

**MONTHLY CURRENT
AFFAIRS
GK DIGEST: OCTOBER
2022**



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RUSSIA ANNEXES PARTS OF UKRAINE

Current Context: In a ceremony, presided over by Russian President Vladimir Putin, four Ukrainian regions were annexed.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The four Ukrainian territories formally annexed by Russia are:
 1. **Donetsk**
 2. **Luhansk**
 3. **Zaporizhzhia**

4. Kherson

- After this annexation, the Russian administration will have partial control over **15%** of the Ukrainian region.
- These regions have a **historic connection** with Russia and many people in **Eastern Ukraine** are of Russian ethnicity and Russian-speaking population.
- A **referendum** was organized in these regions by the Russian government and according to Moscow, the people overwhelmingly **supported the annexation**.
- Vladimir Putin also signed “**accession treaties**” to formalize annexations at a ceremony in **Grand Kremlin Palace** in Moscow.
- The **West (Europe and North America)** called the referendum **rigged and illegal** that was orchestrated by the Russian government.

INDIA-ARMENIA DEFENSE EXPORT DEAL

Current Context: In order to export missiles, rockets, and ammunition, India inked a defense export deal with Armenia.

KEY POINTS

- The overall monetary value of this contract is estimated to be **Rs. 2000 crores**.
- Under the new agreement, military equipment viz. **rockets, missiles, and ammunitions** will be exported by India to Armenia.
- The export order consists of **six** additional first-ever export of **anti-tank rockets, Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launchers, and ammunitions**.
- This deal will help the **Armenian Army**, which is engaged in a prolonged **border conflict (Nagorno-Karabakh Region)** with Azerbaijan.
- The **Pinaka** is a **multi-barrel rocket launcher** that is indigenously developed by the **Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** and is currently used by the **Indian Army**.

5G SERVICES LAUNCH IN INDIA

Current Context: At the 6th Edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2022 organized in New Delhi, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, formally rolled out 5G telephony services in India.

KEY FACTS

- The 5G services will be launched in a **phased manner** across the country.
- In phase I, it will be launched across **13 cities** in India: **Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Gurugram, Bengaluru, Lucknow, and Pune.**
- Major metropolitan cities viz. **New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata** will be the first to receive the 5G telephony services.
- **Reliance Jio** announced to roll out 5G telephony services by **Diwali** this year with an aim to spread the 5G technology across India by **December 2023.**
- The **5th generation telephony services (5G)** is a wireless standard across the world that provides **10 times faster** speed than its predecessor, the 4G network. The 5G network has a **maximum speed of 10 Gbps** and offers an **ultra-low latency** of less than **1 milliseconds.**
- **IMC** is a **networking event** in India's technology sector that is jointly organized by the Government of India's **Telecom Department** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).** The **theme** of IMC 2022 is, "**New digital Universe**".

NEW SPACE INDIA LIMITED AND ONEWEB JOIN HANDS

Current Context: OneWeb entered into a partnership with New Space India Limited (NSIL) regarding the launch of its 36 Gen 1 low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites.

DETAILS

- The **agreement** is regarding the **14th** launch under the **OneWeb Satellite Constellation** program in which multiple Gen 1 low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites will be launched.
- The launch of **36 Gen 1 LEO satellites** will be done through ISRO's **GSLV-Mk III**, which is the heaviest rocket of ISRO.
- The launch of satellites will take place from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)** in **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.**

- **OneWeb** is a communications company that was established in **2012** with its headquarters in **London, UK.** The current CEO of the company is **Neil Masterson.**
- **NSIL** is a government-owned commercial arm of ISRO that was founded in **2019** with its headquarters in **Bengaluru, Karnataka.** The current Chairperson of the company is **Radhakrishnan Durairaj.**

SUPREME COURT VERDICT ON ABORTION

Current Context: In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court of India held that irrespective of women's marital status, they will be entitled to legal and safe abortion until 24 weeks of pregnancy.

ABOUT

- The **Supreme Court of India** held that any distinction between a married and an unmarried woman under abortion law was "**artificial and constitutionally unsustainable**".
- The apex court held that abortion for a **single and unmarried woman** whose pregnancies are between **20 to 24 weeks** cannot be denied.
- This is being hailed as a landmark decision as the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971 did not** allow abortion for **unmarried and single** pregnant women between **20 to 24 weeks** after **consensual sex.**
- The Supreme Court held that since **Rule 3B** deprived unmarried women of the right to access safe and legal abortions after **20 weeks**, therefore, Rule 3B of the MTP Act was **unconstitutional.**
- The court also held that, for a limited purview of abortion, the meaning of **rape** also included **marital rape.**

BAYER CROPSCIENCE JOIN HANDS WITH SFAC

Current Context: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Bayer CropScience Limited and the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) for the formation and promotion of 50 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The MoU was signed to realize the aim of the **Central Sector Scheme (CSS)** launched by the **Agriculture Ministry** for the formation and promotion of **10,000 FPOs**.
- The primary objective of these FPOs will be to assist small farmers in:
 - creation of market linkages**
 - enterprise planning**
 - identification of key enablers**
 - data switch**
- Along with improving **farmers' income**, the FPOs will also build a robust food value chain network to support India's **food security** and **export potential**.
- SFAC** is an Autonomous Society that was **established** under the Societies Registration Act XXI in **1994** and is promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture. The current **Managing Director** of the SFAC is **Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi**.
- Bayer** is a German multinational biotechnology and pharmaceutical company that was established in **1863** with its headquarters in **Leverkusen**, Germany. The current CEO of the company is **Werner Baumann**.

GOI EXTENDS AFSPA IN NAGALAND AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Current Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in select districts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for six months.

KEY POINTS

- The **MHA** in its notification mentioned that under **Section 3** of the **AFSPA 1958**, areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland were declared as "**disturbed areas**" for a period of **six months** with effect from **October 1, 2022**.
- The AFSPA has been extended in **Arunachal Pradesh** in:
 - Tirap, Changlang** and **Longding** districts
 - The areas falling within the jurisdiction of **Namsai** and **Mahadevpur** police stations in the **Namsai** district

- The AFSPA has been extended in **Nagaland** in:
 - Dimapur, Mon, Niuland, Phek, Chumoukedima, Peren, Kiphire, Noklak,** and **Zunheboto** districts
 - Kohima North, Kohima South, Khuzama, Zubza,** and **Kezocha** police stations in **Kohima** District
 - Mokokchung-I, Mangkolemba, Longtho, Longchem, Tuli,** and **Anaki 'C'** police stations in **Mokokchung** District
 - Yanglok** police station in **Longleng** District
 - Bhandari, Ralan, Champang,** and **Sungro** police stations in **Wokha** District.
- AFSPA 1958** is an Act that grants special powers to the **Armed Forces of India** to maintain **public order** in "**disturbed areas**". It is **fully applicable** in the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** and **partially applicable** in the North-Eastern States of **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Assam,** and **Manipur**.

INDIA ABSTAINS FROM UNSC RESOLUTION AGAINST RUSSIA

Current Context: India abstained on a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution, to condemn Russia's "illegal referenda" and to declare its annexation of four Ukrainian territories invalid.

KEY FACTS

- India abstained from voting** after underlining that it was important for the concerned parties to return to the **negotiating table** and that **escalation of tension** was in **no one's interest**.
- The resolution was **tabled** by the **USA** and **Albania** but was **vetoed by Russia** and couldn't be adopted.
- Out of **15-member** UNSC, **10 countries** supported the resolution.
- Along with India, **China, Brazil,** and **Gabon** also abstained from the UNSC Resolution.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, **Ruchira Kamboj**, iterated that India was **disturbed** by the recent developments in **Ukraine** and that **no solution** can be achieved at the cost of **human lives**.

OPTIMUS ROBOT'S PROTOTYPE UNVEILED

Current Context: The CEO of Tesla, Elon Musk, unveiled a model of the humanoid robot, named "Optimus".

ABOUT

- "Optimus" is a prototype of a humanoid robot that uses the same **Artificial Intelligence (AI) software** and **sensors** as the **Autopilot Driving Assistance System (ADAS)** in Tesla vehicles.
- "Optimus" weighs **73 kg** and is equipped with a **2.3 kWh** battery.
- The **top speed** of the humanoid robot will be **8 kmph** which will be slow enough to allow people to run away if the robot malfunctions.
- The **price** of the robot is not yet fixed but **Elon Musk** announced that it will not be more than **USD 20,000** or **Rs. 16 lakh**.
- According to Tesla, currently, the robot will be accessible only in the **United States** and **Canada** but sooner it will be **expanded** to the other parts of the world as well.

INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED LCH INDUCTED

Current Context: The first locally developed multirole Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) was inducted by the Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh, into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The LCH is officially named "**Prachand**", meaning "fierce", and was formally inducted into the **Helicopter Unit 143**– in **Jodhpur Base**, Rajasthan.
- It is **designed** and **developed** by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- It is an indigenously developed **5.5-ton** combat helicopter that is equipped with **night attack capability**, **numerous stealth features**, **landing gear**, and **armored protection**.
- With a **high-altitude** performance capability and a **range of 550 km**, the LCH is capable of conducting **counter-insurgency**

operations and **neutralizing adversaries' air defense**.

- The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CSS)** had earlier approved the procurement of the **15 LCH Limited Series Production (LSP)** costing **Rs. 3,887 crores**.
- Out of 15 LCH LSP, **10** are meant for the **IAF** and **05** are for the **Indian Army**.

PM- YUVA 2.0

Current Context: The Union Ministry of Education launched the second edition of the Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors (YUVA) scheme.

KEY POINTS

- **YUVA 2.0** was launched as part of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** aka **India @75 Project**.
- Under the scheme, a **mentorship program** is provided to young and budding **authors below 30 years** of age.
- The primary objective of this scheme is to promote the **culture of reading and writing** amongst the youth across the country along with the promotion of **Indian culture and heritage**.
- The **theme** of the **YUVA 2.0** is, "**Democracy (institutions, events, people, constitutional value past, present, and future)**".
- The first edition of the **PM- YUVA** was launched in **2021** and the **National Book Trust (NBT)**, under the **Education Ministry** was chosen as the implementing agency of this scheme.
- The **theme** of the first edition of the **PM- YUVA** was, "**Unsung Heroes**", and "**Role of Unknown Places in Freedom Movement**".

PEGATRON START IPHONE MANUFACTURING IN CHENNAI

Current Context: The Taiwanese electronics manufacturing company, Pegatron, became the third Apple supplier to establish a production facility in India.

KEY FACTS

- **Pegatron** is the **third** company to set up the Apple production facility in India (the other two are Taiwanese companies **Foxconn** and **Wistron**).
- **Pegatron's iPhone** manufacturing factory was opened in the **Mahindra World City** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- It is estimated that **Pegatron** will invest around **Rs 1,100 crores** into the facility, which in turn will lead to the creation of **14,000 employments**.
- In order to make **Tamil Nadu** a new electronic hub of India, the Tamil Nadu government is aiming to transform **Hosur, Coimbatore,** and **Sriperumbudur** districts into an electronics manufacturing hub.
- **Pegatron Corporation** is a Taiwan-based electronics manufacturing company that primarily develops communications and consumer electronics. It was established in **2008** with its headquarters in **Taipei,** Taiwan. The current CEO of the company is **Liao Syh-Jang**.

FSI REPORT ON TIGER SAFARI PROJECT

Current Context: The Forest Survey of India (FSI) recently published a report regarding the Tiger Safari Project in Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand.

DETAILS

- The report revealed that **6,093 trees** were illegally cut down in Uttarakhand's Corbett Tiger Reserve for the **Pakhro Tiger Safari Project**.
- The report is disturbing as the **Uttarakhand Forest Department** gave in writing that only **163 trees** needed to be cut to the **Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)**.
- The FSI conducted a survey after a complaint that was filed to the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** regarding the illegal cutting of thousands of trees.
- Apart from the **FSI**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, and the **NTCA** also found **irregularities** in the project's implementation and set up investigating committees to probe these irregularities.

- With the **world's highest tiger density**, the **Corbett National Park** and the Sonanadi together make up the **Corbett Tiger Reserve**. It was established in **1936** as **Hailey National Park** and was later renamed after famous environmentalist, **Jim Corbett**. Corbett National Park was the **first** to come under **Project Tiger**.

SC-ST CONCLAVE IN GUJARAT

Current Context: The MSME Ministry hosted the National SC-ST Hub Conclave in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in order to raise awareness regarding the National SC-ST Hub Scheme.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The event was attended by more than **300 SC-ST business owners** who interacted with various dignitaries.
- The Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME, **Mercy Epao**, gave a talk regarding various initiatives by the Government of India for the upliftment and empowerment of the SC-ST community.
- An interactive session was also organized between the business owners with **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), financing organizations, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), etc.**
- **MP** and the **Chairperson** of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs, **Dr. Kirit Solanki** iterated that more SC-ST business owners in Gujarat take the **National SC-ST Hub (NSSH)** Scheme's benefits.
- **NSSH Scheme** was set up to provide support to **entrepreneurs** belonging to the **Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities**. The scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of MSME** through **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)**.

NMCG APPROVES 14 PROJECTS

Current Context: The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) recently approved 14 projects worth Rs. 1,145 crores.

KEY FACTS

- The approval regarding these **14 projects** was given at the **45th meeting** of the Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of **G Asok Kumar, Director General, and NMCG**.
- The outline of the 14 projects will include steps regarding:
 - curbing industrial pollution**
 - sewerage management**
 - biodiversity conservation**
- Among the projects, **sewerage management** in the five main Ganga basin states of **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Jharkhand** was approved.
- The sewerage management projects in **Uttar Pradesh** include **zero untreated discharge** from three drains **Samne Ghat, Assi, and Nakhha**.
- NMCG** is the implementation arm of the **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)** and was established in **2011** under the **Societies Registration Act 1860**. The current **Director General** of NMCG is **G Asok Kumar**.

