discussed various ways to enhance economic partnership between the two nations.
- They assured for investment in various sector in the future.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bahrain: Manama
 - Currency of Bahrain: Dinar

VIRTUAL VAISHVIK BHARATIYA VAIGYANIK (VAIBHAV)

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020'.

ABOUT MEETING

- **VAIBHAV is the summit of overseas and resident of Indian Researchers and Academicians.**
- The summit will be held till 31st Oct 2020.
- **The summit is conducted to bring experts from various institutes and organisations across the world under one single platform to have a debate upon mechanisms to boost science and technology base in India for overall global development.**
- The summit is organized by 200 academic institutions and Science and Technology departments which are headed by Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghvan , Principal Scientific Advisor.

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APPOINTMENT ON 5TH OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: G Subramonia Iyer: He is appointed as head of 3 member interim Committee of Directors (CoD) to exercise the power of MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd: Thrissur, Kerala
- **Charanjit Attra:** He is appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of State Bank of India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of State Bank of India: Mumbai
 - Chairman of State Bank of India: Rajnish Kumar

'YUDH PRADUSHAN KE VIRUDH'—DELHI

Current Context: Chief Minister of Delhi launched 'Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh' campaign.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 'Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh' is the mega anti-pollution campaign.
- Under this campaign, the government of Delhi will be making use of technology by Pusa Agriculture Institute to control the threat of stubble burning.
- The campaign is launched with an aim to reduce air pollution and will work to reduce the dust level in the atmospheric air.
- The campaign will be initiated in the 13 hotspot areas which are identified by the government of Delhi.
- For this campaign, 'Green Delhi App' is also launched, it is the photo-based app launched to lodge complaints related to pollution for citizens.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Lt Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

DRDO SUCCESSFULLY FLIGHT TESTED SMART

Current Context: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted flight test of Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART).

KEY POINTS

- SMART was flight tested from Dr. Abdul Kalam Island, formerly known as Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

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- The test mission objectives like missile flight upto the range and altitude, separation of the nose cone, release of Torpedo and deployment of VRM (Velocity Reduction Mechanism) were perfectly observed and met the requirements as well.
- SMART is the missile assisted release of Anti-Submarine Torpedo system which will be used for ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) operations.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: G Satheesh Reddy

PM NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATED RAISE 2020

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'RAISE 2020- Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020' virtually.

KEY FACTS

- It is the mega virtual summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) held from 5th Oct to 9th Oct 2020.
- It is jointly organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog.
- During the inauguration ceremony, PM Modi addressed to leverage AI for inclusive development, so that AI will represent 'India's AI for ALL' and will lead to achieve moto of Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas.
- PM Modi highlighted his view about the aspects related to Technology and Human Empowerment. He mentioned that collaboration between AI and Humans can do wonders in every sector for planet Earth.
- He also mentioned that the focus must be on the positive productivity of AI. He noted that we must protect the world from weaponization of AI by Non-State Actors. He focused to have transparent algorithm strategy for AI in order to build trust in this AI technology.
- In this virtual summit, PM Modi announced the formation of National Educational Technology Forum.
- In this summit, around 15,000 stakeholders from various research areas across the world have taken their participation.

INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON TEXTILE TRADITIONS

Current Context: The first of its kind 'International Webinar on Textile Traditions' was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ABOUT WEBINAR

- The webinar was organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Uttar Pradesh Institute of Design (UPID).

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- **The webinar was conducted to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.**
- **The theme for the webinar:** 'Weaving Relations: Textile Traditions'.
- The webinar was organized with an aim to exchange ideas and inculcate best practices among weaves of different countries and to boost the creation of new avenues for collaborations.
- The webinars were participated by weavers from countries like Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Indonesia, Thailand, Afghanistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Bhutan.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Textiles: Smriti Irani

MOHUA SIGNS MOU WITH SWIGGY

Current Context: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs signed MoU with food aggregator Swiggy in order to provide online platform for street food vendors.

DETAILS

- **The MoU is signed under PM Svanidhi Scheme.**
- Initially, the partnership between MoHUA and Swiggy will be initiated in 5 Indian cities like Chennai, Ahmedabad, Indore, Varanasi and Delhi.
- On the first day of this initiative, 250 vendors from these 5 cities were taken on-board and the initiative is said to be beneficial to around 50 lakh street vendors.
- The street vendors will be provided with FSSAI registration, PAN Registration, training to handle Swiggy app. They will be offered with training related to hygiene packing system, technology and menu digitization.
- This initiative will enhance income of street vendors.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri

RGICL PARTNERED WITH SATSURE ANALYTICS

Current Context: The Reliance General Insurance Company Limited (RGICL) has entered into partnership with SatSure Analytics, which is a Bengaluru based company.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have entered into partnership to improve crop insurance business operations, to develop satellite based crop monitoring and to have predictive analytics support for risk management.**
- SatSure Analytics, the wholly owned subsidiary of SatSure AH Switzerland, provides agricultural data infrastructure support through SPARTA. The SPARTA is the proprietary platform. It also provides decision analytics tool through SAGE in agriculture, climate change and infra sectors.
- **RGICL in coordination with SatSure Analytics will launch a crop insurance by investing technology and innovative solutions.**

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- RGICL will combine Earth Observation Data and will generate reports with the help of SatSure Analytics' SAGE platform . This data will help to address the key factors of crop health, soil moisture and crop yields and loss estimations.
- Then this reports will enable timely support of insurance services and will enable the monitoring of risk remotely so as to take accurate financial actions.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RIGCL: Mumbai
 - Executive Director and CEO of RIGCL: Rakesh Jain

ICICI OFFERS DEBIT CARD FOR CUSTOMERS WHO AVAIL LAS

Current Context: ICICI Bank and Visa has partnered to launch a debit card facility for the customers who avail Loans Against Securities (LAS) from the bank.

KEY POINTS

- Thus ICICI Bank has become the first bank in India to launch this facility after RBI allowed banks to issue electronics cards to customers who avail OD (Overdraft) facility.
- The card is made available on Visa platform and any new customer who avails for LAS will be issued with this debit card.
- Customer can make use of this card to make payments through POS (Point of Sale) and online transactions by making use of sanctioned LAS account.
- The maximum daily transaction limit is Rs 3 lakhs.
- The card can be also accessed on ICICI bank's app iMobile app.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of ICICI Bank: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Aapka
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakshi

QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET

Current Context: The Quad or Quadrilateral Countries' Foreign Ministers Meet was held on 6th Oct 2020 in Tokyo, Japan.

ABOUT MEETING

- **The group of quad countries in this includes United States, Japan, India and Australia.**
- In this meet, India was represented by External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar. United States was represented by US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, Australia was represented by their Foreign Minister, Marise Payne and Japan was represented by their Foreign Minister, Toshimitsu Motegi.
- The dignitaries discussed about the FOIP (Free and Open Indo-Pacific) initiative.
- They also held discussion related to post COVID-19 international order assured to work coordinately to tackle various challenges emerging due to pandemic.

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MY GANGA MY DOLPHIN CAMPAIGN

Current Context: The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Forest Department launched a 'My Ganga My Dolphin' Campaign.

KEY FACTS

- **It is the first-of-its-kind Dolphin based eco-tourism programme based campaign.**
- It was launched on the occasion of Ganga River Dolphin Day which is marked on 5th October.
- The aim behind this campaign is to achieve sustainable tourism and to motivate dolphin conservation for ecotourism across the river Ganga.
- Under this campaign, census under the stretch of river Ganga will also be conducted. Census will be conducted in 250 km stretch from Bijnor (UP) to Narora (UP).
- Dolphin Safari will also be conducted under this campaign at six sites of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.
- **Static Part:** River Dolphin is National Aquatic Animal of India

APPOINTMENT, RESIGNATION AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 7TH OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: IPS MA Ganapathy: He is appointed as **Director General (DG) of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).**



- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BCAS: New Delhi
- **Prof Ashima Goyal, Prof Jayanth R Varma and Dr Shashanka Bhide:** They all are Economist and are **appointed as members of RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).** The selection of this committee members was headed by Tarun Bajaj, Secretary of Economic Affairs.
- **Dinesh Kumar Khara:** He is appointed as **Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI)** for a tenure of 3 years. He has replaced Rajnish Kumar.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
- **Madhabi Puri Buch:** Her tenure to be the **Whole-Time Member (WTM) of SEBI** (Securities Exchange Board of India) is **extended by 1 year** by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by PM Narendra Modi.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi
- **Omar Al-Razzaz:** He has submitted his **resignation to be the Prime Minister of Jordan.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Jordan: Amman

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- Currency of Jordan: Jordanian Dinar
- **Ajinkya Rahane:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador of Hudle**, which is a sports tech startup.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Jordan: Amman
 - Currency of Jordan: Jordanian Dinar

'DIGITAL SEVA SETU PROGRAMME'-- GUJARAT

Current Context: Government of Gujarat has launched the 'Digital Seva Setu Programme' for rural areas.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The programme aims to offer maximum utilization and benefit of technology for public welfare.**
- The programme is initiated by **Centre's BharatNet Project** which covers the village panchayats through a fibre network.
- The villages will be connected with a **100MBPS optical fibre network technology**. Total 10,000 village panchayats will be connected via this high-speed internet technology.
- In the first phase of this programme, 2000 village panchayats will be connected via optical fibres.
- The programme will offer **20 services** including issuance of duplicate ration card, income certificate, senior citizen certificate, caste certificate etc. Under this programme, these services can be availed by citizens by paying Rs 20 as the fee amount.
- The programme is making use of provisions of Article -3 of Oaths Act 1969, in which the Gujarat Government will grant the powers of the affidavit to the Talati-cum-Secretary at the village panchayat level so that the villagers do not have to visit notary officers located in cities.
- Also, the facility of e-signature is offered. Thus, under this programme, rural people can avail benefits and have necessary documents at just a click of a button of mobile phone.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Gujarat: Vijay Rupani
 - Governor of Gujarat: Acharya Devrat

MOU SIGNED BETWEEN ISLRTC AND NCERT

Current Context: The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) has signed MoU with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) with an aim to make educational materials accessible to hearing-impaired children.

KEY POINTS

- This will prove highly beneficial to the students having difficulty in speaking or hearing and will thus lead to educate and empower differently abled students.

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- Under this MoU, NCERT notes in Indian languages will make educational contents available to hearing-impaired students in Indian Sign Languages.
- **All the academic contents will be converted into Digital Sign Languages, which will allow the access of NCERT notes to the hearing impaired students.**
- The MoU is signed to fulfill the aim of UNICEF's initiative of 'Accessible Digital Textbooks for All'.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ISLRTC: New Delhi
 - HQ of NCERT: New Delhi

IFFCO AND PRASAR BHARTI TO PROMOTE NEW AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Current Context: Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has signed MoU with Prasar Bharti.

KEY FACTS

- **The MoU is signed to broadcast and promote the latest agricultural innovation and technology during a program organized in Prithi Bhavan, New Delhi.**
- Under this MoU, the **DD Kisan program** will broadcast various technology and innovations in the agri sector through a series of 30 minutes program consisting approx 25 episodes.
- The IFFCO and Prasar Bharti have entered into this MoU with an aim to make Indian Farmers self-reliant and to make them aware about latest innovation and technology in farming sector so that they can utilise them in their farms and increase their source of income.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IFFCO: New Delhi
 - MD and CEO of IFFCO: Dr. Udai Shanker Awasthi
 - HQ of Prasar Bharti: New Delhi
 - CEO of Prasar Bharti: Shashi Shekhar Vempati

'PARAM SIDDHI-AI'—INDIA'S FASTEST HPC-AI SUPERCOMPUTER

Current Context: The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing has announced that it will be commissioning India's largest HPC-AI Supercomputer named as 'PARAM Siddhi -AI'.

DETAILS

- **The aim behind this development is to place India among top countries in world in the sector of AI supercomputing research and innovation.**
- **This initiative was headed by Abhishek Das, Scientist and Program Director (HPC-AI Infrastructure Development) at C-DAC. He has led this idea and designed architecture of India's largest HPC-AI infrastructure.**

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- The 'PARAM Siddhi –AI' supercomputer is a machine with 210 AI Petaflops (6.5 Petaflops Peak DP). It will be based on NVIDIA GDX SuperPOD Reference Architecture which is comprised of 42 NVIDIA GDX A100 Systems, connected with NVIDIA Mellanox HDR Infiniband networking with HPC-AI engine, software frameworks and cloud platform of C-DAC.
- It will be established under NSM C-DAC, NITI Aayog, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Dept. of Science and Technology and Central Government.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of C-DAC: Pune
 - DG of C-DAC: Hemant Darbari
 - HQ of NVIDIA: California, United States

'MSME PRERANA'—INDIAN BANK'S BUSINESS MENTORING PROGRAMME

Current Context: Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, launched the programme named as 'MSME Prerana'.

ABOUT

- **The programme is an online business mentoring programme for MSMEs.**
- **The programme is developed by Indian Bank and Poornatha & Co.**
- 'MSME Prerana' is the first-of-its-kind initiative by a bank for MSME sector.
- The programme will help to develop the businesses in the areas like Business skills, Communications, Human Resources etc.
- The program will offer inputs in simple formats and in local languages for MSMEs. Total 12 sessions will be offered under this programme.
- Poornatha & Co. will co duct the sessions related to managerial and financial skills and banking related sessions will be conducted by Indian Bank.
- On completion of these courses, the business firm will be granted with a certificate from Indian Bank, Poornatha & Co. and MADE (Michigan Academy for Developing Entrepreneurs), United States.
- This programme will offer MSME with complete knowledge related to Loan application, management of cash flow, government schemes etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Indian Bank: Chennai
 - Tagline of Indian Bank: Your Own Bank
 - MD and CEO of Indian Bank: Padmaja Chundururu

'JAN ANDOLAN CAMPAIGN' FOR COVID-19 APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Jan Andolan Campaign' for COVID-19 Appropriate Behavior.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- For the launching and promotion of this campaign, PM Modi made a tweet of #Unite2FightCorona.
- **The campaign aims to have appropriate behaviour of people regarding the following of safety norms for COVID-19, especially during the upcoming festive seasons and winter season.**
- PM Modi has made an appeal to citizens to unite to fight COVID-19. He has asked people to wear a mask, wash hands, maintain hygiene and observe the cleanliness of themselves and in their surroundings. He has also urged people to maintain social distancing norms by following the protocol of 'Do Gaz Ki Doori'.
- The campaign will be conducted through the participation of people in awareness activities like wall paintings, displaying hoardings and installing electronic display boards in premises of government offices.
- Also, people's participating is expected through social media by spreading the message of awareness by region-specific targeted communication so that the awareness message reach each and every person.

