

OCTOBER 2021

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MONTHLY  
CURRENT  
AFFAIRS GK  
DIGEST

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# Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: October 2021

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## KARNATAKA SIGNS 3 MOUS WITH INFOSYS

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**Current Context:** The Karnataka's Department of Higher Education announced to sign 3 MoUs with IT giant Infosys.

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- The MoUs will be for developing skills among students as per the National Education Policy (NEP-2020).
- The MoUs will help the state government to make use of 'Infosys Springboard'. The 'Infosys Springboard' is an integrated digital literacy program of Infosys which is comprised of 3,000 skill development courses for college students.
- The MoUs will also allow the state government to make use of 'Campus Connect', which will allow digital learning abilities among faculty members of the college and will impart professional guidance to the students.
- The MoUs will allow donations of 15,000 de-bonded computers to colleges from Infosys.
- The MoUs will offer support to the colleges to implement NEP 2020 and boost their talent with technical and professional skills.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Infosys: Bengaluru
  - CM of Karnataka: Basavaraj Bommai
  - Governor of Karnataka: Thaawar Chand Gehlot

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## CREDIT PLAN FOR YAK HUSBANDRY IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH APPROVED

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**Current Context:** The credit plan for yak husbandry in Arunachal Pradesh was approved by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).



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### KEY POINTS

- It will help the herders to secure loans, which will further help them to strengthen their livelihoods.
- The scheme was developed by the National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY), which Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It was developed by NRCY at Dirang in the West Kameng district.
- The approved credit plan will help to extend advances by commercial banks and is also inducted in the potential linked credit plans (PLCP) of the Tawang, West Kameng, and Shi Yomi districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The scheme will help to enhance the dividends of Yak herders living in the Eastern Himalayan region.
- It will also prove supportive to tackle the decline of the yak population and thus preserve them.
- **Static Part:**
  - National Park and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Arunachal Pradesh: Namdapha NP, Mouling NP, Kamlang WLS, Pakke Tiger Reserve, Dibang WLS, Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, Yardi-Rabe Supse WLS

### ‘जनCARE’ - AMRITGRAND CHALLENGE PROGRAM

**Current Context:** The AmritGrand Challenge Program named ‘जनCARE’ was launched.

### KEY FACTS

- It was launched by Union Minister of State (IC) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- The challenge was launched as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The challenge will identify 75 Start-Up and entrepreneurs, who have innovative solutions and ideas which will help to solve healthcare challenges and transform the healthcare sector of the country.
- The solution and ideas must be able to work in Low Resource Settings and strengthen Healthcare Delivery in India.
- The challenge was launched by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), NASSCOM, and NASSCOM Foundation.
- The challenge is termed as ‘Discover – Design – Scale’ program.
- The ‘जनCARE’ will identify startups and entrepreneurs working in the areas like Telemedicine, Digital Health, mHealth with BIG Data, AI, BlockChain, and others.
- The challenge will be held till 31st Dec 2021.

### DIGITAL QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX 2021

**Current Context:** The ‘Digital Quality of Life Index (DQL) 2021’ was released by ‘Surfshark’ which is a cybersecurity firm.

### DETAILS

- This is the third edition of the index.

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- **As per the index, India was ranked at 59th position among 110 countries.**
- **The first rank was marked by Denmark.**
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are secured by South Korea and Finland respectively.
- The lowest rank was marked by Ethiopia.
- Among the Asian nations, India is at 17th position and among the South Asian Region, India is at 1st position.
- **The rank of India for 5 major pillars of the index is:** (a) Internet Affordability-47th rank (b) Internet Quality- 67th rank (c) Electronic Infrastructure- 91st rank (d) e-Security- 36th rank (e) e-Governance- 33rd rank.

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### STELLAPPS PARTNERED WITH AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK

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**Current Context: Stellapps which is the dairy tech startup has partnered with Airtel Payments Bank.**

#### ABOUT

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- **They have partnered to enable cashless transactions to the small dairy farmers in India.**
- The partnership will reduce the work of farmers to travel to the ATM or bank branch to withdraw or deposit the cash.
- Under this partnership, the stellapps milk collection center will act as a banking point.
- At these centres the farmers will be able to open bank accounts, withdraw or deposit cash, earn interest on savings, perform Aadhaar based payments, avail government pension schemes and perform milk payments.
- These centers will be powered by mooPay. Thus Stellapps will bring financial inclusion to the small dairy farmers via its mooPay fintech platform.
- The Airtel Payment Bank will work to onboard Stellapps' new partner milk collection centers as banking points.
- The first phase of the partnership will be executed in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- It will be executed in UP's Varanasi and Kanpur cities and in the Gwalior city of MP.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Airtel Payments Bank: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank: Anubrata Biswas

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### INDIA EXPORT INITIATIVE AND INDIAEXPORTS 2021 PORTAL LAUNCHED

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**Current Context: The Union MSME Minister, Narayan Tatu Rane inaugurated the India Export Initiative and IndiaXports 2021 portal of the India SME Forum in a virtual manner.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- The India Export Initiative will help to enhance export and will lead to attaining a global manufacturing powerhouse for India.



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- It will help to enhance the manufacturing base of the country.
- It will help to boost the exporting MSMEs and thus boost India's export by 50% in 2022.
- It will also help to attain the objective of making India a USD 5 trillion economy.
- The initiative and the portal will support over 1 lakh MSME units that are working in the export sector.
- It will also promote around 30,000 MSME units to start the export activity.
- The initiative will conduct various sessions and opportunities in order to have instructor-based orientation for the MSMEs.
- The portal will be information and knowledge-based platform about the export activity in India for the MSMEs. It will display the latest trend in export and procedure for the export.

### RBI REMOVED IOB FROM PCAF

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**Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) from the Prompt Corrective Action Framework (PCAF).**

#### KEY POINTS

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- The reason behind taking out of PCAF was that the bank has performed in compliance with PCA parameters and features.
- The performance overview of the IOB was made and hence the decision was taken by the central bank.
- The IOB also committed to follow and comply with the rules of Minimum Regulatory Capital, NET NPA, and leverage ratio on an ongoing basis.
- The IOB was put under PCAF in Oct 2015 because of high NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) and negative RoA (Return on Assets).
- The central bank had not allowed the IOB to increase risk-weighted assets.
- **Static Part:**
  - Recently UCO Bank was also taken out of PCAF
  - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
  - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

### 'MUKHYAMANTRI PARYATAN UDYOG SAMBAL YOJANA-2021'

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**Current Context: The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot launched 'Mukhyamantri Paryatan Udyog Sambal Yojana-2021'.**

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The scheme aims to grant support and relief to those entrepreneurs who are associated with the tourism and hospitality sector, as this sector has been affected a lot due to pandemic COVID-19.**
- Financial support will be offered to the entrepreneurs of the tourism and hospitality sector.
- **He also launched a mobile app called 'Rajasthan Tourism Official'.**

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- The app is launched for the tourist who visits the state and they can plan their tour programs with the help of this app.
- **Static Part:**
  - Dance Forms of Rajasthan: Ghoomar, Chakri dance, Gangaur, Kalbelia, TeraTali

### 'AMAZON FUTURE ENGINEER'

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**Current Context: The greatest e-commerce giant, Amazon India announced to launch of 'Amazon Future Engineer'.**

#### DETAILS

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- The 'Amazon Future Engineer' is a global computer science education program of Amazon which is launched in India.
- The program will offer access to computer science education to students from underrepresented and underserved communities.
- The program will also offer them career opportunities in the computer science sector.
- During the first years of this program, the e-commerce giant aims to impart the benefit of the program to more than 1 lakh students from 900 government and aided schools across seven states in India.
- The program will reduce the gap by bringing computer science education to students via in-person or online modes.
- For this program, Amazon India is working with Code.org, which is a global non-profit organization that works in computer science education.
- The program will focus on the students of the 6-12 classes.
- The program will provide students with coding sessions, and other tech-based courses like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Natural Language Processing (Voice Technology) in Indian languages.
- The training to the teachers will also be given so that they will teach the students about computer science.
- Such kind of program is being executed by Amazon in the US, the UK, Canada, and France.

### KERALA RAIL SIGNED MOU WITH IISC BANGALORE, L2MRAIL AND SID

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**Current Context: The Kerala Rail has signed MoU with IISc Bangalore, IISc incubated startup L2MRail and the Society for Innovation and Development (SID).**

#### ABOUT

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- **The objective of the MoU is to enhance rail safety, mostly in vulnerable terrains.**
- The IISc Bangalore and L2MRail have the fiber Bragg grating sensing technology. The technology helps to develop Structural Health Monitoring System (SHMS).
- The SHMS will help to monitor the civil engineering structures of Kerala Rail projects.

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- The entities will work to generate real-time, accurate data about rail structures.
- The experts will connect sensors in the rail structures which will generate warning alerts in case of damages.

### NEW AUTO-DEBIT RULES SET BY RBI

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**Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set and mandated new auto-debit rules.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The new auto-debit rules have commenced from 1st Oct 2021.**
- **The rules aim to strengthen the safety and security of card transactions and protect the customers from fraudulent transactions. This will enhance the customer experience.**
- As per the new rules, there will not be automatic recurring payment for various services including utility bills, recharge of phone, DTH, and OTT. This is because an additional factor of authentication (AFA) will become mandatory.
- The banks will have to inform customers in advance about recurring payments due and transactions will be conducted after getting the nod from the customer.
- The customers will have to undergo a one-time registration process, and subsequent transactions can be performed without the additional factor authentication. During registration, the customer can provide a validity period for future transactions.
- In case of recurring payments which are above Rs 5000, banks are supposed to send OTP to the customers.
- The customers will also get an option to opt-out from a particular transaction or mandate through a link provided in pre-debit notification.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
  - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

### MOU SIGNED BETWEEN RARI AND SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY

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**Current Context: The MoU was signed between Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI) and Sikkim Manipal University (SMU).**

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The MoU was signed for having collaborative research in mutually identified domains and promote research activities.**
- It will allow promoting mutual understanding between both the institutions and will help each other to recognize their research strengths in the areas like science, medical and allied health sciences.
- Both entities will also conduct joint training sessions, seminars, conferences, and workshops on topics of mutual interest.

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- They assured to share the information with respect to the research activity.

### WORLD BANK TO SUPPORT CHENNAI'S SUSTAINABLE URBAN SERVICES

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**Current Context:** The World Bank has announced to support Chennai's Sustainable Urban Services.

#### DETAILS

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- **It will help to make Chennai a 'world-class city'.**
- **In this regard, the World Bank has approved about \$150 million programs for Chennai.**
- It will help Tamil Nadu to transform Chennai into green, liveable, and resilient towards climate change.
- The program will help to strengthen institutions and the financial health of service agencies in Chennai.
- The program will bring improvement in 4 urban services: Water supply and sewerage, Mobility, Health, and Solid Waste Management.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, USA
  - President of World Bank: David Malpass

### INDIA –US INDUSTRIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT SUMMIT

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**Current Context:** The Industrial Security Agreement summit between India and the United States took place recently.



- It was held to frame a protocol for exchanging information between ministries of defense of both nations.
- The summit was led by Designated Security Authorities of both nations. The Indian side was represented by Anurag Bajpai and the US side was represented by David Paul Bagnati.
- **At the summit, it was decided to establish the Indo-US Industrial Security Joint Working Group.**
- This group will meet periodically and will discuss policies that will allow their defence ministries to partner with each other in various cutting-edge defence technologies.
- Both the nations had signed Industrial Security Agreement in 2019.

### JAL JEEVAN MISSION APP AND RASHTRIYA JAL JEEVAN KOSH

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**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Jal Jeevan Mission mobile application and Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh.

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### KEY FACTS

- **The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in August 2019 by Prime Minister Modi. It aims to grant clean tap water to every household in the country.**
- **Jal Jeevan Mission app:** It will help to improve awareness among stakeholders. It will lead to having greater transparency and accountability of schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission initiative.
- **Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh (RJK):** It will help to facilitate contributions for the creation of a safe drinking water supply in villages of India. It is a registered public charitable trust. It is set up by the department of drinking water and sanitation, under the Jal Shakti ministry.
- It will be a medium for the collection of donations which will be utilized to execute the mission objective in Indian villages. It will also promote R&D, innovation work, and technology usage to provide clean tap water to the villages.
- The RJK will also help to enhance capacity building which will work to plan, implement, manage, operate and maintain their water supply schemes.
- Various water conservation efforts will also take place under RJK.
- Its audit will be conducted annually by an independent auditor from a panel of auditors impaneled with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- The donations and contributions made to RJK are eligible for 50% deductions under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

### APPOINTMENTS ON 4TH OCTOBER 2021

**Current Context: Sunil Kataria:** He was appointed as Chairman of the Indian Society of Advertisers (ISA).

### ABOUT

- **Vinod Aggarwal:** He was appointed as President of the Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC). Currently, he is MD and CEO of VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd (VECV). He has replaced Nikunj Sanghi.
- **Padmaja Chunduru:** She was appointed as MD and CEO of National Securities Depositories (NSDL). She has replaced GV Nageswara Rao.
- **Kangana Ranaut:** She was appointed as the brand ambassador for Uttar Pradesh One District One Product Scheme.
- **BC Patnaik:** He was appointed as MD of LIC.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of LIC: Mumbai
  - Chairman of LIC: MR Kumar
- **Rebecca Vanessa Suchiang:** She has become the first native woman of the Meghalaya who was appointed as chief secretary of the state. PP Trivedi was the first woman chief secretary of Meghalaya in the late 80s.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Meghalaya: Conrad Kongkal Sangma
  - Governor of Meghalaya: Satya Pal Malik

### NSIL ANNOUNCED ITS FIRST DEMAND DRIVEN COMMUNICATION SATELLITE

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**Current Context:** The New Space India Limited (NSIL) which is the new arm of ISRO has announced its first demand-driven communication satellite mission.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- This mission will be part of space reforms that were announced by GOI in June 2020.
- The mission is named GSAT 24, a four-tonne class Ku band satellite.
- The satellite will be leased to Tata Sky. It will use this satellite for its DTH applications.
- It will be launched during the first quarter of 2022.
- The NSIL has the permission to build, launch, own and operate the satellite and provide services to its committed customer.
- This GSAT 24 will be built by ISRO.
- It will be launched using the Ariane-5 launcher which is operated by Arianespace.
- The satellite will be owned and operated by NSIL on a commercial basis.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NSL: Bengaluru
  - Chairman and MD of NSIL: G Narayana

### 'KAMDHENU DEEPAWALI 2021' CAMPAIGN

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**Current Context:** The Kamdhenu Deepawali 2021 campaign was launched by Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, former Cabinet Minister and former Chairman of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog.