UNCTAD'S TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2022

Current Context: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released its, "Trade and Development Report 2022".

KEY POINTS

- According to the UN report, the **world economy** will grow by **2.6%** in **2022** and is expected to further dip in **2023** to **2.2%**.
- The report warned that the **global slowdown** has started to slowly transform itself into a **global economic downturn**.
- The main reason for this downturn has been attributed to:
 - Rapidly increasing interest rates in the advanced economies**
 - Russia-Ukraine War**
- As far as the Indian economy is concerned, the report suggests growth of:
 - 5.7% in 2022**

2. 4.7% in 2023

- UNCTAD** is an intergovernmental organization and is a part of the UN Secretariat. It was established in **1964** with its headquarters in **Geneva, Switzerland**. The current Secretary General of the UNCTAD is **Rebeca Grynspan**.

NIMHANS AND HELPAGE INDIA'S "SARTHAK"

Current Context: In order to ensure the mental well-being of elderly people, NIMHANS and HelpAge India will jointly implement the Sarthak initiative.

ABOUT

- Sarthak** is a community-based initiative that provides training to healthcare workers, nurses, and volunteers on **geriatric mental health**.
- Under this initiative, around **10,000 mental-health workers and volunteers** will be trained to **identify and counter** issues related to mental health, faced by **old age people**.
- Sarthak will provide training on a category basis:
 - Non-Specialist Health Workforce**
 - Informal Caregivers**
 - Institutional Caregivers**
- The **National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS)** is an educational institution that deals with issues related to mental health. It was established in **1974** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- HelpAge India** is an NGO that deals with issues of older people and was established in **1978**. The current **Chairperson** of HelpAge India is **Kiran Karnik**.

JSW CEMENT SECURES LOAN FROM MUFGBANK

Current Context: As its first sustainability-linked loan, JSW Cement Limited raised USD 50 million (Rs. 400 crores) from MUFGBank India Limited.

HIGHLIGHTS

- JSW Cement Ltd.** raised the loan for **capital expenditure** with an increased focus on **sustainability**.

- The loan is the **first transaction** undertaken by **MUFG Bank India Ltd.** out of its new **GIFT City, Gandhinagar**, and Gujarat branch.
- The assistance from the bank will help the cement company to increase its **production capacity to 25 million tons per annum (MTPA)** by **2025**.
- The **Rs. 400 crore** loans will also form a part of the company's **Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG)** objectives.
- **JSW Cement** is one of the leading green cement companies in India which is a part of JSW Group and was established in 2009 with its headquarters in **Mumbai**, Maharashtra. The current MD of the company is **Parth Jindal**.

HDFC LIFE'S INSURE INDIA

Current Context: HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited launched the Insure India campaign.

KEY POINTS

- The primary objective of the **Insure India** campaign is to raise awareness amongst and educate Indians about life insurance.
- The aim of the campaign is to make **long-term security plans** available for common Indians so that it can help them secure their future.
- Various **webinars, chat shows**, etc. will be held as a part of the campaign to engage with customers directly or indirectly.
- These events will focus on increasing the **insurance penetration** in India, which presently stands at **3%**.
- **HDFC Life** is a joint venture between **HDFC** and the global investment company, **Abrdn**, and was established in **2000** with its headquarters in **Mumbai**, Maharashtra. The current MD and CEO of the company are **Vibha Padalkar**.

SBI LAUNCHES "GRAM SEVA PROGRAM"

Current Context: The State Bank of India (SBI) launched the SBI Foundation's Gram Seva Program across six states of the country.

KEY FACTS

- It will be the **fourth phase** of the **SBI Gram Seva Program** under which the bank will adopt **30 remote villages** across India.
- The bank will adopt remote villages across **Aspirational Districts** in **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal**.
- The Gram Seva Program comes under the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** of the SBI and will primarily focus on areas like **healthcare, education, livelihoods, and infrastructure**.
- Till the **3rd phase** of the program, **100 villages** across **16 states** of the country have been adopted with an aim of comprehensive development of the villages in the areas of **rural development, sustainability, environment, healthcare, education, livelihood, skill development, etc.**
- **Phase 4** of the program will add **30** more villages to the list, making it **130**, out of which, **75 villages** will be from **Aspirational Districts**.

RBI LAUNCHES DAKSH

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched a new 'SupTech' initiative DAKSH, which is RBI's Advanced Supervisory Monitoring System.

DETAILS

- **DAKSH** is a web-based end-to-end application through which the RBI will monitor compliance requirements in a more focused manner.
- It was launched with the prime objective of improving the compliance culture even further in **Supervised Entities (SEs)** viz. Banks, NBFCs, etc.
- DAKSH is expected to make the **supervisory processes** more resilient and robust.
- **DAKSH** is one of the many initiatives of the RBI in achieving the adoption of the **latest analytical tools** for implementing more efficient and automated work processes.
- The application will also enable **cyber incident reporting and analysis, seamless communication, inspection planning, execution**, etc., through a platform that enables **anytime-anywhere** secure access.

NPCI & CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN SIGNED MOU

Current Context: NPCI & Central Bank of Oman sign MoU to launch India's Rupaya Debit Card in Oman.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **National Payments Corporation of India** and the **Central Bank of Oman** have inked a significant Memorandum of Understanding to launch the Rupaya debit card in Oman for better financial connectivity.
- Both countries have decided to **expand the Indian digital payment** ecosystem to the Gulf region.
- It will facilitate seamless digital remittances which benefits Indian workers and professionals.
- The **trade between India and Oman** is increasing, totaling around **USD 10 billion** in FY 2021-22.
- According to the recent NPCI data, UPI transactions **increased by over 3% to Rs. 678 crores** in September 2022 from Rs. 657 crores in August 2022.
- Countries that accept UPI and RuPay cards include **Singapore, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Bhutan, Malaysia, and France**.
- **Static Part:** According to the Indian Embassy, about **6,24,000 Indians in Oman**, of which 4,83,901 are workers and professionals.

SRS REPORT 2020 RELEASED

Current Context: Sample registration system-statistical report 2020, the **female IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) in India declined to the same level** as that of males.

KEY POINTS

- According to the report issued by the Ministry of home affairs and the office of registrar general and census commissioner. The infant mortality rate for males and females in India will be equalized in 2020.
- The **infant mortality rate for every 1000 births is 28** for both males and females.
- At the national level, the infant mortality rate was 37 in the year 2015 which dropped to 30 in 2019 and now to 28 in 2020.
- **Madhya Pradesh has the highest** infant mortality rate of **43** while **Kerala has the lowest of 6**.

- The rural infant mortality rate was higher than the urban infant mortality rate in every state of the nation.
- According to the United Nations data for 2020, India is the only country with a nearly equal male and female infant mortality rate among the countries above 20.

SANJEEV KISHORE TAKE OVER AS DIRECTOR GENERAL ORDNANCE

Current Context: Sanjeev Kishore is appointed as the **Director General of Ordnance**.

KEY FACTS

- Sanju Kishore is a 1985 batch officer of the Indian ordnance factory services and is now the director general of the ordnance at the directorate of ordnance services.
- **It falls under the Department of defence production**, Ministry of defence, which will be in effect from 1 October 2022.
- He was also the first chief managing director of armored vehicles Nigam Ltd The directorate of ordnance is located in Kolkata West Bengal.
- Before this, he was the additional director of general ordnance at the directorate of ordnance in Kolkata.
- He served the nation through diverse roles and is awarded Santu Sahaney Memorial Shield and the Ayudh Bhushan award.

S JAISHANKAR TO ADDRESS 77TH UNGA ASSEMBLY

Current Context: S Jaishankar, Indian union minister of the ministry of external affairs led the Indian delegation to the 77th session of the United Nations General assembly.

DETAILS

- The theme of the 77th UNGA was "**A watershed moment: transformative solutions to the interlocking challenges**".
- India's approach to UNGA 77's 5s is— **Samman, Samvaad, Sahyog, Shanti, and Samruddhi**.

- And, the United nation launched its first-ever international finance Facility for education, the national funding of which was \$2 billion.
- **Counterterrorism, women-led development, peacekeeping reforms, multilateralism, climate action**, and COVID-19 vaccines were one of the main focus areas in this year's session.
- Among this, QUAD's first foreign minister's meeting was held in which the countries reaffirmed their partnership in the Indo-Pacific.
- India will be hosting the three foreign ministers meeting in the 2023 and 2024 summits.
- The G4 foreign ministerial meeting was also held.
- Static Part- **General Antonio Guterres is the UN Secretary** and the **President of UNGA 77 is Csaba Korosi**.

IFC LAUNCHES FINANCING FACILITY FOR FOOD CRISIS

Current Context: World Bank's private sector investment Anam, international finance Corp bracket open IFC bracket close, has recently launched a new financing facility.

ABOUT

- IFC has taken this step **to increase the private sector's ability to respond to global food prices**. It also aims to support total food production.
- The core part of this financing will be to augment the trade of food commodities and provide support for efficient food production and inputs to the farmers.
- Its targeted areas are primarily those countries that are undergoing food crises.
- This platform will be in supplement the **World Bank's target of USD 30 Billion in response to the ongoing food crisis**.
- The current food crisis is because of the war in Ukraine and an improper global recovery from the vaccination drive.
- Static part- HQ of IFC is situated in Washington, D.C.

WORLD COTTON DAY IS OBSERVED ON OCTOBER 7

Current Context: United Nations World Cotton Day is observed on **7th October**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 7th October 2022 marks the observance of the **4th World Cotton Day**.
- The theme for this year is, **"Weaving a better future for cotton"**.
- FAO has given the theme for this year.
- It is observed to show the positive impact on cotton and to raise awareness about cotton-related products.
- It was **launched in Geneva** at the World Trade Organisation in 2019.
- It was in collaboration with ITC (International Trade Centre), ICAC (International Cotton Advisory Committee), and UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).
- Static Part- **International Cotton Advisory Committee was established in 1939** and is headquartered in Washington D.C.

U.S.-INDIA STRATEGIC CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

Current Context: India & US has launched a new energy storage task force in order to support clean energy.

KEY FACTS

- It will help India in achieving its **goal of approximately 50 percent** cumulative electric power installed capacity to be **from any non-fossil fuel-based resource** by the year 2030.
- It will also help in augmenting the bond in the India-US partnership in the energy sector.
- It was launched in the Ministerial meeting of the U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP).
- This meeting was organized between the US Energy Secretary and Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas **Hardeep Singh Puri**.
- Both countries have collaborated for research and development under the same under US-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy-Research (PACE-R).
- Static Part- US and India are the second and third largest energy consumers.

RAILWAYS ADOPT A NEW APPROACH FOR GREEN ENVIRONMENT

Current Context: In the plan to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030, Indian Railways has adopted an integrated approach to a Green environment.

KEY POINTS

- The government of India has set a **target of 33%** emissions intensity reduction as part of its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**.
- One of the most important strategies is to increase the share of Indian Railways in freight movement from 35% to 45% by 2020.
- Railways are setting up **Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC)** throughout the country. The first phase of it will be to reduce emissions by **457 million tons of CO2 over a 30-year period**.
- The railways will increase the share of renewable energy in its energy mix.
- One of the means will be to improve water use efficiency by 20% upto 2030 PAT Scheme will be implemented in the railway sector.
- Static part- Indian Railways has taken up some steps to reduce emissions since 2014 like- the issuance of a water policy in 2017 for effective management, and the creation of an additional carbon sink by afforestation.

ICICI LAUNCHES 'SMART WIRE' FACILITY

Current Context: ICICI Bank Limited launched a 'smart wire' facility for Inward Remittances.

ABOUT

- This scheme is an online solution to allow NRI and resident customers to make **SWIFT-based remittances**.
- **ICICI Bank is the first to introduce** a quick and easy solution to receive such remittances.
- Accurate information is prepared in advance related to the beneficiary and shared instantly.
- This scheme enables users to initiate a request and submit online documents in advance and track the status.

- This facility is made to be used for various purposes like **savings, personal gifts, financial support, and family maintenance**.
- Static part- the blocking of exchange rates is available for different currencies such as the Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, Euro, British Pound Sterling, etc.

MD & CEO BIRLA BALASUBRAMANIAN RE-ELECTED AMFI CHAIRMAN

Current Context: MD & CEO of Birla Balasubramanian re-elected as the chairman of AMFI.

DETAILS

- **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)** re-elects **A. Balasubramanian** as its chairman.
- AMFI is the body of the **mutual fund industry**.
- AMFI has **43 Asset Management Companies** that are registered with SEBI.
- Nilesh Shah was re-elected as the chairman of the AMFI Valuation Committee.
- Sundeeep Sikka has been elected as chairman of the Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) committee.
- Static part- AMFI is a non-profit organisation that is an association of all AMCs of SEBI.

INDIAN AIR FORCE DAY CELEBRATED ON 8TH OCTOBER

Current Context: Indian Air Force is annually observed on the **8th of October** every year to pay respect to the brave Indian Air Force.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The theme of this year is **IAF: Transforming the future**
- A ceremonial parade is held at the **Chandigarh Air Force** station to mark the anniversary.
- The establishment of the Indian Air Force was marked on the **8th of October, 1932**.
- On this day, Central Government approved the **creation of a weapon system** for the officers which will **save around Rs. 3,400 crores**.
- Nearly 80 aircraft and helicopters participated in the Air Force Day fly-past at Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh.