API INTEGRATION BETWEEN PM SVANIDHI AND SBI'S EMUDRA PORTAL

Current Context: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched an Application Programming Interface (API) integration between PM SVANidhi portal and SBI Banks' eMudra portal.

KEY POINTS

- **This API integration will allow uninterrupted data flow between these two portals in a secure manner. This will help to accelerate the loan sanctioning and loan disbursement process to the street vendors who want to avail the benefits of PM SVANidhi scheme.**
- Also, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is in the process to integrate this PM SVANidhi portal with others banks of India via API integration platform.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (IC): Hardeep Singh Puri
- **PM SVANidhi scheme:** It was launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in June 2020. This scheme aims to offer working capital support by providing affordable loan option to the street vendors. It offers working capital loan of upto Rs 10,000 and is to be paid in monthly installments over a period of 1 year The scheme is implemented by SIDBI.

APPOINTMENTS AND EXTENSION ON 9TH OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: J Venkatramu: He is appointed as MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). He has replaced Suresh Sethi.

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ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IPPB: New Delhi
- **Bishr Al-Khasawneh:** He is appointed as **Prime Minister of Jordan**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Jordan: Amman
 - Currency of Jordan: Dinar
- **Sadyr Zhaparov:** He is appointed as **Acting Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek
 - Currency of Kyrgyzstan: Kyrgyzstani Som
- **Nilesh Shah:** He is re-elected as **Chairman of AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India)**.
- **Saurabh Nanavati:** He is re-elected as **Vice-Chairman of AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India)**.
- **R K Chhibber:** He is offered with an **extension to serve as CMD of Jammu and Kashmir Bank for another 6 months**. The extension is offered by RBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of J&K Bank: Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
 - Tagline of J&K Bank: Serving to Empower

RBI'S 3RD BI-MONTHLY MONETARY POLICY STATEMENT 2020-21

Current Context: Shaktikanta Das, Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the 3rd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2020-21.

DETAILS

- **The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) evaluated domestic and global macroeconomic and financial conditions and thus has kept the repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) unchanged to 4%.**
- **The reverse repo rate under LAF is also kept unchanged to 3.35%.**
- **There is also no change in the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate which are at 4.25%.**
- Another announcement includes that RBI will introduce on-tap Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) for the banks to borrow upto Rs 1 trillion from the window and invest in corporate bonds or debt instruments. The on-tap TLTRO will have tenors of upto 3 years at a floating rate linked to the policy repo rate. The on-tap TLTRO scheme will be available upto 3rd March 2021.
- The committee has predicted real GDP growth for FY 2021 to contract by 9.5%.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

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- Composition of MPC: Shaktikanta Das (Governor of RBI), Dr Michael Debabrata (Deputy Governor of RBI), Dr Mridul K. Saggar, Prof. Ashima Goyal, Prof Jayanth R Varma and Dr Shashanka Bhide

INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT BY 9.6% IN FY21—BY WORLD BANK

Current Context: World Bank has predicted that India's GDP to contract by 9.6% in financial year of 2021.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This prediction is based on the current nationwide lockdown situation and due to the income shock experienced by households and businesses due to outbreak of Coronavirus.
- Earlier in June 2020, World Bank predicted that the Indian economy will shrink by 3.2% in FY21.
- As per the World Bank, India's growth is projected to rebound to 5.4% in 2022.
- Also, regional growth for South Asia is expected to rebound to 4.5% in 2021.
- As per predictions by World Bank, fiscal deficit to rise above 12% in FY2021, assuming that combined deficit of the states is within 4.5% to 5% of GDP.
- Public debt is predicted to remain elevated around 94%.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, US
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass

'POVERTY AND SHARED PROSPERITY 2020: REVERSAL OF FORTUNE'

Current Context: World Bank Group has released a Biennial report titled 'Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversal of Fortune.'

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the data of the report, around 150 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty by the end of 2021 because of COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Around 88 million to 115 million will be pushed to extreme poverty due to this COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.**
- This report states that this time it is first to rise in extreme poverty percentage in the past 20 years.
- **The aspects which lead to an increase in global poverty are:** COVID-19, Armed Conflicts and Climate Change.
- Around 82% of people from middle-income countries will be dragged into extreme poverty.
- In order to reduce poverty, the World Bank has suggested that nations need to limit and stop COVID-19 and must provide economical support to households to uplift their economies.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, US

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- President of World Bank: David Malpass

'GYAN CIRCLE VENTURES' INAUGURATED BY UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

Current Context: Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated 'Gyan Circle Ventures' virtually.

KEY POINTS

- 'Gyan Circle Ventures' is a Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology funded TBI (Technology Business Incubator) of IIIT Sri City, Andhra Pradesh.
- 'Gyan Circle Ventures' will work as a Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) incubation centre.
- Aim of this incubation centre is to develop entrepreneurship skills in youths and guide them to become innovators.
- It will motivate youths to use advanced technologies like AI, Block chain, Cyber Physical Systems , Cyber security, IoT, Machine Learning and Robotics.
- 'Gyan Circle Ventures' will be a hub for innovators and for startups. It will offer youth with financial investment support, infra support, mentorship supports, advertisement and promotional support.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad

APPOINTMENT AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 10TH OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: Piyush Goyal: He is appointed as an **additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**. He is appointed for this ministry because of the demise of Ram Vilas Paswan. Currently, Piyush Goyal is the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Railways.

ABOUT

- **Chetan Anand:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador of Transform**, which India's first homegrown badminton brand. Chetan Anand is an Indian Badminton player.

NABARD SIGNS 3 MOU WITH SBI

Current Context: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has signed three MoUs with the State Bank of India (SBI).

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DETAILS

- **The MoU is signed to extend credit support for NABARD Projects.**
- SBI will offer credit support for NABARD projects. The MoU was signed to offer finance for joint liability group, SHG ,Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) and Watershed development projects.
- Credit support will be offered to different sections of society including the priority sector.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
 - Chairman of NABARD: G R Chintala
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara

DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED 'RUDRAM-1'

Current Context: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired 'Rudram-1'.

KEY POINTS

- **'Rudram-1' is a new generation anti-radiation missile.**
- **It was test fired at Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha and was launched from SU-30 Mk1 fighter aircraft.**
- 'Rudram-1' is having speed of Mach two or two times the sound speed. It is capable of bringing down wide range of enemy radar system, communication networks and air defence systems within a range of 250 km.
- Rudram is developed by DRDO for Indian Air Force, it is incorporated with INS-GPS navigation system with Passive Homing Head for the final attack. The Passive Homing Head detects, classify and engage the targets over a wide band of frequencies.
- It can hit the radiation target with pin-point accuracy.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: G Satheesh Reddy

AMAZON INDIA PARTNERS WITH IRCTC

Current Context: Amazon India has entered into partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to offer facility of online train ticket bookings on Amazon platform.

KEY FACTS

- Thus due to this partnership, Amazon Pay adds another travel category on their online platform.

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- Now, users will be able to check seat and quota availability for all trains on the Amazon app platform.
- Amazon Pay is also offering 10% cashback on the first train ticket booking and prime members will be offered 12% cashback for these bookings.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Amazon: Seattle, Washington, US
 - Founder of Amazon: Jeff Bezos

INDIAN NAVY AND ICG CONDUCTED 'SAGAR KAVACH' COASTAL SECURITY EXERCISE

Current Context: Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the half-yearly Coastal Security Exercise, 'Sagar Kavach'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The exercise was conducted at coastal areas of Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.**
- The exercise was monitored from Joint Operations Central, Kochi, Kerala and was reviewed by Southern Naval Command Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla.
- **The aim of 'Sagar Kavach' exercise is to check the coastal security and improve and update standard operating procedures. This exercise is assumed to be of high significance in the backdrop of the prevailing security mechanism in India.**
- Along with Indian Navy and ICG, other stakeholders like Coastal Police, Coastal District Administration, Cochin Port, Fisheries department, Customs, Marine Enforcement Wing (MEW), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), IB and Lighthouse department also participated in the exercise.
- 20 Ships of Indian and ICG along with 50 patrol crafts manned by security agencies participated in this exercise. The participants were divided into 2 teams namely Red (attack team) and Blue (defence team).
- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

'MUKHYA MANTRI SAUR SWAROJGAR YOJANA'--UTTARAKHAND

Current Context: Government of Uttarakhand launched 'Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana'.

KEY POINTS

- The Yojana was launched at Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Auditorium, Dehradun Uttarakhand.
- **The yojana is launched with an aim to boost self-employment capability in youth and promote the production of Green Energy.**

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- The scheme is specially launched for the youths and migrants who have returned to the state and have lost their jobs due to pandemic COVID-19.
- **The scheme will offer employment opportunities in Green Energy Sector to around 10,000 youths and migrants.**
- The beneficiaries will be allotted with solar plants of 25KW each.
- To set up these plants, 1.5-2 nails of land and Rs 10 lakhs at Rs 40,000 per unit is required.
- These solar plants will generate 38,000 units of electricity per annum which will be brought by Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited for 25 years.
- The loan for this scheme will be granted by Cooperative Banks and Private Banks at an interest of 8% per year for the tenure of 15 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Trivendra Singh Rawat
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya

9TH TO 15TH OCTOBER 2020—NATIONAL POSTAL WEEK

Current Context: The Department of Post, Ministry of Communication, GOI is observing National Postal Week from 9th Oct to 15th Oct 2020.

ABOUT

- **Every Year National Postal Week is marked to create awareness about the role of postal services in the country.**
- It is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of Universal Postal Union in 1874 in Switzerland.
- Under this celebration of National Postal Week, an online campaign will be organized which will promote services offered by Post Offices to the nation, also post forum meeting will be held in this week.
- It also promotes saving schemes offered by Post office Saving Banks and products of IPPB.
- 'Know your Postman Campaign will be conducted in this week.
- The week is observed in 6 regions, namely, Goa, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad.
- **Significance of Each day of National Postal Week is:** World Post Day (9th Oct), Savings Bank Day (10th Oct), Postal Life Insurance Day (12th Oct), Philately Day (13th Oct), Business Development Day (14th Oct) and Mail Day (15th Oct).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Universal Postal Union: Bern, Switzerland
 - HQ of India Post and IPPB: New Delhi
 - DG of Postal Services: Vineet Pandey
 - MD and CEO of IPPB: J Venkatramu

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'SWANIRBHAR NARI: ATMA NIRBHAR ASSAM SCHEME'

Current Context: Assam Government launched a new scheme named as Swanirbhar Nari: Atma Nirbhar Assam'.

ABOUT SCHEME

- **The scheme aims to empower women who are economically backward in Assam.**
- The scheme is said to be beneficial to around 4 lakh families.
- **Around 3.72 lakh Sustainable Individual Assets and 822 Community Assets will be created for this scheme.**
- 5 activities will be implemented in case of Individual Asset creation and 20 activities will be implemented in case of Community Assets creation.
- The scheme will be implemented in-line with other schemes and missions of Assam like Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission, Agriculture and Horticulture, Fishery, Animal Husbandry, Handloom, textiles, and Forest.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal
 - Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi

PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY CARDS UNDER SVAMITVA SCHEME

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched physical distribution of property card programme under SVAMITVA Scheme.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **SVAMITVA Scheme stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA).**
- The scheme was launched in April 2020 with an aim to grant record of rights to document the residential properties to the owners of village households and to issue them property cards.
- Now after the distribution of property cards, the owners will have the proof of owning their houses.
- Until now, around 100,000 beneficiaries have received this property card as legal document. The beneficiaries are from states like Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Because of this property card, the beneficiaries can also opt for loans as loans are easily available from the bank on the basis of the record of the property. Also the property card will also provide a way to buy and sell the property without any dispute for the villagers.

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TREE PLANTATION POLICY PASSED BY DELHI GOV.

Current Context: Government of Delhi has passed Tree Plantation Policy with an aim to preserve tress and focus on tree plantation.

DETAILS

- **Delhi has become the first state to have a Tree Plantation Policy.**
- The policy was approved by state cabinet headed by Chief Minister of Delhi.
- **Under this policy, around 80% of trees which were affected due to construction or development activities will be transplanted in Delhi.**
- **Also, under this policy, the government will look further in the survival of minimum 80% tress in Delhi.**
- To make this policy work in progress, the Delhi Government will form a panel of agencies which will look after tree plantation activities and survival of tress in the state.
- The Tree Plantation Policy is the part of 'Yuddh Pradushan Ke Viruddh' initiative.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE (DST) PARTNERED WITH IBM

Current Context: The Department of Science (DST) has entered into partnership with IBM (International Business Machines) with an aim to receive support from IBM in two of the initiatives of DST.