#### DETAILS

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- The campaign was launched to manufacture and market more than 100 Crore Cow dung-based Deepak lamps and Laxmi-Ganesh Idols.
- Various items like Deepak, Lamps, Candles, Sambrani cup, Havansamagri, Dhoopbatti, incense sticks, Hardboard, Wall piece, Laxmi-Ganesh idols, etc are made up of Cow dung.
- The campaign aims to make economical use of Cow Dung and Cow Urine along with its Milk, Curd & Ghee.
- The Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog provides training to the interested startup who want to commence their business in the sector. It aims to increase Cow dung-based Start-Ups.
- The campaign will prove beneficial to Cow Entrepreneurs in India.
- The campaign will be a helping hand for the goals like Start-up India' and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.



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### 'PRASHASAN - SHAHRON KE SANG' AND 'PRASHASAN - GAON KE SANG' CAMPAIGNS

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**Current Context:** The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot launched two campaigns namely 'Prashasan -- Shahron Ke Sang' and 'Prashasan -- Gaon Ke Sang'.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- Under both the campaigns, various benefits will be granted to the people of the state, including allocation of land lease.
- The CM also laid the foundation stone of the Gandhi Darshan Museum in a virtual manner. It will be built in Central Park.
- He also dedicated the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Governance and Social Sciences at Jaipur. The research work related to Mahatma Gandhi will be conducted in this institute. It is built at the cost of Rs 1.07 crore.
- **Static Part:**
  - National Park and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Rajasthan: Ranthambore NP, Darrah NP, Mukundra Hills NP, Desert NP, Bassi WLS, Sariska WLS, Sita Mata WLS, Sariska WLS, Kumbhalgarh

### APPOINTMENTS ON 5TH OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context: Amish Mehta:** He was appointed as MD and CEO of rating agency Crisil. He has replaced Ashu Suyash.

#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - Crisil is majority-owned by S&P Global Inc
  - HQ of Crisil: Mumbai
- **Amitabh Bachchan:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of CoinDCX.
- **Najla Bouden Romdhane:** She was appointed as the first-ever female Prime Minister of Tunisia.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Tunisia: Tunis
  - Currency of Tunisia: Tunisian Dinar
- **Abiy Ahmed:** He took the oath of Prime Minister of Ethiopia for the second five-year term.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Ethiopia: Addis Ababa
  - Currency of Ethiopia: Ethiopian Birr

### NAV-ECASH CARD

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**Current Context:** The Indian Navy and State Bank of India (SBI) collaborated to launch SBI's NAV-eCash Card onboard INS Vikramaditya, which is India's largest Naval Aircraft Carrier.

### KEY POINTS

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- It will prove a major contribution to digital payment solutions in India.
- The NAV-eCash Card is based on dual-chip technology which will enable it to be used in both online and offline transactions methods.
- It will also eradicate the difficulty faced by the officer to handle physical cash during deployment of the ship at high seas.
- **Static Part:**
  - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
  - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
  - Chairman of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara

### KRIBHCO PARTNERED WITH CSC

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**Current Context:** The Krishak Bharati Cooperative (KRIBHCO) has entered into a partnership with CSC e-Governance Services India.

### KEY FACTS

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- KRIBHCO deals in fertilizer, agro-inputs, and seed manufacturing, importing, and marketing sector.
- **The partnership aims to provide farmers with access to fertilizers and agricultural supplies.**
- **Access to fertilizers and agricultural supplies will be granted via a network of four lakh rural entrepreneurs.**
- Various products of KRIBHCO like imported urea, DAP, NPK/NPS, bio-fertilizer, city compost, zinc sulfate, certified seeds, hybrid seeds, and potash produced from molasses will be offered to the farmers through CSCs.
- The partnership will provide timely and quality based products to the farmers.
- They will ensure that farmers opt for cost-effective agro-products via app or computers.

### FSSAI SIGNED MOU WITH MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

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**Current Context:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

### DETAILS

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- **The MoU was signed to support micro food entrepreneurs, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), self-help groups (SHGs), and producers cooperatives in order to improve the standard of food businesses they perform.**

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- The MoU will help to enhance the quality of food products and become competitive in their respective market.
- The FPOs, SHGs, micro food entrepreneurs will be given training sessions on how to maintain good hygiene and manufacturing practices. They will be trained with food testing methods and knowledge will be given about regulatory norms.
- On completion of the training, they will be given a 'Food Safety Supervisor' certificate by FSSAI.
- The MoU will also help micro-enterprises to obtain an FSSAI license and registration.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of FSSAI: New Delhi
  - Union Minister for Food Processing Industries: Pashupati Kumar Paras

### 'MISSION BASUNDHARA' — ASSAM

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**Current Context:** The Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma launched 'Mission Basundhara'.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- It was launched at the event which was organized by the Revenue and Disaster Management department in Guwahati, Assam.
- **The mission aims to streamline land revenue services.**
- **It also aims to grant easy access to the public for their land-related work.**
- The mission will ensure that the public receives their secured land rights in an efficient manner.
- The focus of the mission will be on poor and disadvantaged sections of the society and will ensure that this section of the society gets its secured land rights.
- The mission will eradicate the middleman linkage from the system of securing land rights.
- It will reduce the unnecessary visits to government offices and empower the public to resolve land-related issues in an online manner thus offering them a hassle-free service.
- Around Rs, 225 crores will be spent on the mission.
- The Mission Basundhara will also help to update the land records in the state.
- **Static Part:**
  - National Park and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Assam: Dibru-Saikhowa NP, Kaziranga NP, Manas NP, Orang NP, Dehing Patkai WLS, Amchang WLS, Bura Chapori WLS, Laokhowa WLS

### 8TH MITRA SHAKTI 2021

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**Current Context:** The 8th edition of 'Mitra Shakti 2021' joint bilateral military exercise has commenced.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The 'Mitra Shakti' is being held between India and Sri Lanka at Combat Training School, Ampara, Sri Lanka.**
- It commenced from 4th Oct and will be held till 15th Oct 2021.

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- The 'Mitra Shakti 2021' joint bilateral military exercise aims to develop and promote relations between both nations and enhance interoperability.
- The exercise will help to share best practices to counter-terrorism and counter insurgency between both nations.
- The exercise is held every year in India and Sri Lanka. In 2020, it was not held due to the pandemic situation.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Sri Lanka: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
  - Currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan Rupee

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### 'I-DRONE'

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**Current Context:** The 'i-Drone', which is the drone-based vaccine delivery model for Northeast states was launched.

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#### KEY FACTS

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- It was launched by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya.
- It is developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- The ICMR partnered with IIT Kanpur to perform the initial study-like testing activities of the drone.
- The significance of 'i-Drone' is 'ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East.'
- It will help to perform vaccine delivery in the hard-to-reach terrain regions in a safe and secure manner.
- It will help to enhance healthcare accessibility in the tough and hard-to-reach regions.
- At present, it will be utilized in Manipur, Nagaland, and the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Island.

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### 'AZADI@75 – NEW URBAN INDIA: TRANSFORMING URBAN LANDSCAPE'

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**Current Context:** The Conference-cum-Expo titled 'Azadi@75 – New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape' was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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#### DETAILS

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- It is being held in Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is the part of Azadi@75 celebrations.
- It is being organized by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- It showcases various solutions and innovations to transform the urban look of India.
- It also highlighted the achievement of flagship urban development missions performed by GOI in the last 7 years.
- At the event, PM Narendra Modi handed over keys of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) houses to 75,000 beneficiaries of Uttar Pradesh.

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- He also laid the foundation stone for 75 urban development projects which are part of the Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT mission.
- He flagged off 75 buses under FAME-II for cities namely, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, and Ghaziabad.
- He announced to set up Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chair in Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow.
- **List of the exhibitions held:** (a) 'New Urban India' (b) 'Indian Housing Technology Mela' (IHTM) (c) Exhibition to showcase the performance of UP under the Flagship Urban Missions with the theme UP@75: Transforming Urban Landscape in Uttar Pradesh.

### 'GOOD SAMARITANS'-- MINISTRY OF ROAD, TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

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**Current Context: The Ministry of road, transport & Highway launched the 'Good Samaritans' Scheme.**

#### ABOUT

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- The scheme will be executed from 15th Oct 2021 to 31st March 2026.
- Under the scheme, the cash of Rs 5000 will be given to those who save the life of a road accident victim by rushing him/her to the hospital within the 'golden hour' of the mishap.
- The scheme is launched to motivate people to help the road accident victims and save their life by rushing to the hospital for their treatment.
- Along with the cash, certification of appreciation will also be awarded.
- Also, the ministry will be giving 10 national-level awards for the 'worthiest Good Samaritans'.
- The Most Worthy Good Samaritans will be those who have been awarded during the entire year and the selection from them will be made for the award of Rs 1,00,000 each.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister for road, transport & highways: Nitin Gadkari

### NARCL RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM RBI TO REGISTER AS AN ARC

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**Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has approved the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) with the licence to register as an asset reconstruction company (ARC).**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- The approval was received from RBI's Department of Regulation.
- **The NARCL is seeking to turn around bad loans of Rs 2 trillion.**
- **The central bank granted the license under Section 3 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002.**
- Section 3 mentions that an entity cannot commence the business of securitization or asset reconstruction without obtaining a certificate of registration, and it should have funds of at least Rs 2

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crore or an amount not exceeding 15% of the total financial assets acquired or to be acquired by the ARC.

- The NARCL is set up under the Companies Act, and 51% of it will be held by public sector banks. The rest will be held by private banks and financial institutions.
- The public and private sector banks have inducted Rs 5,000-6,000 crore in it, which it will use to pay 15% cash to the lenders while purchasing their bad loans. The rest of the 85% will be paid through security receipts guaranteed by the government.
- The NARCL expects to recover between Rs 50,000 crore and Rs 64,000 crore through the resolution of bad loans worth Rs 2 trillion.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
  - Governor of RBI: Shaktikant Das
  - NARCL is the new entity that buys bad loans of the banks. Recently, SBI, Union Bank of India, Indian Bank picked up 13.27% stake each in the NARCL, and Punjab National Bank acquired about 12% stake in it.

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### 5TH JIMEX

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**Current Context:** The 5th edition of India – Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise (JIMEX) commenced on 6th Oct 2021. It will be held till 8th Oct 2021.

#### KEY POINTS

- **It is being held in the Arabian Sea.**
- It is being held between the Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.
- India is represented by indigenously built Guided Missile Stealth Destroyer Kochi, Guided Missile Frigate Teg, P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, integral helicopters, and MiG 29K fighter aircraft.
- Japan is represented by JMSDF ships Kaga, an Izumo Class Helicopter Carrier and Guided Missile Destroyer Murasame.
- The first edition of JIMEX was held in 2012.
- The JIMEX will help to enhance inter-operability and cooperation between the navies of both nations.
- It will help to enhance maritime security cooperation between India and Japan.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
  - Currency of Japan: Yen

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### APPOINTMENTS ON 7TH OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context: Eric Braganza:** He was appointed as President of Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) for a tenure of 2 years. He has replaced Kamal Nandi.



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### ABOUT

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- **Wendy Werner:** She was appointed as India Country Head by World Bank's arm International Finance Corporation (IFC). She has replaced Jun Zhang.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IFC: Washington DC, US
- **Sanjay Bhargava:** He was appointed to head Starlink's satellite broadband venture in India.

### 'SUPREME'—A CURRENT ACCOUNT FOR NRIS

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**Current Context:** The ESAF Small Finance Bank has launched 'Supreme' which is a Current account product for Non – Resident Indians (NRIs).

### KEY FACTS

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- **Various features are linked with this account.**
- Features like hassle-free banking enhanced ATM cash withdrawal limit of Rs 50,000 per day, POS transaction limit of Rs.80,000 per day, and e-commerce transaction limit of Rs 20,000 per day in India are provided by the 'Supreme'.
- The services will be available at 277 branches of ESAF in Kerala.
- The bank has 17940 nonresident saving bank account from 121 countries.
- It commenced its NRI saving bank service in June 2018 and its current account service in May 2021.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ESAF: Thrissur, Kerala

### 'SWECHHA' PROGRAM-- ANDHRA PRADESH

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**Current Context:** The government of Andhra Pradesh launched the 'Swechha' Program.

### DETAILS

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- It was launched by the CM of the state, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- The program aims to solve the stigma attached to menstruation and give importance to female personal hygiene.
- It focuses on the health and hygiene of women and adolescent girls.
- It will lead to having a healthy dialogue of information for the health of women.
- Under the program, the state government will offer good quality branded sanitary napkins to the girl's students free of cost.
- Around, 10 sanitary napkins will be provided every month to 10 lakh adolescent girls from 7th-12th grades of government schools and intermediate colleges.
- The funds of Rs 32 crore will be utilized for this.

### 'THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2021' REPORT RELEASED

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**Current Context:** The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya released a report titled 'The State of the World's Children 2021: On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health'.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The state of World's Children 2021 report is the global flagship publication of UNICEF and so was launched globally.**
- The report reveals the impact of pandemic COVID-19 on the mental health of children.
- The report describes that it is important to address and solve mental health-related problems and create a healthy society.
- The Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya mentioned that teachers will play a vital role in addressing health issues in the children along with parents and family.
- He has asked family, parents, and teachers to have open consultations with their children in order to know their health issues and take actions of recovery accordingly.
- As per the report, 14% of 15 to 24-year-olds in India, accounting for 1 in 7, are feeling depressed or show less interest in doing their activities.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of UNICEF: New York, US

### BHARATPE ENTERS INTO BNPL SEGMENT WITH THE LAUNCH OF POSTPE

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**Current Context:** India's major fintech company, BharatPe announced its entry into the 'Buy Now Pay Later' (BNPL) segment, with the launch of 'postpe'.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The new segment will allow customers with the credit to buy now but pay later from anywhere in an online or offline manner.**
- **The credit will be provided by postpe and the customers will have to download the app from the play store.**
- They can avail interest-free credit limit of up to Rs 10 lakh.
- BharatPe will also provide a loan book of \$300 million on postpe in the first 12 months, for its lending partners.
- The customers will have to open an app, scan QR codes and pay via postpe credit at merchant outlets.
- They can also pay via a postpe card.
- Various cashback and rewards are associated with this segment for first and specific milestone transactions.
- **The Postpe is built to follow 3 major principles:** (a)The customer must be able to pay using credit everywhere via QRs, Card Machine or Online manners (b)They should be able to convert into EMI in an

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easy way and should not face difficulty at PoS (c) They should not be get charged to accept payment via BNPL.

- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of BharatPe: New Delhi
  - CEO of BharatPe: Ashneer Grover

### 'FISHWAALE' APP-- INDIA'S FIRST E-FISH MARKET

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**Current Context:** The Assam's Minister for Fisheries, Environment, and Forest and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya launched the 'Fishwaale' app.

#### KEY FACTS

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- The 'Fishwaale' app is the country's first e-fish market.
- The app was developed by Aqua Blue Global Aquaculture Solutions Pvt. Ltd. In partnership with fisheries department.
- The app is a one-stop solution for aquaculture which will be beneficial to both buyers and sellers.
- The fish farming community will get a reasonable price for their products via the app.
- The app will provide the facility for the buyers and sellers to place orders in an online manner. Various quality-based fish seeds, fish feed, aquaculture equipment and medicines, aquariums, etc will be showcased on the app for sale.
- Products like bhargon, mrigal, and rohu and freshwater and seawater frozen fish, dry fish packets, dry fish raw, fish pickles, and processed fish products will be showcased on the app for sale.
- **Static Part:**
  - Folk dance of Assam: Bihu dance, Bagurumba, Bhortal Dance, Jhumur dance

### APPOINTMENTS ON 8TH OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context:** Mirabai Chanu and Bajrang Punia: They were appointed as the brand ambassadors of Amrutanjan Healthcare Limited.

#### ABOUT

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- **PK Purwar:** His tenure to be the CMD of MTNL was extended by a year i.e. till Oct 2022 by the appointment committee of the cabinet.
- **P L Haranadh:** He was appointed as Chairman of Paradip Port Trust (PPT).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of PPT: Paradip, Odisha

### RBI'S MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE DECISIONS

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**Current Context:** The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) fourth bi-monthly policy meet for FY 2021-22 took place.

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### DETAILS

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- **It was headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and he has maintained the status quo.**
- As per the MPC meeting, the repo rate was unchanged i.e. it is at 4%.
- The reverse repo rate was unchanged i.e. it is at 3.35%.
- The Marginal Standing Facility Rate is at 4.25%.
- The Bank rate is at 4.25%.
- The CRR is at 4% and the SLR is at 18%.
- As per the MPC Committee, the GDP growth forecast for FY22 is at 9.5%.
- The on-tap TLTRO scheme deadline was extended to 31st Dec 2021.
- **Members of MPC Committee:** Shaktikanta Das, Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Dr. Mridul K. Sagar, Dr. Shashanka Bhide, Prof Ashmia Goyal, and Prof Jayanth R Varma.

### HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2021

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**Current Context:** The ranking for the Henley Passport Index 2021 was released. It is prepared by Henley and Partners, which is a global citizenship and residence advisory firm based in London.

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- The Henley Passport Index ranks countries as per their passports by considering the number of countries a passport holder of that country can visit without requiring a prior visa.
- The index covers a total of 227 destinations and 199 passports.
- The ranking depends on the analysis of the data from International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- **As per the ranking, India is ranked at 90th position, it has slipped by six places from last year.**
- **The 1st rank is secured by Japan, Singapore and is termed for having the most powerful passport in the world.**
- The 2nd rank is secured by Germany, South Korea.
- Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen are at the bottom positions in the index.

### NABARD SANCTIONED RS 303 CRORE TO ODISHA

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**Current Context:** The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 303 crore to the government of Odisha.

### KEY POINTS

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- The funds were sanctioned under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) facility of NABARD.
- **The funds will be used by the state government to construct 24 bridges.**
- This will help to improve connectivity for 24.13 lakh people in 823 villages across 13 districts.
- It will also improve the livelihood of the people in the state.

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- Uptil now, under the RIDF 2020-21, NABARD has sanctioned Rs 1,796 crore.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
  - Chairman of NABARD: Govinda Rajulu Chintala
  - CM of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik
  - Governor of Odisha: Ganeshi Lal

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### FEDERAL BANK PARTNERED WITH CREDAVENUE

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**Current Context:** The Federal Bank has partnered with CredAvenue.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The partnership was made to have portfolio management of its securitization book.**
- Due to this, the Federal Bank will be able to track digitally its ABS & MBS pool assets in a digital manner.
- **These assets will be enabled with CredPool, which is CredAvenue's end-to-end securitization and portfolio buyouts and fulfillment solutions platform.**
- Currently, the Post-transaction fulfillment services are performed manually. The evaluation of asset quality is conducted only at the end of each quarter.
- But due to this partnership, real-time evaluation and digital monitoring capabilities for Federal Bank's securitization book will take place.
- The CredAvenue is also providing its facility to a host of leading banks and NBFCs.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Federal Bank: Aluva, Kerala
  - Tagline of Federal Bank: Your perfect banking partner
  - MD and CEO of Federal Bank: Shyam Srinivasan

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### APPOINTMENTS ON 9TH OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context: Virat Kohli:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador of Fire-Boltt, which is a smart wearable brand.

#### ABOUT

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- **Ashok Kumar Gupta:** He was appointed as an additional charge chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA). He is the chairperson of CCI.
- **E.R. Sheikh:** He was appointed as first Director-General of the Ordnance Directorate (Co-ordination and Services), which is the successor organization of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

### FIH STARS AWARDS 2020-21

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**Current Context:** The 2020-21 edition of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Stars Awards were announced.

#### DETAILS

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- India has made a clean sweep of its annual awards. For the first time, India has won in all eight categories of the award.
- The winners were decided as per the poll which was conducted online from 23rd Aug to 15th Sep 2021.
- The votes from the national associations, who are represented by their captains and coaches, counted for 50% of the overall result.
- The share of the media in the online vote was 25% while the remaining 25% was shared between the fans and players.
- **The winners are:**
  - Player of the year (Men): Harmanpreet Singh
  - Player of the year (Women): Gurjit Kaur
  - Goalkeeper of the year (Men): PR Sreejesh
  - Goalkeeper of the year (Women): Savita Punia
  - Rising Star of the year (Men): Vivek Sagar Prasad
  - Rising Star of the year (Women): Sharmila Devi
  - Coach of the year (Men): Graham Reid
  - Coach of the year (Women): Sjoerd Marijne

### 'MISSION KAVACH KUNDAL'—MAHARASHTRA

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**Current Context:** The government of Maharashtra launched 'Mission Kavach Kundal'.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The 'Mission Kavach Kundal' is a special Covid-19 vaccination drive that will be executed in the state.**
- The mission aims to vaccinate 15 lakh people every day against COVID-19.
- The mission will be executed from 8th Oct to 14th Oct 2021.
- The mission is in line with the Centre's target to perform the 100 crore vaccination mark till 15th October 2021.
- **Static Part:**
  - Lakes in Maharashtra: Gorewada Lake Lonar Lake, Shivasagar lake, Talao Pali, Upvan Lake, Pashan Lake, Powai Lake
  - Dams in Maharashtra: Koyna Dam (Koyna River), Jayakwadi Dam (Godavari River), Isapur Dam (Penganga river)
  - Dance forms of Maharashtra: Lavani, Koli Dance, Lezim



### 'I-SPRINT'21' — IFSCA AND GIFT CITY

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**Current Context:** The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GIFT City launched I-Sprint'21.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The I-Sprint'21 is the global FinTech Hackathon Series S'print01: BankTech'.**
- **It focuses on fintech for the banking sector.**
- **The Banktech is hosted by IFSCA and GIFT city in partnership with NITI Aayog.**
- The ICICI Bank, HSBC Bank, iCreate, Zone Startups, and Invest-India are the partnered entities of the hackathon.
- The hackathon will work to connect IFSCA and GIFT IFSC with fintech.
- It will also work to solve the business problems for various banking units at GIFT IFSC.
- The hackathon will prove a platform for the promotion of retail business for the banking units at GIFT IFSC center.
- Under the hackathon, the final participants will be given an entry into IFSCA Regulatory/Innovation Sandbox and will be made to work directly with the partner banks.
- The prize for the hackathon is Rs 24 lakh.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IFSCA: GIFT city in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

### MINISTRY OF TEXTILES SIGNED MOU WITH GERMANY'S GIZ

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**Current Context:** The Ministry of Textiles of GOI has signed MoU with Germany's Deutsche Gesellschaft fur InternationaleZusammenarbeit (GIZ).

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The MoU was signed to implement projects on 'Sustainability and Value Added in the Cotton Economy'.**
- **The MoU agreement was signed on Indo German Technical Cooperation Project.**
- The MoU aims to enhance value addition in sustainable cotton production in India.
- It aims to produce sustainable cotton and strengthen the downstream processing ability for cotton.
- The MoU will help to increase the volume of cotton production by at least 90,000 hac.
- For this project, the MoU will induct 1.50 lakh cotton farmers to enhance cotton yields by 10%.
- The GIZ project will lead to having an increase in employment in the cotton sector.
- It will also lead to have women empowerment in training and capacity building on sustainable cotton growing practices by innovation in new cotton processing procedures and ginning etc.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Textile Minister: Piyush Goyal
  - Capital of Germany: Berlin

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- Currency of Germany: Euro

### '6S CAMPAIGN'-- PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK (PNB)

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**Current Context:** The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched the '6S Campaign'.

#### DETAILS

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- The '6S Campaign' was launched under its customer outreach program.
- The bank aims to provide financial services at a concessional rate to its customers during the festival season.
- **The campaign encapsulates different schemes namely:** Swabhiman, Samruddhi, Sampark and Shikhar, Sankalp, and Swagat.
- The moto of the campaign is to create awareness among the people about various financial services of India.
- It will help to boost credit, enhance penetration of social security schemes, and will give a major push to the digital banking structure.
- **Swabhimaan Scheme:** It allows the bank to enhance its financial inclusion agenda by penetrating three Jan Suraksha or Social Security Schemes which are related to the insurance and pension sector. The schemes are Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana.
- **Samruddhi Scheme:** It helps to increase credit outreach for the agricultural sector of India.
- **Shikhar, Sankalp, and Swagat Schemes:** Under these schemes, the bank offers special rates of interest for credit in the retail and MSME sector.
- **Sampark Scheme:** It aims to enhance Digital Outreach and Service Delivery. Under this bank will promote the usage of its mobile application that is PNB One.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of PNB: New Delhi.
  - MD and CEO of PNB: S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao.
  - Tagline of PNB: The name you can bank upon

### INDIA AND CROATIA PARTNERED TO IMPROVE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE SYSTEM

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**Current Context:** The Ministry of Ayush entered into an agreement with Croatia for India's traditional medicine systems especially in the field of Ayurveda.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The MoU was signed between the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Croatia's Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster.**
- The AIIA comes under the Ministry of Ayush.

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- The MoU will enable academic research, clinical and educational activities, medical education, training, and competency building between both nations in the field of the traditional medicine system.
- They will undertake academic activities in the field of Ayurveda.
- Both countries will conduct lectures, workshops, seminars, and conferences to study the design and execution of Ayurvedic principles and practices.
- They will work to develop Ayurvedic medical education guidelines for Ayurveda education in Croatia.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Croatia: Zagreb
  - Currency of Croatia: Kuna

### ICRIER'S 13TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL G-20 CONFERENCE

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**Current Context:** The Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) 13th Annual International G20 Conference was held recently.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The inaugural session of the conference was addressed by the Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal.**
- At the conference, he mentioned that the pandemic COVID-19 has remodeled the priorities of the G20.
- He mentioned that G20 is playing and will play a major role to develop people, the planet, and collective prosperity.
- He mentioned that G20 is an international platform that brings nations together to address major problems and bring peace and prosperity.
- The members of the G20 account for more than 80% of the world GDP, 75% of the global trade, and 60% of the planet's population.

### INDIA AND UK SIGNED FORWARD ACTION PLAN

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**Current Context:** India and the United Kingdom have signed the Forward Action Plan.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The Forward Action Plan was signed for power & clean transportation, renewables, green finance, and green energy research domains.**
- The Forward Action Plan was signed under its 2030 roadmap.
- The Forward Action Plan was discussed at the '3rd India-UK Energy for Growth Partnership – Ministerial Energy Dialogue'.
- The action plan mentions energy storage, battery storage, smart grids, charging infrastructure, and green hydrogen.
- It also mentions that the nation should mobilize investments across the renewable energy sector.

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- Both nations are planning to set up a world bank for green energy.
- The Forward Action Plan will help to enhance the partnership of India and the UK in the renewable energy sector.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of UK: London
  - Currency of UK: Pound Sterling

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### INDIA'S GDP TO BE AT 9.1% FOR FY 2021-22—FICCI

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**Current Context:** The FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey was released recently.

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#### ABOUT

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- **As per the survey, India's GDP is expected to grow at 9.1% in 2021-22.**
- The organisation conducted the survey in Sep 2021.
- The organisation also mentioned that the upcoming festive season will support this momentum.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of FICCI: New Delhi
  - President of FICCI: Harshavardhan Neotia
  - CEO of FICCI: Sangita Reddy

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### INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION (ISPA)

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**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) virtually.

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- He mentioned that through the ISpA, India will unite the space sector across the world.
- The ISpA will prove a major platform to transform the space sector as it is based on 4 major pillars.
- **The reforms in the space sector are based on four pillars of:** freedom of innovation in the private sector, government as an enabler role, youth for the future, and the space sector as the major tool for the development of people.
- **The founding members of ISpA are:** Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro, Nelco (Tata Group), OneWeb, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries, and Ananth Technology Limited.
- **Other core members of ISpA are:** Godrej, Hughes India, Azista-BST Aerospace Private Limited, BEL, Centum Electronics, and Maxar India.
- The ISpA is a premier industry association of companies associated with space and satellite. These companies are major entities in the Indian space industry.
- Various policy advocacy activities will be conducted by the platform.
- It will engage stakeholders in the Indian space domain, which will also include government and its agencies.

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- **New appointed members of ISpA are:** Jayant Patil (First Chairman), Rahul Vatts (Vice President) and Lt Gen. A.K. Bhatt (Retd.) (Director General).

### 2 LONG HAUL FREIGHT TRAINS 'TRISHUL' AND 'GARUDA' WERE LAUNCHED

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**Current Context:** The two long haul freight trains namely 'Trishul' and 'Garuda' were launched by the Indian Railways.