- Static Part: Indian Air Force was created in support of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom. **IAF is the fourth largest Air Force** in the world.

UNION MINISTER OF DONER, TOURISM & CULTURE ADDRESSES 70TH NEC PLENARY

Current Context: Union Minister of DoNER, Tourism & Culture, **G. Kishan Reddy** addresses North Eastern Council's 70th Plenary Meeting in Guwahati.

KEY POINTS

- He addresses officials from **eight northeastern states** and officials of central ministers about the important issues which are imperative to the growth of the region.
- Emphasis was put on the **Agri Task Force** which will be constituted soon.
- It was stated that **10% GBS for the NER states** is the key to prosperity in the recent future.
- Another task force for the upliftment of the tourism sector will be constituted as said by the union minister.
- The meeting highlighted points such as selecting **project factors, district-wise-SDG index, and connectivity to rural habitations** that should also be taken into consideration.

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY OBSERVED ON 8TH OCTOBER

Current Context: The effects of light pollution and its impact on migratory birds are highlighted on **World Migratory Bird Day** i.e., 08 October.

KEY FACTS

- Here, light pollution is referred to as 'excessive, misdirected or obtrusive artificial light'.
- The theme of this year is "**Light Pollution**".
- It is a serious **threat to nocturnal wildlife**, among them, especially birds.
- The impact which light pollution has is regarding washing out starlight in the night sky. It directly or indirectly becomes an encumbrance in astronomical

research and it also has adverse health effects and wastes energy.

- This kind of pollution also leads to disorientation among animals like **Olive Ridley Sea Turtles**.
- Different components of light pollution are observed such as **Glare, Clutter, sky glow, and Light trespass**.
- Static part- More than 80% of the world's population lives under lit light, it can cause harm to human health and may lead to sleep disorders.

GOVERNMENT PUSHES IDBI BANK DISINVESTMENT PROCESS

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India plans to **privatize IDBI Bank and disinvest** in it.

DETAILS

- Reserve Bank of India is considering tweaking the promoter criteria which will bring a **wider pool of bidders for public sector banks**.
- The budget for 2021-22 proposed to privatize two public sector banks along with a general insurance company.
- **A new strategic disinvestment policy** has categorized banking as a strategic sector where the government is aiming to maintain a bare minimum presence.
- Current bank privatization has faced some encumbrances as the norms of RBI are cogent that any existing bank cannot promote a new bank.
- **The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021** is yet to be introduced in the house.
- One of the considerations is to allow the existing private banks to take a larger share in the public sector banks earmarked for privatization.

UN PEACEKEEPING CHIEF ASKED FOR REFORMS

Current Context: UN Peacekeeping Chief States that **UN Peacekeepers need robust mandates**.

ABOUT

- Recent fatalities among United Nations Peacekeeping Forces (UNPKF), happened due to some malicious incidents.

- According to the reports, **India has lost 179 soldiers in the last 60 years.**
- India has also proposed a 10-point formula to address the challenges faced by this mission
- One of the missions includes, “**clear and realistic mandates**” and “**deployed prudently with full recognition**”
- Reasons which are identified for the fatalities include a **lack of human and financial resources for peace-building.**
- Static part- First UN Peacekeeping mission was established in 1948 in West Asia to observe the Armistice agreement.

PM DECLARES MODHERA AS FIRST 24*7 SOLAR POWERED VILLAGE

Current Context: PM Modi declares Modhera village as well as the **Sun Temple of Modhera** as the first village and heritage site in India.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the 3D projection mapping of the sun temple.
- Both the village and the temple are solely powered by solar energy.
- It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in the year 2014.**
- It is **one of the four main sun temples** of the nation.
- The prime minister also stated that instead of purchasing electricity, villagers can now sell the electricity produced.
- Static part- The temple was made in the year **1026 AD** by Chalukya King Bhimdev.

UNIFORM SAFETY STANDARDS FOR EVS

Current Context: The government is to set **uniform safety standards and testing of electric vehicles** from April 1.

KEY POINTS

- Amid concerns over fire incidents in electric vehicles, the government is looking forward to implementing a new set of guidelines for testing electric vehicles.

- The Automotive Research Association of India will set up the required infrastructure for the process of testing, certification, and the **development of electric as well as hybrid vehicles.**
- There is no single standard for electric vehicles but the ministry has proposed to put it forward.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has also released additional safety guidelines** in this regard.
- **Bureau of Indian Standards** has earlier issued performance norms for **lithium-ion battery packs** and traction systems.
- Updated guidelines will be in consonance with **International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).**
- Static part- Electric vehicles usually use lithium-ion batteries, other main types of batteries include nickel-metal hydride and solid state.

MAX VERSTAPPEN BECOMES 2022 F1 WORLD CHAMPION

Current Context: Max Verstappen won the Japanese GP and became the 2022 Formula 1 World Champion.

KEY FACTS

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the **Formula 1 Honda Japanese Grand Prix in 2022.**
- It is his **second** Formula 1 World Championship 2022.
- A total of 28 laps were covered out of the full race distance of 53 laps as it was shortened.
- It was organized by **Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).**
- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc came second.
- Static part- He is a Belgian-Dutch Motorsports Racing Driver and has achieved 32 victories and 18 pole positions.

AMUL TO MERGE WITH FIVE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Current Context: Home Minister Amit Shah announces the merger of Amul with five other cooperative societies.

DETAILS

- Amul will be merged to form a multi-state cooperative society (MSCS).
- It was announced in the 70th Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council.
- It will improve in catering to the rising demand for milk and its products.
- It will result in an increased income for the farmers.
- The MCSC will work for the certification of natural products so that the profit will directly go to the farmers.
- The government has kept a target to double the milk production in the country in the next five years.
- Static part- Cooperative Societies are a state subject but the MCSC is regulated by the center under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, of 2002.

NMCG ORGANISES WEBINAR SERIES ON WETLAND CONSERVATION

Current Context: National Mission for Clean Ganga organized the 11th edition of the monthly webinar series.

ABOUT

- The theme of the series was, '**Wetland Conservation**'.
- The title of the webinar series is, "**Igniting Young Minds, Rejuvenating Rivers**".
- It was held in collaboration with APAC News and was headed by **NMCG Director General Shri G. Ashok Kumar**.
- The point that **23 of the 75 Ramsar sites** in India are located on the Ganga was emphasized.
- Wetlands were stated to be one of the most important pillars of the Namami Ganga Mission.

OECD RELEASED CARF

Current Context: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development released **Crypto Asset Reporting Framework**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It provides for **reporting tax information** on transactions in Crypto-Assets in a standardized manner.

- CARF intends to combat international tax evasion using digital assets like Cryptocurrency.
- Last year, the crypto industry went from \$715 billion to almost \$ 3trillion in market capitalization.
- Under CARF, due diligence procedures are followed for the identification of both individual and entity customers.
- CARF is in line with the **common reporting standards** of the OECD.
- Static part- CRS was published by OECD in 2014 and it is made to ensure transparency on cross-border financial investments and to deal with offshore tax evasion.

FORMER UP CM PASSED AWAY AT 82

Current Context: Former UP CM and Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav died.

KEY POINTS

- He served as the CM of UP for three non-consecutive terms.
- He was referred to as "**Netaji**" by his party workers and leaders.
- He also served as the Union Minister of Defence from 1996 to 1998.
- He was MP from his constituency seven times.
- He was born in 1939 and passed away at the age of 82 years.

TELE-MANAS INITIATIVE LAUNCHED ON WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Current Context: T.C. Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka has virtually launched the Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking across States (**Tele-MANAS**).

KEY FACTS

- It intends to offer **24/7 tele-mental health services** throughout India free of cost.
- It focuses on individuals living in remote or underserved areas.
- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&W)**.

- It will be divided into two tiers. The First will consist of cells including trained counselors and mental health specialists.
- The **National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)** will serve as its nodal organization.
- It has been launched in over **16 states** of the country.
- Static part: In the union budget of 2022-23, the government of India announced the National elemental health program addressing the health crisis. These steps are taken under the same initiative.

NPCI LAUNCHES PROGRAMME TO COLLABORATE WITH PARTNERS

Current Context: National Payments Corporations of India (NPCI) and NPCI Partner Program (NPP) will collaborate with technological service providers and other entities.

DETAILS

- It will connect with innovative and **other payment-oriented service providers**.
- It is a one-of-a-kind initiative and will build a new offering for alignment in fintech markets with accessibility.
- It is a knowledge-based platform with various workshops on products of NPCI.
- The service providers will get **an opportunity to apply for per-certification of their tech stack on the NPCI platform after the evaluation**.
- Some of them will also get early access to the ready-to-test application program interface.

RBI CANCELS LICENSE OF CO-OPERATIVE BANK OF PUNE

Current Context: RBI has canceled the license for **Seva Vikas co-operative bank of Pune**.

ABOUT

- The license of Pune-based Seva Vikas Co-operative bank has been revoked due to its insufficient capital.
- The bank is restricted from banking under section 5 (b) Banking Regulation Act, of 1949.

- The bank ceased as it ceased to comply with the provisions **under sections 11(1) and section 22(3) read with section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- According to the data, around 99 percent of the depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC.
- When liquidation happens, depositors will have to pay Rs. 5 lakh from DICGC under DICGC Act, 1961.

RBI REGULATES USE OF CREDIT RATINGS

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India provides new **guidelines** for existing credit ratings.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The new credit ratings are assigned to loans **where the name of the lending institution is not disclosed**.
- When this information is not provided, it leads to banks applying derived risk weights for unrated exposures.
- The regulation of RBI refers to the **External Credit Assessment Institutions** which provide ratings to debt.
- Primarily, banks use the ratings assigned to debt in order to calculate risk weightage on unrate loans that are provided to the companies.
- These ratings are then used to determine the extent of capital set aside.
- When any violation is committed, the lending situation will need to set aside more capital as RBI has prescribed a comparatively higher risk weightage for credit ratings.

NITIN GADKARI LAUNCHES TOYOTA'S PILOT PROJECT

Current Context: Union Minister of Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari has launched Toyota's first-of-its-kind pilot project on **Flex Fuel-Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicle (FFV-SHEV)**.

KEY POINTS

- It can run on 100% ethanol.

- In this launch, the **Toyota Corolla Altis FFV-SHEV** was imported from Toyota Brazil for a pilot project which was unveiled.
- It will be able to run on fuel that has an ethanol composition of 20 to 100 percent.
- FFV-SHEV has a flex-fuel engine along with an electric powertrain, which provides the double benefit of higher ethanol.
- These kinds of cars will be able to run on **fuels of different compositions** also.
- Currently, these kinds of vehicles are available in Brazil, the USA, and Canada.
- Static part- In March this year, India's first green hydrogen-based advanced fuel cell electric vehicle, Toyota Mirai was launched.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT RECOGNIZES INDEPENDENCE FOR UKRAINIAN REGIONS

Current Context: Russian President Vladimir Putin recognizes **independence for 2 more Ukrainian Regions**.

KEY FACTS

- Ukrainian regions of **Kherson and Zaporizhzhia** are recognized as independent by an order from Vladimir Putin.
- These regions are located in the **southern part of Ukraine**.
- This is seen as a way for Russia to annex them.
- Similar actions were taken by Russia for **Crimea and for Luhansk and Donetsk in Ukraine in February this year**.
- According to the preparations, the pre-occupied two regions will be merged along with the Russian territory.

RBI TO RAISE MINIMUM CAPITAL REQUIREMENT TO SET UP ARCS

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India has raised the minimum capital requirement for setting up an **Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)** to Rs. 300 cr.

DETAILS

- The existing ARCs will be required to meet the minimum net owned fund requirement of **Rs. 200 crores**.
- This is needed to be done **by March 31, 2024**, and to an amount of Rs. 300 crores by March 31, 2026.
- The decision is aimed at improving the securitization of the sector.
- It will also play an important role in the **management of distressed financial assets**.
- Under **section 10 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002** RBI has also been permitted to undertake those activities as a resolution applicant under IBC, 2016.

NIPL COLLABORATES WITH WORLDLINE TO FACILITATE UPI PAYMENTS

Current Context: NPCI International Payments Ltd.

(NIPL) has collaborated with Worldline to facilitate UPI payments across Europe.

ABOUT

- Under this partnership, worldline will be the first **European Union acquirer** to provide European merchants with UPI and RuPay.
- **UPI and RuPay are both offered by NPCI**.
- The first target markets under this collaboration will be Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg.
- The NIPL market will gradually grow in the upcoming future as Worldline QR will be adopted in more European Countries.
- Worldline is a leader in global payments services in Europe.
- Static part- India is one of Europe's most tourist markets, an estimated 10 million Indians used to visit the region prior to the pandemic.

DVARA E-DAIRY PARTNERS WITH JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

Current Context: Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Private Limited in partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank has launched the 'Dvara Surabhi Loan'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is a **cattle loan** that is offered digitally.
- It is given in order to provide comprehensive carole management **cattle solutions to small and medium farmers.**
- It is given to **purchase and maintain cattle** which helps in decreasing the risk and identifying the right borrower.
- The lawn amount ranges from **Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 1.5 lakh.**
- It is provided with a combination of **'Surabhi Score'**.

TAMIL NADU NOTIFIES THE FIRST SANCTUARY FOR ENDANGERED SLENDER LORISES

Current Context: Tamil Nadu government notified the **Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary**, it is the first of its kind in the nation.