KEY FACTS

- **Under this partnership, the scope of two DST initiatives namely, Vigyan Jyoti and Vigyan Prasar (Engage with Science).**
- Vigyan Jyoti and Vigyan Prasar initiatives aim to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) among students, mostly in girls so that they get motivated to pursue career in STEM sectors.
- Both DST and IBM, will collaberately work to promote Science and Tech. in academic education. The promotion will be conducted through short term courses, workshop, mentorships and content communication for students as well as for teachers.
- The partnership will also offer scholarships, science visits to institutes, science camps etc.
- The mentorship related to Science and Tech. will be offered to girls from grades 9th to 12th.
- IBM will encourage students to be part and innovate in tools like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DST: New Delhi
 - Union Minister of Science and Technology: Dr. Harsh Vardhan

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- HQ of IBM (International Business Machines): Armonk, New York, US
- CEO of IBM (International Business Machines): Arvind Krishna

13TH ANIMAL DISCOVERIES 2019 & 13TH PLANT DISCOVERIES 2019 REPORTS BY ZSI AND BSI

Current Context: The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and Botanical Survey of India (BSI) published reports titled '13th Animal Discoveries 2019' and '13th Plant Discoveries 2019' respectively.

DETAILS

- **The reports were launched by Babul Supriyo, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change in an event held in West Bengal.**
- **'13th Animal Discoveries 2019':** Total 368 animal species as new to the science are listed and 116 species as first records from India are listed. Among the new species, 294 are invertebrates and 74 are vertebrates. Therefore, total species of animals in India is 102161 i.e. 6.52% of total species on the earth.
- **'13th Plant Discoveries 2019':** Total 180 new plant species are listed and 73 new records discovered from India are listed in this report. Total plant discovery contains 134 seed plants, 6 bryophytes, 51 fungi, 23 algae, 16 microbes, 5 fern and its allies and 18 lichen. Out of total discoveries, 55% contributed as vascular plants and 45% contributed as non-vascular plants.

3RD EDITION OF CRI INDEX 2020

Current Context: The Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2020 is released by 'Oxfam International and Development Finance International.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the released ranking in this report, India has been ranked at 129th position among 158 countries.**
- **The CRI ranking index is topped by Norway. The second and third position is marked by Denmark and Germany respectively.**
- **South Sudan has the lowest ranking at 158th position in CRI Index 2020.**
- The third edition of the CRI index focuses on fighting inequality during the time of COVID-19 pandemic. The index measures what governments are doing to reduce the gap between rich and poor.
- The report analyses measures adopted by the nation and its government's policies or actions in major three areas which are related to tackle and reduce inequality.
- **The three major areas of analysis are:** Social Spending, Progressive Taxation Policies and Labour Rights.

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- **CRI Index 2020 highlights for India:** As per the index report, India is among the world's worst-performing countries in tackling inequality especially during COVID-19 pandemic. India has spent only 4% of its budget amount on health to tackle COVID-19, which is the 4th lowest in the world. As per the report, only half population of India has access to basic health care remedies.
- India's rank is 141 in public service ranking domain with a score of 0.16.
- India's rank is 19 in progressive taxation policies ranking domain with a score of 0.75.
- India's rank is 151 in labour rights ranking domain with a score of 0.35.

RBI TO MOVE NGTA TO MANAGE FOREX AND GOLD RESERVES

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced to move Next Generation Treasury Application (NGTA) with an aim to manage the country's foreign exchange and gold reserves.

KEY POINTS

- **The application of NGTA will help to improve the functioning of RBI.**
- NGTA is basically a web-based application which will provide scalability and flexibility in introducing new products and securities to the central bank.
- **It will also support multi-currency transactions and settlements like Fixed Income (FI), Forex, Money Market (MM) and Gold.**
- The NGTA web-based application will collect security or contract related details from a trading platform.
- The utilization of the NGTA platform will help to manage forex in a more efficient manner as it will also help to mitigate risk factor and will offer operational efficiency in dealing with asset classes and reports.
- **The objective of NGTA application are:** (a) Reserve Management (b) Workflow Management (c) Portfolio Management (d) Integration with third-party and in-house systems, (e) To establish dashboards to provide reports and widgets (f) To deal with FI Securities, MM, Forex and Gold
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

KERALA—FIRST STATE IN INDIA TO MAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMPLETELY DIGITAL

Current Context: Kerala has become the first state in India to make its public education completely digital.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Kerala has achieved this goal within 2 years.

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- The goal is achieved at a cost of Rs 42.36 crores. Out of this amount, Rs 34.75 crores were contributed by KIIFB (Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board).
- All the public educational schools were converted to digital under the support of KITE (Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education) and KIIFB.
- Under this project, 3,74,274 digital services are distributed in 16027 public schools of Kerala.
- Around 11275 schools are also equipped by high tech labs and more than 12,678 schools are equipped by a high-speed broadband Internet connection.
- Around 45,000 high tech classrooms to 4752 public schools are built under this project.
- To make familiar with this advance teaching technology, the teachers of these schools were provided with information and communication training sessions.
- Each classroom of the public schools is incorporated with laptops, DSLR camera, Television, Webcams and other digital equipment.
- Kerala started this project of converting 100% of public schools to digital in 2018.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
 - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan

ADB OFFERS FINANCE SUPPORT TO DEVELOP RAJASTHAN'S SECONDARY TOWNS

Current Context: The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan agreement to improve various facilities total 14 secondary towns of Rajasthan.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The loan agreement of \$300 million is signed between ADB and GOI.
- Under this loan amount, sustainable water supply and sanitation (WSS) services and infra will be developed in Rajasthan's secondary towns.
- This will ensure improved WSS services in line with the urban sector development plan of the Rajasthan government.
- Under this project, at least 8 towns will be improved with water supply services by 2027, which will prove beneficial to more than 570,000 citizens and sanitation services at 14 secondary towns will prove beneficial to about 720,000 citizens.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot
 - Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - Chairman of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

INDIA'S 8 BEACHES GET INTERNATIONAL BLUE FLAG CERTIFICATION

Current Context: Denmark based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) has awarded the recognition of 'Blue Flag' to 8 Indian Beaches.

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DETAILS

- **The name of 8 beached recognized with 'Blue Flag' are:** Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Kasarkod (Karnataka), Pudubidri (Karnataka), Golden Beach (Odisha), Radhanagar (Andaman and Nicobar island), Ghoghla (Diu), Kappad (Kerala) and Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh).
- India has become the first country to be recognized with the Coveted International Blue Flag certificate for 8 beaches in the single attempt itself.
- The selection of the beaches for Blue Flag certificate was made by an international jury consisting from UNEP (United Nations Economic Programmes), UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organisations), FEE & IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).
- GOI has set a target to bring a total of 100 Indian Beaches under the certificate of 'Blue Flag' in the next five years.
- **Criteria for receiving Blue Flag certificate for Beaches are:** Water Quality, Environmental Education and Information, Environment Management and Safety and Services.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FEE: Copenhagen, Denmark

INTEL, IIIT-H, PHFI AND TELANGANA GOV. TO LAUNCH APPLIED AI RESEARCH CENTER

Current Context: Intel India partnered with Government of Telangana, IIIT-Hyderabad and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) to launch applied AI (Artificial Intelligence) Research (INAI) Center in Hyderabad.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Intel announced this collaborative initiative in an inaugural session of 'all.ai 2020 Virtual Summit'.
- **'all.ai 2020 Virtual Summit':** It was organized by Intel India in collaboration with industries, academic institutions and government to promote AI usage in problem-solving of Indians.
- **INAI is an initiative to apply AI to population-scale problems in the Indian context.**
- **INAI will focus on solving problems and challenges associated with smart mobility segments. The challenges and problem will be solved through strong ecosystem collaboration.**
- INAI will work as a supportive entity and catalyst which will accelerate India in AI technology. It will help to create innovation and entrepreneurship through datasets, computing infrastructure, tools and frameworks.
- It will work to attract and motivate talents across the globe in the research area of AI and to make AI usage in overall social development.
- INAI centre will bring institutions and organisations together under a single platform to develop the solutions having a societal-scale impact.
- The focus of INAI will be on improving road safety, reduce road accidents in the country in order to achieve the goal of smart mobility domain. It will also develop a solution to enhance health

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coverage to every individual in the country. It will work to develop advance research for prediction of non-communicable diseases in an efficient manner.

EXERCISE SURAKSHA KAVACH

Current Context: Agnibaaz Division (41 Artillery Division) of Indian Army organized an exercise named as Suraksha Kavach.

KEY POINTS

- **The Suraksha Kavach Exercise is the joint exercise of Maharashtra Police and Indian Army.**
- **The exercise was conducted in Lulla Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra.**
- **The aim of this exercise is to harmonise anti-terror responses.**
- In this exercise Indian Army and Maharashtra Police cooperated, coordinated and streamlined their drills and procedures.
- The Suraksha Kavach Exercise was conducted to harmonize the procedures of Indian Army and Maharashtra Police in order to activate the QRTs (Quick Reaction Teams) to counter any terrorist actions.
- QRTs, Army's Bomb disposal teams, Anti-Terrorism Squad, QRTs of Maharashtra Police and Dog Squads participated in this exercise.

AXIS ACE CREDIT CARD

Current Context: Axis Bank partnered with Google Pay and Visa to launch 'Axis ACE Credit Card'.

DETAILS

- **The aim behind launching 'Axis ACE Credit Card' is to increase users participation in the digital world.**
- The card will offer a seamless digital experience to users right from application to issuance activities.
- **Visa has offered the facility of tokenization in 'Axis ACE Credit Card'. This facility will allow users to make transactions using Google Pay with secured digital token attached to their phones without any need of using card physically.**
- **Joining and Annual fee structure for 'Axis ACE Credit Card':** Users who apply for this card in 2020, will not have to pay joining fees which is Rs 499. This joining fee will be applicable from next year. The joining fee will be reversed if expenses exceed Rs 10,000 within 45 days of issuance in 2021. Also, users who reach Rs 2 lakhs spending in the year, need not have to pay an annual fee of Rs 499.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Axis Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry

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'TECH FOR TRIBALS' INITIATIVE

Current Context: The 'Tech for Tribals' initiative is launched by TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India), IIT-Kanpur and Chhattisgarh MFP Federation.

KEY FACTS

- **The initiative is launched with an aim to develop entrepreneurship skills, soft skills, Information Technology (IT) skills and Business Development in the tribal community.**
- The initiative aims to make tribal community self-reliant.
- **For this initiative, TRIFED has joined hands with MSME ministry under the ESDP initiative (Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme).**
- The 'Tech for Tribals' initiative will provide 6-weeks long training to the beneficiaries. The training module is framed by IIT-Kanpur.
- The 'Tech for Tribals' initiative is based on three pillars of Engagement, Capacity Building and Market Linkages. The initiative will focus to make tribal community educated with IT technology, business and market skills so that they can increase their source of income and become a self-reliant community.
- The initiative will be operated through SHGs which are under Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs). The Van Dhan beneficiaries in all districts of Chhattisgarh will be given training for micro-enterprise setup, its management and promotion.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda

INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT 10.3% IN FY 2020-21—BY IMF

Current Context: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released a report titled as 'World Economic Outlook'.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the report, the IMF has projected India's GDP to contract 10.3% in FY 2020-21.**
- Earlier, IMF projected India's GDP to contract by 4.5% due to the pandemic of COVID-19.
- Also as per the report, India's GDP to grow at 8.8% in FY 2021-22. Earlier prediction for GDP was 6% for FY 2021-22.
- Also as per IMF, world economy to contract by 4.4% in FY 2020-21.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IMF: Washington DC, US
 - MD and Chairman of IMF: Kristalina Georgieva
 - Chief Economist of IMF: Gita Gopinath

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IMPACT BASED CYCLONE WARNING SYSTEM

Current Context: The India Meteorological Departments (IMD) has launched the Impact Based Cyclone Based Warning System.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The system is launched to reduce economic losses and property damage which is caused due to cyclones that hit Indian coast every year.**
- The system was introduced by IMD in a presentation titled as 'Chasing the Cyclones' which was organized to mark the World Space Week.
- The system will deliver specific warnings to reduces economic and property damage losses.
- The system will deliver warnings with respect to location-wise or district-wise.
- The system is commissioned from this particular cyclone season i.e. Oct-Dec.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IMD: New Delhi
 - MD of IMD: Mrutyunjay Mohapatra
 - IMD functions under Ministry of Earth Sciences, whose Union Minister is Dr Harsh Vardhan

5TH INDIA-MEXICO HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON TRADE, INVESTMENT & COOPERATION

Current Context: The 5th meet of India-Mexico High Level Group on Trade, Investment and Cooperation were conducted through video-conference.

KEY POINTS

- India was represented by Commerce Secretary of GOI, Anup Wadhawan and Mexico was represented by Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Ms Luz Maria de la Mora.
- In this meet, India and Mexico reviewed and discussed about their bilateral trade, investment and cooperation activities.
- They held discussion about bilateral investment treaty and audio-visual co-production.
- They also assured to coordinate in trade related to sectors like pharmaceuticals, medical equipments, healthcare, agri products, fisheries, food processing industries and aerospace.
- They discussed about Cooperation framework on phytosanitary and sanitary products along with discussions related to cooperation in intellectual property, tourism and assured to improvise people to people contact.
- **India and Mexico signed two MoUs:** (1) MoU between India's ESC (Electronic and Computer Software Export Promotion Council) and Mexico's CANIETI (Mexican Chamber of Electronics, Telecommunication, and Information Technologies) (2) MoU between FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and COMCE (Mexican Business Council of Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology).
- **Static Part:**

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- Capital of Mexico: Mexico City
- Currency of Mexico: Mexican Peso

RBI INCREASES BANK'S AGGREGATE EXPOSURE LIMIT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced to increase the bank's maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to small businesses (turnover upto Rs 50 crore) to Rs 7.5 crore.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Earlier, this limit was Rs 5 crore.**
- This enhancement in the limit will lead to an increase in credit flow for small businesses.
- The risk weight of 75% will apply to all fresh exposures as well as to existing exposures where incremental exposures may be taken by banks upto the revised limit i.e. upto Rs 7.5 crore.
- **Also, RBI has announced to extend the existing enhanced Held to Maturity (HTM) limit of 22% for SLR securities acquired between 1st Sep 2020 and 31st Mar 2021 and 31st Mar 2022.**
- Thus banks may continue to hold such excess SLR securities in HTM category upto 31st Mar 2022.
- The enhanced HTM limit will be restored to 19.5% in a phased manner, beginning from the quarter ending of 30th June 2022.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

MASTERCARD PARTNERS WITH SIGNZY—FOR VIDEO BASED KYC

Current Context: MasterCard has entered into partnership with Signzy, a leading RegTech startup to roll out Signzy's video based KYC (Know Your Customer) Solution.