#### KEY POINTS

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- These long-haul freight trains are twice or multiple times longer than the normal freight trains.
- They will help to solve the problem of capacity constraints in critical sections.
- Both the long-haul freight trains have empty open wagons which can be used for loading coal meant for predominantly thermal power stations.
- **'Trishul':** It is the first long haul train of South Central Railway (SCR). It is comprised of 177 wagons. It is almost equivalent to three freight trains. It was launched from the Kondapalli station of the Vijayawada division to the Khurda division of the East Coast Railway.
- **'Garuda':** It was launched from Raichur of Guntakal division to Manuguru of Secunderabad division.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Railway Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw

### 'BHARTI AXA LIFE UNNATI'

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**Current Context:** The Bharti AXA Life Insurance has launched 'Bharti AXA Life Unnati'.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The 'Bharti AXA Life Unnati' is a new savings product by the organisation.**
- It will offer long-term financial stability to individuals.
- It provides dual benefits of savings and protection in one single plan to the individuals.
- It provides four plan options and the individual can select flexible premium payment terms.
- **The four plan options are:** (a) Whole Life Income option (b) Endowment option (c) Moneyback Option (d) Immediate Income Option.
- Thus it allows the customer to customize the product plan as per the needs.
- **Static Part:**
  - CEO and MD of Bharti AXA Life Insurance: Parag Raja

### INDIA SANCTIONED LOC TO SUPPORT PROJECTS IN KYRGYZSTAN

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**Current Context:** India has taken the decision to sign a Line of Credit (LoC) to support development projects in Kyrgyzstan.

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### DETAILS

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- **The LoC of USD 200 million will be signed for the same.**
- The decision was taken when Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held cordial and constructive talks about global and bilateral relations with his counterpart Ruslan Kazakbaev.
- The funds will be used to conduct high-impact community projects in Kyrgyzstan.
- The MoU on 'High Impact Community Development Projects' will enable commencement in developing various community projects under grant funding by Gol.
- It will also develop bilateral relations between both nations.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek
  - Currency of Kyrgyzstan: Kyrgyzstani Som

### DANFOSS INDIA SIGNED MOU WITH IISC BANGALORE

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**Current Context:** The Danfoss India has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

### ABOUT

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- **The MoU was signed to set up a research and training center on the use of low GWP (Global Warming Potential) refrigerants.**
- The Danfoss India is an entity dealing in heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC).
- The total duration of the MoU is 4 years.
- The training will be provided at various levels to the teachers, students, field and maintenance engineers, technicians, and practicing engineers by Danfoss.
- The training will be conducted at the institute campus and at the Danfoss campus.
- The participants will be trained via hands-on training using demonstration systems.

### 2021 MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) REPORT

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**Current Context:** The 2021 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report was released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The report gives an estimation for multidimensional poverty in 109 developing countries.**
- These 109 developing countries include 26 low-income countries, 80 middle-income countries, and 3 high-income countries. Total estimation for multidimensional poverty was covered for 5.9 billion people.
- Out of the total, 1.3 billion or 21.7% people are multidimensionally poor. And out of this, 644 million are children under age 18 and 105 million people are age 60 or older.



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- 1 billion poor people are exposed to solid cooking fuels, inadequate sanitation, and substandard housing.
- 788 million poor people live in households and among this, at least one is an undernourished person.
- 568 million poor people are not exposed to improved drinking water within a 30-minute of walking distance.
- 1.1 billion i.e. 84% people live in rural areas and 209 million i.e. 16% people live in urban areas.
- More than 67% of people live in middle-income countries.
- In India, five out of six multidimensionally poor people are from lower tribes or castes.

### APPOINTMENTS OF CHIEF JUSTICES OF HIGH COURTS

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**Current Context:** President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the appointment of chief justices to eight high courts.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **5 Chief Justices are transferred. These are:**
  - Justice A.A. Kureshi: He is transferred to Rajasthan High Court.
  - Justice Indrajit Mahanty: He is transferred to Tripura High Court
  - Justice Mohammad Rafiq: He is transferred to Himachal Pradesh High Court
  - Justice Biswanath Somadder: He is transferred to Sikkim High Court
  - Justice A.K. Goswami: He is transferred to Chhattisgarh High Court.
- **8 new Chief Justices were appointed. These are:**
  - Justice Rajesh Bindal: He was appointed as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.
  - Justice Ranjit V. More: He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.
  - Justice Satish Chandra Sharma: He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court.
  - Justice Prakash Srivastava: He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.
  - Justice R.V. Malimath: He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.
  - Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi: He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.
  - Justice Aravind Kumar: He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court.
  - Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra: He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

### 28TH NHRC FOUNDATION DAY PROGRAMME

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**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed 28th National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Foundation Day program via video conference.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **At the program, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and NHRC chairperson, Justice Arun Kumar Mishra were also present.**
- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was constituted on 12 October 1993. It is a Statutory public body for the protection of human rights.
- It was constituted under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993.
- At the program, PM highlighted the importance of the human rights of future generations.
- He mentioned that the Statutory public body takes action in case of human rights violations.
- It studies treaties and international instruments on human rights and suggests the GOI implement recommendations in an effective manner for the welfare of the public.
- It encourages stakeholders to take positive initiatives for human rights literacy at the national and international levels.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NHRC: New Delhi
  - Chairman of NHRC: Justice Arun Kumar Mishra

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### EZETAP PARTNERED WITH AXIS BANK

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**Current Context: The Ezetap has entered into a partnership with Axis Bank.**

#### DETAILS

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- **They have partnered to provide a new service app named 'My Vyappar'.**
- **The app will serve the retail segment in India.**
- **It will motivate the merchants to avail digital payment services.**
- The app will also motivate the merchants by providing them rewards upon attaining certain digital payment goals.
- Under the partnership, Axis Bank will provide a digital payment management function to the merchants.
- Around 50,000 PoS devices are deployed with 'My Vyappar' in more than 1600 Indian cities.
- The app provides retail businesses with a single view to perform all credit transactions from anywhere.
- It also offers to Buy Now Pay Later option to the user.
- EMI feature is also available for a ticket size as small as even Rs 3000.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Axis Bank: Mumbai
  - CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry

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### MOCA GAVE NOC TO SNV AVIATION PVT LTD TO OPERATE COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS

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**Current Context: The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has given NOC (No Objection Certificate) to SNV Aviation Pvt Ltd to operate commercial flight services across the country.**

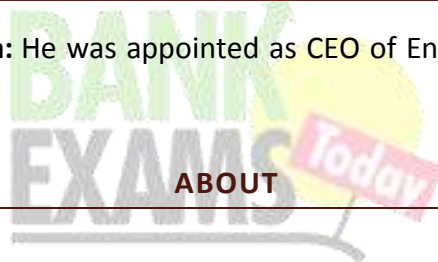
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### HIGHLIGHTS

- **It will operate under the brand name of 'Akasa Air'.**
- The 'Akasa Air' service will commence from Summer 2022.
- After the approval of NOC, there will be a security background check of the airline entity.
- After the security background check, the airline will have to apply for Air Operator Permit (AOP) from DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation).
- The holder of the airline is Rakesh Jhunjhunwala and Vinay Dubey.
- **The 'Akasa Air' CEO position will be held by Vinay Dubey and Rakesh Jhunjhunwala will be represented by ex-IndiGo boss Aditya Ghosh.**
- **These three dignitaries will be the co-founders of 'Akasa Air'.**
- The 'Akasa Air' will be the ultra-low-cost carrier and will be thus termed as India's most affordable, dependable, and green-based airline.
- It has planned to operate around 70 planes in the next four years.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya Scindia

### APPOINTMENTS ON 14TH OCTOBER 2021

**Current Context: Arun Kumar Mishra:** He was appointed as CEO of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). He has replaced Saurabh Kumar.



- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of EESL: New Delhi
- **Rajnish Kumar:** He was appointed as the Chairman of the board of BharatPe.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of BharatPe: New Delhi
  - CEO of BharatPe: Ashneer Grover
- **Amit Khare:** He was appointed as the advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the tenure of two years on a contract basis.
- **Alexander Schellenberg:** He was elected as Austria's Chancellor. He has replaced Sebastian Kurz.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Austria: Vienna
  - Currency of Austria: Euro
- **KV Subramanian:** He resigned from the post of Chief Economic Advisor. He completed his three-year term in the Finance Ministry of India.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ZOO DIRECTORS AND VETERINARIANS 2021

**Current Context:** The National Conference for zoo directors and veterinarians 2021 was held in Gujarat.

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### KEY POINTS

- **It was hosted by Sardar Patel Zoological Park of Gujarat.**
- **It was organised by Central Zoo Authority (CZA).**
- The conference was attended by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav.
- At the valedictory, Sudha Murthy, Chairperson of Infosys Foundation was felicitated.
- During the conference, the movie titled 'Live in harmony with nature, stop the illegal trade in wildlife' was also released.
- The movie was produced by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).
- The objective of the conference was to have a discussion about new frontiers in zoo management and off-site conservation in India.
- The publications of CZA namely Vision Plan (2021-2031) for Indian zoos, WASH Manual for Zoos, and AzadiKa Amrit Mahotsav – A Compilation (Vol 1) were released at the conference.
- The zoos were motivated to become financially independent and adopt Corporate Social Responsibility and public-private partnerships.
- The zoos were also asked to conserve local birds and animals along with the wild and forest animals.
- **The Prani Mitra Awards 2021 were also delivered at the conference. The winners in each category are:**
  - Outstanding Animal Keeper: Shrimati Lakhidevi, Bhagwan Birsa zoological Park, Ranchi Jharkhand
  - Outstanding Educationist/ Biologist: Harpal Singh, Educationist Mahendra Chaudhary Zoological Park Chatbir, Punjab
  - Outstanding Veterinarian: Dr. Illiyaraja, Agra Bear Rescue Facility, Uttar Pradesh
  - Outstanding Director: Dr. Vibhu Prakash Mathur, Director Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore Haryana
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of CZA: New Delhi

### NHAI SIGNED MOU WITH TIDCO

**Current Context: The MoU was signed between the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO).**

### KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed to develop Multimodal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Mappedu village in Tiruvallur district in Chennai.**
- The investment of Rs 1200 crore will be made to develop MMLP.
- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbanand Sonowal has made an announcement to establish SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) to develop MMLP at VO Chidambaranar Port in Chennai.
- The MMLP will be developed via a public-private partnership.

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- The SPV will grant land and connectivity facilities.
- The NHAI/NHIDCL is given the task to develop MMLPs.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NHAI: New Delhi
  - Chairman of NHAI: Giridhar Aramane

### INDIAN ECONOMY TO GROW BY 9.5% IN FY 22—IMF

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**Current Context:** As per International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's economy to grow by 9.5% in FY 2021-22 i.e. FY22.

#### DETAILS

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- It has also been projected that India's economy will grow by 8.5% in FY23.
- The global GDP to grow by 5.9% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022.
- The estimation data was released in its latest World Economic Outlook report.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IMF: Washington, D.C. U.S
  - MD and Chairman of IMF: Kristalina Georgieva
  - Chief Economist of IMF: Gita Gopinath.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNTRY ATTRACTIVENESS INDEX

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**Current Context:** The Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) was released by Ernst & Young (EY) which is the consultancy firm.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- This was the 58th edition of the index. It ranks the world's top 40 markets as per their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities.
- **As per the index, India was ranked at 3rd position.**
- **The 1st position was secured by the US.**
- **The 2nd position was secured by the China.**
- The study of the report, highlights that renewable energy situation in the market is improving because of various policy decisions, investment and technology deployments.

### APPOINTMENTS ON 15TH OCT 2021

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**Current Context:** Deepa Malik: She was appointed as an independent director for Hospitality firm Oravel Stays Ltd (OYO).

### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - CEO of OYO: Ritesh Agarwal
- **Sajjan Jindal:** He was appointed as the Chairman of the World Steel Association (WSA). He is the CMD of JSW Steel Ltd.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of WSA: Brussels, Belgium
- **Meera Mohanty:** She was appointed as Joint Secretary in PMO.
- **Ritesh Chauhan:** He was appointed as CEO of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. He has replaced Ashish Kumar Bhutani.

### STPI, AIC STPINEXT INITIATIVES PARTNERED WITH SINE-IIT BOMBAY

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**Current Context:** The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), AIC STPINEXT Initiatives (STPINEXT) have signed MoU with Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE)-IIT Bombay.

### KEY FACTS

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- They have collaborated to develop entrepreneurship and boost startup ecosystem.
- The STPI comes under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- The SINE-IIT Bombay will provide its expertise solutions to empower and boost startups at STPI Motion Pune.
- All the entities will work to strengthen partnership among stakeholders.

### 'EPLI BOND'

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**Current Context:** The Department of Posts has launched the digital version of 'ePLI bond' The 'ePLI bond' was launched in partnership with Digilocker.

### KEY POINTS

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- It can be accessed via Digilocker.
- The user will be able to download a digital copy of policy bond from Digilocker.
- The Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) and the Postal Life Insurance (PLI) policy bonds can be accessed 'electronically'.
- That electronic generated form will be considered as the valid policy document.
- The 'ePLI bond' was developed by National eGovernance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT and is made available digitally by Digilocker.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Department of Posts: New Delhi
  - DG of Department of Posts: Alok Sharma

### 'ONE HEALTH' CONSORTIUM

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**Current Context:** The 'One Health' consortium was launched by Department of Biotechnology. It was launched by secretary of Department of Biotechnology, Dr Renu Swarup.

#### DETAILS

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- The 'One Health' consortium will conduct surveillance of important viral, bacterial, & parasitic infections of zoonotic and transboundary pathogens in India.
- It will also look after ongoing diagnostic tests.
- It will develop additional methodologies to conduct surveillance and understand spread of emerging diseases so that these disease can be eradicated.
- The consortium consist of IIMS Delhi, AIIMS Jodhpur, GADVASU Ludhiana, IVRI Bareilly, TANUVAS Chennai, Assam agricultural & veterinary university, MAFSU Nagpur, ICAR and ICMR centres & wildlife agencies.
- It is led and managed by DBT-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad.

### PAYPAL SIGNED MOU WITH IIFT

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**Current Context:** PayPal has signed MoU with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). They have signed the MoU to increase the knowledge base of Indian MSME.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **Through the MoU, they will be launching India Digital Trade Facilitation Forum (IDTFF) for the MSME sector.**
- The IDTFF will provide schooling, coaching, and capability construction to the MSMEs
- It will guide the MSMEs to market, scale, and digitize their products at national and international levels
- The webinars will be conducted to train the MSME. These webinars will be conducted by industry experts, traders, and policymakers
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of PayPal: California, USA

### U GRO CAPITAL PARTNERED WITH KINARA CAPITAL

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**Current Context:** The U GRO Capital has entered into a strategic partnership with Kinara Capital. They have collaborated to provide collateral-free business loans to the small businesses in the country.