KEY POINTS

- It is made with a financial outlay of **Rs. 26 crores.**
- It is made in the **Karur and Dindigul districts of Tamil Nadu.**
- This sanctuary will be spread across a total of **11,806 hectares.**
- It was merged with forest areas of 5,700 hectares in Karur and 6,106 hectares in the Dindigul districts.
- This sanctuary includes 4 reserve forests in Dindigul.
- **Static Part-** In April this year, an announcement was made to establish India's first wildlife sanctuary for slender loris under **section 26(A)(1)(b) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**

WORLD ARTHRITIS DAY IS TO BE OBSERVED ON THE 12TH OF OCTOBER

Current Context: World Arthritis Day is observed across the globe on the 12th of October every year.

KEY FACTS

- This day is celebrated to **raise awareness about the impact and existence of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.**
- These kinds of diseases are also known as **Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (RMD).**

- The theme of world arthritis day this year is, **"It's in your hands, Take Action"**.
- The first ever world arthritis day was observed on the 12th of October 1996.
- It was established by **Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) in 1996.**
- **Static part- European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology** is the umbrella organization of scientific societies and health professional associations.

LAVER CUP 2022: TEAM WORLD WON

Current Context: Team World won its first Laver Cup Title in its fifth edition.

DETAILS

- **Team World was captained by John McEnroe**, an American Tennis Player. **Team Europe was captained by Bjorn Borg**, the Swedish tennis player.
- This event was held at the **Indoor hard court at the O2 arena in London.**
- This tournament was played between teams from the European continent and the other team from the rest of the world.
- In this tournament, **Roger Federer played the Final Match of his career at the Laver Cup 2022.**
- The decisive match of Frances Tiafoe of Team World saved 4 match points which played a major role.
- **Static part-** Roger Federer is a 20-time Grand Slam winner.

COAL INDIA SIGNS MOU WITH BHEL, IOCL, AND GAIL

Current Context: Coal India Limited signs a Memorandum of Understanding with **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), and GAIL (India) Ltd** for setting up coal gasification projects.

ABOUT

- **Union Minister of Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Prahlad Joshi** stated that the country is likely to become Aatmanirbhar in Thermal Coal Production in the near future.

- The Coal Ministry has aimed to achieve **100 million tons of coal gasification by 2030**.
- An estimated cost of **Rs. 35,000 crores is proposed for surface coal gasification**.
- This is planned to be set up in West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.
- According to the reports, **24 million tons of coal by March of next year**.

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2022 RELEASED

Current Context: India slips six places in the Global Hunger, Index to **107 out of 121 countries**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In the **15th Global Hunger, Index India scores 29.1**.
- Last year, India ranked 101 out of 116 countries.
- In Asia, Afghanistan is the only country below India at a rank of 109.
- It is jointly published by **European NGOs Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe**.
- South Asia is the region with the world's highest hunger level.
- Static part- India's initiative to eradicate hunger includes PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Eat right India Movement, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

MOCI MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL RELEASES THE 4TH LEADS SURVEY REPORT

Current Context: Ministry of Commerce and Industry released the 4th Logistics Ease across Different States (**LEADS**) report.

KEY POINTS

- This report has been prepared by the Logistics Division of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- It was released during the **national workshop on PM Gatishkati**.
- **15 states are categorized as achievers** and 6 as first movers.

- This report will assist in. Implementation of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) and **National Logistics Policy (NLP)**.
- This is focused on identifying gaps in the existing service of logistics.

SUPERCOMPUTER FACILITY INAUGURATED AT IIT

Current Context: President Draupadi Murmu inaugurates the supercomputer **facility at IIT Guwahati**.

KEY FACTS

- This supercomputer is named **'Param-Kamrupa'**.
- It is a state-of-art setup under the **National Supercomputing Mission**.
- **SAMEER** (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research) laborator at IIT Guwahati.
- It will be used for the design and **development of high-power microwave passive and active components**.
- It is the first visit of the President to Assam since assuming office.

RBI CANCELS THE REGISTRATION OF 8 NBFCs

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India **canceled the Certificates of Registration (CoR)** of eight Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC).

ABOUT

- Four NBFCs have **surrendered** their certificates of registration.
- These include **Ashwini Investment Private Ltd, RM Securities Pvt Ltd, Amity Finance Private Ltd, and Matrix Merchandise Ltd**.
- Clause (a) of section 45-I of the Reserve Bank of India states that now these companies shall not transact the business of a non-banking financial institution.
- RBI has **suo-moto canceled certificates of four NBFCs**.
- These include SRM Properties and Finance Company Pvt Ltd, North East Region Finservices Ltd, Sowjenvée Finance Ltd, and Opel Finance Ltd.

ADANI GROUP RECEIVES LICENCE FROM DOT TO PROVIDE TELECOM SERVICES

Current Context: In 6 circles, **Adani Group** has received a unified licence from the **Department of Telecommunication** for access service.

DETAILS

- This licence is given to Adani Data Networks, a subsidiary of the Adani Group.
- The 6 circles include **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Mumbai.**
- The expenditure on this project has been around **Rs. 200 crores.**
- Spectrums of 400 MHz in the 26 GHz band are chosen.
- The government has earned Rs. 1.5 lakh crore from the first 5G spectrum auction. 71% of the spectrum was sold.
- The highest bid was made by **Reliance Jio.**

INS ARIHANT SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES BALLISTIC MISSILES

Current Context: Indian Naval Ship Arihant, India's **first indigenous nuclear Ballistic** Missile Submarine.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It has been launched by Submersible Ship Ballistic Missile Nuclear (**SSBN**).
- It has launched a nuclear-capable Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (**SLBM**).
- It has affirmed India's **second-strike capability.**
- The missile was tested to a pre-determined range and hit the target in the Bay of Bengal.
- The missile had very **high accuracy and also validated various technical** aspects of the weapon system.
- Static part- India formally declared its "**survivable nuclear triad**", which is the capability of launching nuclear strikes from land, air, and sea.

NAGALAND CM LAUNCHES UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

Current Context: Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio launches Universal Health Insurance Scheme 'CMHIS.'

KEY POINTS

- Under this scheme, the state government will spend around **Rs. 69 crores** as the premium for the first year.
- **Oriental Insurance Company** has signed an agreement for being the insurance partner.
- The main aim of the scheme is to **support the health expenses** which are faced by people.
- Dr. R.S. Sharma who is the CEO of the National Health Authority was the guest of honour.
- It is a state-specific welfare scheme that is categorized into two parts- CMHIS Employees and Pensioners (**EP**) and **CMHIS** (General).

UNION MINISTER OF POWER AND NRE INAUGURATES CONFERENCE OF POWER AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Current Context: **RK Singh** Union Minister of Power and NRE inaugurated a conference of power and energy ministers.

KEY FACTS

- The Union Minister highlighted the achievements made in recent years in the power sector.
- Even though the demand for electricity has increased by about 11% in the last 5 years, the government has been able to meet it.
- It was also emphasized that the requirement will **also get increased by 2030.**
- To adapt to these changes, it is important that **DISCOMS** should follow prudent and sustainable financial practices to ensure their viability.
- It was also highlighted that India's per capita emissions **are only 1/3rd of the world's average.**

PRIME MINISTER TO DEDICATE 75 DBU TO 75 DISTRICTS

Current Context: Prime Minister will dedicate 75 Digital Banking Units across 75 Districts to the nation.

DETAILS

- It was announced in the budget speech of 2022-23 by the finance minister.
- It will enable customers to have cost-effective, convenient access and enhanced digital experience of banking products.
- It will increase digital financial literacy.
- 11 Public Sector Banks, 12 Private Sector Banks, and one Small Finance Bank are participants in this endeavor.
- They will be set up across the nation.

PUNJAB AND HARYANA CM DISCUSSES SYL ISSUE

Current Context: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar discuss the **Sutlej Yamuna Link** canal issue.

ABOUT

- The stand of Punjab is that the water will remain with them and not allow any water to flow to Haryana.
- The **issue is pertaining to the construction of the canal.**
- It was discussed that if the center forces to construct of the canal then it can be an invitation to the earlier days of terrorism to the state.
- The issue of SYL dates back to 1966.
- In 1982, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi launched the construction of the **Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal with a ceremony in Kapoori village.**
- Static part- When Haryana was formed, a need arose to share the river waters and Punjab was opposing the same.

FSSAI, MYOS AND NFSU SIGN MOU

Current Context: Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up a **testing facility for dietary supplements.**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It is one of the steps towards the goal of **'Atmanirbhar Bharat'**.

- The facility will be set up in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat.
- The MoU was signed by the director of the department of sports, Vimal Anand, MYAS; **Sweetie Behra**, Director of FSSAI; and C.D. Jadeja, the executive registration of NFSU.
- This MoU will benefit the athletes and will educate them by spreading awareness about inadvertent doping due to prohibited substances.
- It is an important step toward the implementation of the **National Anti-Doping Act, of 2022.**
- Static- **Nutritional substances** which are consumed by athletes can contain unlabelled substances that are on the list of prohibited substances of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

HYDERABAD HONOURED AS WINNER OF AIPH

Current Context: Hyderabad has been honoured as the Grand Winner of the **International Association of Horticulture Producers (AIPH)** World Green City Awards 2022.

KEY POINTS

- The city has been awarded for its initiative titled, **"Green Garland to the State of Telangana"**.
- It is one of the most prestigious awards in its genre.
- The association announced **6 category awards and the Grand Winner** during the ceremony.
- The award ceremony was conducted during the gala dinner at the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) leader's forum in South Korea.**
- Hyderabad has been awarded for its initiatives relying on greater use of plants.
- Static part- International Association of Horticulture Producers is headquartered in Oxfordshire, United Kingdom.

INDIA WINS WOMEN'S ASIA CUP 2022

Current Context: Indian Women's team won Asia Cup 2022 defeating Sri Lanka.

KEY FACTS

- It is India's **7th Asia Cup.**
- It was organized by **Asian Cricket Council (ACC).**
- The format of the tournament was Twenty20 (T20).

- India has won 7 out of 8 Asia Cups so far.
- **Deepti Sharma won "Player of the tournament"**.
- Static part- Bangladesh hosted the 8th edition of the Women's Asia Cup tournament. Initially, this tournament was of 50 over format, from the year 2012, the format changed to T20.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN IS CELEBRATED ACROSS THE GLOBE ON THIS DAY

Current Context: International Day of Rural Women is observed every year on the **15th of October**.

ABOUT

- It is dedicated to the **millions of women who live in rural and remote areas**.
- It celebrates and highlights the **achievement and contribution of women towards rural development**.
- The theme of this year- is '**Rural Women Confront the Global Cost-of-Living-Crisis**'.
- The theme besets the work of rural women.
- According to the UN Reports, substantial production of the agricultural labour force, informal work, unpaid care, and domestic work is contributed by women.

INDIAN ARMY SIGNS MOU FOR SALARY OF AGNIVEERS

Current Context: Indian Army has signed MoU with 11 banks for providing salaries to Agniveers.

DETAILS

- These banks include the **State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, etc.**
- The features and benefits offered are similar to those of defence salary package.
- The MoUs are signed by **DG, Lieutenant General V Sreehari, and senior officials of the respective banks**.
- Besides banking facilities, soft loans will also be able to the existing Agniveers.
- These loans will help in augmenting their entrepreneurial skills.

- Static part- Agniveers scheme was launched in **June 2022** and its first batch will be joining armed forces centers by **January 2023**.

RAILWAY MINISTER INAUGURATES INDIA'S FIRST ALUMINIUM FREIGHT RAKE

Current Context: Union Minister for Railways **Ashwini Vaishnaw** flagged off 61-wagon aluminum rakes at Bhubaneswar railway station.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It will carry coal for Hindalco's Aditya smelter in Odisha with **Chhattisgarh** as its destination.
- It has also been developed with the aim to **modernise freight transportation**.
- It will also help in reducing the carbon footprint of the railways.
- It is fully designed and developed in collaboration with research design and standards Organisation bracket (**RDSO**), Hindalco, and Besco vegan.
- It is hundred percent recyclable.
- It was built at Hindalco's state of art rolling facility.
- These rakes are **3.25 tonnes lighter than normal steel rakes**.
- **It has an extra capacity of 180 tonnes** for carrying a payload in comparison to normal steel rakes.
- **Static Part-** The freight sector in India is expected to grow at a CAGR to 15 billion tonnes by 2015. It is preferred for Metro trains worldwide for its durability and safety.

GARUDA AEROSPACE AND LOCKHEED MARTIN SIGNS MOU

Current Context: Garuda Aerospace Private Limited and Lockheed Martin Canada Cydia systems have signed a memorandum of understanding to integrate both software solutions in **advanced uncrewed aerial systems**.

KEY POINTS

- The integration is done for commercial purposes.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also launched hundred **Garuda drones** in hundred locations.

- Mahendra Singh Dhoni became its brand ambassador.
- Under this partnership, both companies will work for building strong data processing capabilities for **drone-based applications** in sectors such as defence, agriculture, mining, and industrial inspection.
- The uncrewed systems include aerial, terrestrial, and marine vehicles along with their related parts.
- It is similar to the **sciences and communication software program** that executes data collection missions without human presence.
- Static Part: Drones fall under the aerial class of uncrewed systems and so UAS Software program options are required for its functions.

AMIT SHAH LAUNCHES MBBS COURSE IN HINDI

Current Context: Union Home and Cooperation Minister launches **MBBS course for the first time in the country, in Bhopal.**

KEY FACTS

- It is considered as a historic step in the **new education policy of the nation.**
- A call by the PM to provide **technical and medical education in regional languages** is taken as an imperative step toward reforming the education system of the nation.
- Further, students will be allowed to **conduct research in their own language.**
- Different languages are used in national-level examinations to expand the boundaries of higher-level education.
- It is done keeping in mind that there is no relation between language and the intellectual ability of an individual.

NATIONAL SC-ST CONCLAVE

Current Context: National **SC-ST mega conclave** for the creation of awareness among SC-ST entrepreneurs.

DETAILS

- MSME has organized National SC-ST Hub (NSSB) conclave at **Aizawl.**
- It will **promote entrepreneurship and spread awareness** of different schemes.
- The program was to provide a **platform for interaction** with different industry leaders.
- Nurturing the MSME sector is important according to economists.
- These kinds of conclaves expand the horizon of incorporating new ideas.

PM TO START PMJAY MA YOJANA AYUSHMANN CARDS

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will kickstart **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-Mukhyamantri Amrutam cards in Gujarat.**

ABOUT

- He started this scheme when he was the chief minister of **Gujarat.**
- It was started in the year **2012.**
- It was started to protect the citizens from the huge costs of treatment.
- During this program, PM will distribute 50 lakh cards.
- This scheme is **extended to cover all families whose income exceeds 4 lakh.**
- This program will take place through video conferencing.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE GRADUATION OF POLITY IS OBSERVED ON OCTOBER 17

Current Context: The **United Nations International Day for the eradication of poverty** is annually observed across the globe on October 17.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It highlights the issue of poverty, hunger, and violence.
- This day is to raise awareness about the global issue of poverty and how it is a violation of human rights and dignity.
- This year marks the **35th anniversary of the World Day to overcome extreme poverty** and the 30th

anniversary of the International Day for the eradication of poverty.

- The theme for this year is “**dignity for all in practice**”.
- This day was celebrated in Paris where the universal declaration of human rights was signed in 1948.

NATO BEGINS NUCLEAR EXERCISE

Current Context: Amid Russian war tensions, the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** began its annual nuclear exercise.

KEY FACTS

- It was a long-planned **annual exercise of NATO**.
- It is conducted in **northwestern Europe** as tensions simmer over military actions in Ukraine.
- 14 of the 30 member countries of this organization are participating in this exercise.
- Almost 60 aircraft including different fighter jets and surveillance planes will take part in this event.
- Most of the work game activities will be held at least 1000 km from the borders of Russia.
- **B-52 long-range bombers of the United States** will also take part in this maneuver.
- Static part- NATO was founded in 1949.

KBL LAUNCHES NEW DEPOSITORY SCHEME

Current Context: Karnataka Bank Scheme has launched the ‘KBL Centenary Deposit Scheme’.

KEY POINTS

- The scheme will be effective from 17th October.
- The deposit scheme is launched as part of the **centenary year** of the Karnataka bank.
- With this launch, Karnataka Bank is now one of the banks offering higher rates of interest for term deposits.
- This scheme will be offered for a period of **555 days**.
- It will work on an interest rate of 7.20% for general customers and 7.60% for senior citizens and domestic or NRE deposits.

LIC LAUNCHES DHAN VARSHA PLAN

Current Context: Life Insurance Corporation of India launched the ‘Dhan Varsha’ Insurance Plan.

DETAILS

- It is a **non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, single-premium life insurance plan**.
- It is a closed-ended plan.
- It provides financial assistance to the family in the event of an untimely death of the life assured in a policy term.
- It offers both **medical and non-medical schemes**.
- In the case of the life assured surviving the designated date of maturity, both the “Basic Sum Assured” and accrued Guaranteed Additions will be paid.

SRI LANKAN WRITER WON BOOKER PRIZE

Current Context: Sri Lankan author **Shehan Karunatilaka** has been honored with Booker Prize 2022.

ABOUT

- He was honored for his book “**The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida**”.
- It was his second novel.
- The book is about the murder of a war photographer during the civil war in Sri Lanka.
- He is the **second Sri Lankan** to win the Booker Prize after Micheal Ondaatje.
- He has also won the Commonwealth Book Prize 2012.
- Static Part- the Booker prize was founded in 1969 and the winner receives 50,000 pounds.

BALLON D’OR ANNOUNCED

Current Context: Real Madrid’s Karim Benzema, a French footballer won the Ballon d’Or 2022.

FEATURES

- Alexia Putellas, a Spanish professional footballer has won the Women’s Ballon d’Or award for the second time.

- Benzema is the fifth French footballer to win this prize.
- The award ceremony took place at the theatre du Chatelet in Paris, France.
- Karim Benzema became the second player besides Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to win the award since 2008.
- It is also known as the Golden Ball Award.
- Static Part- the Ballon d'Or is presented every year by the French magazine 'France Football' since 1956.

MMSFL PARTNERS WITH IPPB

Current Context: Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited announced a strategic partnership with India Post Payments Bank Limited.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is done to enhance **its credit access** to a larger customer base.
- Under this, **IPPB will provide referral services** to MMFSL.
- It will be provided for three-wheeler, tractor, and commercial vehicle loan categories.
- This is a pilot scheme.
- It will be initially launched in IPPB branches of **Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh**.

INDIA HOSTS GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTERPOL

Current Context: The 90th Interpol General Assembly was held in **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**.

KEY FACTS

- The Prime Minister addressed the **meeting and focused on imperative issues**.
- The agenda of the meeting was to include presentations, workshops, and discussions on selected subjects.
- Subjects include **'The future of policing', 'Pricing today's crimes', 'INTERPOL's Global Crime Trends Report', and 'Executive Committee Elections'**.
- The Prime Minister emphasized on the connection between Indian culture and the motto of INTERPOL.

- The meeting emphasized on the **importance of police forces not only protecting people but also serving democracy**.
- Static Part: INTERPOL will complete its 100 years in 2023.

INDUS WATER TREATY, WORLD BANK APPOINTS EXPERTS

Current Context: World Bank appoints the **chairman of the court of arbitration**.

KEY POINTS

- **Michel Lino** has been appointed as the **neutral expert**.
- **Sean Murphy** has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Court of Arbitration**.
- The matter is regarding the **Kishenganga and Ratle Hydroelectric power plants**.
- The reason behind appointing them is the differences and disagreements between India and Pakistan over the **1960 Indus Water Treaty**.
- Both individuals will carry out their duties in their individual capacities independently of any other appointments.

NEW BCCI PRESIDENT TO BE APPOINTED

Current Context: Roger Binny was elected as the **President of BCCI**.

DETAILS

- He is a former Indian Cricketer.
- He is elected as the **36th President of BCCI**.
- He will **replace Sourav Ganguly**.
- He was a member of the 1983 world cup winning team.
- His appointment was announced at the **91st BCCI Annual General Meeting in Mumbai**.
- He was elected unopposed as he was the only candidate to have filed a nomination for the post.

RBI PROVIDES IN-PRINCIPLE APPROVAL TO CYGNET

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India provided in-principle approval to Cygnet **Infotech Private Limited** to operate as a **non-banking financial company account aggregator**.

ABOUT

- **NBFC Account Aggregator** is one of the largest open financing data-sharing protocols regulated by RBI.
- It also facilitates financial institutions to easily **access the consumers' consent-based financial data**.
- It allows users to instantly share their financial data with various financial institutions, **digitally and securely**.
- It will facilitate small and medium businesses.
- They will be offered **better credit facilities**.
- Meanwhile, banks and other financial institutions will have **an opportunity to widen their lending portfolio**.

INDIA, FRANCE RE-ELECTED FOR ISA LEADERSHIP

Current Context: India and France were re-elected as **President and co-president** of the International Solar Alliance.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- They are elected at the **fifth general assembly** of the body.
- Accordingly, Union Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh will be the president of the body.
- **France's Minister of State for Development**, Francophonie, and International Partnerships will be its co-president.
- The alliance will work **to improve energy access and security worldwide**.
- New leaders will keenly work to achieve the goal to unlock USD 1 trillion in investment by 2030.
- Static- the ISA was established in the year 2015.

NATIONAL CREDIT FRAMEWORK DRAFT LAUNCHED

Current Context: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the draft of the **National Credit Framework (NCF)**.

KEY FACTS

- Its draft has been launched **for public consultation**.
- It is a next-generation and multi-dimensional instrument under National Education Policy to empower students.
- It will also be helpful for the youth of the nation.
- This framework will enable the integration of academics and vocational domains to ensure flexibility and mobility between them.
- According to the authorities, "Jan-paramarsh" will make it more dynamic.

IPPB AND RBIH TO COLLABORATE

Current Context: India Post Payments Bank and Reserve Bank Innovation Hub have collaborated for enhancing financial solutions.

KEY POINTS

- The financial solutions will be provided to the larger sections of society.
- It will enable frictionless finance for a billion Indians.
- This collaboration will have an impact on the masses **by leveraging the deep rural reach of the IPPB-Department of Posts** to take rural finance to the major part of the country.
- It will also enable access to **sustainable and secure financial services**.
- It will also help in planning and designing innovative products.

UKRAINIAN PEOPLE GETS EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AWARD

Current Context: People of Ukraine and their President wins European Parliament's Sakharov Prize 2022.

DETAILS

- It is the prize **given for freedom of thought**.
- It is a prestigious human rights prize to the brave people of Ukraine.
- It is given for their resistance to Russia's invasion and ongoing war.
- The award comes with **50,000 euros in prize money**.

- The prize will be distributed to the **representatives of Ukrainian civil society**.

CCI IMPOSES MONETARY AND NON-MONETARY SANCTIONS

Current Context: Sanctions are imposed on these companies for indulging in anti-competitive conduct.

ABOUT

- These companies are held to be abusing their dominant position.
- They have also made an **anti-competitive arrangement with OYO**.
- Under this, MMT-Go delisted the competitors of OYO from its online portals in 2018.
- Companies such as **FabHotels and Treebo** were delisted from the portals of MMT-Go.
- The arrangement was found in contravention of **Section 3(4) (d) read with section 3(1) of the CCI Act**.

GIFT CITY AND FINTECH SIGNS MOU

Current Context: Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (Gift City) inked an agreement with the **Fintech Association of Japan**.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is done to promote **innovation and entrepreneurship** in the fintech domain.
- The memorandum is signed for conducting programs related to international financial services.
- It will also promote **GIFT City as a fintech hub in India**.
- It will also expose young innovators in the fintech domain to different opportunities in India and Japan.
- **Several boot camps, hackathons, incubation, and acceleration programs** will be conducted.
- Static part- GIFT City was conceptualized in 2008.

NBBL PARTNERS WITH KMBL FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Current Context: NPCI Bharat Billpay has partnered with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** for credit card bill payments.

KEY POINTS

- The partnership is done to introduce **credit cards on the BillPay ecosystem**.
- With this, Kotak customers will be able to pay their credit card bills through Bharat BillPay.
- It is the **first private bank to go live in the credit card category** in this ecosystem.
- It will also give access to channels of different major banks.
- It will be in an addendum to the large number of services offered by Bharat BillPay.

SHIV NADAR TOPS PHILANTHROPY LIST

Current Context: Founder of HCL Technologies Shiv Nadar reclaimed 'India's most generous title'.

DETAILS

- He has made an annual donation of **Rs. 1,161 crores**.
- **Azim Premji was second on the list**.
- He has been a consistent giver to society.
- The list was released by Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List.
- Third and fourth spots were held by Mukesh Ambani and Mangalam Birla respectively.

CHANDRAYAAN-3 SET TO LAUNCH

Current Context: Chandrayaan-3 is set for an august 2023 launch.

ABOUT

- The mission parameters will remain the same as the last time.
- The design and engineering are **significantly different from the previous model**.
- According to the scientists, the sensors in Chandrayaan-3 are better and are made with more suitable algorithms.
- It is a **follow-up mission of Chandrayaan-2**.
- The information about this mission was given by **ISRO Chairman, S.Somnath at a conference**.

14TH WORLD SPICE CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN MUMBAI

Current Context: 14th World Spice Congress is to be held in Mumbai in **February 2023**.

FEATURES

- It will be held at the **CIDCO Exhibition and Convention Centre, Navi Mumbai**.
- The theme for this edition will be, 'Vision 2030: SPICES'.
- SPICES in this year's theme stands for Sustainability, Productivity, Innovation, Collaboration, Excellence, and Safety.
- India is hosting **WSC as a group of twenty events in conjunction with India's presidency of the G20**.
- It is a biennial event organized by the Spices Board.

MAHINDRA FINANCE JOINS HANDS WITH INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK

Current Context: Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. partnered with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to boost credit access.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The primary objective of this partnership is to strengthen reliable **credit access** to a larger customer base.
- According to the agreement, IPPB will provide **lead referral services** to Mahindra Finance for loan categories related to **commercial vehicles, passenger vehicles, tractors, and three-wheelers**.
- It will also assist the existing Mahindra Finance customers with **cash EMI deposit facilities** at the post office.
- IPPB branches in the states of **Maharashtra** and **Madhya Pradesh** have been chosen for the scheme.
- Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. were established in 1991 with their headquarters in **Mumbai**, Maharashtra. The current President of the company is **Ramesh Iyer**.

MISSION SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "Mission Schools of Excellence" in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

KEY POINTS

- The primary objective of the "**Mission Schools of Excellence**" initiative is to **reform the curriculum of schools** in Gujarat along with **improving their infrastructures**.
- At the inaugural event, PM Modi urged all states of India to set up state-of-the-art centers to help boost the quality of education in schools.
- The overall budget of the scheme is estimated at around **Rs. 10,000 crores** and the **World Bank** will partly fund the scheme.
- In **Phase I** of the program, school infrastructure upgrades worth **Rs. 5,567 crores** would be carried out.
- The scheme will involve setting up **1.5 lakh smart classrooms, 20,000 computer labs, 50,000 classrooms, and 5,000 Atal Tinkering Labs**.

PAKISTAN OUT OF THE FATF'S GREY LIST

Current Context: Pakistan was removed from the Grey List of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

KEY FACTS

- The **FATF** removed **Pakistan** from its **Grey List** after the institution was satisfied with its efforts in improving its **Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financial Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime**.
- After failing to curb **terror financing** and **money laundering**, **Pakistan** was kept on the **Grey List** by the FATF in **2018**.
- After Pakistan's removal from the list, it will be relatively easy for the South-Asian nation to receive **grants** and **aid** from international organizations viz. the **World Bank**, the **IMF**, the **ADB**, etc.
- Along with Pakistan, the Central American nation, **Nicaragua** was also **removed** from the FATF's Grey List while **Myanmar** was **added** to the **FATF'S Black List**.

- **FATF** is an intergovernmental institution that was established in **1989** with its headquarters in **Paris, France**. The current President of the FATF is **T Raja Kumar**.

PM LAUNCHES MISSION DEFSPACE FOR ARMED FORCES

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Mission DefSpace at DefExpo 2022 held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

DETAILS

- The primary objective of the “**Mission DefSpace**” is to develop cutting-edge solutions for defence forces in the space industry.
- This initiative was launched in order to prepare the country for **future space opportunities**.
- At the inaugural event, PM Modi said that the **superiority in the space-technology** will determining factor for powerful nations.
- He also said that India shares its space science info with more than **60 developing countries** and **10 countries of ASEAN** will be added to the list by next year.
- Under the mission, **75 challenges** have been identified in the space sector for private firms to work on.

GLOBAL YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

Current Context: The first Global Youth Climate Summit was inaugurated at Ava Center in Khulna, Bangladesh.

ABOUT

- It is an initiative of the international not-for-profit organization, **Global Youth Leadership Center**.
- The primary objective of the summit is to raise awareness regarding **climate change**.
- The **three-day** summit will bring together **policymakers, renowned climate scientists, entrepreneurs, leadership experts,** and **650 youth climate activists** from **70 countries** around the globe.
- The summit will feature discussions on **intergenerational collaboration for climate**

action, the science of climate change, modernizing farming, etc.

- At the inaugural event, the founder and the CEO of the Global Youth Leadership Center, **Ejaz Ahmad** said that **climate change** was the **biggest crisis** that the entire humanity was facing.

NUCLEAR CAPABLE AGNI PRIME MISSILE

Current Context: The Agni Prime New Generation Ballistic Missile was tested successfully by ISRO off the coast of Odisha.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is the **third** consecutive successful testing of the **Agni Prime New Generation Ballistic Missile**.
- The previous two successful tests were in **June 2021** and **December 2021**.
- Agni Prime is a **nuclear-capable** two-stage **canisterized** missile with a maximum **range of 2000 kilometers**.
- Canisterization helps it to be **stored for a longer period of time** and gives it the ability to be **transported easily** whenever, wherever.
- Agni Prime can be launched by **rail or road**.
- **ISRO** is a government-owned space agency that was established in **1959** with its headquarters in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**. The current Chairperson of ISRO is **S Somnath**.

MISSION LIFE MOVEMENT

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the “Mission LiFE Movement” at Kevadiya, Gujarat.

KEY POINTS

- **PM Modi** launched the “**Mission LiFE Movement (Lifestyle for the Environment)**” in the presence of the UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** from the **Statue of Unity**.
- The primary objective of the movement is to **tackle climate change** and hence, **protect the environment**.

- At the launching event, PM Modi said that the Indian culture has been imbued with principles of “**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**”, for thousands of years.
- He also said that **collective efforts** were required in order to combat climate change and that **government policy** alone wasn’t sufficient enough.
- **Antonio** Guterres while addressing the event also laid emphasis on the role of **developed countries** in countering climate change by **upholding their pledge**.

ASIA’S LARGEST CBG PLANT

Current Context: The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated Asia’s largest Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) Plant in Lehragaga, Punjab.

KEY FACTS

- The **Compressed Bio Gas (CBG)** plant in **Lehragaga** has been constructed at a total outlay of **Rs. 230 crores** and is spread over **20 acres** of land.
- Germany-based bio-energy company, **Verbio AG** has commissioned the project via a Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- The current capacity of the plant will be **6 tons** of **paddy straw** per day which will be later expanded to **300 tons** of paddy straw per day.
- In addition to this, it will also produce **600-650 tons** of **Fermented Organic Manure (FOM)** per day.
- The plant is expected to reduce **stubble burning** on approximately **40,000 – 45,000 acres** of land which in turn will cut down **150,000 tons** of CO2 emissions yearly.

THIRD TERM FOR XI JINPING

Current Context: The President of China, Xi Jinping, became the first leader after Mao Zedong to get re-elected for a third term in power.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Xi Jinping** was elected as the **General Secretary** of the **Communist Party of China** for **3rd** five-year tenure by the 7-member **Standing Committee**.

- The election of Xi ended the **three-decade-long** convention of **two-term** or **10 years** of ruling tenure of his predecessors.
- Xi Jinping was elected to the:
 1. **Central Committee**
 2. **Political Bureau**
 3. **Standing Committee**
 4. **General Secretary**
- With his “**leader for life**” mentality, Xi is said to follow in the footsteps of the **founder** of the Communist Party of China, **Mao Zedong**.
- The capital of China is **Beijing** and its currency is **Renminbi**.

HEAVIEST ROCKET OF ISRO

Current Context: Heaviest rocket of ISRO, Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3), successfully launched OneWeb’s 36 satellites from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

KEY POINTS

- The launch of **OneWeb’s 36 satellites** by ISRO’s **LVM3** marked its entry into international commercial launch services.
- **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** has been given the responsibility to carry out the **LVM3-M2** dedicated commercial satellite mission.
- The **43.5-meter** and **644-ton** LVM3 carried 36 satellites which weighed around **5.7 tons**.
- This was the **14th launch** of OneWeb and now it has a total of **462 satellites** orbiting in space.
- **NSIL** is a Government of India-owned commercial wing of ISRO that was established in **2019** with its headquarters in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka. The current Chairperson of NSIL is **D Radhakrishnan**.
- **OneWeb** is a joint collaboration between the **Government of the UK** and **Bharti Enterprises of India** with the objective to improve the world’s connectivity and access to information. It was established in **2012** with its headquarters in **London**. The current CEO of the company is **Neil Masterson**.

KASHI-TAMIL SANGAMAM

Current Context: The Union Government under Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan announced a month-long “Kashi-Tamil Sangamam” program.

KEY FACTS

- The “**Kashi-Tamil Sangamam**” program will be held from **November 16 2022** and will conclude on **December 20, 2022**.
- It will be a part of the “**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**” initiative with the objective to “**strengthen**” and “**rekindle**” the **civilizational** and **cultural** bond between **Varanasi** and **Tamil Nadu**.
- Around **3,000 guests** from **12 clusters**, including **art, literature, spirituality, education**, etc. will be given opportunities to travel to **Varanasi**.
- The tours will include **seminars, group meetings, lectures, and visits** to the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple** and important Tamil cultural heritage centers in Varanasi.
- **Chennai, Rameswaram, and Coimbatore** have been chosen as the journey points in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **IIT-Madras** and **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** have been designated as knowledge partners for the program.

CCI IMPOSES PENALTY ON GOOGLE

Current Context: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a penalty on tech-giant Google for abusing its dominance in the mobile device ecosystem of Android.

DETAILS

- The **CCI** in its investigation found that **Google** abused its assertive positions to protect its applications viz. **YouTube and Chrome** in mobile web browsers and online video hosting.
- It found out that Google used its powerful stature to mandate Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to pre-install its entire **Google Mobile Suite** like **YouTube, Chrome, Maps, Search, Google Play store**, etc. on mobile phones and place them in eminent positions.
- The CCI imposed a fine of **Rs. 1,337.76 crores** on Google in accordance with **Section 4(2)(a)(i)** of the **Competition Act, 2002**.

- Apart from this, the CCI also ordered Google to allow **uninstalling of pre-installed apps** by users.
- The **CCI** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs that was established in **2003** as the chief competition regulator of the country. Its headquarters is in **New Delhi**. The current Chairperson of the CCI is **Ashok Kumar Gupta**.

PFRDA’S NEW REGULATION

Current Context: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) revised certain equity allocation standards.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The **equity allocation standards** were revised by the **PFRDA** for **Tier-I and Tier-II** accounts under the **New Pension Scheme (NPS)**.
- The new regulations were issued by the PFRDA in accordance with **Section 14** and **Section 23** of the **PFRDA Act 2013** and **Regulation 14** of the **PFRDA (Pension Fund) Regulations 2015**.
- As per the new regulation, **75%** of funds can be allocated by the subscribers from the age of **51 years** to **Equity (E)** under the active choice of **Tier-I** account.
- Additionally, **100%** of subscriber contributions will be allocated to **Asset Class Equity (E)** by the PFRDA in the **Tier-II** or optional account under the active choice.
- The **PFRDA** is a Government of India-owned pension regulatory body that was established in **2003** with its headquarters in **New Delhi**. The current Chairperson of the PFRDA is **Supratim Bandyopadhyay**.

INDIA’S FIRST MIGRATION MONITORING SYSTEM

Current Context: India’s First Migration Monitoring System, the Maharashtra Migration Tracking System (Maha MTS) was launched in Mumbai.

KEY POINTS

- The **Maha MTS** was launched by the Women and Child Development Minister of Maharashtra, **Mangal Prabhat Lodha**.

- The primary objective of Maha MTS is to increase the **interoperability** of schemes related to **universal health and nutrition**.
- The Maha MTS, through a **Unique Identification Number**, will **track** the movements of seasonal migrant beneficiaries.
- The Maha MTS will provide the following services:
 1. Immunization
 2. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
 3. Health Screening
 4. Integrated Child Protection Services (ICPS)
- The system will be available on both, the **website** and the **application** and will provide information on **pregnant migrant women, lactating mothers, and children**.

RUSSIA ALLEGES USE OF “DIRTY BOMBS” BY UKRAINE

Current Context: Russian government alleged that two organizations were given orders by the Ukrainian government to produce “dirty bombs”.

KEY FACTS

- UN Ambassador of Russia, **Vassily Nebenzia**, wrote a letter to the United Nations concerning the use of “**dirty bombs**” by Ukraine.
- In the letter, Russia claimed the use of “dirty bombs” by the Ukrainian forces in the Russian-occupied town of **Kherson**.
- The Ukrainian government in addition to the **USA**, the **UK**, and **France** rejected Russia’s claim and termed it “**state propaganda**”.
- “Dirty bombs” consist of **conventional explosives** and **radioactive materials** that are **less powerful** than nuclear bombs.
- The radiation from “dirty bombs” can spread to a **few kilometers**, causing **radiation poisoning** in the affected area.

MHA CANCELS LICENSE OF RGF AND RGCT

Current Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) canceled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

license of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT), for alleged violations of the law.

ABOUT

- The **FCRA** license of the **Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF)** and **Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT)** was revoked after investigations carried out by an inter-ministerial committee, formed in **2020** by the **MHA**.
- The committee investigated the funds received by RGF and RGCT in relation to the suspected violation of the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)**, the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)**, and the **Income Tax Act**.
- The **head** of the committee was a special director from **Enforcement Directorate (ED)**, along with **members** from the **Income Tax Department; MHA; CIT; the Ministry of Finance; and the Ministry of Urban Development**.
- RGF and RGCT are both headed by **Sonia Gandhi** and have **Rahul Gandhi, Dr. Manmohan Singh, P Chidambaram**, etc. as members.
- **FCRA** was enacted in **1976** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to **regulate foreign donations** in India and every NGO that wishes to receive foreign funding must register itself under this Act.

NEW VARIETIES OF BASMATI RICE

Current Context: Five new varieties of Basmati rice seeds developed in 2020 and 2021 by the scientists at the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) Director are set to bring sweeping changes in the way Basmati rice is cultivated in India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Three** of the five varieties of **Basmati rice** seeds can resist **two** common diseases of paddy:
 1. Bacterial leaf blight (BLB) disease
 2. Blast (leaf and collar) disease
- New varieties with **disease-resistant** capabilities are:
 1. Pusa Basmati 1847
 2. Pusa Basmati 1885
 3. Pusa Basmati 1886
- These three new varieties of Basmati seeds contain **two genes** each to resist BLB and blast disease.

- The other **two varieties** can be **directly sown** and save nearly **35%** of the water required for sowing.
- In addition to this, these two varieties are **herbicides** too and will assist farmers to control weeds even more efficiently.
- Currently, Basmati rice is a **GI** product in **seven** states/UTs of India: **Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh** and **Uttarakhand**.

SANDALWOOD SPIKE DISEASE

Current Context: Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD) started to spread posing a major threat to the cultivation of sandalwood on a commercial basis in India.

KEY FACTS

- **Bacterial parasites** of plant tissues known as **phytoplasma** that are transmitted by insects as vectors, cause **SSD**.
- Currently, **no cure** has been found for SSD and **infected trees** need to be **cut down** to stop the spreading of the disease.
- This results in a loss of around **1-5%** of sandalwood trees **annually** in the country.
- The disease was first reported in the **Kodagu** district of Karnataka in **1899** which led to the cutting of more than a million trees between 1903 and 1916.
- Sandalwood (Chandan) or Santalum album is a tree found in dry deciduous forests of **India, China, Indonesia, Australia**, and the **Philippines**. In India, it is mostly present in the states of **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat**, and **Madhya Pradesh**.
- It has multiple uses in making:
 1. **furniture**
 2. **soap**
 3. **perfumes**
 4. **medicines**
 5. **incense**
 6. **sandal oil**
 7. **dye**

AUSTRALIA WITHDRAWS RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS CAPITAL OF ISRAEL

Current Context: The Anthony Albanese-led Australian government withdrew the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

DETAILS

- Australian Foreign Minister **Penny Wong** said that the issue between Israel and Palestine must be resolved through peace talks.
- The Cabinet, under PM **Anthony Albanese** re-recognized **Tel Aviv** as the capital of Israel.
- In **2018**, former PM of Australia, **Scott Morrison**, recognized **Jerusalem** as the capital of Israel.
- This decision from the **Scott Morrison govt.** came after the former President of the USA, **Donald Trump** decided to move the **US Embassy** from **Tel Aviv to Jerusalem**.
- In a **Six-Day War** in **1967**, Israel occupied **Eastern Jerusalem** and declared the entire city as its capital.

VIRAL SPILLOVER RISK IN ARCTIC LAKE

Current Context: UK's biological research journal, "The Royal Society", published a research article titled, "Viral spillover risk increases with climate change in High Arctic Lake sediments".

ABOUT

- Sediment deposits and soil samples were collected by the researchers from **Lake Hazen** in Canada to understand the '**viral spillover**' phenomenon.
- The research team then undertook **DNA** and **RNA sequencing** to study the virus composition in the lake.
- It was concluded that there was a high probability that the **melting of ice** due to **climate change** can result in 'viral spillover'.
- They said that the melting of glaciers in the polar region of the **High Arctic Zone** can become fertile ground for **global pandemics**.
- The process of **transmission** of the virus into a **novel host** for replication/multiplication is termed '**viral spillover**'.

TATA STEEL NEDERLAND SIGNS MOU WITH FORD

Current Context: Tata Steel Nederland signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ford in Europe to supply it with Zeremis green steel.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Tata Steel** has planned to produce green steels (steels produced without the use of fossil fuels) by **2030** at its plant in **Ijmuiden Steelworks** in the Netherlands.
- The signing of the agreement by **Ford** is a step towards its target of reaching carbon neutrality by 2035.
- As per the MoU, Tata Steel Nederland will in the future supply environmentally-friendly **low-CO2 steel** to the car-making company Ford.
- Speaking on the agreement, the Chairperson of the Board of Management of Tata Steel Nederland, **Hans van den Berg**, said that the company was transitioning to become a producer of high-quality green steel in large quantities.
- **Tata Steel Nederland** is a subsidiary of Tata Steels that was established in **1918** with its headquarters in **Velsen-Noord**, the Netherlands. It is responsible for manufacturing, processing, and distributing steel products throughout the Netherlands.
- **Ford Motor Company** is an American automobile MNC that was established by Henry Ford in **1903** with its headquarters in **Dearborn, Michigan, United States**. Its current CEO is **Jim Farley**.

REPORT BY CLIMATE TRANSPARENCY

Current Context: According to the report by Climate Transparency, India suffered an income loss of 5.4% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021.

KEY POINTS

- The loss of **5.4%** of GDP suffered by **India** is the **highest** among the **G20** countries.
- The report by **Climate Transparency** emphasized that India witnessed a record **heatwave** that greatly affected **laborers, workers migrants**, homeless,

and **low-income households**, and **reduced** the production of **wheat crops**.

- The report also mentioned that though India has a share of **3% in global carbon emissions**, its **142 million people**, i.e. 10% of its population are exposed to the summer heatwave.
- It further mentioned how the **increase in temperature** resulted in the **reduction of working hours** which in turn led to substantial **economic losses**.
- The report went on to state that the **G20 nations** are still **not taking** the required level of action with respect to the **Paris Agreement**.
- **Climate Transparency** was co-founded by **Peter Eigen** and **Alvaro Umaña** in **2014** and is a global partnership of experts from **16 partner organizations of G20 countries** with the objective to increase **awareness and peer pressure** among policy-makers regarding **climate change**.

NSO RELEASED EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK OF INDIA

Current Context: The National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), released a press note on the Employment Outlook of India from September 2017 to June 2022.

KEY FACTS

- The information is based on the number of subscribers under three major schemes:
 1. **Employees' Provident Fund Scheme**
 2. **Employees' State Insurance Scheme**
 3. **National Pension Scheme**
- The Employment Outlook reflects data for six sets of periods:
 1. **September 2017 – March 2018**
 2. **April 2018 – March 2019**
 3. **April 2019 – March 2020**
 4. **April 2020 – March 2021**
 5. **April 2021 – March 2022**
 6. **April 2022 onwards**
- The data gave **gender-based** information regarding the number of **employees who paid contributions** and the number of **newly registered employees** who are paying contributions.

- It also gave **gender-based** information regarding **existing subscribers** of the **NPS** and **new subscribers** contributing to the same.
- The data further mentioned a jump of **0.4 million** in India's **formal sector employment** in the **October-December** quarter of **2021**.
- According to it, a total of **31.4 million workers** were employed **across nine sectors** compared to **31 million** in the **July-September** quarter and **30.8 million** in the **April-June** quarter of **2021**.

TREES BEYOND FORESTS INITIATIVE

Current Context: The Assam government and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) together launched the Trees Beyond Forests initiative: The "Trees Outside Forests in India (TOFI)" program.

DETAILS

- The primary objective of the initiative is to bring together **farmers, businessmen, and private institutions** to increase the **trees** in the state's **non-traditional forests**.
- This initiative aims to:
 1. **enhance agriculture's climate resilience**
 2. **support global climate change mitigation and adaptation goals**
 3. **increase carbon sequestration**
 4. **aid local populations**
- The goal of the state government of Assam is to **increase tree cover** outside of traditional forests by **2.8 million hectares**.
- This initiative will enhance India's attempt towards reaching the target of adding **2.5 to 3 billion tons of carbon sink** by **2030**.
- The **USA** has granted **USD 25 million** to the **7 states** under the TOFI program, namely:
 1. **Assam**
 2. **Odisha**
 3. **Uttar Pradesh**
 4. **Andhra Pradesh**
 5. **Tamil Nadu**
 6. **Haryana**
 7. **Rajasthan**

BLUE FLAG TAG

Current Context: Recently, two beaches in the Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep were awarded the international eco-label, "Blue Flag".

ABOUT

- **Minicoy Thundi Beach** and **Kadmat Beach** in the UT of **Lakshadweep** recently entered into the prestigious list of beaches with **Blue Flag Certification**.
- With these two new entrants, the number of beaches in **India** with **Blue Flag Certification** rose to **12**.
- Blue Flag Certification was awarded to these beaches as they have a dedicated staff to:
 1. **maintain cleanliness**
 2. **provide safety and security for swimmers**
- **Golden Beach** in Puri, Odisha was the first beach in **Asia** to receive a Blue Flag certificate.
- The **Blue Flag Certification** is an eco-label awarded by the Denmark-based non-profit organization, **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) to beaches, marinas, and boating operators** for abiding by **33 parameters** of high environmental and quality standards. FEE was established in **1981** with its headquarters in **Copenhagen**.

SPRITE BECOMES BILLION DOLLAR BRAND IN INDIA

Current Context: Coca-Cola announced that Sprite became a billion-dollar brand in the Indian market.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The global soft drinks company said that it recorded **strong growth** in India in the **third quarter (Q3)** of **2022**.
- **Occasion-based** and **locally adapted** marketing campaigns have been cited as major reasons behind the boom.
- According to the company's data, **Coke** did a mammoth **2.5 billion transactions** in India through its **glass bottle** and **PET** package sales.
- Coca-Cola's **Thumps Up** had already crossed the **billion-dollar** milestone in **2021**.

- The **Coca-Cola Company** is a USA-based beverage company that was established in **1892** with its headquarters in **Atlanta, Georgia, USA**. The current CEO of the company is **James Quincey**. The products of Coca-Cola include **Sprite, Thumps Up, Fanta, Minute Maid, Dasani, Fresca, Costa Coffee**, etc.

JAKSON GREEN TO INVEST IN GREEN PROJECTS IN RAJASTHAN

Current Context: Jakson Green signed a MoU with the Government of Rajasthan to set up Green Hydrogen and Ammonia projects in Rajasthan.

KEY POINTS

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the **Global Chief Commercial Officer** of Jakson Green, **Vish Iyer**, and the **Principal Secretary of Energy** to the Government of Rajasthan, **Bhaskar S Sawant**.
- **Jakson Green** declared to invest a sum of **Rs. 22,400 crores** to set up a **Green Hydrogen** and **Green Ammonia** plant in Rajasthan.
- The overall **capacity** of the plant will be **3,65,000 tons per annum**.
- The project is expected to provide **direct and indirect employment** opportunities to around **32,000 people** between 2023 and 2028.
- **Jakson Green Private Limited** is a green venture of the leading Diesel Generator and energy company, Jakson. It was established in **June 2022**. The current MD and CEO of the company are **Bikesh Ogra**.

INDIAN NAVY AND DRONE FEDERATION OF INDIA JOIN HANDS

Current Context: The Naval Innovation Indigenization Organization (NIIO) under the Indian Navy and the Drone Federation of India (DFI) partnered to promote indigenous development, manufacturing, and testing of drones and counter-drones.

KEY FACTS

- The **Technology Development and Acceleration Cell (TDAC)** of the **NIIO** and the **Drone Federation of India (DFI)** will collaborate in the research and

development (R&D) and manufacturing of **indigenous drones** for the Indian Navy.

- The primary objective of this collaboration is to increase the **Navy-Industry-Academia Synergy** and achieve the goal of making the nation **"Atmanirbhar"**.
- The partnership between TDAC and DFI will set a **strong roadmap** for the induction of **drone** and **counter-drone platforms** in the Indian Navy.
- **DFI** is a non-government, not-for-profit body that was established in the year **2017** with the objective to build a sustainable UAV Industry in India. The current Director of the DFI is **Smit Shah**.
- **NIIO** was launched in **2020** by Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** with the objective to foster indigenization and innovation for **self-reliance** (Atmanirbharta) in defence.

GUJARAT ACHIEVES HAR GHAR JAL STATUS

Current Context: Gujarat successfully attained 100% household tap connections under the Government of India's, "Jal Jeevan Mission".

DETAILS

- The state of **Gujarat** achieved this milestone on **Bestu Varas** or Gujarati New Year (26th October 2022).
- According to the government's data, nearly **91.73 lakh** households in Gujarat were provided with tap water connections.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** congratulated the people of Gujarat and applauded their enthusiasm for the **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- The **Jal Jeevan Mission** was launched by **PM Narendra Modi** in **2019** with the objective to make **water tap connections** available to every household in India by **2024**.
- **Goa** was the first **"Har Ghar Jal"** certified state of India in **August 2022** while **Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D)** became the first Union Territory (UT) to achieve this milestone.

SONY AND ZEE AGREE TO SELL 3 HINDI CHANNELS

Current Context: Sony and Zee media groups agreed to sell their three Hindi channels to address possible anti-competition concerns originating from their proposed merger.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The **three** Hindi channels that will be sold by the **Sony and Zee** media groups are:
 - Big Magic**
 - Zee Action**
 - Zee Classic**
- After the agreement to **divest** itself from these channels, the Sony and Zee media groups submitted their proposals to the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.
- The CCI has put in certain criteria for the purchaser before buying the three channels:
 - Star India Private Limited** or **Viacom18 Media Private Limited** cannot be the purchaser.
 - The purchaser cannot be a **past or present Director/Employee** of these companies.
 - The purchaser should have **no connections** with the resultant entity and its affiliates.
- The **CCI** is a statutory body that was formed in **2003** under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** with the objective to regulate national competition in India. The headquarters of the CCI is in **New Delhi** and the current Chairperson is **Ashok Kumar Gupta**.

WHO RELEASES FIRST FUNGAL INFECTION LIST

Current Context: The World Health Organization (WHO) released the first-ever Fungal Priority Pathogens List (FPPL).

KEY POINTS

- The **FPPL** includes **19 fungi** that could turn out to be a major threat to human health.
- The **WHO** also warned that out of these, some strains of fungi are highly **drug-resistant**.
- The list divides fungal pathogens into **three** categories:

- Critical priority**
- High priority**
- Medium priority**
 - The **critical priority** group includes highly drug-resistant fungi **Candida Auris, Aspergillus fumigatus, Cryptococcus neoformans, and Candida albicans**.
 - The **high-priority** group includes **Mucorales**, a group containing "**black fungus**".
 - The **medium priority** group includes **Coccidioides spp** and **Cryptococcus gattii**.
 - The **WHO Director, of AMR Global Coordination Department, Dr. Haileyesus Getahun** said that more data and evidence were needed regarding fungal infections and anti-fungal resistance to counter these priority pathogens.

ODISHA CM LAUNCHES SAFAL PORTAL

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, launched a common credit portal SAFAL (Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans) for the welfare of farmers.

KEY FACTS

- Through the **SAFAL portal**, **farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs** will be able to access more than **300** term loan products from over **40** partner banks.
- The portal will act as a **one-stop solution** to avail **formal sector credit** from **banks**.
- SAFAL will provide complete visibility of **demand and disbursement** of formal credit in a **data-backed manner** to the state government.
- At the event, **CM Naveen Patnaik** said that the portal will **simplify** the loan application process, hence significantly benefitting both, the farmers and the bank by reducing **information asymmetry**.
- SAFAL has also been linked to the **Krushak Odisha** portal and will have access to more than **70** model project reports.

TATA AND AIRBUS TO PRODUCE TRANSPORT PLANES FOR IAF

Current Context: Tata and Airbus will produce C-295 Cargo Aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Vadodara, Gujarat.

DETAILS

- Tata's defence division, **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL)** and the European aviation giant **Airbus** will jointly manufacture **C-295** Cargo aircraft for the **IAF**.
- It will be for the **first time** that the C-295 transport planes will be produced **outside of Europe**.
- **PM Narendra Modi** will lay the **foundation stone** of the **manufacturing facility** of the C-295 Cargo Aircraft in **Vadodara, Gujarat** on **October 30, 2022**.
- In September 2021, the **Government of India** and **Airbus** entered into a **Rs. 22,000 crore** agreement for the purchase of **56 C-295 transport planes**.
- Out of these **56** aircraft, Airbus will deliver **16** planes in a **"fly-away"** condition from its assembly line in **Spain** and the remaining **40** will be produced and assembled by the **TASL** in **India**.
- **TASL** is a fully owned subsidiary of Tata Sons and was established in **2007** with its headquarters in **Hyderabad, Telangana**. The current **Chairperson** of the company is **Natarajan Chandrasekaran**.
- **Airbus** is a European aerospace company that was founded in **1970** with its headquarters in **Blagnac, France**. The current CEO of the corporation is **Guillaume Faury**.

IRDAI SETS UP CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Current Context: The Insurance Regularity and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) set up a consultative committee for increasing health coverage in India.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- A **15-member** consultative committee was set up by the **IRDAI** for a period of **2 years**.
- **Rakesh Joshi** will be the **head** of the consultative committee.
- It was decided that the committee will meet **physically** or **virtually** at least **once a year** or on a **quarterly** basis.
- The committee's primary objective will be to identify **challenges** faced by the **health insurance sector** and suitable steps to **counter** them.

- Additionally, the committee will also provide recommendations for **standardization** regarding the **capture, collation, and analysis** of data.
- **IRDAI** was established in **1999** under the **IRDAI Act 1999** with its headquarters in **Hyderabad, Telangana**. Its current Chairperson is **Debasish Panda**.

NAREDCO SETS UP NFC

Current Context: National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) set up a NAREDCO Finance Committee (NFC) to assist large-scale developers in obtaining funds through financial institutions.

KEY FACTS

- The **NFC** was formed by **NAREDCO** on the sidelines of the **24th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NAREDCO**, under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- **Satish Kumar** has been chosen as the **Chairperson** of the committee.
- Along with helping developers to get funds, the NFC will educate its members to boost their **credit ratings**.
- The NFC will act as a **one-stop shop** with multiple financing options from various **merchant bankers** and **financial institutions**.
- Merchant bank, **Resurgent India Limited**, will be actively associated with the NFC.
- For an application, the in-principle **time of approval** will be **15-30 days**.
- **NAREDCO** is a regulatory body that was established in **1998** under **MoHUA** with its headquarters in **New Delhi**. Its current Chairperson is **Rajeev Talwar**.

INDIAN BANK LAUNCHED INITIATIVES UNDER "PROJECT WAVE"

Current Context: In a bid to enhance the customer experience through integrated services, the Indian Bank launched various digital initiatives under "Project WAVE" on its digital platform.

KEY POINTS

- A total of **six initiatives** were launched by the MD and CEO of Indian Bank, **SL Jain**, along with the MD & CEO of Universal Sampo General Insurance Co., **Sharad Mathur**.
- **Indian Bank** in collaboration with **Universal Sampo General Insurance** will provide online **vehicle** and **health insurance** via its mobile banking application **IndOASIS**.
- It would enable the customers to digitally buy **general insurance products**, hence promoting **insurance inclusion** in India.
- Indian Bank has also partnered with **Rupeek Capital Pvt. Ltd.** to offer **gold loans** at customers' doorsteps.
- **Indian Bank** is a public-sector bank that was established in **1907** with its headquarters in **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu. The current CEO of the bank is **Shanti Lal Jain**.

INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS OVERHAUSER MAGNETOMETER

Current Context: The Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) scientists developed an indigenous Overhauser (OVH) Magnetometer.

DETAILS

- It is the **first** indigenously developed **OVH Magnetometer** of India that is developed by the scientists at the **IIG**, an autonomous research institution under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, GOI.
- According to the **Ministry of Science & Technology**, the indigenous OVH Magnetometer will reduce the **cost of sampling**.
- The OVH Magnetometers are extensively used in **magnetic observatories (MO)** and are known for their higher:
 1. **accuracy**
 2. **sensitivity**
 3. **energy consumption**
- The OVH Magnetometer was installed at **Alibag Magnetic Observatory** and will be used for performing **geomagnetic field measurements**.
- The sensors at Alibag MO **accurately** reproduced the **geomagnetic diurnal**

variations and **precisely** showed the signatures of space weather events such as **geomagnetic storms**.

SHIPROCKET JOINS ONDC NETWORK

Current Context: Shiprocket became the first inter-city logistics provider to join Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

ABOUT

- The primary objective behind the step was to provide **logistical support** and **enable sellers** from all segments of society to **ship products** to cities and towns across India.
- The initiative of the **Shiprocket** is set to serve over **100,000 customers** and **sellers** from across **24,000 PIN Codes** in India.
- The shipping of products will be done through both, **cash-on-delivery** and **pre-paid** options.
- Speaking about the partnership with ONDC, the **co-founder** of Shiprocket, **Saahil Goel**, said that it will enable them with state-of-the-art technology to:
 1. **manage delivery**
 2. **offer data-backed real-time courier recommendations**
 3. **improve warehousing capabilities**
- The **ONDC** is a not-for-profit private company that was established in **2021** as a **Section 8** company by the Government of India's **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**. The current CEO of ONDC is **T Koshy**.

SEBI EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR DIRECT ETF TRANSACTIONS

Current Context: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) extended the deadline for the direct Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) to May 01, 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **SEBI** extended the time limit for the implementation of the **Rs. 25 Crore** threshold rule for **direct ETF transactions** with **Asset Management Companies (AMCs)** to **1st May 2023**.

- It will mean that **Clause 2(IV) (A)** of the **SEBI Circular**, issued on **28th July 2022**, will be applicable from **1st May 2023** onwards.
- **SEBI** also **reduced** the face value of debt security and **non-convertible redeemable preference share** from **Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 1 lakh** on a **private placement basis from January 01, 2023**.
- **SEBI** also said that it was all set to alleviate **cyber-attack risks** by developing a system in collaboration with **BSE and NSE by March 2023**.
- **SEBI** is a Government of India-owned regulatory authority that was established in **1992** under the **Ministry of Finance** with its headquarters in **Mumbai**, Maharashtra. The current Chairperson of SEBI is **Madhabi Puri Buch**.

HEALTHYSURE AND MANIPALCIGNA JOIN HANDS FOR FLEXI TOP-UP INSURANCE

Current Context: The employee benefit insurtech, Healthsure partnered with ManipalCigna Health Insurance to launch India's first Flexi Top-up Insurance.

KEY POINTS

- The **Flexi Top-up Insurance** will allow employees to **upgrade and personalize** their respective **corporate health insurance plans**.
- The **technology platform** will be powered by **Healthsure** through which the policy will be issued **digitally** within **30 seconds** of purchase.
- The key features of the insurance policy are:
 1. **It doesn't require any extra premium for pre-existing diseases.**
 2. **It doesn't have a co-payment clause.**
- By paying a nominal **add-on premium**, the employees will be able to **upgrade** their insurance plans which can also be continued **post-employment**.
- **ManipalCigna Health Insurance Company Limited** was established in **2014** with its headquarters in **Mumbai**, Maharashtra. The current **MD** and **CEO** of the company are **Prasun Sikdar**.

IPRC SUCCESSFULLY TESTS ENGINE FOR GAGANYAAN

Current Context: The ISRO Propulsion Research Complex (IPRC) successfully conducted tests for Gaganyaan at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.

KEY FACTS

- The IPRC conducted the **Pressure Chamber Test** of cryogenic engine **C20 E11 MK III**.
- The test was conducted for a duration of **25 seconds** to evaluate the effectiveness of the engine for its use in **Mission Gaganyaan**.
- The engine has also been earmarked for the **LVM3-M3** mission for the launch of the next set of **36 OneWeb India-1** satellites.
- Powered by a **CE-20** engine working with the **LOX-LH2** propellants combination, the cryogenic upper stage of the **LVM3** vehicle (C25 stage) develops a **nominal thrust** of **186.36 kN** in a vacuum.
- **Mission Gaganyaan** is India's first **human spaceflight program** that will undertake the demonstration of human spaceflight to **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** with a crew of **3 astronauts**. According to ISRO's chief **S Somnath**, the mission will be launched by the **end of 2024** or **early in 2025**.

FOREST DECLARATION ASSESSMENT 2022

Current Context: The Forest Declaration Assessment 2022 was published that showed that the worldwide deforestation rates declined only by 6.3% in 2021 keeping 2018-2020 as a baseline.

ABOUT

- According to the assessment, **Brazil** was the largest contributor to **deforestation** in **2021** in the world.
- The South-American nation saw a rise of **3%** in the rate of deforestation in **2021**.
- The report mentioned that the **global tree cover** increased by **130.9 million hectares** over the past **20 years**.
- The most noteworthy improvements were observed in:
 1. **Russia (28.4%)**

2. **Canada (13.0%)**
3. **United States (10.7%)**
4. **Brazil (6.2%)**
5. **China (5%)**
 - With around **2.1 million hectares** under tree cover, China showed the **maximum** growth.
 - **India** has seen a **gain** of **0.87 million** hectares in **tree cover**.
 - **Forest Declaration Assessment** is published **annually** by the **New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) Assessment** since **2015** and updates on progress toward global forest goals.

TATA AIA & MEDIX PARTNER FOR SPECIALIZED CRITICAL ILLNESS COVER

Current Context: Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited joined hands with Medix to offer consumers access to a network of accredited medical specialists during serious illness.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The primary objective of the collaboration is to offer **Personal Medical Care Management** by providing world-class healthcare advice to beneficiaries.
- Consumers who have already purchased the **term, savings, or pension** plans of **life insurance**, will be provided with this service **free of any additional charge**.
- The beneficiaries of the service will be able to **track** and **communicate** with dedicated **medical teams** and receive **updates** on their medical care.
- The medical management company, **Medix**, will collaborate with **doctors** regarding the ongoing **treatments, side effects, complications**, etc.
- **Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited** is an insurance corporation that was formed by **Tata Sons** in collaboration with **AIA Group Limited** in **2000** with its headquarters in **Mumbai**. The current CEO of the company is **Naveen Tahilyani**.

WHO GLOBAL TB REPORT 2022

Current Context: The World Health Organization released the Global TB Report 2022.

KEY FACTS

- The **Global TB Report 2022** mentioned the impact of **COVID-19** on the **diagnosis, treatment, and burden of Tuberculosis (TB)** all over the world.
- According to the report, more than **10.6 million** people fell ill due to **TB in 2021**, marking a 4.5% increase in the disease burden compared to **2020**.
- Out of 10.3 million TB patients globally, India alone accounted for 28% (2.8 million) of the TB cases, followed by **Indonesia (9.2%), China (7.4%), and the Philippines (7%)**.
- It was observed that cases related to **Multiple Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB)** saw an increase of **3%** globally between 2020 and 2021.
- The report mentioned that the world reported the **death of 1.6 million** TB patients in **2021**, out of which **187,000** were **HIV (+ve)** patients.
- According to the report, India saw an **18% decline** in TB incidence in **2021** (210 cases per 100,000 population) compared to the baseline year **2015** (256 cases per 100,000 population).
- The **WHO** is a United Nations agency that was established in **1948** with its headquarters in **Geneva**, Switzerland. The current Director General of the WHO is **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.

FIRST INDIAN GEO-HERITAGE SITE

Current Context: The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) recognized the Mawmluh Cave of Meghalaya as India's first geological heritage site.

KEY POINTS

- It was the **first** list of the **100 Global Geo-Heritage Sites** released by the **International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)** in **Zumaia, Spain**.
- The **100 geo-heritage sites** were selected from **56 countries**.
- **Mawmluh Cave** of **East Khasi Hills** district in **Meghalaya** made it to the coveted list of 100 geo-heritage sites.

- The other notable sites are:
 1. **Gros Morne National Park, Canada**
 2. **Mistaken Point, Canada**
 3. **Changxing National Geological Heritage Reserve, China**
 4. **La Brea Tar Pits, USA**
 5. **Funafuti Atoll, Tuvalu**
 6. **Yasur Volcano, Vanuatu**
 7. **Mount Matavanu, Samoa**
- The **IUGS** is a non-governmental international organization that was established in **1961** with its Secretariat in **Beijing, China**. The current President of the IUGS is **Qiuming Cheng**.

GOA MARITIME SYMPOSIUM 2022

Current Context: The 4th edition of the Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS) will be conducted by the Naval War College (NWC) in Goa.

DETAILS

- The **two-day Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS)** will be conducted from **31 October to 01 November 2022**.
- The **theme** of GMS-2022 is, "**Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region: Converting Common Maritime Priorities into Collaborative Mitigation Frameworks**".
- Besides India, the following **countries** will take part in the symposium:
 1. **Bangladesh**
 2. **Comoros**
 3. **Indonesia**
 4. **Madagascar**
 5. **Malaysia**
 6. **Maldives**
 7. **Mauritius**
 8. **Myanmar**
 9. **Seychelles**
 10. **Singapore**
 11. **Sri Lanka**
 12. **Thailand**
- **GMS** is a **biennial** symposium that was conceptualized by the **Indian Navy** in **2016**.
- The primary objective of GMS is to foster **cooperation and mutual**

understanding between India and its key maritime partner nations in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.