KEY FACTS

- Signzy's video based KYC solution will be based on AI and Machine Learning technologies.
- It will be highly secured in order to avoid unauthorized system intrusion and frauds.
- The Signzy's video based KYC solution offers industry-leading scalability to handle high volumes of Video based KYC processes.
- It is faster than paper based KYC process and helps to reduce paper based KYC activity.
- It is highly useful to SMEs who have to perform KYC verification activity and is thus a complete contactless KYC process as it can be performed remotely.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of MasterCard: New York, United States

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CABINET APPROVES WORLD BANK SUPPORTED STARS PROJECT

Current Context: The union cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of STARS Project under the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Significance of STARS Projects is Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States.**
- **The total costing of the project is Rs 5718 crores and the project is the partnership between India and the World Bank. Hence for this project, World Bank is providing finance support of Rs 3700 crore.**
- STARS Project will be implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme under Department of School Education & Literacy, Education Ministry.
- Aim of this project is to strengthen the education system and to grant the right to education for all.
- **The project will involve setting up of National assessment Centre, PARAKH which will be an independent and autonomous institution.**
- **Also, STARS Projects will be comprised of Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC).** CERC will help in rapid re-categorization of financing and developing streamlined financing request procedures. It will also responds and address to the situations like school closure, infrastructure damage, inadequate facilities and usage of technology.
- Initially, the project will be launched in 6 states namely, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.
- Thus STARS project will help to strengthen the Union Education ministry's national data systems and will boost learning assessment systems in India.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Education Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

GUJARAT TO SETUP WORLD'S BIGGEST ZINC SMELTER PROJECT

Current Context: Government of Gujarat has announced to setup World's biggest Zinc Smelter Project.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **For this purpose, the state government has signed MoU with Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL).**
- The project will be setup in Dosawada in Tapi district of Gujarat.
- For this project, the **HZL, makers of zinc, will be investing upto Rs 10,000 crore.**
- The World's Biggest Zinc Smelter Project will be having a production capacity of 300 KTPA (Kilo Tonnes Per Annum).
- The project will be a boon to develop employment opportunities for local youth.

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- The first phase of the plant will be in operation within 3 years and will satisfy the needs of domestic as well as global need by increasing exports.
- The project will be utilising zero discharge technology and automation and is said to generate 5000 jobs opportunities directly and indirectly.
- **Static Part:**
 - **CM of Gujarat:** Vijay Rupani
 - **Governor of Gujarat:** Acharya Devvrat
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Gujarat:** Gir Forest NP, Blackbuck NP, Marine NP, Vansda NP, Wild Ass WLS, Kutch Desert WLS, Barda WLS, Narayan Sarovar WLS, Pania WLS, Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary, Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary

APPOINTMENTS ON 17TH OCT 2020

Current Context: Dr Michael Irani: He is appointed as **Interim President of International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)**. He is from Great Britain.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of IWF:** Budapest, Hungary
- **Vishal V. Sharma:** He is appointed as **next Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO's Permanent Delegation of India with the rank of Ambassador**. He has replaced Jawed Ashraf.
- **Justice Madan Lokur:** He is appointed by **Supreme Court to monitor steps to prevent stubble burning** in the states of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, amid rising level of pollution in Delhi and adjoining regions.

PHONEPE AND BAJAJ ALLIANZ LAUNCHED CAR & BIKE INSURANCE

Current Context: PhonePe has partnered with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company to launch car and bike insurance products on its platform.

KEY FACTS

- Now the PhonePe users will be able to buy a car and bike insurance products within 2 minutes from newly added motor insurance page under Insurance-> My Money tab of app.
- **The 2 wheeler insurance starts from Rs 482 and car insurance starts from Rs 2,072.**
- Instant claim amount will be received to the user within 20 minutes.
- Also the insurance buyers can customize their plans and select from value added services such as zero depreciation, 24x7 roadside assistance and engine protection.
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company:** Pune
 - **MD and CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company:** Tapan Singhel
 - **HQ of PhonePe:** Bengaluru, Karnataka

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- **CEO of PhonePe:** Sameer Nigam

'KAPILA' KALAM PROGRAM

Current Context: Union Education Minister virtually launched 'KAPILA' Kalam Program to mark the Intellectual Property (IP) Literacy and Awareness campaign.

KEY POINTS

- **The 'KAPILA' Kalam Program signifies 'Kalam Program for Intellectual Property and Awareness Campaign'.**
- It is launched to mark the 89th Birth anniversary of former President and Scientist Late. Dr A P J Abdul Kalam.
- **Through this KAPILA Kalam Program, GOI will spread the awareness and importance of patenting and inventions.**
- **Also, it is decided to mark 15th Oct to 23rd Oct 2020 as 'Intellectual Property Literacy Week'.**
- During this week, awareness about the IP and its process to apply will be promoted via various activities like debates, posters, quiz and community meets.
- **Static Part:**
 - **Union Education Minister:** Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

WEBINAR AND EXPO HELD FOR INDIA-KAZAKHSTAN DEFENCE COOPERATION

Current Context: A webinar and expo between India and Kazakhstan was held.

DETAILS

- **The theme for this webinar and expo was:- 'Make in India for the World, India-Kazakhstan Defence Cooperation: Webinar and Expo'.**
- **The webinar was organized by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence through FICCI.**
- This webinar was conducted to be one of the part of series of webinars which are conducted with friendly foreign countries to boost defence exports and achieve export target of \$5 billion in 5 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - **Capital of Kazakhstan:** Nursultan
 - **Currency of Kazakhstan:** Kazakhstani Tenge

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'SALARY CARD' --- LAUNCHED BY EARLYSALARY AND NPCI

Current Context: EarlySalary joined hands with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) to launch 'Salary Card'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **'Salary Card' is the Zero-Touch Digital Card.**
- The credit solution of this card is powered by Rupay.
- The card is launched to provide immediate access for salaried professionals, which will help them to make instant purchases across merchants in India.
- The 'Salary Card' allows user to setup a dynamic credit limit as per their requirements. This feature helps user to observe tight control over their finance expenditure.
- The card is supported with Machine Learning technology and has the mechanism of risk-oriented decision making.
- The card will be activated by accessing EarlySalary mobile application within seconds.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of EarlySalary: Pune, Maharashtra
 - HQ of NPCI: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of NPCI: Dilip Asbe

APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATION AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 16TH OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: M S Ananth: He is appointed to **head the committee which will frame the Professional Engineers Bill.** The committee is formed by AICTE.

ABOUT

- **Rajiv Gauba:** He is appointed to **head the panel of secretaries set up by GOI to streamline Telecom Spectrum Allocation.**
- **Gurdeep Singh:** His tenure to be the **CMD of NTPC Limited is extended up to 2025.**
- **Static part:**
 - HQ of NTPC: New Delhi
- **Sooronbai Jeenbekov:** He has **resigned from the post of President of Kyrgyzstan.**
- **Static part:**
 - Capital of Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek
 - Currency of Kyrgyzstan: Kyrgyzstani Som
- **Costantina Dita:** She is appointed as the **brand ambassador of World Athletics Half Marathon Championships 2020** which will be held from 17th Oct in Poland part.

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DG OF SHIPPING NOTIFIED AS NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR RECYCLING OF SHIPS

Current Context: Government of India has notified Directorate General (DG) of Shipping as National Authority for Recycling of Ships.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Thus, the DG Shipping is notified with the designation with apex authority for ship recycling industry of India under Section 3, Recycling of Ships Act 2019.
- Being the apex authority, DG Shipping will administer, supervise and monitor activities related to ships recycling, as it will be responsible for sustainable development of the ship recycling industry of India.
- DG shipping will be the final authority for approvals required by ship recycling yard owners and state governments.
- In this regards, the office for the National Authority of Ship Recycling will be setup in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- **Static Part:**
 - Minister of State (IC) for Ministry of Shipping: Mansukh Mandaviya

'SARAL JEEVAN BIMA' FROM 1ST JAN 2021—BY IRDAI

Current Context: The guidelines for 'Saral Jeevan Bima' are released by IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).

KEY POINTS

- IRDAI has made mandatory of offering this insurance policy by all life insurance companies from 1st Jan 2021.
- The Saral Jeevan Bima' will be non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan and has no maturity benefit.
- The insurance plan offers optional accident benefit and permanent disability rider. The sum assured will be paid to the nominee in case of death of holder of the policy.
- The minimum amount for 'Saral Jeevan Bima' is Rs 5 lakh and maximum amount is upto Rs 25 lakhs. Policy term is from 5 to 40 years.
- **The policy offers three premium payment options:** Regular Premium, Limited premium payment term for 5 years, 10 years and Single Premium.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IRDAI: Hyderabad, Telangana
 - Chairman of IRDAI: Subhash Chandra Khuntia

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'THE HEALTHYLIFE PROGRAMME'—HDFC BANK AND APOLLO HOSPITALS

Current Context: India's private sector bank, HDFC Bank in partnership with Apollo Hospitals has launched a 'HealthyLife Programme' for its customers.

DETAILS

- **The 'HealthyLife Programme' is the holistic healthcare solution.**
- The aim of this programme is to make a healthy life easily accessible and affordable to the customers of HDFC Bank.
- Under this programme, customers will get access to emergency 24x7 from Apollo doctors at no cost on the digital platform of Apollo.
- The programme also offers choice of payments options and ease of finance for treatment feature at all Apollo Hospitals.
- Along with this, loan amount upto Rs 40 lakhs can also be availed for medical expenses under this programme.
- **Static Part:**
 - UHQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
 - CEO of HDFC Bank: Aditya Puri
 - Tagline of HDFC Bank: We Understand Your World

GOV TECH THON 2020—BY NIC, IEEE COMPUTER SOCIETY AND ORACLE

Current Context: Gov Tech Thon 2020 will be jointly organized by GOI's National Informatics Centre (NIC), IEEE Computer Society and Oracle Corporation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Gov Tech Thon 2020 is a pan India 36 hours virtual hackathon.**
- It will be commencing from 30th Oct to 1st Nov 2020.
- This virtual hackathon will be organized under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- In the hackathon, students, working professionals, teaching faculty ,freelancers and other IT service professionals can take participation.
- The experts from NIC, Oracle and IEEE Computer Society will provide mentorship to the participants. Also, experts from ministry of agriculture, education and transport departments under GOI will provide guidance to the participants.
- Participants will be handling advanced tools from Oracle, Oracle Autonomous Database and built-in and easy to handle cloud security services.
- With the help of guidance and utilization of various tech tools, participants will be developing prototypes which will be used in practical applications.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad

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APPOINTMENTS ON 18TH OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: Rohan Jaitley: He is elected unopposed as **President of Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)**.

ABOUT

- **Jacinda Ardern:** She is re-elected as **Prime Minister of New Zealand** for a second consecutive three-year term.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of New Zealand: Wellington
 - Currency of New Zealand: New Zealand Dollar
- **Rajkiran Rai G:** He is appointed as **Chairman of India Bank's Association (IBA)**. He has replaced Rajinish Kumar. Also, Rajkiran Rai G is currently serving as MD and CEO of Union Bank of India.
- **Dinesh Kumar Khara:** He is appointed as **Deputy-Chairman of India Bank's Association (IBA)**. He is currently serving as Chairman of SBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IBA: Mumbai

SCALE INDIA ANDROID APP—BY LSSC

Current Context: The Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) has launched the SCALE India Android phone application.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **SCALE India app signifies Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees (SCALE).**
- The app is launched with an aim to provide a single platform to assist the employees so that they can upgrade their skill sets and can sustain in dynamic changing market.
- The app will fulfill industry demands and will offer the latest certified courses.
- SCALE India app will offer micro learning modules which will help to bridge the identified skill gaps.
- It will integrate employees and stakeholders associated with the leather sector.
- **Static Part:** LSSC is set up after the approval from NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation) which works to meet the demands of employees in leather industry in India.

14TH INDIA-INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRI WEEK 2020

Current Context: Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated 14th session of India-International Food and Agri Week virtually.

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DETAILS

- The India-International Food and Agri Week is observed from 16th Oct to 22nd Oct 2020.
- CII in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture and farmers welfare, ministry of fisheries and animal husbandry and ministry of food processing industries has organized its first-ever CII Agro and food tech: India International Food and Agri on CII HIVE.
- The aim of this India-International Food and Agri Week is to create a platform for the benefit of the stakeholders in Agri and allied sectors.
- This event will focus on the usage of technology in food and Agri sectors so as to increase farmers income.

7TH MEET OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE OF SCO

Current Context: The 7th meeting of Ministers of Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held through video conference.

KEY FACTS

- **The meet was hosted by India and was addressed by Minister of Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad.**
- In the meet, he discussed about the initiatives adopted by India to provide affordable and easy access to justice.
- He also highlighted Pro Bono Legal Services to provide free legal aid to marginalized section of Indian society.
- Ravi Shankar Prasad also mentioned the impact of tele-law service launched in India in 2017. He mentioned that uptill now, 3 lakh and 44 thousand free legal consultation have been given to the economically lower class of people.
- Also, he highlighted that during COVID-19 situation, around 25 lakh hearings took place through video conference at various courts of India , out of which 9000 virtual hearings were conducted by the Supreme Court.
- All the justice ministers' agreed to promote the exchange of ideas and follow best practices related to justice and also assured to widen the spectrum of activities being undertaken by SCO forum.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SCO: Beijing, China

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2020

Current Context: The Global Hunger Index of 2020 is released.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **India has marked the rank position of 94th among 107 countries in this index.**

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- **The indicators for the assessment of Global Hunger Index are:** Undernourishment, Child Wasting, Child Stunting and Child Mortality.
- **As per the report, India comes under 'serious category' with a score of 27.2.**
- **A score of India in each assessment category:** For child stunting, rate is 37.4%. Wasting rate is 17.3% , undernourishment rate is 14% and under 5 mortality rate is 3.7%.
- Other neighboring countries of India which are under serious category are Bangladesh (75th) , Myanmar (78th) and Pakistan (88th).
- Nepal (73rd) and Sri Lanka (64th) are in moderate category in Global Hunger index 2020.

TATA MOTORS PARTNERS WITH HDFC BANK

Current Context: TATA Motors announced a partnership with HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation) with an aim to finance its vehicles.

KEY FACTS

- **Through this partnership, two schemes are launched namely: (a) Gradual Step Up Scheme (b) TML Flexi Drive Scheme.**
- The schemes are launched with an aim to make TATA vehicles more accessible and thus to increase sale.
- Both the scheme are available on upto November 2020.
- Also, both schemes can be redeemed on entire new Bharat Stage (BS)- VI range of cars and SUVs (Sports Utility Vehicles) along with EV range of the company.
- The schemes offer 100% ex-showroom financing on entire PV (Passenger Vehicle) products.
- **Gradual Step Up Scheme:** Under this, EMI options are as low as Rs 799 per lakh per month, depending on product and variant. EMI payments gradually increase over a period of 2 months as per the payment convenience of buyer.
- **TML Flexi Drive Scheme:** Under this, customer can choose any three months to pay a minimum EMI of Rs 789 per lakh per month, depending on product and variant.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
 - CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan (He replaced Aditya Puri)
 - HQ of TATA Motors: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of TATA Motors: Guenter Butschek

SLINEX 2020 NAVAL EXERCISE

Current Context: Indian Navy and Sri Lankan Navy jointly conducts annual joint exercise named as SLINEX 2020.

DETAILS

- The 8th SLINEX 2020 has begun from 19 Oct 2020 and will be held till 21st Oct 2020.

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- The naval exercise is conducted off the Trincomalee coast.
- **Indian Navy is represented by:** Indigenously built ASW Corvettes Kamorata and Kiltan under the command of Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. Also, Indian Navy Advanced Light Helicopter, Chetak Helicopter and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft will be participating in this exercise.
- **Sri Lankan Navy is represented by:** SLN Ships Sayura and Gajabhau and will be led by Rear Admiral Bandara Jayathilaka, Flag Officer Commanding Naval Fleet in Sri Lankan Navy.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Sri Lanka: Colombo, Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte
 - Currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan Rupee

'MY TOWN MY PRIDE' PROGRAMME - JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Current Context: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir announced a programme called as 'My Town My Pride'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The programme commenced from 19th Oct 2020 in the UT of J&K.
- The programme is basically an urban connect programme which aims to provide governance facilities at the doorsteps in urban areas of J&K.
- The programme follows the similar pattern of initial 'Back to Village' programme conducted in J&K.
- **Objectives of 'My Town My Pride' Programme:** (a) To strengthen grassroots democracy (b) Public outreach in towns (c) To offer service delivery at doorsteps
- 'My Town My Pride' Programme will look after on-the-spot addressing of grievances redressals, offer immediate service delivery to people and offer ground speedy execution of people centric schemes and projects.
- The programme also aims to offer time-bound delivery of documents like caste certificates, revenue and income certificate, old-age and physically handicapped pension registration, ration card updation, Aadhaar card enrollments etc at doorsteps. It will ensure immediate delivery of benefits like government schemes like pensions, scholarships, PMAY, health golden cards, Ladli Beti etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir: Manoj Sinha

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED BRAHMOS MISSILE

Current Context: India successfully carried out test firing operation of BrahMos missile.

KEY POINTS

- BrahMos is basically a supersonic cruise missile.

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- It was test fired from an indigenously developed stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea. The stealth destroyer was the INS Chennai, from which it was fired.
- The missile performed extremely complex manoeuvres and hit the target with pin-point accuracy.
- BrahMos missile is prime striking operation missile which ensures warship invincibility. It engages naval surface targets at long ranges.
- India and Russia have jointly designed, developed and produced BrahMos missile. Both the nations have developed this missile under a joint venture called BrahMos Aerospace.
- It is developed by DRDO (India) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia).
- The BrahMos name to the missile is given after Brahmaputra river and Moskva.
- BrahMos can be launched from submarines, ships, aircrafts and land platforms.
- The missile topped the speed of Mach 2.8, which is three times the speed of sound.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy

CRPF PARTNERS WITH IIT DELHI, DRDO AND JATC

Current Context: The CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) has entered into partnership with IIT Delhi, DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) and JATC (Joint Advanced Technology Centre) to strengthen its Research and Development capabilities.

KEY FACTS

- The partnership will help to augment capacity building in order to make optimal usage of police technologies.
- Also under this partnership, CRPF will be integrated with DRDO labs for the purpose of realistic indigenisation of technologies on the internal security grid.
- Also, IIT Experts will work to conduct R&D and will provide operational feedback on futuristic technologies to CRPF.
- A certified course under IIT Delhi's education program will be offered to a batch of engineering graduate officers or subordinate officers of CRPF. They will be undergoing trainings and certified course for the duration of 3-6 months.
- Under this partnership, the trained CRPF officers will be associated with research projects undertaken by DRDO and IIT Delhi related to defence and security technology sector.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CRPF: New Delhi
 - DG of CRPF: AP Maheshwari
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr, G Satheesh Reddy

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'INVEST 4G'- BY CANARA HSBC OBC LIFE INSURANCE

Current Context: Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) Life Insurance Company has launched 'Invest 4G'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **'Invest 4G' is a unit-linked individual life insurance cum savings plan.**
- It can be customized as per the customer's requirements and is suitable for new-age digital buyers.
- It provides one and unmatched Portfolio Management Options and is flexible which gives choice to avail for protection, suiting the demand for individual and also provide opportunity to save future goals.
- **'Invest 4G' comes with 3 options:** Life Option, Care Option and Century Option.
- Life Option ensures financial security to the family during the customer's demise. Care Option provides life coverage with premium funding benefits feature. Century option is a full life option available to policyholders upto the 100 years of age.
- The 'Invest 4G' also adds to one's savings through loyalty additions, wealth boosters and returns the mortality charges on policy maturity thus by increasing savings.
- In this, a single premium payment option is added which includes 10x cover multiple and 1.25x cover multiple.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance Company: Gurugram, Haryana
 - MD and CEO: Anuj Mathur

AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR SCHEME

Current Context: Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Agriculture Minister has launched Ayushman Sahakar Scheme.

DETAILS

- **The scheme is drafted by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC),** an apex autonomous development finance institution which comes under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **This Ayushman Sahakar scheme is an unique way which will assist cooperatives to play a vital role in creating healthcare infrastructure in India.**
- **For this purpose, NCDC will extend term loans to cooperatives by Rs 10,000 crores.**
- **Also, NCDC will provide interest subvention of 1% to cooperatives where the majority of women is higher.**
- The scheme will provide working capital and margin money which will meet the operation requirements to set up healthcare infra in the country.
- The scheme will focus on National Health Policy 2017.

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- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NCDC: New Delhi

1ST ISA SOLAR AWARDS 2020

Current Context: The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has presented first edition of ISA Solar Awards 2020.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The awards giving ceremony took place virtually during 3rd Assembly of ISA.
- Distinguished scientist, organisations who excelled their work in providing reliable and sustainable solar energy were awarded ISA Solar Award 2020.
- **The awards were conferred in three categories:** (a) **Visvesvaraya Award-** This award was given to recognize the countries with a maximum floating solar capacity in every 4 regions of ISA. (b) **Kalpna Chawla Awards-** This award was given to mark the outstanding contribution of scientist and engineers associated with solar energy sector. (c) **Diwakar Award-** This award was given recognize institutions and organisations who are working for the benefit of differently-abled people and have increased the use of solar energy in the host country.
- **Winners in each category of ISA Solar Award 2020:** (a) Visvesvaraya Award- Japan (Asia Pacific region) and Netherland (Europe and other regions) (b) **Kalpna Chawla Awards-** Dr Bhim Singh (IIT Delhi, India) and Dr. Aaasha Alnuaimi (UAE). (c) **Diwakar Award-** Arpan Institute (Haryana) and Arushi Society.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ISA: Gurugram, Haryana
 - Leader of ISA: Upendra Tripathy

ASIA POWER INDEX 2020

Current Context: Sydney based Lowy Institute has released Asia Power Index 2020.

KEY FACTS

- **As per the index rankings, India has been ranked at 4th spot with a score of 39.7 out of 100.**
- The index shows the ranking for 26 countries and territories on the basis of an analytical tool which ranks the countries based on what resources they have and the way they utilise their resources for the upliftment of their respective country in each sector.
- **The index is topped by United States with a score of 81.6.**
- The second and third position is marked by China (76.1 score) and Japan (41 score) respectively.

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INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED 'SANT' MISSILE

Current Context: India successfully tests fired SANT Missile (Standoff Anti-Tank Missile) from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Odisha coast.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It was tested from a rooftop launcher of the ground-based platform.
- SANT Missile is developed by DRDO for India Air Force and is the upgraded version of anti-tank missile named HeliNa (Helicopter Launched Nag).
- SANT Missile is additionally equipped with the advanced nose-mounted seeker.
- SANT Missile is equipped with Lock-on After Launch and Lock-on Before Launch capabilities.
- It can hit the target from a range of 15 to 20km away.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
 - Chairman of DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy

ADB TO PROVIDE LOAN FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN MAHARASHTRA

Current Context: Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of India has signed a loan agreement with an aim to improve roads in Maharashtra state.

KEY FACTS

- **The loan agreement of \$177 million is signed between them.**
- **This loan amount will be used to upgrade 450km of highways and major district roads in Maharashtra.**
- This project will improve transport roads connectivity between rural and urban areas of Maharashtra.
- The improved road connectivity will help to provide better transport access to markets, will increase employment opportunities and other services in the state.
- Also, there will be increase in road safety measures as the project will be developing road safety audit framework.
- Under this upgradation of roads in Maharashtra, two major district roads and 11 state highways , with a combined length of 450 km will be upgraded.
- **Under this project, the road maintenance system will be updated on the basis of 5 year performance-based maintenance contracts.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
 - CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
 - Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

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- National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Maharashtra: Tadoba NP, Sanjay Gandhi NP, Chandoli NP, Gugamal NP, Navegaon NP, Bhimashankar WLS, Bhamragarh WLS, Malvan Marine Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Phansad Bird Sanctuary, Dajipur WLS, Sagareshwar Deer Sanctuary, Nagzira WLS

FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES CIC—BY NITI AAYOG AND AMAZON WEB SERVICES

Current Context: National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in partnership with Amazon Web Services launched First of its kind, a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC).

KEY POINTS

- **The Frontier Technologies CIC is developed to address societal challenges through digital technology.**
- It will address the societal challenges related to agriculture, healthcare and skill development.
- This is the first Cloud Innovation Center in India and 12th Cloud Innovation Center in the whole world.
- This Cloud Innovation Center will allow the innovators and startups to make use of emerging technologies like AI, IoT, Robotics and Blockchain to develop cloud-centric digital innovations.
- Thus under this Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC) platform, local enterprises, startups, researchers and universities will perform experiments and will build prototypes on AWS Cloud.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant
 - HQ of Amazon Web Services: Seattle, Washington DC, US
 - CEO of Amazon Web Services: Andrew R Jasy

44TH OECD INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OUTLOOK 2020 REPORT

Current Context: The report on 44th edition of OECD International Migration Outlook 2020 is released by Jose Angel Gurría Trevino, Secretary General at OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per this report, India has marked the 2nd rank position in terms of migrants going to OECD countries and acquiring citizenship of those countries.**
- China has marked the first rank in this ranking.
- The third position is marked by Romania.

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- From India, 3.3 lakh migrants moved to OECD which is an increase of 10% compared to last edition report analysis.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of OECD: Paris, France

9TH INDIA-OMAN JOINT COMMISSION

Current Context: The 9th session of India and Oman Joint Commission was held virtually.

DETAILS

- **India was represented by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State of Commerce and Industry.**
- **Oman was represented by Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment.**
- The 9th session focused to review the current activities and developments in trade and investment during the pandemic state of COVID-19.
- Both India and Oman assured to work coordinately in expanding bilateral trade and investment activities with each other.
- Also, both nations assured to work coordinately in sectors like agriculture, food security, tourism, IT, MSMEs, Space and Aviation, Renewable Energy, education, Mining and Culture.
- They also discussed and agreed to expedite the process of signing and ratification of protocol amending India-Oman Double Taxation Agreement and conclusion of India-Oman Bilateral Investment Treaty.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Oman: Muscat
 - Currency of Oman: Omani Rial

BSE SIGNS MOU WITH TELANGANA GOV. AND GLOBALLINKER

Current Context: Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed MoU with Industries and Commerce Department of Telangana Government and GlobalLinker.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The three entities have signed MoU with an aim to support MSMEs in Telangana in order to raise equity funds.**
- The entities will support MSMEs by addressing their challenges which arise due to limited alternate finance sources.
- BSE will support MSME in tackling their finance access issues and will help to increase their credibility.
- Also, BSE will provide intellectual and manpower support with an aim to raise awareness about importance and benefits of listing.
- GlobalLinker portal will help in promoting MSMEs in simple and profitable manner.