#### KEY FACTS

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- They will jointly provide Rs 100 crore loans to the MSMEs by the end of FY22.
- The loans will be provided to the MSMEs dealing in manufacturing, trading, services domains.



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- The loan amount in between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 30 lakh with a tenure of 12-60 months will be provided to the MSME.
- The process of loan application to loan disbursal will be made by Kinara Capital.
- Financing will be availed for working capital and asset purchase directly through Kinara Capital.
- The U GRO Capital will work on generating analytical data-driven decisions and it will integrate API with the smart technology platform of Kinara Capital.
- The U GRO Capital's Gro X-stream platform will be used in this partnership.

### APPOINTMENTS ON 16TH OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context: Navrang Saini:** He was given an additional charge as Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for a tenure of 3 months. He has replaced S Sahoo.

#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IBBI: New Delhi
- **Amitabh Chaudhry:** He was reappointed as Managing Director & CEO of Axis Bank by RBI for the tenure of 3 years
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Axis Bank: Mumbai
- **A K Goel:** He was appointed as Chairman of the Indian Bank's Association (IBA) for 2021-22. He is MD & CEO of UCO Bank. He has replaced Rajkiran Rai G, who is MD & CEO of Union Bank of India
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IBA: Mumbai

### GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX (GHI) 2021

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**Current Context: The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021** was released by Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH) (Germany) and Concern Worldwide (Ireland).

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The GHI measures hunger at global, regional, and national levels and gives ranking accordingly.**
- **The 4 indicators are considered for the index, which are mentioned below:**
  - Undernourishment : Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
  - Child wasting: share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, and thus reflect acute undernutrition.
  - Child stunting: Share of children under age five who have low height for their age, and thus reflect chronic undernutrition.
  - Child mortality: Mortality rate of children under age five, partly reflecting the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments.

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- **As per the index, India is ranked at 101st position among 116 countries.**
- India has received the score of 27.5 out of 50, which defines a serious category
- The China, Brazil and Kuwait, shared the top rank
- In India, wasting among children has increased from 17.1% between 1998 and 2002 to 17.3% between 2016 and 2020.

### PM GATI SHAKTI – NATIONAL MASTER PLAN FOR MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIVITY

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**Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched ‘PM Gati Shakti- National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity’.**

#### DETAILS

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- At the launching event, he reviewed the Gati Shakti master plan
- The plan is comprised of a centralised portal which combines various infrastructural initiatives by 16 central ministries and departments.
- The plan will prove to be a milestone to transform infrastructural landscape of India
- The total costing of the ‘PM Gati Shakti- National Master Plan’ is Rs 100 lakh crore. The launching ceremony took place at Pragati Maidan , New Delhi
- The Gati Shakti is a digital platform in which 16 central ministries and departments will implement infrastructural projects for more than 1200 industrial clusters
- The projects will be developed for defence corridors, economic zones like textile clusters, pharma clusters, fishing clusters and agri zones
- The Gati Shakti aims to speed up and give power to the various infrastructural projects
- It aims to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time.
- It will also generate employment opportunities
- **It is based on 6 pillars which are mentioned below:**
  - **Comprehensiveness:** It includes existing and planned initiatives of various ministries and departments with one centralized portal.
  - **Prioritisation:** Various departments will be able to prioritise their projects by interactions with cross sectors.
  - **Optimisation:** The plan will assist different ministries to plan their projects with optimum solutions.
  - **Synchronisation:** There will be coordination among various entities, tasks and procedure in the plan.
  - **Analytical:** The entire data of the plan will be available at one place using GIS-based spatial planning and analytical tools having 200+ layers. It will provide better visibility.
  - **Dynamic:** All the departments will be able to visualize, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects using GIS platform. The progress activity will be provided by satellite imagery.

### VESTED FINANCE PARTNERED WITH SBM BANK

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**Current Context:** Vested Finance has entered into a partnership with SBM Bank.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- Vested Finance is the entity that enables Indians to invest in foreign stocks and SBM Bank is the Indian subsidiary of the State Bank of Mauritius.
- **They have partnered to launch 'Vested Direct' which is a solution to provide forex transfers at affordable prices.**
- Using 'Vested Direct' the investors will be able to open free of cost, no minimum balance saving account with SBM Bank funds.
- After opening an account, the investors can send their funds in Indian rupees to their SBM account, and then they will place a request to move money to their US brokerage account.
- Then the money will be converted to dollars and will be transferred to Vested accounts. The entire process will take place at affordable prices.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Vested Finance: California, US

### BSE SIGNED MOU WITH BLL

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**Current Context:** The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed MoU with Business Leadership League (BLL).

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The MoU was signed to create and spread awareness about the benefits of listing for small and medium enterprises on BSE SME platforms.**
- Under the MoU, the BLL will play the role of knowledge partner.
- The MoU will provide a wide membership base of BLL and will reach the maximum number of SMEs in India to grant them the benefits of listing.
- The MoU will also provide SMEs with adequate knowledge and will educate them in various domains which will help their SME ecosystem to grow.
- Both the entities will reach potential companies through various online and offline programs.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of BLL: Mumbai
  - Head of BSE SME and Startup platforms: Ajay Thakur

### 'MYPARKINGS' APP

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**Current Context:** The 'MyParkings' app was launched by Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur.

### KEY FACTS

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- **The app is IOT technology-enabled app.**
- **It is developed by Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) and South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).**
- The people will be able to book parking slots in an online manner in areas under the jurisdiction of the SDMC.
- The app will help to give digital rules for authorized parking under SDMC municipal limits.
- Soon the facility will be released in other municipality divisions of the country.
- The app will help to reduce pollution as it will reduce the time spent on searching for parking spots.
- The app will prove beneficial to the users as it will offer hassle-free parking solutions and it will allow booking of online parking slots to park vehicles.
- The app works in cashless and paperless transaction mode, which will reduce parking slips requirements and thus will save trees.

### 'UFILL' — BPCL

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**Current Context: The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched 'UFill'.**

### DETAILS

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- **The 'UFill' is an automated fueling technology.**
- **The technology will ensure that the customers avail better experience at outlets.**
- **The technology provides customers with control of fueling at outlets, which grants them a swift, secure and smart experience.**
- The 'UFill' obviates the need to look at zero or final reading or any such offline manual interventions. This is because the customers are given complete control over Time, Technology, and Transparency in the fueling process.
- The technology can be used with payment apps like GPay, PayTM, PhonePe, etc.
- It provides real-time QR and voucher codes via the SMS platform.
- If the customers make payment in advance and there is partial use of the advanced payment, then the balance amount is immediately refunded to the customer's bank account. This happens because of 'UFill'.
- Uptil now, the technology is launched in 65 cities of India and will soon be launched in the entire country.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of BPCL: Mumbai
  - CMD of BPCL: Arun Kumar Singh

### RAILTEL SIGNED MOU WITH C-DOT

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**Current Context:** The RailTel Corporation of India Ltd (RailTel) has signed MoU with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT).

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The MoU was signed to work together in the telecom sector.**
- Their major focus will be on the modernization and expansion of communication networks in India.
- The RailTel is a PSU in neutral telecom infrastructure providers in India. It owns a Pan-India optic fiber network of 60,000 route kilometers on exclusive Right of Way (ROW) along the Railway track.
- The C-DoT is the R&D unit of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications.
- Under the MoU, both entities will work to rationalize the tech and equipment of communication networks.
- The expertise solutions to design technologies will be performed by C-DoT and RailTel will deploy those solutions.
- Both entities will provide affordable broadband services to the people in rural parts of the country. They will reduce the cost of equipment needed in the telecom sector.

### 1000 MWH BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) PROJECT

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**Current Context:** The Central has approved to invite the expression of interest for installation of pilot 1000 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project.

#### KEY POINTS

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- The project is the joint effort of the Ministry of New & Renewable energy and the Ministry of Power.
- Both the entities are developing a road map to installing energy storage systems in India.
- The BESS project will help India to attain the goal of 450 GW renewable energy by 2030.
- The state-owned Solar Energy Corp of India (SECI) has given the authority to call expressions of interest (EoI) to set up a 1 GWh grid-scale battery storage system.
- The SECI has invited EoI to procure 1000 MWh BESS.
- It will be published with an RFS bid document and draft comprehensive guidelines to procure and utilize BESS.
- The final RFS document will be released in November 2021 as per the suggestions from various stakeholders.

### NASA LAUNCHED ITS LUCY SPACECRAFT

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**Current Context:** NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), the American Space Agency has launched the Lucy space probe successfully.

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## KEY FACTS

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- **It was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida.**
- **It is the beginning of a 12-year mission to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.**
- The Lucy spacecraft aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket.
- The name Lucy to the spacecraft is named after the fossilized human skeleton which was discovered in Ethiopia in 1974.
- NASA's Lucy mission will be the first mission to explore the Trojans.
- It will take its journey to eight different asteroids, a main-belt asteroid, and seven Jupiter trojans.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NASA: Washington DC, USA
  - Administrator of NASA: Bill Nelson

## APPOINTMENTS ON 18TH OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context: Jonas Gahr Store:** He assumed the post of Prime Minister of Norway.

## ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Norway: Oslo
  - Currency of Norway: Norwegian Krone
- **Pradeep Kumar Panja:** He was appointed as the Chairman of Karnataka Bank Ltd. He has replaced P Jayarama Bhat.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Karnataka Bank Ltd: Mangalore
  - Tagline Karnataka Bank Ltd: Your Family Bank Across India

## 7 NEW DEFENCE PSUS DEDICATED TO THE NATION

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**Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated seven new Defence PSUs.

## DETAILS

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- **These PSUs were carved out of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).**
- These 7 PSUs are formed with the dissolution of the 200-year-old OFB from 1st Oct 2021.
- **The 7 new defence PSUs are:**
  - Munition India Ltd (2) Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd (3) Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd (4) Troop Comforts Ltd (5) Yantra India Ltd (6) India Optel Ltd (7) Gliders India Ltd.
- The 70,000 employees of OFBs are shifted to these 7 new defence PSUs with no change in their service positions.

### RBI IMPOSED PENALTY ON SBI

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**Current Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty on the State Bank of India (SBI).

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **A penalty of Rs 1 crore was imposed on SBI.**
- The penalty was imposed because SBI was found non-compliance with the rules mentioned in 'RBI in terms of Frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs directions 2016'.
- The penalty was imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47A (1) (c) read with sections 46(4) (i) and 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of RBI and SBI: Mumbai
  - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
  - Chairperson of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara

### SRI LANKA SEEKS LOAN FROM INDIA

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**Current Context:** The Government of Sri Lanka has sought a credit line from India in order to pay its purchases of crude oil.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **In this regard, Sri Lanka has sought a USD 500 million loan from India.**
- Currently, Sri Lanka is facing a severe foreign exchange crisis because the pandemic has badly hit the economy of the island nation.
- The credit line of USD 500 million is a part of the India-Sri Lanka economic partnership.
- The island nation will use the loan amount to procure petrol and diesel requirements.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Sri Lanka: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
  - Currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan rupee
  - Prime Minister of Sri Lanka: Mahinda Rajapaksa
  - President of Sri Lanka: Gotabaya Rajapaksa

### 'MERA GHAR MERE NAAM' SCHEME—PUNJAB

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**Current Context:** The Chief Minister of Punjab, Charanjit Channi launched the 'Mera Ghar Mere Naam' scheme.



## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: October 2021

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### KEY POINTS

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- **The scheme aims to provide proprietary rights to the people living in the houses within the 'Lal Lakir' of villages and cities.**
- Lal Lakir is the land area that is a part of the village habitation and is used for non-agriculture purposes.
- Under the scheme, the state government will perform drone surveys of residential properties in rural and urban areas. This will be done for digital mapping.
- After this, the eligible residents will be given property cards by proper verification of their proprietary rights. In doing so, the people will get ownership rights of their land.
- The drone survey will be performed by the Revenue department of the state.
- All these activities will be performed in a time-bound manner.
- The property cards will prove beneficial to the people for the purpose of the registry against which they can opt for loans from banks or sell their properties.
- **Static Part:**
  - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Punjab: Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary Bir Bhadson Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Mehaswala Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir MotiBagh Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Dosanjh wildlife sanctuary.

### APPOINTMENTS ON 19TH OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context: Commodore Amit Rastogi (Retd):** He was appointed as Chairman & Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation.

### ABOUT

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- **Rahul Dravid:** He was appointed as Team India's head coach. He has replaced Ravi Shastri. The other appointments are: (a) Paras Mhambrey (bowling coach) (b) Vikram Rathour (batting coach).
- **Static Part:**
  - President of BCCI: Sourav Ganguly
- **Sabyasachi Das:** He was appointed as the CEO of L&T Edutech.
- **Imtiaz Ali (Director-Producer):** He was appointed as the ambassador of the Russian Film Festival in India.

### 'GLOBAL TB REPORT FOR 2021'

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**Current Context: The 'Global TB report for 2021' was released by World Health Organisation (WHO).**

### DETAILS

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- The report highlighted the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that led to a huge reversal in the progress of Tuberculosis (TB) elimination.
- As per the report, India is the worst-hit country in TB elimination.
- The country detected new TB cases and saw a huge impact in 2020.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: October 2021

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- The reduction of 20% TB cases was observed in 2020 as compared to 2019. There was a gap of 4.1 million TB cases.
- The work progress of TB detection has went back to the levels of 2012, India observed 41% of the total case drop in 2020.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
  - President of WHO: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
  - World TB Day is observed on 24th March

### DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLAND

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**Current Context:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, inaugurated various development projects and laid foundation stones for various projects Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The projects were launched from the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
- **The 14 number projects were inaugurated which cost Rs 299 crore.**
- **And foundation stone for 12 projects was laid down which is worth Rs 643 crore.**
- With this, the development work of Rs 1000 crore was initiated in Andaman island by GOI.
- During this occasion, Union Minister Amit Shah also conducted an aerial survey of Rani Laxmibai Dweep, Shaheed Dweep Eco-Tourism Project, Swaraj Dweep Water Aerodrome, and other development projects.
- The newly inaugurated bridge on the island was named Azad Hind Fauj Bridge.
- Also, the AYUSH hospital and 49 Wellness Centers-cum-Help Centers are set up in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Port Blair
  - Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

### 'NSE- SHINE'

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**Current Context:** The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has partnered with Chainflux.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **They have partnered to launch 'NSE –Shine'.**
- **The 'NSE –Shine' is a blockchain platform for gold bullion.**
- The platform was inaugurated by the Executive Director of SEBI, VS Sundaresan.
- The 'NSE –Shine' will offer a data framework for bullion bar integrity for the purpose of settlement of gold derivatives contracts.

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- The platform is developed with the support of the Indian Bullion and Jewelers Association (IBJA) and the India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) at IIM Ahmedabad.
- From 1st Nov 2021, NSE will accept gold delivery only on the blockchain platform.
- The platform will provide the creation of a bullion repository for all bullion bars which are produced by NSE-approved refiners as per the standards set by NRS.
- Due to this platform, the NSE-approved refiners will be able to use the platform to record the details of their produced billion.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NSE: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of NSE: Vikram Limaye

### MERCER GLOBAL PENSION INDEX 2021

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**Current Context:** The Mercer Global Pension Index 2021 (MCGPI) was released by Mercer Consulting, which is a leading global management consulting firm in partnership with CFA Institute and the Monash Centre for Financial Studies.

#### KEY FACTS

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- The MCGPI analyses the retirement income system based on the three sub-indices namely, adequacy, sustainability, and integrity.
- This is the 13th edition of the Mercer Global Pension Index 2021.
- **India is ranked at 40th position in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey. India has an index value of 43.3.**
- **The index is topped by Iceland with an index value of 84.2.**
- The 2nd and 3rd positions are marked by Netherlands and Norway respectively.
- Thailand has the lowest index value of 40.6.
- India has scored index values of 33.5 in adequacy, 41.8 in sustainability, and 61.0 in integrity.

### J&K AND DUBAI SIGNED MOU

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**Current Context:** The government of Jammu and Kashmir signed MoU with Dubai.

#### DETAILS

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- **The MoU was signed to have real estate development, industrial parks, and super-specialty hospitals.**
- **Under the MoU, real estate development, industrial parks, IT towers, multi-purpose towers, logistics, medical college, super-specialty hospitals will be set up in the UT.**
- The MoU will enable investment from across the globe in the UT.
- Due to the MoU, various entities have shown their interest to make investments in UT's development projects.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: October 2021

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- The package of Rs 28,400 crore as a testimony towards ensured development in the UT was announced.
- The MoU is the first investment agreement by a foreign government in the UT.
- **Static Part:**
  - Lieutenant Governor of J&K: Manoj Sinha

### NITI AAYOG PARTNERED WITH ISRO

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**Current Context:** The Geospatial Energy Map of India was launched by NITI Aayog.

#### ABOUT

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- **It was launched by NITI Aayog in partnership with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Energy Ministries of the Government of India.**
- **The Geospatial Energy Map of India will provide an image of all energy resources of India.**
- It will give images of conventional power plants, oil and gas wells, petroleum refineries, coal fields, and coal blocks, district-wise data on renewable energy power plants, and renewable energy resource potential through 27 thematic layers.
- It will help to locate primary and secondary sources of energy along with their transmission networks.
- It will give a view of the energy production and distribution network in India.
- It will help in planning and making investment decisions.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
  - Chairman of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
  - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant.
  - HQ of ISRO: Bengaluru
  - Chairman of ISRO: Dr. K Sivan

### LMDC MINISTERIAL MEETING

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**Current Context:** The Union Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav participated in the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) Ministerial meeting in a virtual manner.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The meeting was held under the title of ‘Preparations for COP 26 on Climate Change – Expectations and Challenges’.**
- **It was hosted by Bolivia.**
- Around 25 developing countries from Asia and other regions are part of LMDC.
- At the meeting, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav recommended having a rapid reduction of emissions.
- He also mentioned adopting transformative actions to tackle harmful climate change problems.
- He mentioned the commitments of carbon neutrality.

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- He mentioned that between 2005 and 2016, India has reduced 25% in emission intensity of its GDP.
- He talked about various initiatives undertaken by India like renewable energy, energy access, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, e-mobility, and sustainable agriculture.

### DVARA E-DAIRY PARTNERED WITH JANA SFB

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**Current Context:** The Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Pvt Ltd, which is the agri-fintech firm has partnered with Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB).

#### KEY POINTS

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- They have partnered to grant services to small dairy farmers.
- The partnership will help to empower small and medium dairy farmers with finance and cattle management solutions.
- The services and support will be provided using digital technologies.
- Through the Jana SFB network in rural and Agri based areas, the Dvara E-Dairy will expand the credit and underwriting process for cattle loans.
- The Dvara E-Dairy Digital ID Tag named Surabhi e-Tag will help to provide cattle identification with accuracy as per the muzzle identity.
- The Surabhi score based on the digital assessment complements the underwriting of cattle loans based on dairy activities and customized cattle management solutions.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Jana SFB: Bengaluru
  - HQ of Dvara E-Dairy: Chennai

### APPOINTMENTS ON 21ST OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context: A Balasubramanian:** He was appointed as the new Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). He has replaced Nilesh Shah, who is the MD of Kotak Mutual Fund. Radhika Gupta, the MD, and CEO of Edelweiss AMC were appointed as vice-chairperson of AMFI.

#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of AMFI: Mumbai
- **Sahdev Yadav:** He was appointed as President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IWLF: New Delhi
- **Ritesh Chauhan:** He was appointed to head the working group constituted by the central government to overhaul Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2022. He is the CEO of PMFBY.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: October 2021

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### RBI IMPOSED FINE ON STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

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**Current Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine on Standard Chartered Bank.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **A fine of Rs 1.95 crore was imposed on the bank.**
- The reasons behind the imposition of a fine are that the Standard Chartered Bank has failed to report a cyber security incident within the prescribed time period to the central bank, and has failed to credit the amount involved in unauthorized electronic transactions.
- As the Standard Chartered Bank was observed non-compliance with RBI's directions on customer protection, it was thus penalized by the RBI.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Standard Chartered Bank: London, UK

### GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY (GFS) INDEX 2021

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**Current Context:** The Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 was released. It is framed by London-based Economist Impact and sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.

#### DETAILS

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- **India is ranked at 71st position in the index with a score of 57.2 points.**
- **The 1st position is marked by Ireland.**
- The 2nd and 3rd positions are marked by Australia and UK respectively.
- The index measures the factors which impact food insecurity around the world.
- It considers 4 parameters and 58 unique food security indicators to give ranking to the countries.
- **The parameters are:** affordability, availability, quality and safety, and natural resources and resilience.
- **India's rank in each parameter:** 80th (affordability), 29th (availability), 74th (quality and safety), and 40th (natural resources and resilience).

### RUPIFI PARTNERED WITH MUTHOOT FINANCE

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**Current Context:** The Rupifi has entered into a partnership with Muthoot Finance.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **They have partnered to provide instant credit support to 15 million SMEs.**
- The Rupifi is the Digital business-to-business payment startup for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- The partnership will be executed for the period of next few years.
- Both entities will develop an SME portfolio over the coming years.

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- The Rupifi allows SMEs to repay their dues flexibly as and when required with per day interest price without any monthly EMIs.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Rupifi: Bangalore
  - HQ of Muthoot Finance: Kochi

## WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT'S (WJP) RULE OF LAW INDEX 2021

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**Current Context:** The World Justice Project's (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2021 was released.

### KEY POINTS

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- **As per the index, India is ranked at 79th position out of 139 countries.**
- **The 1st position is marked by Denmark.**
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are marked by Norway and Finland respectively.
- The index ranks countries based on scores ranging from 0 to 1. The 1 indicates the strongest adherence to the rule of law.
- The index measures that how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide.
- **8 factors are considered for ranking:** Constraints on government powers, zero corruption, open government, access to fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.
- The last position of 139th was marked by Venezuela, RB.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of WJP: Washington DC, USA

## 'MUKHYAMANTRI RATION APKE DWAR YOJANA'—MADHYA PRADESH

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**Current Context:** The Madhya Pradesh government announced to implementation of 'Mukhyamantri Ration Apke Dwar Yojana'.

### KEY FACTS

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- The scheme will be implemented from November 2021.
- Under the scheme, the ration will be provided at the doorstep of the villagers where there are no Fair Price Shops (FPS) located.
- The scheme will provide ration materials to the vulnerable sections like Specially-Abled people, senior citizens, and poor people in the state.
- The scheme will ensure proper ration supply to these sections.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
  - Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Mangubhai C. Patel



### CII ORGANISED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

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**Current Context:** The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organized an International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies.

#### DETAILS

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- It was titled 'Future Tech 2021- a Journey of digital transformation to technology adoption and acceleration'.
- The theme for the conference was 'Driving technologies for building the future, we all can trust'.
- The theme was based on 5 pillars namely: Strategy, Growth, Resilience, Inclusiveness, Trust.
- The conference and exhibition were organized to introduce emerging technologies to the Indian industry and entrepreneurs.
- It gives an idea to select the right approach and technologies for their business.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of CII: New Delhi
  - DG of CII: Chandrajit Banerjee
  - President of CII: T. V. Narendran

### NABARD SANCTIONED RS 608 CRORE FOR ASSAM INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

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**Current Context:** The NABARD has sanctioned funds to the GOI to conduct infrastructure projects in Assam rural areas.

#### ABOUT

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- The NABARD has sanctioned Rs 608 crore for the same.
- The infrastructure projects include constructing 52 rural roads, 21 rural bridges, developing 19 flood protection projects, and 32 soil conservation projects.
- The funds are granted under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) XXVII.
- The projects will prove beneficial to the 17 lakh rural population of the state.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
  - Chairman of NABARD: Govinda Rajulu Chintala
  - CM of Assam: Himanta Biswa Sarma

### RBI IMPOSED PENALTY PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK LIMITED (PPBL)

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**Current Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL).

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **A penalty of Rs 1 crore was imposed on PPBL.**
- The penalty was imposed due to violations of certain rules under Section 26 (2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- As per the central bank, the information submitted during PPBL's application for the issue of the final Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) did not reflect the factual position.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of PPBL: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
  - Chairman of PPBL: Vijay Shekhar Sharma
  - MD and CEO of PPBL: Satish Kumar Gupta
  - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
  - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

### NPCI LAUNCHED NTS PLATFORM

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**Current Context:** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) platform.

### KEY POINTS

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- The NTS platform will support the tokenization of cards.
- It will be an alternative to storing card details with merchants.
- It will support the tokenization of RuPay cards in order to grant safety and security to the users during shopping.
- Under this platform, NPCI will offer Token Reference On File (TROF) service. This service will maintain the security of financial data. The card details will remain safe at the RuPay Network Secure vault.
- The merchants are supposed to meet the tokenization by 1st Jan 2022.
- The platform was launched by following RBI's decision to maintain sensitive customer information in an encrypted 'token' form. This will help to secure transaction details.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NPCI: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of NPCI: Dilip Asbe

### 'SHRI DHANWANTRI GENERIC MEDICAL STORE SCHEME' — CHHATTISGARH

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**Current Context:** The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel launched the 'Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store scheme'.

### KEY FACTS

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- **The scheme aims to provide low-cost generic medicines and healthcare services to the vulnerable people of the state.**

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- The Urban Administration and Development Department (UADD) of the state will implement the scheme.
- Under the scheme, 188 medical shops will be opened in 169 cities of the state.
- Currently, 84 generic medical shops are open.
- The scheme will provide a discount between 50.09 and 71% on the MRP (Market Rate Price) of generic medicines to the people.
- **Static Part:**
  - Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey

### \$100 MILLION CREDIT FACILITY FOR MSMEs

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**Current Context:** The HDFC Bank, Mastercard, United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and US Agency for International Development (USAID) have launched a \$100 million credit facility for MSMEs in India.

#### ABOUT

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- It is part of USAID's global Women Economic Empowerment Fund.
- The credit facility aims to support small business sectors in India so that they can avail digital needs of their business.
- The credit facility will also help the MSMEs to recover from the negative impacts of COVID-19.
- The HDFC Bank will make sure that the credit facility is made available for new-to-credit small businesses holders with atleast 50% of women entrepreneurs being included in it.
- The Mastercard will partner with CII and CAIT to grant skill training to the owners of small businesses.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
  - CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan
  - Tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world

### RUPIFI PARTNERED WITH FLIPKART WHOLESALE

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**Current Context:** Rupifi which is a fintech firm has partnered with Flipkart Wholesale which is an e-commerce firm of Flipkart group.

#### DETAILS

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- They have partnered to provide Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) facility to the MSMEs.
- They will offer MSMEs instant credit in a digital manner with flexible repayable options and terms.
- The facility will be provided to around 1.5 lakhs kiranas and MSMEs who have enrolled on Flipkart Wholesale.
- The Rupifi will ease the digitization process in order to boost B2B retail sector.
- **Static Part:**

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- HQ of Rupifi and Flipkart: Bangalore
- CEO of Flipkart: Kalyan Krishnamurthy

### **BHARTI AXA LIFE SIGNED BANCASSURANCE PARTNERSHIP WITH UTKARSH SFB**

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**Current Context:** The Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company Limited (Bharti AXA Life) has signed a bancassurance pact with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

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- **The bancassurance pact was signed to distribute insurance products via the bank's network in India.**
- Due to this collaboration, Bharti AXA life will be able to reach Tier II and Tier III markets in India and sell their insurance products.
- This will enhance insurance reach in India.
- The insurance products like protection, health, savings, and investment plans will be made available to the customers of the bank in entire India.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Utkarsh SFB: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

### **ITILITE PARTNERED WITH ICICI BANK**

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**Current Context:** The ITILITE partnered with ICICI Bank.

#### **KEY POINTS**

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- **They have partnered to issue commercial credit cards to businesses in India.**
- **Due to this partnership, the companies can avail 'ICICI Bank Central Travel Account Card (CTA card)'.**
- The ITILITE is the all-in-one business travel and expense management platform.
- They can make travel bookings for their employees at a discount rate using the ITILITE platform.
- Under the partnership, the ICICI bank will issue the CTA card to businesses and will provide them a credit period of upto 50 days.
- The digital, automated, cost-effective travel and expense management platform will be provided by ITILITE.
- Businesses can recharge their ITILITE wallet using a CTA card.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakhshi
  - HQ of ITILITE: Bengaluru

### RBI PROPOSED MINIMUM 11.5% CAPITAL FOR FOUR AIFIS

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**Current Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a minimum of 11.5% capital for four All India Financial Institutions (AIFI).

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The 4 AIFIs are:** National Housing Bank, Exim Bank, Small Industries Development Bank of India, and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development.
- These capital norms will be applicable from 2022.
- This minimum capital is in accordance with the Basel III framework to raise the resilience of AIFI in periods of stress.
- These 4 AIFIs should have a minimum total capital of 9% from 1st April 2022 and a minimum capital buffer should be at 2.5%.
- The minimum common equity tier 1 (CET1) capital of these institutions should be 5.5% and the minimum tier 1 capital requirement should be at 7%.
- These AIFIs should adopt standardized approaches to measure capital charge for market risk and credit risk.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
  - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

### BELLATRIX AEROSPACE AND DHRUVA SPACE SIGNED MOU WITH L&T

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**Current Context:** Bellatrix Aerospace and Dhruva Space have each signed MoU with Larsen and Toubro (L&T).

#### DETAILS

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- **They have signed MoU to give an enhancement to efforts being taken to address the increasing demand for affordable access to the space.**
- The MoU was signed at the Dubai Expo 2020.
- The MoU between Bellatrix Aerospace and L&T will allow Bellatrix to work with L&T and develop products in their domain.
- This will allow leveraging the expert solutions of L&T and technologies of Bellatrix for the Indian Space sector.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of L&T: Mumbai

### 7TH MEETING OF BRICS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS

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**Current Context:** The 7th Meeting of BRICS Communications Ministers was held through video conferencing.

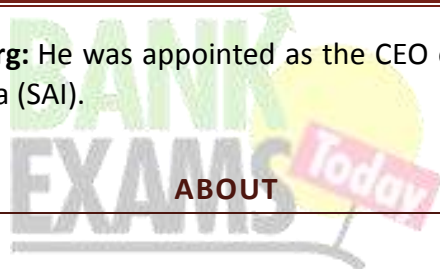
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### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **India was represented by Minister of State for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan.**
- The meeting was held under India's current chair of BRICS.
- At the meeting, Mr. Devusinh Chauhan highlighted that India is committed to bridge the digital divide in India.
- To attain the objective the country is taking various Telecomm reforms in order to unleash the true potential of the telecom industry.
- It aims to give major support to telecom service providers in India.
- He mentioned that PM Narendra Modi has launched a flagship scheme to extend optical fibers to six lakh villages in India which will bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas.
- The dignitaries at the meeting assured to work coordinately to develop multi-pronged approaches and reference models to have affordable access to communications services and digital technologies in BRICS nations. This will help them to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- They also decided to host the Digital BRICS Forum annually in order to share, adopt the expertise solutions to uplift the communication domain.

### APPOINTMENTS ON 25TH OCTOBER 2021

**Current Context: Commodore PK Garg:** He was appointed as the CEO of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).



- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of SAI: Delhi
- **KL Rahul:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador of Realme.
- **Deepika Padukone:** She was appointed as the global brand ambassador of Adidas.
- **Ramnath Krishnan:** He was appointed as the MD and Group CEO of rating agency ICRA. He has replaced N Sivaraman.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ICRA: Gurgaon
  - ICRA is owned by Moody's Corporation
- **Dame Sandra Mason:** She was elected as first-ever president of Barbados. She has replaced Britain's, Queen Elizabeth II.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Barbados: Bridgetown
  - Currency of Barbados: Dollar
- **Gita Gopinath:** She has announced to leave the post of International Monetary Fund's Chief Economist and Director of the Research Department in Jan 2022. After this, she will return to Harvard University's economics department.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IMF: Washington, D.C. U.S.

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- Chairman and MD of IMF: Kristalina Georgieva

### DRDO SUCCESSFULLY FLIGHT-TESTED ABHYAS

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**Current Context:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested 'ABHYAS'.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The 'ABHYAS' is the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT).**
- **It was test-fired from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha.**
- It is equipped with a MEMS-based Inertial Navigation System (INS) for navigation and Flight Control Computer (FCC) which will help in guidance and control activities.
- The 'ABHYAS' was developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) which is the DRDO laboratory and based in Bengaluru.
- It is developed for Indian Armed Forces and can be used as an aerial target to evaluate various missile systems.
- It is programmed to function as a fully autonomous flight and the checkout activity can be done using a laptop-based Ground Control Station (GCS).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi
  - Chairman of DRDO: Dr. G Satheesh Reddy

### RBI INTRODUCED REVISED SCALE-BASED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR NBFCs

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**Current Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a revised scale-based regulatory (SBR) framework for NBFCs in India.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The revised SBR will be effective from 1st Oct 2022.**
- It covers various facets of regulation of NBFCs like capital requirements, governance standards, prudential regulation, etc.
- It is having 4 layers as per the size, activity, complexity, and interconnectedness with the finance sector.
- The NBFCs in the lowest layer will be known as NBFC - Base Layer (NBFC-BL).
- The NBFCs in the middle layer will be known as NBFC - Middle Layer (NBFC-ML).
- The NBFCs in the upper layer will be known as NBFC - Upper Layer (NBFC-UL).
- The NBFCs who are in the top 10 with respect to asset size will be accommodated in the upper layer. In that case, no other factors will be considered.
- The base layer includes non-deposit-taking NBFCs having below the asset size of Rs 1000 crore.



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- In the new framework, RBI has twisted the NPA classification to more than 90 days for all categories of NBFCs.
- There will be a ceiling of Rs 1 crore per borrower for financing a subscription to Initial Public Offer (IPO).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

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### FGII SIGNED BANCASSURANCE PACT WITH BOI

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**Current Context:** The Future Generali India Insurance (FGII) has signed a bancassurance pact with the Bank of India (BoI).

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- The FGII aims to further penetrate its general insurance products through this partnership.
- Under this pact, FGII will offer its wide array of insurance solutions to 5,084 BoI branches in India.
- Until now, the FGII has partnered with 15 public and private banks to sell its insurance products in various parts of India.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of FGII: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of FGII: Anup Rau
  - HQ of BoI: Mumbai
  - Tagline of BoI: Relationship beyond banking
  - MD and CEO of BoI: Atanu Kumar Das



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### IGRUA AND DRONE DESTINATION SIGNED PACT WITH HARYANA

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**Current Context:** The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) and Drone Destination have signed a pact with the Government of Haryana.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The pact was signed for the initiative called 'DRIISHYA' (Drone Imaging and Information services of Haryana Limited).**
- **The pact will allow conducting drone training sessions in the state.**
- Various survey activities and imaging work will be implemented through 'DRIISHYA'.
- Currently, IGRUA and Drone Destination operate at 2 satellite campuses namely in Manesar Haryana and Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The trio partnership will enable IGRUA to offer expert drone training sessions in the state.
- The new drone policy 2021 will be utilized in this partnership.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Drone Destination: New Delhi

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- HQ of IGRUA: Amethi, UP

### 67TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

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**Current Context:** The 67th National Film Awards were presented by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi in the presence of the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur.

#### DETAILS

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- At the awards ceremony, Rajnikanth was honoured with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award
- **Below is the list of winners:**
  - Best Actress: Kangana Ranaut for Panga (Hindi) and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi (Hindi)
  - Best Actor: Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle (Hindi), and Dhanush for Asuran (Tamil)
  - Best Feature Film: Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)
  - Best Supporting Actress: Pallavi Joshi for The Tashkent Files (Hindi)
  - Best Supporting Actor: Vijay Sethupathi for Super Deluxe (Tamil)
  - Best Director: Sanjay Puri for Bahattar Hoorain (Hindi)
  - Best Child Artist: Naga Vishal for KD (Tamil)
  - Best Debut Film of a Director: Mathukutty Xavier for Helen (Malayalam)
  - Best Female Playback Singer: Savani Ravindra for Bardo (Marathi)
  - Best Male Playback Singer: B Praak for Kesari (Hindi)
  - Best Music Direction: D. Imman for Viswasam (Tamil)
  - Best Lyrics: Prabha Varma for Kolaambi (Malayalam)
  - Best Make-up Artist: Ranjith for Helen (Malayalam)
  - Best Children's Film: Kastoori (Hindi)
  - Best Film on Social Issues: Anandi Gopal (Marathi)
- **The winners for Best Film Category awards:**
  - Best Hindi Film: Chhichhore
  - Best Malayalam Film: Kalla Nottam
  - Best Tamil Film: Asuran
  - Best Telugu Film: Jersey
  - Best Punjabi Film: Rab Da Radio 2
  - Best Bengali Film: Gumnaami
  - Best Marathi Film: Bardo
  - Best Kannada Film: Akshi
  - Best Paniya Film: Kenjira
  - Best Chattisgarhi Film: Bhulan the Maze
  - Best Khasi Film: Iewduh
  - Best Mishing Film: Anu Ruwad
  - Best Assamese Film: Ronuwa - Who Never Surrender
  - Best Tulu Film: Pingara
  - Best Manipuri Film: Eigi Kona

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- Best Odia Film: Kalira Atita and Sala Budhar Badla (shared)
- **The winners for Best Non-Feature Film Category awards:**
  - Best Non-Feature Film: An Engineered Dream (Hindi)
  - Best Short Fiction Film: Custody (Hindi/ English)
  - Best Director: Sudhanshu Saria for Knock Knock Knock (English/ Bengali)
  - Best Film on Family Values: Oru Paathira Swapnam Pole (Malayalam)
  - Special Jury Award: Small Scale Societies (English)
  - Best Educational Film: Apples and Oranges (English)
  - Best Environment Film: The Stork Saviours (Hindi)
  - Best Investigative Film: Jakkal (Marathi)
  - Best Animation Film: Radha (Musical)
  - Best Promotional Film: The Shower (Hindi)
  - Best Exploration Film: Wild Karnataka (English)
  - Best Ethnographic Film: Charan-Atva The Essence of Being a Nomad (Gujarati)
  - Best Arts and Culture Film: Shrikshetra-Ru-Sahijata (Odia)
  - Best Cinematography: Savita Singh for Sonsi (Hindi)
  - Best Audiography: Radha (Musical), Allwin Rego and Sanjay Maurya
  - Best Voice-over/ Narration: Sir David Attenborough for Wild Karnataka (English)
  - Best Music Direction: Bishakhjyoti for Kranti Darshi Guruji - Ahead of Times (Hindi)
- **Other awards:**
  - Most Film Friendly State: Sikkim
  - Best Book on Cinema: A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Portrayal of Love in Cinema, by Sanjay Suri
  - Best Film Critic: Sohini Chattopadhyay

### 'INNOVATIONS FOR YOU' DIGI-BOOK

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**Current Context:** The NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched a Digi-book named 'Innovations for You'.

#### ABOUT

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- **The book focuses on the Healthcare sector.**
- The 'Innovations for You' is NITI Aayog's initiative which shares the success stories of AIM's Startups.
- The book was launched as a motivational platform for upcoming entrepreneurs so that they get nourished to leverage their skills and abilities to address pressing challenges in India.
- The book was launched as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The book is comprised of 45 health tech start-ups who are incubated at the Atal Incubation Centres in India.
- These startups are using technologies like AI, IoT, ICT, etc. to tackle health sector-related issues.

### AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MISSION

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**Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission'.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- It was launched from his parliamentary constituency Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- The mission is the pan India mission which aims to strengthen the healthcare sector and infrastructure in India.
- The mission is in addition to the National Health Protection Mission (Ayushman Bharat Yojana).
- The funds of Rs 5,000-crore are sanctioned for the mission.
- The 'Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission' will work to eradicate the gaps in public health infrastructure and will bring critical care facilities.
- It will work to bring primary health care facilities to urban and rural parts of the country.
- The 17,788 rural health and wellness centers in 10 high focus states will be benefited from the mission.
- Under the mission, 11,024 urban health and wellness centers will be established in the urban areas.
- Also, a national institution for one health, four new national institutes for virology, a regional research platform for WHO South-East Asia Region, nine biosafety level-III laboratories, five new regional national centers for disease control will also be established.
- It will help to augment the screening of diseases as the infrastructure required to check and monitor diseases will be developed.
- The mission will also generate employment opportunities in rural and urban areas.

### GREEN DAY AHEAD MARKET (GDAM)

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**Current Context: The Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, R K Singh, launched the Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM).**

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The GDAM is the new market segment for renewable energy.**
- It will allow the electricity generation and distribution companies to trade in renewable energy in the day-ahead market.
- India has become the only major electricity market in the world to launch the GDAM for renewable energy.
- This will help to reduce the dependency on fossil fuel imported sources and bring energy transition.
- It will result in the enhancement of the green market by providing a competitive price for the allied products of renewable energy.
- It will allow the participants to trade in green energy in a transparent, flexible, competitive, and efficient manner.

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- The advantages of participating in the GDAM will be a reduction in curtailment of green power, it will open untapped renewable energy potential, and instant payment to RE generators i.e. on the day of delivery itself.
- The nodal agency for the GDAM will be National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC), POSOCO.

### MOU SIGNED BETWEEN CAG AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF MALDIVES

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**Current Context:** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed an MoU with the Auditor General of Maldives.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The MoU was signed to develop and strengthen institutions' professional capacity and bring methodologies in the field of audit of public finance.**
- **Through this MoU, both nations aim to strengthen and align the audit process of public finance.**
- The MoU was signed by CAG Girish Chandra Murmu and his counterpart Hussain Niyazy.
- Both the countries will share and exchange information in the field of public sector audit.
- They will also conduct training sessions for their respective staff working in the public finance domain.
- They will also work jointly for Natural Resource Accounting (NRA).
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Maldives: Male
  - Currency of Maldives: Maldivian rufiyaa

### 'KA-CHING' CREDIT CARD--BY KMBL AND INDIGO AIRLINES

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**Current Context:** The Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) and IndiGo airlines have launched 'Ka-ching' which is a co-branded credit card.

#### DETAILS

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- **It was launched under IndiGo's 6E rewards program.**
- **It will be launched in November 2021.**
- The card will offer exclusive travel benefits to members.
- The 'Ka-ching' co-branded credit card will be available in two variants, namely 6E Rewards, and 6E Rewards XL.
- The cardholders will be benefited during domestic and international travel.
- They can earn additional 6E rewards on dining, shopping, transport, medical bills, utilities, and fuel.
- The cardholders can get accelerated with 6E Rewards on their spending.
- They can redeem these points for airline tickets anytime with no blackout dates on redemptions.
- They can also earn complimentary air tickets, discounts on convenience fees, priority check-in, choice of seats, and a complimentary meal using the card.
- **Static Part:**

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- HQ of KMBL: Mumbai
- HQ of IndiGo: Gurugram, Haryana

### 'KONKAN SHAKTI 2021'

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**Current Context:** India and the United Kingdom armed forces conducted 'Konkan Shakti 2021' which is a maiden Tri-Service exercise.

#### ABOUT

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- **It was conducted off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.**
- The exercise aims to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.
- Both the armed forces performed replenishment at sea approaches, air direction, strike operations, and gunshots on expendable air targets.
- They performed these operations using fighter aircraft like MiG 29Ks and F35Bs.

### 6TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF AIIB

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**Current Context:** The 6th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was held.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **It was attended by the Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman via video conference from New Delhi.**
- **The meeting was based on the theme of 'Investing Today and Transforming Tomorrow'.**
- **The meeting was organized by AIIB in partnership with the Government of the UAE.**
- The dignitaries discussed important matters related to the AIIB and its future goals.
- At the meeting, FM expressed her thoughts on the theme of 'COVID-19 Crisis and Post-COVID Support' during the Governor's Roundtable Discussion.
- She also appreciated AIIB's efforts to support financially its member nations during the pandemic situation.
- She also highlighted the reforms taken by GOI to enhance its economic status.
- She also highlighted India's initiatives like 'Vaccine Maitri' and the work done under it till now.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of AIIB: Beijing
  - President of AIIB: Jin Liqun

### APPOINTMENTS ON 28TH OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context: Shavkat Mirziyoyev:** He has the second term for the President of Uzbekistan for the next 5 years.

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## ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Uzbekistan: Tashkent
  - Currency of Uzbekistan: Uzbekistani Som
- **Siddhartha Lal:** He was re-appointed as MD of Eicher Motors Ltd for five years.
- **Manoj Bajpayee:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador of Flobiz flagship product named myBillBook. The Flobiz is the neo bank of Indian Small to Medium Businesses (SMB).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of FloBiz: Bangalore

## HDFC BANK PARTNERED WITH IPPB

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**Current Context:** The HDFC bank entered into a strategic partnership with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).

### KEY POINTS

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- **They have partnered to offer housing loans to around 47 million customers.**
- For this, both entities have signed the MoU.
- Due to this partnership, personal finance facilities like home loans will be available through post offices in villages of India.
- Hence due to this rural areas can also avail of home loan facilities.
- The IPPB's 650 branches and over 1.36 lakh banking access points i.e. post offices will provide HDFC home loan facilities on a vast scale.
- The credit, technical work, legal work, loan processing, and disbursement will be managed by HDFC Bank.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan
  - HQ of IPPB: New Delhi
  - MD and CEO of IPPB: J Venkatramu

## 'BEFIT'- A CASHLESS OPD AND WELLNESS SERVICES

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**Current Context:** The ICICI Lombard General Insurance launched the 'BeFit' solution.

### KEY FACTS

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- **The 'BeFit' solution will provide customers coverage for their complete OPD requirements in a cashless manner.**
- Using this solution, the customers can avail themselves of an array of coverage across physical and virtual consultation which is available 24x7.



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- It covers pharmacy, diagnostics services-related expenses, and those services which do not need hospitalization.
- The solution thus offers a digitally enabled health ecosystem. It is integrated with 11,000+ doctors across cities in India.
- The pharmacy service provides its express service, and the medicine is delivered at home with an hour.
- The lab test can be conducted at home as well as on personal visits via BeFit.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ICICI Lombard General Insurance: Mumbai

### **'SAMBHAV'- E-NATIONAL LEVEL AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

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**Current Context:** The MSME ministry has launched 'SAMBHAV' which is an e-National Level Awareness Programme.

#### **DETAILS**

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- The 'SAMBHAV' aims to promote the participation of the youth in entrepreneurship promotion activities.
- The program was launched by the Union Minister of MSME Narayan Rane.
- The program will be executed for one month by the ministry.
- Under the program, students from different colleges and ITI institutes of India will be encouraged by 130 field offices to opt for entrepreneurship in their professional career choice.
- Under this, the students will also be made aware of various schemes implemented by the MSME ministry, GOI to support upcoming entrepreneurs.
- The program will be held in more than 1,300 colleges and 1,50,000 students will be participating in it.

### **AMBASSADORS' ROUND TABLE FOR DEFEXPO 2022**

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**Current Context:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the Ambassadors' Round Table for Def Expo 2022 in New Delhi.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

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- The DefExpo 2022 is Asia's largest defence exhibition which will be held on 10th March 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The objective of the Round Table was to give an idea about the planning, arrangements, and other details of DefExpo 2022 to the Ambassadors of foreign missions.
- At the event, more than 200 delegates, including Ambassadors, Heads of Missions, and Defence Attaches participated which showcased the global interest in India's Defence sector.
- At the Round Table, the Defence minister highlighted that India is open for businesses with a mutually beneficial basis, giving and taking the spirit and overall welfare of all in the defence sector.

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- He mentioned that the DefExpo 2022 will give rise to technologies from a single platform and will give major opportunities to the stakeholders in the aerospace & defence industry.

### APPOINTMENTS ON 29TH OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context: Baldev Prakash:** He was appointed as MD and CEO of J&K Bank for a tenure of 3 years by RBI. He has replaced Rajesh Kumar Chhibber.

#### ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - Capital J&K Bank: Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
- **K V Kamath:** He was appointed as Chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID). The NaBFID is a newly set up development financial institution (DFIs). He is the first head of the New Development Bank (NDB).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NaBFID: Mumbai
- **Isha Ambani:** She was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art for a tenure of 4 years.
- **Subhash Khunti:** He was appointed as part-time Chairman of Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Jana SFB: Bengaluru
- **Fran Wilson:** She is an England cricket player and announced to retire from an international form of cricket.

### INDIA AND ADB SIGNED A \$4.5 MILLION PRF LOAN

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**Current Context: The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have entered to sign a \$4.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan.**

#### KEY POINTS

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- **The loan will support developing projects to enhance urban mobility in Aizawl in Mizoram.**
- The Aizawl's urban mobility is severely constrained because of rapid and unplanned urbanization.
- This impacts traffic issues because narrow road widths result in adverse impacts on road safety and inefficiency to the people.
- So the \$4.5 million PRF loan will help to solve the city's mobility problems.
- The PRF will conduct feasibility studies on projects which are identified, then it will frame detailed project reports and detailed design for the ensuing project.
- The Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) will be developed for the Aizawl.
- **Static Part:**

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- Wild Life Sanctuaries in Mizoram: Lengteng WLS, Pualreng WLS, Tawi WLS, Dampa Tiger Reserve, Palak (Tokalo) WLS

### 'APPSCALE ACADEMY PROGRAMME'

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**Current Context:** The tech giant Google in partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) announced to launch 'App scale Academy Programme'.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **The program aims to grant startups the 'next stage of growth'.**
- The program aims to help early to mid-stage startups in India develop high-quality apps for the entire world.
- Under the program, 100 startups will be trained through a customized curriculum. The training will be given through virtual webinars, self-learning material, mentorship lessons from industry professionals.
- The 'App scale Academy Programme' will focus on 6 areas: App Quality, Go Global, Growth, App Design, Google Play Policy, and Data Safety Best Practices.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw

### DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED 'AGNI-5' MISSILE

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**Current Context:** India announced that it conducted a test firing operation of the Agni-5 missile.

#### DETAILS

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- **The test was carried out by DRDO from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.**
- The Agni-5 is a surface-to-surface ballistic missile. It is a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- It can hit the target at ranges up to 5,000 km with high accuracy. It is 17-meter long, 2-meter wide, and possesses a launch weight of 50 tonnes.
- It uses three-stage solid-fuelled engine.
- The test-firing operation of Agni-5 is in line with India's stated policy of having credible minimum deterrence that underpins the commitment to 'No First Use'.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of DRDO: New Delhi Chairman of DRDO: Dr. G Satheesh Reddy

### CII ASIA HEALTH 2021 SUMMIT

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**Current Context:** The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya participated and addressed the CII Asia Health 2021 Summit via video conference.

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### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The theme of the summit was: 'Transforming Healthcare for a better tomorrow'.**
- **It was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).**
- The summit granted a centralized forum to discuss the critical challenge related to the healthcare sector which is being faced in India and across the world.
- The summit aims to transform the healthcare sector in a digital manner which will help to improve the patient recovery ratio.
- While addressing the summit, the union minister highlighted various initiatives taken by GOI during the pandemic in the country.
- He mentioned the initiatives like 'Dawai Bhi Kadai Bhi' and 'Do Gaj ki Doori, Mask hai Zaruri' and how these initiatives benefited people, especially during the COVID-19 situation.
- He also highlighted initiatives like Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana, Ayushman Health and Wellness Centres, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) for generic medicines, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), and PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.
- He mentioned that GOI is committed to Access, Affordability, Accountability, Adoption, and Awareness in the Healthcare sector.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of CII: New Delhi
  - President of CII: T V Narendran

### 18TH ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT

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**Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 18th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit in a virtual manner.**

### KEY POINTS

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- **The summit was held under the chairmanship of the Sultan of Brunei.**
- The summit was held to review the work activities of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership.
- The dignitaries discussed the COVID-19 situation, Health, Trade & Commerce, Connectivity, and Education & Culture in ASEAN nations.
- They mentioned that 2022 will be the 30 years of ASEAN-India relations partnership year and will be celebrated as 'ASEAN-India Friendship Year'.

### GLOBAL CLIMATE TECH INVESTMENT TREND REPORT

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**Current Context: The Global Climate Tech Investment Trend Report was released.**

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## KEY FACTS

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- **As per London & Partners and Co's research 'Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends after the Paris Agreement, India is ranked at 9th position among 10 nations.**
- The report granted ranks to the countries as per making climate technology investment from 2016 to 2021.
- During the period from 2016 to 2021, Indian climate tech firms have gained USD 1 billion in venture capital (VC) funding.
- **The 1st position is marked by the United States (US) with USD 48 billion.**
- The 2nd position is marked by China with USD 18.6 billion.

## GOI AND ADB SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT FOR MAGNET PROJECT

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**Current Context:** The GOI and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan agreement for the Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MAGNET) Project.

## DETAILS

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- **The loan agreement of \$100 million was signed.**
- **The loan will help to promote agribusiness in the state.**
- **It will eventually help to enhance the income of farmers and will reduce food losses in Maharashtra.**
- The funds will be used to grant holistic support to on-farm improvement in productivity, upgrade post-harvest facilities, set up marketing structures for horticulture producers of the state.
- The small and marginal farmers will be benefited from this project.
- **Static Part:**
  - Dams in Maharashtra: Koyna Dam(Koyna River), Jayakwadi Dam (Godavari River), Totladoh dam (Pench river), Isapur Dam (Penganga river)
  - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Maharashtra: Anerdam WLS, Koyna WLS, Phansad WLS, Sagareshwar WLS, Radhanagari WLS, Nagzira WLS, Jayakwadi Bird Sanctuary

## KMB PARTNERED WITH NPCI

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**Current Context:** The Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch credit cards on the RuPay network for Indian armed forces personnel.

## ABOUT

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- **The credit card will be named 'Veer'.**
- It will be the KMB's 1st credit card under the RuPay network.
- The Veer credit card is available in two variants namely, Kotak RuPay Veer Platinum and Kotak RuPay Veer Select.

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- It will have a zero joining fee and will grant benefits on fuel, railway surcharge waivers, safe shopping experience to the armed forces personnel and their families.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of KMB and NPCI: Mumbai
  - Tagline of KMB: Let's make money simple
  - MD and CEO of NPCI: Dilip Asbe

### STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY INDEX 2020

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**Current Context:** The State Energy Efficiency Index 2020 (SEEI) was released under the Ministry of Power.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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- **The index is released by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE).**
- **Karnataka has topped the index ranking by scoring 70 points out of 100.**
- Karnataka has held various initiatives to improve its energy efficiency.
- The second and third ranks are marked by Rajasthan and Haryana respectively.
- The index analyzed the states and UTs in four categories namely: Aspirant with a score below 30 points, Contenders with a score between 30-50, Achievers with a score of 50-60, and the Frontrunners with above 60 points score.
- Frontrunners: Karnataka and Rajasthan
- Achievers: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab
- Contenders: Assam, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh
- Aspirant: The remaining states and UTs

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX (PAI) 2021

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**Current Context:** The Public Affairs Centre (PAC) has released the 6th Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2021.

#### KEY POINTS

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- The top 3 positions are marked by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana in the index.
- The index mentions the state government's quality governance and mostly highlighted how the state government worked to tackle pandemic COVID-19.
- **The index ranking was calculated by considering 3 pillars:** Equity, Growth, and Sustainability.
- **Toppers in large states:** Kerala Tamil Nadu and Telangana.
- **Toppers in small states:** Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Mizoram.
- **Toppers in UTs:** Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir, and Chandigarh.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of PAC: Bengaluru

## Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: October 2021

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### APPOINTMENTS ON 31ST OCTOBER 2021

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**Current Context: Justice Ashok Bhushan:** He was appointed as Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) for the tenure of 4 years.

#### ABOUT

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- **Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar:** He was appointed as the President of the quasi-judicial body, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for the tenure of five years.
- **Shaktikanta Das:** His tenure to be the Governor of RBI was increased by another 3 years i.e. till Dec 2024 by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet chaired by PM Modi.

### FIFA FOOTBALL FOR SCHOOL (F4S) PROGRAMME

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**Current Context: The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'FIFA Football for School (F4S) Programme' which is the world's first every program.**

#### KEY FACTS

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- It was launched at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Bhubaneswar.
- The aim of the program is to integrate and unite the football sport with education.
- The fun football sessions for school-going children will be delivered under the program.
- The program will be implemented by the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS).
- It will be run by FIFA as it aims to empower over 700 million children across the world with football sports training.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of FIFA: Zurich, Switzerland
  - Governor of Odisha: Ganeshi Lal

### INDO-PACIFIC REGIONAL DIALOGUE 2021

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**Current Context: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2021, which is an apex international annual conference of the Indian Navy.**

#### DETAILS

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- The dialogue also manifests the Indian Navy's engagement at various strategic-level.
- **The theme of the dialogue was:** 'Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges, and, Way Ahead'.
- The dignitaries discussed protecting the maritime interest of countries and maintaining the maritime system by following the rules as per the UN Convention on the Law of Seas (UNCLOS) 1982.



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- **The panel discussions on 8 sub-themes were held which are:**
  - Evolving Maritime Strategies within the Indo-Pacific: Convergences, Divergences, Expectations, and Apprehensions.
  - Adaptive Strategies to Address the Impact of Climate Change upon Maritime Security.
  - Cooperative Maritime Domain Awareness Strategies.
  - Port-led Regional Maritime Connectivity and Development Strategies.
  - Impact of the Increasing Recourse to Lawfare upon a Rules-based Indo-Pacific Maritime Order.
  - Strategies to Address the Manned-Unmanned Conundrum at Sea.
  - Strategies to Promote Regional Public-Private Maritime Partnerships.
  - Energy-Insecurity and Mitigating Strategies.
- **Static Part:**
  - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh