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- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Telangana: Hyderabad
 - CM of Telangana: K Chandrashekar Rao
 - Governor of Telangana: Tamilisai Soundararajan
 - HQ of BSE: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of BSE: Ashishkumar Chauhan

INDIAN TOURISM STATISTICS 2020 REPORT

Current Context: Ministry of Tourism has released Indian Tourism Statistics 2020 report.

KEY FACTS

- **As per the report, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting a large number of an Indian tourist in the state in 2019.**
- Around 53.6 crores domestic tourist visited UP in 2019. This estimation contributes to 23.1% of total travellers.
- The second and third position is marked by Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh respectively in domestic visitors list category.
- **However, Tamil Nadu has topped in the list of attracting foreign visitors in the state in 2019.** Nearly, 68 lakh foreigners visited Tamil Nadu in 2019.
- The second and third position is marked by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh respectively in Foreign visitors list category.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Tourism and Culture: Prahlad Singh Patel

CURED—WEBSITE LAUNCHED BY HEALTH MINISTER

Current Context: Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched website named as CUREd.

KEY POINTS

- **CUREd signifies 'CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs'.**
- The CUREd portal is launched to provide informational data about numerous COVID-19 clinical trials in which CSIR is engaged with other industries, ministries or governmental departments.
- The portal will also provide details about clinical trials of diagnostics and other health equipments.
- The data related to partnered institutions for developing clinical trials and other health equipments will also be provided on this portal.
- CSIR is working in collaboration with AYUSH Ministry for conducting clinical trials of AYUSH Drugs.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CSIR: New Delhi

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- President of CSIR: PM Narendra Modi
- Vice-President of CSIR: Dr. Harsh Vardhan
- DG of CSIR: Shekhar C. Mande

18TH MEET PROSECUTORS GENERAL OF SCO

Current Context: The 18th meeting of Prosecutors General of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held virtually.

ABOUT

- **The meet was organised by the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan from Tashkent.**
- India was represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.
- The dignitaries discussed about strengthening cooperation to combat corruption, develop mutual legal assistance and exchange of regulatory legal acts.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Uzbekistan: Tashkent
 - Currency of Uzbekistan: Uzbekistani Som
- **India to host SCO Prosecutors General Meet in 2021.**

APPOINTMENTS ON 22ND OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: Madhabi Puri Buch: She is appointed to **head the Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC)** which is setup by SEBI. The committee is setup to achieve data culture through Data Democratization.

DETAILS

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi
- **P Umesh:** He is appointed to **head 9 member panel setup by IRDAI to examine the need for Standard Cyber Liability Insurance** for individuals and organisations so that they can manage their cyber risks, thus to curb the increasing cyber-attack situations.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IRDAI: Hyderabad, Telangana
 - Chairman of IRDAI: Dr Subhash Chandra Khuntia

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MICROSOFT PARTNERS WITH SPACEX TO CONNECT AZURE PLATFORM TO SATELLITES

Current Context: Microsoft has teamed up with satellite operator named SpaceX with an aim to provide uninterrupted Azure service to its customers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This partnership is made to target space customers.
- **Microsoft's partnership with SpaceX Starlink will provide high speed with an minimum latency for satellite broadband service for Microsoft's Azure Modular Datacenter.**
- For this purpose, Microsoft has formed a team of space industry veterans so that they can collaboratively work with product engineers and scientist.
- The Microsoft team and product engineers and scientist will be developing cloud capabilities which will lead to space exploration.
- They will work in innovation areas related to space missions, discovering insights from satellite data and to fuel innovation at the ground as well as orbit level.
- Once the space mission gets coupled with Azure's high-performance computing platform, machine learning and data analytics abilities for satellites will then open new opportunities for organisations.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Microsoft Corporation: Redmond, Washington, US
 - CEO of Microsoft: Satya Nadella
 - HQ of SpaceX: Hawthorne, California, US
 - CEO of SpaceX: Elon Musk

'COVIRAP': A COVID-19 TEST KIT BY IIT KHARAGPUR

Current Context: Researchers from IIT Kharagpur has developed a low-cost COVID-19 test kit named as 'COVIRAP'.

KEY FACTS

- **The COVIRAP diagnostic machine is successfully validated by ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) because of efficient features.**
- The result provided by COVIRAP machine are similar to RT-PCR and gives result in less than an hour.
- The cost of testing using this machine is around Rs 500.
- COVIRAP is a cuboid-shaped portable machine whose developing cost is around Rs 5000.
- Along with coronavirus test, other tests like influenza, malaria, dengue, tuberculosis can also be performed using COVIRAP.

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IND SPRING BOARD—BY INDIAN BANK AND IIT MADRAS INCUBATION CELL

Current Context: Indian Bank partnered with IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) to launch 'IND SpringBoard', which is the credit facility to fund startups.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **'IND SpringBoard' will offer an exclusive credit facility of up to Rs 50 crore for startups in order to fulfil their capital requirements and purchase of machinery and equipment.**
- Under this 'IND SpringBoard', IITMIC will refer startups with adequate technology cash flows to the bank. They will also extend advisory to the bank on the business model.
- The bank will then offer loan up to Rs 50 crore to such startups.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Indian Bank: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - Tagline of Indian Bank: Your Own Bank
 - MD and CEO of Indian Bank: Padmaja Chundururu
 - Allahabad Bank is merged with Indian Bank
 - CEO of IITMIC: Dr Tamaswati Ghosh

USAID ANNOUNCED \$5 MILLION TO SUPPORT INDIAN COVID-19 INITIATIVES

Current Context: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced to awards of \$5 million to Catalyst Management Service's COVID Action Collaborative (CAC) and to Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

ABOUT

- **The award is offered as the part of US Government's support to India's COVID-19 response.**
- Out of this \$5 million award, \$3 million will be used for CAC for two years to strengthen the capacity of 100 local organisations, 10 local governments and 15 association of healthcare providers, retailers and street vendors who are affected financially during this pandemic state. CAC will link them with government and private sector resources so that around 10 million individuals will get the benefit of this award.
- And rest \$2 million will be used by Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence to develop tools which will forecast the disease pattern of COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of USAID: Washington DC US
 - Acting Administrator of USAID: John Barsa

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APPOINTMENTS AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 23RD OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: Harish Kumar and Umesh Sinha: They are appointed in 2 membered committees which is formed by Election Commission of India (ECI) to **review the expenditure limit of candidates contesting in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.** Harish Kumar is former DG Investigation and Umesh Sinha is Secretary-General and DG Expenditure.

DETAILS

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ECI: New Delhi
 - Chief Election Commissioner of ECI: Sunil Arora
- **Lewis Hamilton:** He is appointed as **brand ambassador for LG Signature**, which is the home solution brand of LG Electronics.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LG Electronics: South Korea
- **Priyanka Chopra:** She is appointed as **brand ambassador for B-Fizz**, fruits plus fizz portfolio of Parle Agro.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Parle Agro: Mumbai
 - Chairman of Parle Agro: Schauana Chauhan
- **Neena Malhotra:** She is appointed as **next Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of San Marino: San Marino
 - Currency of San Marino: Euro

WORLD BANK-IMF ANNUAL MEET 2020

Current Context: The annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) was held virtually.

DETAILS

- **The meeting was addressed by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan.**
- **The meeting was held under two themes:** (a) 'Unleashing the South Asian Century through Human Capital for All' (b) 'Investing in COVID-19 Vaccines and Primary Healthcare Delivery System'.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan mentioned that India followed the 'Whole of Society, Whole of Government' approach to tackle the pandemic situation in the country.
- Also, he appreciated the support from private firms of India in providing PPE kits, N95 masks, oxygen supply, ventilators with an aim to ensure self-sufficiency.

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- He highlighted that medical infrastructure in India from March has risen from having one lab in March 2020 to 2000 labs till now.
- He focused that India's current agenda is to provide affordable COVID-19 vaccine and to ensure its equal distribution through electronic Vaccine Intelligent Network (e-Vin).
- For this purpose, the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi is set up. This expert group will ensure equal distribution of vaccine in rural and remote areas.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, US
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass
 - HQ of IMF: Washington DC, US
 - MD of IMF: Kristalina Georgieva-Kinova
 - Economic Counsellor and Research Development Director of IMF: Gita Gopinath

'YSR BIMA' SCHEME—ANDHRA PRADESH

Current Context: Andhra Pradesh Government launched 'YSR Bima' Scheme.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The scheme will offer insurance cover to the beneficiary in case of death or accident of their family members.**
- The insurance cover amount will be directly credited into the bank account of the beneficiary within 15 days of making claim.
- Immediate assistance of Rs 10,000 will be provided to the families of victims through village and ward secretaries.
- The accidental death and total permanent disability for people between age group 18-50 years is Rs 5 lakh.
- The accidental death and total permanent disability for people between age group 51-70 years is Rs 3 lakh.
- Natural death case of the people between age 18-50 years is Rs 2 lakh.
- For partial permanent disability in an accident case of people between age 18-70 years is Rs 1.5 lakhs.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Andhra Pradesh: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
 - Governor of Andhra Pradesh: Biswa Bhushan Harichandan
 - Major Irrigations Dams and Reservoirs in Andhra Pradesh: Srisailem Dam, Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, Somasila Dam, Polavaram Project, Kalyani Dam, Mylavaram Dam, Tatipudi Reservoir, Jeedipalli Reservoir

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1ST MINISTERIAL MEET OF G20 ANTI-CORRUPTION WORKING GROUP

Current Context: The first-ever Ministerial meeting of G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group was held.

KEY POINTS

- **The meeting was dressed by Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.**
- **Saudi Arabia hosted the meeting and thus become the first country to host the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting.**
- Union Minister Jitendra Singh mentioned that India is truly committed to the policy of zero tolerance against corruption and unaccounted money.
- He mentioned about India's policies like Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act 2018 and Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018 in combating corruption.
- He also highlighted India's initiative to operationalize Lokpal to check corruption.
- **Static Part:** The G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group was formed in June 2010 at G20 Summit held in Toronto.
 - 2020 Presidency of G20: Saudi Arabia
 - Theme of 2020 for G20: Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for all

MASTERCARD PARTNERS WITH ATLANTIS

Current Context: MasterCard has entered into a partnership with Atlantis with an aim to expand the Digital First Program in India.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Under this partnership, customers of MasterCard will be provided with a technology solution which will provide them with ease in digital banking.**
- The partnership will soon be extended to counties like Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore.
- Customers will be benefited with immediate account access and convenient payment solutions.
- Digital First Program is operational with prepaid, debit and credit cards and account-based payments through any digital device.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of MasterCard: New York, US
 - HQ of Atlantis: Singapore

APPOINTMENTS AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 24TH OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: Saad al-Hariri: He is reappointed as Prime Minister of Lebanon.

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ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Lebanon: Beirut
 - Currency of Lebanon: Lebanese Pound
- **Sushil Kumar Singhal:** He is appointed as **next High Commissioner of India to Solomon Islands**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Solomon Islands: Honiara
 - Currency of Solomon Islands: Dollar
- **Apurva Chandra:** He is appointed as **Chairperson of Governing Body of International Labour Organisation (ILO)**. Currently, he is serving as Secretary (Labour and Employment) under Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ILO: Geneva, Switzerland
 - DG of ILO: Guy Ryder
 - Union Minister of state (IC) for Labour and Employment: Santosh Kumar Gangwar
- **Rajiv Kumar:** He is appointed to **head the committee which will evaluate reforms in urban planning education system**. There will be 14 members in the committee and is formed by NITI Aayog. Rajiv Kumar is serving as Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant
- **Rohit Sharma:** He is appointed as **brand ambassador for Vega**.

'LIFE IN MINIATURE' PROJECT

Current Context: 'Life in Miniature' Project is launched by Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The project is launched by the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture and Google Arts and Culture.**
- **Under this project, hundreds of miniature paintings from the National Museum will be displayed and viewed on Google Arts and Culture app.**
- People across the world can experience the first augmented reality-powered art gallery designed with traditional Indian architecture with the help of Google Arts and Culture app.
- The miniature work will be captured with the help of technologies like machine learning, augmented reality and digitization with the help of HD specific cameras.
- The app also possesses the feature of 'Magnify Miniatures' which will allow the users to magnify artwork and paintings.

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- The artwork will be showcased based on five universal themes namely, Human relationship with nature, love, celebration, faith and power.
- The showcased art and painting collection include Ramayana, Royal Saga and Pahari style paintings.

IIT KHARAGPUR PARTNERS WITH TCS

Current Context: IIT Kharagpur has partnered with TCS to develop novel Industry 4.0 technology.

KEY POINTS

- **Industry 4.0 technology is developed to remotely control factory operations and to have real-time quality corrections in industries.**
- This technology is developed to set a new trend in the manufacturing sector of India.
- Industry 4.0 technology will help manufacturing industries to achieve standard quality goals, reduce possibilities of rejection, hence lowering the cost of production.
- The technology is developed by Prof. Surjya K Pal, who is in-charge at the Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing Technology.
- **The Industry 4.0 technology will help to acquire real-time data about welding activities via sensors and will allow online controlling of welding quality with the help of cloud-based data transfer with the friction stir welding machine.**
- The technology conforms to standards and thus will inform about any defect during monitoring tasks.

'CII AGRO AND FOOD TECH: INDIA INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRI WEEK'

Current Context: Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated first 'CII Agro and Food Tech: India International Food and Agri Week' during 14th Agro and Food Tech event.

ABOUT

- The 'CII Agro and Food Tech: India International Food and Agri Week' was observed from 16th Oct to 22nd Oct 2020.
- **It was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying and ministry of food processing industries.**
- **The week was observed with an aim to use technology in the food and agriculture sector so as to boost farmers income.**
- Along with this observation of week, ministry of food processing also launched 'Anna Devo Bhava', which is an awareness campaign.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CII: New Delhi

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- DG of CII: Chandrajit Banerjee
- President of CII: Uday Kotak

RBI FIXED MINIMUM NOF SIZE TO HFCS AT RS 25 CRORE

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India, is the new regulatory body for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) has proposed changes to the prescribed for HFCs.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- These changes are made with an aim to increase the efficiency of HFCs and address their issues related to liquidity and double financing.
- In this regard, **RBI has revised regulatory framework for HFCs under which minimum Net Owned Funds (NOF) size for HFCs is fixed to Rs 25 crore.**
- As per this, HFC having CoR (Certificate of Registration) and having NOF less than Rs 25 crore will be required to achieve NOF of Rs 15 crore by 31st March 2022 and Rs 25 crore by 31st March 2023.
- Also, it would be mandatory upon such HFCs whose NOF is currently below Rs 20 crore to submit a statutory auditor's certificate to RBI within a month evidencing compliance with the prescribed levels.
- HFCs not fulfilling the prescribed level within the stipulated amount of time will not be eligible to hold CoR.
- Also, HFCs will not impose foreclosure charges or pre-payment penalties on any floating rate term loan sanctioned for purposes other than business to individual borrowers, with or without co-obligates.
- HFCs lending against the collateral of listed shares will have to maintain an LTV (Loan to Value) ratio of 50% for loans granted against the collateral of shares.
- HFCs will be mandated to maintain the LTV ratio not more than 75% for loans granted against the collateral of gold jewellery.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

PM MODI LAUNCHED THREE PROJECTS IN GUJARAT

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Kisan Suryoday Yojana', 'Girnar Ropeway' and 'Paediatric Heart Hospital in UN Mehta Heart Research Institute' in Gujarat state.

KEY FACTS

- The 'Kisan Suryoday Yojana' is launched to provide day time power supply for irrigation facility in Gujarat.
- The state farmers will be provided with a power supply between 5 am to 9 pm.

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- The funds allotted for 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' is Rs 3500 crores, which will be used to install transmission lines in which each transmission line will carry 66KW of power.
- Also, 22kv substations will also be installed with the help of these funds.
- PM Modi also inaugurated ropeway located in Mount Girnar in Junagadh district of Gujarat. This ropeway is considered as longest ropeway in Asia.
- Total costing of this ropeway is Rs 130 crore and is 2320 meters long, with the capacity of carrying 1000 passengers in one hour.
- PM Modi also inaugurated the Paediatric Heart Hospital at UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre at Civil Hospital campus of Ahmedabad and Mobile Application for telecardiology. The funds utilised for this is Rs 470 crore.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Gujarat: Vijay Rupani
 - Governor of Gujarat: Acharya Devvrat

IMD COMMISSIONED FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE SERVICE IN SOUTH ASIA

Current Context: India Meteorological Department (IMD) has commissioned FFGS (Flash Flood Guidance Service) in South Asian Countries.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **FFGS is commissioned in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.**
- **The Flash Flood Guidance Service is an advanced and robust system which provides warnings about threats in advance 6 hours and warnings about risks in advance 24 hours.**
- The warnings for flash floods are provided in advance at the watershed level with a resolution of 4kmX4km.
- This system was approved at 15th World Meteorological Congress.
- It is created by following two concepts namely, Flash Flood Guidance and Flash Flood Threat.
- Flash Flood Guidance refers to an index which indicates how much rainfall is required to overcome channel storage capacities and soil storage capacities which will cause minimum flood condition in a basin.
- Flash Flood Threat refers to an index that provides an indication of areas where flood occurs and immediate action is needed.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IMD: New Delhi
 - GD of IMD: Dr M Mohapatra

'DELHI METRO-SBI CARD'

Current Context: SBI Card and Payment Services (SBI Cards) in partnership with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) launched 'Delhi Metro-SBI Card'.

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DETAILS

- The 'Delhi Metro-SBI Card' is a multipurpose credit card which is launched for Delhi Metro passengers.
- **The card is a credit card as well as a metro smart card.**
- It is launched with an aim to support digital finance movement and to promote cashless transactions in Delhi Metro.
- The card has an access to 100 metro stations across Delhi and NCR.
- The card gets automatically recharged from its linked bank account, whenever the balance reaches below Rs 100.
- The 'Delhi Metro-SBI Card' also offers an insurance cover of Rs 50,000.
- It also offers a 10% discount on metro travel and 1% fuel surcharge waiver at all petrol pumps to the user.
- Annual fees will be reversed on the spending of Rs 1 lakh.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI Cards: Gurgaon, Haryana
 - MD and CEO of SBI Cards: Ashwini Kumar Tewari
 - MD OF DMRC: Mangu Singh

SURVEY ON HIMALAYAN BROWN BEAR—BY ZSI

Current Context: The Zoological Survey of India released a report of its survey on Himalayan Brown Bear.

KEY POINTS

- **As per this report, the Himalayan Brown Bear habitat has shown a decline in the biological corridors.**
- **As per the survey, a massive decline of about 73% in the habitat of the Himalayan brown bear will be seen by 2050.**
- The survey was conducted in the western part of Himalayas.
- This habitat was considered for their survey as Himalayan Brown Bear are considered to be top carnivore of the Himalayan region.

INDIA AUSTRALIA CIRCULAR ECONOMY HACKATHON (I-ACE)

Current Context: The 'India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)' will be organised by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in association with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This hackathon on the circular economy will be held on 7th and 8th Dec 2020.

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- **The hackathon will be based on four themes:** (a) Innovation in reducing packaging waste (b) Innovation in food supply chains avoiding waste (c) Creating opportunities for plastic waste reduction (d) Recycling critical energy metals and e-waste.
- The aim behind conducting this hackathon is to address the issues and challenges being faced by the circular economy.
- Under this hackathon, various innovative solutions will arise which will help to reduce the problems related to eliminating and reusing waste.
- This will result in making the economy less resource-intensive and will provide a path to grow the economy in an ecological manner.
- Students, experts, startups and MSMEs from India and Australia will be developing innovative technology-based solutions which will help to boost the circular economy of both nations.
- Two winners for each theme from each country will be awarded in an award ceremony which will be held on 11th Dec 2020.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Australia: Canberra
 - Currency of Australia: Australian Dollar

SVC CO-OPERATIVE BANK PARTNERS WITH NPCI

Current Context: The Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd (SVC Bank) has entered into a partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

KEY POINTS

- **They have entered into a partnership to launch a rewards programme.**
- They launched loyalty management program with an aim to provide ease and rewardable banking experience to the customers.
- **Under this reward program, customers will earn points upon using SVC Bank's cards and its digital solutions.**
- The reward points can be redeemed to purchase products and services like electronics, sports, home decor, lifestyle, health etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SVC Co-operative Bank: Mumbai
 - MD of SVC Co-operative Bank: Ajit E Venugopalan
 - HQ of NPCI: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of NPCI: Dilip Asbe

APPOINTMENTS ON 27TH OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: Luis Arce: He will be appointed as **President of Bolivia**.

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ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bolivia: Sucre and La Paz
 - Currency of Bolivia: Boliviano
- **Wavel Ramkalawan:** He is appointed as **President of Seychelles**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Seychelles: Victoria
 - Currency of Seychelles: Seychellois Rupee
- **Alpha Conde:** He is appointed as **President of Guinea** for 3rd term.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Guinea: Conakry
 - Currency of Guinea: Guinean Franc
- **PM Narendra Modi:** He is will be **heading a high level 70 member committee to commemorate 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur**. The committee will work to formulate and approve policies, plans, programmes and will look after supervision and guidance for commemoration, deciding broad dates for the programme.

INDIA-US 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

Current Context: The 3rd India-US 2+2 Dialogue is conducted on 27th Oct 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The dialogue is held to discuss global, bilateral and regional issues between India and the United States.**
- The meet is attended by US Secretary of Defence, Mark T. Esper and US Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo. India is represented by Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar.
- **During this meet, both the nations will be signing BECA Agreement (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation).**
- This agreement will allow India to access extremely accurate geo-spatial data.
- This spatial data will be having military applications which will improve the accuracy of India's missile systems.
- BECA is the agreement between National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency of the US Defence Department and Indian Union Ministry of Defence.
- Under this agreement, both nations will be able to share important military information like advanced satellite and topographical data, geophysical data, geodetic data, geomagnetic data, gravitational data and nautical and aeronautical charts.

MOBILE APP FOR GEO TAGGING OF COMPONENTS OF PMKSY-AIBP

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Current Context: Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Rattan Lal Kataria has launched a mobile app for geotagging project components under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).

KEY FACTS

- **The mobile app is developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N).**
- The mobile application will be useful for monitoring authorities of various projects to capture the images of project components like location, type of canal, completion status etc.
- The app can be used online as well as offline mode.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Jal Shakti: Ganjendra Singh Shekhawat

TWO CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR TRIBAL WELFARE—BY MOTA AND AOL

Current Context: Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in partnership with Art of Living (AoL) developed two Centers of Excellence (CoE) for the welfare of the tribal community.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Both the CoE was launched by Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda.
- During the launching occasion, Arjun Munda praised the support from Art of Living in developing Centre of Excellence.
- The First CoE is related to the field of training tribal farmer communities, set up in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra. This CoE will provide training based on sustainable natural farming through Go-Adharith farming techniques.
- The Second CoE is related to the field of 'Strengthening PRIs' (Panchayati Raj Institutions) in 5 districts covering 30-gram panchayats and 150 villages of Jharkhand.
- Strengthening PRIs will include providing education to the tribals about their constitutional rights which will lead to their overall development.
- Through both the CoEs, tribes will be made aware of schemes set by GOI for them, personality development training to tribes youths and development of a sense of social development in tribals.

RBI ASKS LENDERS TO IMPLEMENT WAIVER OF INTEREST ON INTEREST SCHEME

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked lending institutions including NBFCs, to implement waiver of interest on interest for loans of up to Rs 2 crore for 6 months moratorium period beginning from 1st March 2020.

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KEY POINTS

- **GOI has announced the scheme for grant of ex-gratia payment of the difference between simple interest and compound interest for 6 months to borrowers in specific loan accounts.**
- **Now banks and NBFCs will be mandated to grant ex-gratia payment for certain categories of borrowers by crediting the difference between simple interest and compound Interest between 1st March 2020 to 31st August 2020.**
- **The centre has asked lending institutions to complete the crediting of amount in the accounts of borrowers by 5th Nov 2020.**
- The housing loans, educational loans, credit card loans, MSME loans, consumer durable loans, auto loans and consumption loans are included under this scheme.
- The scheme is applicable for those who have not availed the moratorium scheme and has continued with repayment of loans.
- Under this scheme, the difference will be credited to the eligible borrowers accounts for the said period irrespective whether a borrower has fully or partially availed moratorium on loan announced by RBI initially on 27th Mar 2020.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

IIT KANPUR AND ASI SIGNED MOU WITH TWO INSTITUTES OF ITALY

Current Context: IIT Kanpur and Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has signed Mou with Italy's Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti E Paesaggio, Venice.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have entered into MoU to create a network of sharing skills for restoration and protection of historical monuments.**
- All these 4 entities from India and Italy will collaberately work in areas like scientific studies, skill-sharing, knowledge exchange along with conducting joint field studies.
- Prof. Mukesh Sharma, Civil Engg Dept., IIT Kanpur, will manage and coordinate the activities under this MoU.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Italy: Rome
 - Currency of Italy: Euro
 - HQ of ASI: New Delhi
 - DG of ASI: V. Vidyavathi

INDIA POST AND US POSTAL SERVICE ENTERS INTO AGREEMENT

Current Context: An agreement is signed between India Post and US Postal Service.

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KEY FACTS

- **They have entered into an agreement for the purpose of electronic exchange of customs data related to postal shipments between India and the US.**
- This agreement will lead to ease of exports through postal channels between both nations.
- Both entities will transmit and receive electronic data of international postal items being shipped even before their arrival. This advance data will help the customs to clear the postal items before the shipment reaches the port.
- This will thus lead to improve the postal service's reliability, visibility and security.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of US: Washington DC
 - Currency of US: US Dollar
 - HQ of India Post: New Delhi

LOW COST TECHNOLOGY ANTI-AGEING COMPOUND—BY IIT GUWAHATI

Current Context: IIT Guwahati has developed a low-cost technology which helps to produce anti-ageing compounds.

DETAILS

- **It is developed from agricultural products like tea, orange peels, onions, pulses, sea buckthorn, berries and parsley.**
- This technology does not use any organic solvents, which results in an increase in price.
- This low-cost technology is developed by Mihir Kumar Purkait, head of the Centre for Environment and Professor in Chemical Eng. Department along with student named V L Dhadge.
- It is based on using size-based pressure driven membrane separation process, in which extracts of plants and fruits are passed through fabricated membranes which separate selected flavonoids.
- After this, moisture containing part is freeze dried in order to get the powdered product.

CSB BANK LTD PARTNERS WITH IIFL FINANCE LTD

Current Context: Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd partnered with IIFL Finance Ltd to offer gold loans in untapped locations of rural areas.

HIGHLIGHTS

- They have entered into a partnership to source and manage the retail gold loan assets.
- IIFL, which is an NBFC, will perform the role of Business Correspondent of the bank.
- With the vast network of IIFL, it will source new business from markets especially from the locations where CSB bank is not having its branch network.
- This will help CSB Bank to handle customers from rural areas as well.
- **Static Part:**

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- HQ of CSB Bank: Thrissur, Kerala
- MD and CEO of CSB Bank: C VR Rajendran
- HQ of IIFL Finance Ltd: Mumbai
- MD of IIFL Finance Ltd : R Venkataraman

6TH BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Current Context: The 6th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was conducted virtually under the chairmanship of Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of Russian Parliament.

DETAILS

- **The forum was held under the theme:** 'BRICS partnership in the interest of global stability, general safety and innovation growth: Parliamentary dimension'.
- **From India, the forum was represented and addressed by Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla.**
- **Also from India, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilisers, Kanimozhi Karunanidhi participated in the forum.**
- The BRICS Parliamentary Forum is an effective platform which allows having inter-parliamentary dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy among BRICS nations. This helps to strengthen the roles of Parliament in addressing global issues.
- Om Birla addressed the forum to intensify the collaborative fight against terrorism and highlighted to immediately stop funding for terrorist activities.
- He also focused his opinion on the ongoing pandemic state in every nation and motivated that the pandemic will not lead to a halt in progress in achieving Agenda of 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals.
- He also highlighted initiatives taken by GOI to tackle COVID-19 pandemic.
- **The points discussed in 6th BRICS Parliamentary Forum were:** (a)Improvement in standards and quality of life of people of BRICS Nations (b) Adopting legislative initiatives to improve health care systems and mechanism (c) Issues of social protection and economic recovery in the pandemic state (d) Strengthening parliamentary cooperation with BRICS nations.
- Also, the Draft BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy was agreed in the forum.
- **Static Part:**
 - BRICS Chairmanship for 2020: Russia

SBI SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENT WITH JBIC AND OTHER FINANCE LENDERS

Current Context: The State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a loan agreement with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and other finance lenders.

KEY FACTS

- **The loan agreement of up to \$1 billion is signed.**

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- **The loan agreement is signed to promote the smooth flow of funds for various range of operations of Japan's automobile manufacturers in India. The loan amount will facilitate the operation of Japan's automobile sector companies in India.**
- This loan agreement will also prove beneficial to achieve the motto of 'Make in India' initiative.
- \$600 million will be financed by JBIC and \$400 million will be financed by other finance participating lenders which include Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, MUFG Bank, Shizuoka Bank, Bank of Yokohama and Mizuho Bank.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara
 - HQ of JBIC: Tokyo, Japan
 - President and CEO of JBIC: Tadashi Maeda
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

DST-IEST SOLAR PV HUB INAUGURATED BY UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

Current Context: Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated DST-IEST Solar PV Hub.

DETAILS

- **It is inaugurated at Shibpur in Howrah district, West Bengal.**
- It is established through approval and support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), GOI under the aegis of CoE for Green Energy and Sensor System at IEST, Shibpur.
- The hub is equipped with world-class research facilities and will play a role of a central node for R&D activities in the field of solar energy, solar photovoltaics, testing of solar cells, solar PV modules and solar PV systems. This hub will prove beneficial to the entire North-Eastern states of India.
- The DST-IEST Solar PV Hub will allow national as well as local industries, startups, and research institutes to work collaboratively with 'Make in India' initiative to have the smooth transition from fossil fuel energy to solar energy.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of West Bengal: Kolkata
 - CM of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee
 - Governor of West Bengal: Jagdeep Dhankhar
 - National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries of West Bengal: Gorumara NP, Buxa NP, Singalila NP, Sunderban NP, Jaldapara NP, Senchal WLS, Raiganj WLS, Ramnabagan WLS, Buxa Tiger Reserve, Chapramai WLS

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COCHIN SHIPYARD LTD SIGNED MOU WITH FINCANTIERI S.P.A.

Current Context: Cochin Shipyard Ltd has signed MoU with Italy's Fincantieri S.P.A.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- They have signed MoU to achieve the cooperation in the areas of Design, Shipbuilding, ship repayments, marine equipment manufacturing, training and skills development to manpower.
- Italy's Fincantieri S.P.A. is one of the world's largest shipbuilding group which is operating 18 shipyards in four continents.
- This partnership will prove beneficial for business development with mutual benefits.
- It will also be helpful to achieve cooperation in line with Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiative. The partnership will develop the latest technology products for India as well as for global markets.

'SUMANGAL' AND 'INTEGRATED ODISHA STATE SCHOLARSHIP PORTAL' LAUNCHED

Current Context: Chief Minister of Odisha launched two web portals.

KEY POINTS

- **The two web portals are:** (a) Sumangal Portal (b) Integrated Odisha State Scholarship Portal.
 - **Sumangal Portal:** This portal is launched to provide incentives to the inter-caste marriage. It is developed by ST and SC Development Department. One time incentives of Rs 2.5 lakhs will be provided to the inter-caste married couples.
 - **Integrated Odisha State Scholarship Portal:** This web portal will provide scholarship to the eligible students of the state. It will provide 21 scholarships by 8 different state departments. It is predicted that around 11 lakhs students belonging to SC, ST and other backward classes will be benefited through this portal. The scholarship amount will be directly credited to the accounts of eligible students.
- Also, the portal will administer the professional programs of various state departments like SC and ST department, Higher education department, school and mass education department, ESI department, agriculture department and skill development and technical education department.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Odisha: Bhubaneswar
 - CM of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik
 - Governor of Odisha: Ganeshi Lal

NATIONAL PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

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Current Context: NITI Aayog in partnership with Quality Council of India (QCI) has launched the 'National Program and Project Management Policy Framework (NPMPF)'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The NPMPF is launched to transform the infrastructure sector of India.**
- The NPMPF was launched by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister Piyush Goyal and Amitabh Kant and Adil Zainulbhai.
- Along with this, '**Indian Infrastructure Body of Knowledge (InBoK)**' which is a book on NPMPF. The book is unveiled to serve as a reference medium for all practitioners of infra sector industry.
- **The major action plans for NPMPF are:** (1) Adoption of program and project management strategies to develop infra sector (2) institutionalize and promote profession of program and project management (3) Build skilled workforce for this profession (4) Enhancing institutional capacity and capabilities in professionals.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant
 - Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways and MSME: Nitin Gadkari
 - Union Minister of Railways and Commerce and Industry: Piyush Goyal
 - HQ of QCI: New Delhi
 - Chairman of QCI: Adil Zainulbhai

19TH MEET OF SCO MINISTERS OF FOREIGN ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE

Current Context: The 19th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Ministers of Foreign Economy and Foreign Trade was held virtually.

ABOUT MEETING

- **The meet was chaired by Union Minister for Commerce and Industries, Piyush Goyal. The meet was also attended by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Hardeep Singh Puri.**
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal addressed the meet that countries must work collaboratively to strengthen their economic strengths in order to increase trade and investment so as to achieve speedy recovery from pandemic.
- Also, the cooperation will help to achieve global economic growth as SCO nations contribute to 1/7th global trade in goods and 1/8th global trade in commercial services.
- **Four major documents were adopted in the meet:** (1) Statement on the response on COVID-19 (2) Statement on Multilateral Trading System (3) Statement on SCO Cooperation on Intellectual Property Rights (4) Action Plan for the implementation of MoU for increasing cooperation in MSMEs.

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- **First-ever SCO Startup Forum:** It was launched by Union Minister Piyush Goyal ahead of this meet. The forum will perform the role of the foundation for multilateral cooperation and will allow engagement of SCO nations to develop startup ecosystems. The forum is the initiative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SCO: Beijing, China
 - Secretary-General of SCO: Vladimir Norov

MICROSOFT PARTNERS WITH NSDC TO EMPOWER WOMEN WITH DIGITAL SKILLS

Current Context: Microsoft has entered into a partnership with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to provide digital skills training to underserved women.

KEY FACTS

- **The digital skill training will be provided to 1 lakh underserved women in India for the next 10 months.**
- **This partnership is the extension of the initiative of Microsoft and NSDC to provide digital skills to 1 lakh youths of India.**
- Under this partnership, Microsoft and NSDC will provide live training sessions and digital skilling drives to girls and women.
- This will be helpful for girls and women to seek job opportunities.
- eSkill India, which is an initiative of NSDC will support in building this partnership through its skilling ecosystem like sector skill councils, training partners and training centres.
- Also upon completing the course, the girls and women will be provided with e-certificate for the same.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Microsoft: Redmond, Washington, United States
 - CEO of Microsoft: Satya Nadella
 - HQ of NSDC: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NSDC: A M Naik

APPOINTMENTS ON 30TH OCTOBER 2020

Current Context: Yashvardhan K Sinha: He is appointed as **Chief Information Commissioner of India.**

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CIC: New Delhi
- **Rohit Sharma:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador for Dr Trust, which is a healthcare firm.**

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- **Static Part:** Rohit Sharma is also serving as brand ambassador for IIFL Finance, CricKingdom, Oakley, Vega and Masimo Batteries.

GLOBAL FINANCES SAFEST BANKS 2020

Current Context: The Global Finances has released its 29th annual ranking of World's Safest Banks.

KEY POINTS

- As per the ranking, DBS Bank, Singapore is recognized as the Safest Bank in Asia for 12th consecutive year.
- Also, DBS Bank is ranked at 4th position as the safest commercial bank in the world.
- And, DBS bank is ranked at 14th position as safest bank globally from 2019 and 2018.
- **World's Safest Banks 2020:** KfW, Germany (Rank1), Zuercher Kantonalbank, Switzerland (Rank2) and BNG Bank, Netherland (Rank3).
- **Asia's Safest Banks 2020:** DBS Group, Singapore (Rank1), Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Singapore (Rank2) and United Overseas Bank, Singapore (Rank3).
- **State Bank of India is the safest bank in India as per Global Finances.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Global Finances: New York, USA

INDIAN ARMY LAUNCHED IMS SOFTWARE AND SAI MESSAGING APPLICATION

Current Context: Indian Army has launched software named as 'Infrastructure Management System' (IMS) and secured messaging application platform called 'Secure Application for the Internet' (SAI).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **'Infrastructure Management System' (IMS):** It is launched for the purpose of automation for functions related to infrastructure development, management for the availability of land, planning and for the purpose of monitoring working activities. The software was inaugurated by Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Mukund Naravane at the Army Commanders Conference.
- The IMS Software will help to automate work initiation, it will help to accord administrative approvals, manage cantonment roads, making of online availability of land works and quartering policies etc.
- **'Secure Application for the Internet' (SAI):** It is launched to serve the motto of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Mission'. It is developed by Colonel Shankar of the Indian Army. The app will ensure secure communication among the Indian Army personnel. It will allow end-to-end secure voice, text and video calling services.
- **Static Part:**

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- HQ of Indian Army: New Delhi
- Chief of Army Staff: General Manoj Mukund Naravane

ICSSR SIGNS PACT WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Current Context: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has signed a pact with European Commission virtually.

DETAILS

- **They have signed a pact to enhance the scientific cooperation between them.**
- The pact was virtually signed by Member Secretary of ICSSR, Virendra Kumar Malhotra and Ambassador of European Union to India, Ugo Astuto.
- Because of this agreement, top Indian Social Scientist, who is supported by ICSSR, will be able to perform research activities in collaboration with European researchers who are supported by the European Research Council (ERC).
- The ICSSR and REC will allow contacts between respective scholar scientist who intend to work for international cooperation works.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICSSR: New Delhi
 - Chairman of ICSSR: Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan

8TH INDIA-MEXICO JOINT COMMISSION MEET

Current Context: The 8th India-Mexico Joint Commission Meeting was held virtually to review the bilateral cooperation in various sectors of both nations.

KEY POINTS

- **India was represented by External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar and Mexico was represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, H.E. Marcelo Ebrard.**
- Both the dignitaries discussed bilateral cooperation in sectors like agriculture, investment, trade, education and health.
- They assured to strengthen their cooperation to achieve economic strengths, growing regional and global profile status.
- They also assured to cooperate in new sectors like Trade and Commerce, Energy, Space, Health, Science & Technology, Culture & Education.
- Both nations agreed to make use of the UN Security Council to strengthen multilateralism and make it more representative and effective.
- They assured each other to collaboratively work to tackle post-COVID-19 recovery.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mexico: Mexico City
 - Currency of Mexico: Mexican Peso

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INDUSIND BANK—FIRST BANK TO GO LIVE ON RBI'S 'ACCOUNT AGGREGATOR FRAMEWORK'

Current Context: IndusInd Bank has gone live as a 'Financial Information Provider' (FIP) under the new 'Account Aggregator Framework (AAF)' of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Thus, IndusInd Bank has become the first bank to do so.**
- Due to this, customers will now be able to view statements of their accounts, track deposits, plan investments, avail credit cards on a single-window platform.
- As FIP, IndusInd Bank also allows customers to share their finance info with financial information users in a more secure manner, basis exclusive from the customer on the AAF.
- **Other benefits which customers will avail are:** (1) Elimination of the need to submit documents physically (2) Better Control on shared financial info (3) SMEs and individuals can share financial info digitally which offers security.
- RBI announced 'Account Aggregator Framework (AAF)' in June 2016. This AAF allows to transfer the client data, without storing it. It is medium for financial service companies to get approval from their customers before using their personal info to optimize their products offerings. This allows customers to select their preferred product and services from banks.
- **Static Part:**
 - Headquarter of RBI: Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
 - HQ of IndusInd Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of IndusInd Bank: We make you feel richer
 - MD and CEO of IndusInd Bank: Sumant Kathpalia

INDIAN NAVY TEST FIRED ANTI- SHIP MISSILE

Current Context: Indian Navy test fired the Anti-Ship Missile (AShM) from INS Kora in the Bay of Bengal.

KEY FACTS

- The Anti-Ship Missile (AShM) successfully hit the target with precise accuracy form maximum range.
- The Anti-Ship Missile (AShM), which is a guided missile and is designed for use against ships and large boats.
- The INS Kora is Indian Navy's Kora-class guided missile corvette, which was commissioned to Indian Navy in 1998.
- The INS Kora is equipped with Kh-35 anti-ship missiles.
- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh