



**MONTHLY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS
GK
DIGEST:**



**SEPTEMBER
2020**



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CONTENTS

World's Largest Solar Tree: By CSIR-CMERI	5
Vedanta Ltd. Partnered with SBI and SBICTCL	6
Ministry of Defence signed contract of Rs 2580 crore—Make in India.....	6
Japan extends Financial Support to India.....	6
Indian Economy Contracted by 23.9% for Q1 for FY 2020-21	7
Virtual Bilateral Meet between India and Nigeria.....	7
Appointments and Extension 2nd September 2020	8
'LiGo'— AI based Chabot by ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.....	8
Indian Astronomers discovered Farthest Star Galaxies in the Universe.....	9
Mission Karmayogi- A National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building	9
Coal India Ltd Invest Rs 1.22 lakh Crores for 500 Projects	10
Appointments 3rd September 2020	10
13th Global Innovation Index 2020	11
Green Term Ahead Market	11
'Water Heroes - Share Your Stories' Contest.....	11
Cabinet approves MoU between India and Japan	12
Appointments on 4th September 2020	12
BIMSTEC Meet 2020	13
India and Russia finalised Deal to Manufacture AK-47 203 Rifles	13
National Tribal Research Conclave.....	14
Germany launched Indo-Pacific Strategy with India	14
'Home Utsav'- ICICI Bank's Virtual Property Exhibition.....	15
Appointment and Brand Ambassadors: 5th September 2020	15
Revised Priority Sector Lending Guidelines—By RBI	15
5th BRICS Culture Ministers Meet	16
G20 Foreign Ministers Meet	16
4th Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) Ranking	17
'I Rakhwali' App —By Punjab.....	17
IIT Roorkee signs MoU with NIUA	18
60th SIAM Annual Convention 2020.....	18
2nd Edition of Anti-Dengue Campaign launched by Delhi Government.....	19
Ministry of MSME approved Khadi Agarbatti Aatma Nirbhar Mission.....	19

35th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific 2020.....	20
Consumer Affairs Ministry, GOI issues Draft Guidelines on Advertisements.....	20
AIM partners with Freshworks Inc.	20
India, US and Israel collaborates for 5G Technology.....	21
K V Kamath's Committee report Released by RBI	21
SPARROW Portal- Jammu and Kashmir	22
GOI signed Loan Agreement with ADB for Delhi-Meerut RRTS Corridor.....	23
Appointments on 9th September 2020	23
'Signature Visa Debit Card'—Bank of India.....	24
India's Economy to Contract 10.5% for FY2020-21 from -5%.....	24
Five PSUs to Join ISA-CSCA as Corporate Partners	25
EASE Banking Reforms Index 2.0.....	25
1st India-Angola Joint Commission Meet.....	26
India's First Integrated Ambulance Service-- Karnataka.....	26
'Levels and Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020	27
PM Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and e-Gopala App.....	27
1st India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue.....	28
Doorstep Banking Services by PSBs	28
Appointments and Brand Ambassador on 11th September 2020.....	29
India signs MoU with Japan.....	29
'Five Star Villages' Scheme - India Post.....	30
India's GDP Rate at -9% for FY 2020-21—Projected by CRISIL	30
RBI released Guidelines to have Uniform Compliance Practices in banks.....	31
Conclave on 'School Education in 21st Century'	32
10th East Asia Summit (EAS) 2020	32
Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework 2.0	33
Piggery Mission—Meghalaya.....	33
'iStartup 2.0'—ICICI Bank.....	34
24th Global Economic Freedom Index 2020	34
17th Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Culture Ministers Meet 2020	35
Liberty General Insurance Ltd partnered with SpiceJets.....	35
India's GDP at -11.5% for FY 2021—By Moody's Rating Agency.....	36
2+2 Inter-Sessional meet between India and US	36
27th ASEAN Regional Forum Minister Meet	37

India's GDP to contract 9% for FY 21—By S&P Global Ratings.....	37
Appointments on 15th September 2020.....	38
Empowered Group of Ministers to look into Corporatisation of Ordinance Factory Board.....	39
IFSCA signs MoU with IGPC of IIM Ahmedabad.....	39
ADB to offer \$15 million to Suguna Foods Private Ltd.....	40
TRAI recommends to Setup an Industry Body for Cloud Service Providers	40
India's GDP to Contract 9% for FY 2020-21.....	41
Brand Ambassador's Selections on 16th September 2020.....	41
FM introduced Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2020 in LS	42
10th DTTI Group Meet between India and US.....	42
'Backyard Horticulture' Programme: Jammu and Kashmir.....	43
India's GDP to Contract 10.2% for FY 2020-21—By OECD	43
Corporate Agency Agreement signed between SBI General insurance and Yes Bank.....	44
RBI issues Draft Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives Directions, 2020	44
IBSA Foreign Ministers Meeting 2020	45
4th Global Ayurveda Summit 2020.....	45
World Banks Human Capital Index 2020	46
India's GDP to Contract by 8.6% for FY 2020-21—By UBS Securities	46
India Happiness Report 2020	47
WhatsApp partnered with Common Services Centers	47
10th BRICS NSA Meet	48
Smart City Index 2020	48
'Apna Ghar Dreamz' Home Loan Scheme—By ICICI Home Finance.....	48
'Arthika Spandana'-- Karnataka.....	49
Two major Agriculture and Raising Farmer's Income Bill passed in LS.....	49
Appointments, Resignation and Brand Ambassador on 19th Sep 2020.....	50
Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana-- Gujarat.....	50
National Generic Document Registration System—Jammu and Kashmir	51
NITI Aayog partnered with Indian School of Public Policy.....	52
Appointments on 20th Sep 2020	52
Ministry of AYUSH signs MoU with Ministry of Women and Child Development	52
Emmy Awards 2020	53
India offers financial support to Maldives to combat COVID-19	53
Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill 2020 passed in Rajya Sabha	54

'Ghar Tak Fibre' Scheme and 9 Highway Projects-- Bihar	54
Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd signed MoU with ITI Kalamassery.....	55
Visa Inc. and IFundWomen to support Women Entrepreneurs.....	56
SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd partnered with Google	56
India's nominal GDP to grow by 19%: Ministry of Finance	57
National Rhino Conservation Strategy	57
RS passed Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020	57
YuWaah: A Multi-Stakeholder Platform.....	58
Google Pay rolls out Tokenisation on its platform.....	58
Appointments on 23rd September 2020	59
Mukhya Mantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana—Madhya Pradesh	59
Rajya Sabha passed Three Labour Codes for the Welfare of Country's Workers	60
'Kritagya' Hackathon.....	60
India's iCreate signs MoU with Israel.....	61
Appointments on 24th September 2020.....	61
PM Narendra Modi launched 'Age Appropriate Fitness Protocol'	62
'Strengthening Clinical Trial Research Capacity in Neighboring Countries' Programme	63
RBI released Cyber Security Vision Framework for UCBs	63
'Moksha Kalash Yojana 2020'—Rajasthan.....	64
Appointments, Extension and Brand Ambassador on 25th September 2020	64
'Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribhan Achoni Yojana'—Assam.....	65
World Risk Index 2020.....	65
'U-Rise' Portal - Uttar Pradesh	66
'SafePay' Contactless Debit Card Facility—IDFC First Bank.....	66
Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity 2020.....	67
AYUSH Ministry signs MoU with Herbal Industry Bodies	67
Quad Group Meet 2020	68
Contactless Payment Solution for Mass Transport-Fino Payments Bank & Fintech Partners	69
Appointment and Brand Ambassadors on 27th September 2020	69
4th JIMEX 2020.....	69
ADB approves loan for Secondary Towns of Rajasthan.....	70
World Bank offers loan to Bangladesh	70
IRDAI identifies LIC, GIC and New India Assurance as D-SIIs	71
India and Denmark signs MoU for Intellectual Property Cooperation	72

Appointment and Resignation on 28th September 2020	72
Health in India Report 2020	72
Destination North East 2020 Festival	73
RBI to launch 'Positive Pay System' for Cheque Truncation System	74
India's GDP for FY 2021 at -12.6%-- By NCAER.....	74
Appointment and Brand Ambassador on 29th September 2020	74
India's GDP to contract by 11% in FY21 --- ICRA.....	75
PFC signs MoU with Ministry of Power	75
BSE signs MoU with Yes Bank	76
PM Modi inaugurated 6 Mega Projects in Uttarakhand.....	76
Appointment and Brand Ambassador on 30th September 2020	77

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST: SEPTEMBER 2020

WORLD'S LARGEST SOLAR TREE: BY CSIR-CMERI

Current Context: The CSIR-CMERI which comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology has developed and installed World's Largest Solar Tree.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The installed capacity of the solar tree is 11.5 kWp.
- Annually, it has the capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of clean and green power energy.
- It is technically designed in a manner so that it gets maximum exposure to sunlight and by creating the least amount of shadow area beneath.
- There are a total of 35 solar PV panels in each tree, each of them is exposed to max sunlight.
- The solar tree is having adjustable arm holdings for solar PV panels and is placed in an inclined position. This adjustable arm holdings for solar PV panels are not available in roof-mounted solar panels.
- The cost of the solar tree is Rs 7.5 lakhs and has vast application areas in agriculture in order to substitute price volatile fossil fuels.
- One solar tree is capable to reduce about 10 tonnes of CO2 emissions and the surplus power from the solar tree can be fed to energy grids.
- It is compatible with IoT (Internet Of Things) platform and includes features like CCTV surveillance, wind speed, real-time humidity and rainfall prediction and soil analytics as it is inbuilt with numerous sensors.

VEDANTA LTD. PARTNERED WITH SBI AND SBICAP

Current Context: Vedanta Ltd has partnered with State Bank of India and SBICAP Trustee Company Ltd.

KEY FACTS

- They have entered into a partnership for long term syndicated loan facility for Rs 10,000 crore.
- SBI will be acting as a facility agent and SBICAP Trustee Company Ltd as security trustee.
- As a lender, SBI has assured to offer Rs 5000 crore.
- This loan facility will help to stipulate refinancing of near term debt maturities of Vedanta. This will thus boost the maturity profile and will improve the liquidity ratio.
- A syndicated loan is the loan amount which is offered by a group of lenders with an aim to grant credit to the large borrower.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Vedanta Ltd: Mumbai
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SBI: Rajnish Kumar

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SIGNED BANK CONTRACT OF RS 2580 CRORE—MAKE IN INDIA

Current Context: The ministry of defence, GOI has signed a contract of worth Rs 2580 crore to boost the initiative of Make in India.

KEY POINTS

- The ministry has signed the contract to supply six Pinaka regiments, a system rocket launcher to the Indian Army by 2024.
- The contract is signed with: Bharat Earth Movers Ltd, Tata Power Company Ltd and Larsen & Toubro.
- The Pinaka regiments will be comprised of 114 launchers. It will be incorporated with automated gun aiming and positioning system.
- The Pinaka regiments will be put into operation at Northern and Eastern borders of India by Indian Army by 2024.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh

JAPAN EXTENDS FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO INDIA

Current Context: Japan has announced to grant a financial loan assistant support to India to fight COVID-19 crisis.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Under this, Japan has offered a loan amount of Rs 3500 crore to India.**
- This loan amount will help India to implement health and medical policies, to uplift the telemedicine with the help of digital technology in the rural part of India.
- The loan amount will also help to take precautionary measures to fight COVID-19.
- Japan has granted a loan at an interest rate of 0.01% per annum and a redemption period of 15 years, including 4 year grace period.
- The dignitaries exchanged the documents for the provision of grant aid worth 1 billion yen under Japan's Official Development Assistant scheme for India's Economic and Social Development Programme.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

INDIAN ECONOMY CONTRACTED BY 23.9% FOR Q1 FOR FY 2020-21

Current Context: The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released data displaying that Indian Economy is contracted by 23.9% for Q1 for FY 2020-21.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have released these estimates at both constant (2011-12) and current prices.**
- GDP at constant prices for the first quarter of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 26.90 lakh crore, as against Rs 35.35 lakh crore for the first quarter of 2019-20. This shows the contraction of 23.9% compared to 5.2% growth in the first quarter of 2019-20.
- GDP at current prices for the first quarter of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 38.08 lakh crore. This value was Rs 49.18 lakh crore for the first quarter of 2019-20. Hence, there is a contraction of 22.6% compared to 8.1% growth in Q1 in 2019-20.
- **Other estimates are:** GVA (Gross Value Added) for India declined to 22.8%, manufacturing by 39.3% and mining by 23.3%. GFCF (Gross Fixed Value Formation) contracted to 52.9%, electricity to 7%. Agriculture and related activities marked a growth of 3.4% during this quarter.

VIRTUAL BILATERAL MEET BETWEEN INDIA AND NIGERIA

Current Context: India and Nigeria held the bilateral meeting in a virtual mode in order to strengthen their relations to achieve mutual benefits for both the countries.

KEY POINTS

- **India was represented by Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Nigeria was represented by country's foreign minister Geoffrey Onyeama.**

- The dignitaries discussed to deepen their relations in the sector of politics, economics, trade, defence and security with cultural cooperation.
- They assured to achieve the cooperation in defence training, capacity building, support in defence equipment, medical and health services, R&D in the defence sector and to exchange of information on a regular basis.
- They also discussed the sharing of information taking place between Indian and Nigerian Navies in order to enhance security in the maritime sector in the Gulf of Guinea region. They also assured to work together for current efforts to counter-terrorism, insurgency and piracy.
- Also, Nigeria's foreign minister appreciated India support in combating COVID-19 in Nigeria. In July 2020, India offered financial support of USD 50 million and essential medicines to combat COVID-19 in Nigeria.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Nigeria: Abuja
 - Currency of Nigeria: Nigerian Naira

APPOINTMENTS AND EXTENSION 2ND SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Rajiv Kumar: He is appointed and has taken charge as **Election Commissioner of India**.

ABOUT

- **Aveek Sarkar:** He is appointed as **Chairman of Press Trust of India**. He is Editor Emeritus and Vice President of Ananda Bazar Group of Publications. He has replaced Vijay Kumar Chopra
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Press Trust of India: New Delhi
- **Hemant Khatri:** He is appointed as **Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)**. He has replaced L V Sarat Babu.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL): Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- **Pramod Chandra Mody:** He has given an **extension** to continue with the post of **Chairman for Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**. The extension is offered for 6 months.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CBDT: New Delhi

'LIGO' — AI BASED CHABOT BY ICICI PRUDENTIAL LIFE INSURANCE

Current Context: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched an Artificial Intelligence-based voice featured chatbot.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The chatbot is named as 'LiGo'.**

- The policyholders will be able to communicate with this chatbot in order to solve their queries with the help of simple voice commands.
- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has also extended this chatbot service on Google Assistant.** Customer can use this chatbot service just by activating Google Assistant on their smartphones and then speaking out their policy number and registered contact phone number, on doing this procedure, the policy information will be instantly displayed.
- The 'LiGo' is available in 9 Indian languages.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance: Mumbai
 - CMD of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance: N S Kannan

INDIAN ASTRONOMERS DISCOVERED FARTHEST STAR GALAXIES IN THE UNIVERSE

Current Context: Department of Space announced that Indian Astronomers has discovered farthest star galaxies in the universe.

DETAILS

- The discovered farthest star galaxies in the universe are the extreme UV light which is detected with the help of India's first multi-wavelength satellite 'Astrosat'.
- The galaxy is called AUDFs01.
- This star galaxy is seemed to located 9.3 billion light-years away from the Earth.
- This discovery by Indian astronomers is also reported in 'Nature Astronomy' an International Journal of Britain.
- The team of astronomers is headed by Dr Kanak Saha, Inter-University centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

MISSION KARMAYOGI- A NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR CIVIL SERVICES CAPACITY BUILDING

Current Context: The Union Cabinet has approved and launched Mission Karmayogi.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Mission Karmayogi is a National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building.**
- **The mission is launched to lay the foundation for capacity building for civil servants so that they remain firmly established in Indian culture while learning from best practices across the world.**
- This mission will help to build future-ready civil servants who will possess skillsets like right attitude, knowledge in order to achieve mission New India.
- Rs 510.86 crore will be utilised for a period of 5 years for this mission.
- The mission will be beneficial to 46 lakh central employees.

- **Framework for Mission Karmayogi :** (a) PM's Human Resource Council (b) Capacity Building Commission (c) Special Purpose Vehicle for owning and operating the digital assets and technological platform for online training (d) Coordination unit headed by the cabinet secretary.
- **'iGOTKarmayogi Platform will be set up to enhance the capacity of 2 crore officials all over India.**
- **Principles of Programme:** (a) Focus on on-site learning (b) Transition from rule-based to roles-based HR management (c) Calibrating civil service positions (d) Strengthening behavioural and functional domain competencies of civil servants (e) Developing partnership with best in class content creators.

COAL INDIA LTD INVEST RS 1.22 LAKH CRORES FOR 500 PROJECTS

Current Context: Coal India Ltd (CIL) has decided to invest Rs 1.22 lakh crore for achieving the target in 500 projects.

KEY FACTS

- **These 500 projects will be based on infrastructure, coal evacuation, project development, clean coal technologies and exploration in the country.**
- The investment is done to achieve motto of making India a Self-Reliant country and to achieve a target of 1 billion tonnes by 2023-24.
- Under this investment, CIL will be investing Rs 14,200 crores for the upcoming 3-4 years in two phases for its 49 first mile connectivity projects.
- Out of this Rs 1.22 lakh crores, CIL will be investing Rs 25,117 crore on mine infrastructure building, Rs 32,696 crores on coal evacuation and Rs 29,461 on project development and management for 2023-24.
- Along with this, the other 15 Greenfield projects will also be operated. These projects will be operated under the Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) model.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CIL: Kolkata, West Bengal

APPOINTMENTS 3RD SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Usha Padhee: She has given **additional charge as Director-General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**. She has become the first women and third IAS officer to be appointed for this post. She has replaced Rakesh Asthana.

ABOUT

- **V K Yadav:** He is appointed as **CEO of Railway Board by appointment committee of cabinet.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal

13TH GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2020

Current Context: 13th Global Innovation Index 2020 is released by WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per this index, India is ranked at position 48th in the list. India has also maintained a top position among central and southern Asia region.**
- India ranks top in 15 indicators like ICT, Exports, Government online services, R&D, Science and Engineering and many more.
- **The first position is marked by Switzerland, which is followed by Sweden and the US at second and third position respectively.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of WIPO: Geneva, Switzerland

GREEN TERM AHEAD MARKET

Current Context: Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable energy (Independent Charge) R K Singh has launched Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) for electricity.

KEY POINTS

- **The GTAM is launched to increase participation of people in renewable energy sector.**
- GTAM is the world's first product market for renewable energy(RE) sector.
- GTAM is launched to reduce the financial and technical burden on renewable energy based states and to provide them incentive platform so that they can work in RE sector.
- It will help in achieving India's target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022.

'WATER HEROES - SHARE YOUR STORIES' CONTEST

Current Context: The 'Water Heroes - Share Your Stories' Contest is launched by Jal Shakti ministry.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The contest is launched with an aim to make aware people about the importance of water in their life and to inculcate water conservation and management strategies.
- The contest aims to strengthen water consciousness in India.
- To participate in this contest, the people will have to submit their success stories about water conservation and management in the form of a video of 1-5 minutes. They will also have to submit a write-up of upto 300 words having pictures or photos of their water conservation techniques

which will depict their efforts and will also elaborate the results which they have obtained in water conservation.

- A maximum of 10 entries will be considered for the prize awards every month. The prize amount is Rs 10,000 and a certificate.
- **Static Part:**
 - Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti: Rattan Lal Kataria

CABINET APPROVES MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND JAPAN

Current Context: Union Cabinet approved to sign the MoU between India and Japan.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **This approval is for the Cooperation in the Textile Sector.**
- The union cabinet was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The approval is given to sign the MoU between textiles committee, India and Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan.
- This MoU will help to improve the quality and testing of Indian textiles and clothing for the Japan market.
- The MoU will also help to attain the benefit of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and Japan which was signed earlier.
- The MoU will also boost Indian exports to meet the requirement of Japanese importers by following rules and regulation of Japan's government.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

APPOINTMENTS ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Murali Ramakrishnan: He is appointed as **MD and CEO of South Indian Bank** for a tenure of 3 years. He has replaced V G Mathew.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of South Indian Bank: Thrissur, Kerala
 - **Tagline of South Indian Bank:** Experience Next Generation Banking
- **S Krishnan:** He is appointed as **MD and CEO of Punjab and Sind Bank**. He has replaced S Harishankar
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Punjab and Sind Bank: New Delhi
 - **Tagline of Punjab and Sind Bank:** Where Services is a Way of Life

- **K Padmakar:** He has given an **additional charge of Chairman and MD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**. Currently, he serves as Director (HR) for BPCL.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BPCL: Mumbai
- **Dinesh Pant:** He will be **heading the committee** formed by IRDAI to **study aspects for allowing life insurance companies to offer index-linked products**.

BIMSTEC MEET 2020

Current Context: India attended the **BIMSTEC Meet 2020** in order to review and expand support among associated countries of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).

ABOUT MEETING

- **India was represented by Secretary (East) in Ministry of External Affairs Vijay Thakur Singh.**
- The dignitaries of the BIMSTEC countries discussed the challenges which are arisen due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- They discussed to deal with the economic impact which is highly affected due to COVID-19.
- **BIMSTEC 2020 meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sri Lanka.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BIMSTEC: Dhaka, Bangladesh
 - BIMSTEC Nations: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bhutan, Thailand, Nepal

INDIA AND RUSSIA FINALISED DEAL TO MANUFACTURE AK-47 203 RIFLES

Current Context: India and Russia has finalised their deal to manufacture AK-47 203 rifles.

KEY FACTS

- **As per the deal, the AK-47 203 rifles will be manufactured in India under the guidance of Russia and the manufacturing will be the part of Make in India Initiative.**
- To finalise the deal, India's defence minister Rajnath Singh held the talks with counterpart Shoigu.
- The manufacturing will be held under a joint venture called Indo Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL).
- The manufacturing of AK-47 203 rifles will take place at Uttar Pradesh's Korwa Ordinance Factory.
- Costing of each AK-47 203 rifle is said to be around USD 1100 and is expected to replace Indian Small Arms System in the near future.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Russia: Moscow
 - Currency of Russia: Rouble

NATIONAL TRIBAL RESEARCH CONCLAVE

Current Context: The National Tribal Research Conclave was organized by Centre of Excellence for tribal affairs, ministry of tribal affairs and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda addressed the inaugural session of two day National Tribal Research Conclave.**
- The conclave was organized to analyse the ongoing work adopted by the ministry of tribal affairs. They also reviewed the results obtained by various projects in regards to the welfare of the tribal community.
- The future targets and the road map of National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) which is to be launched in partnership with IIPA was also discussed in the conclave.
- The minister addressed to make use of advance technology for the welfare of the tribal community and assured that ministry of tribal affairs is working in quality research programs in partnership with various reputed NGOs which will provide benefit to tribes.
- He also mentioned that ministry of tribal affairs is providing funds to 26 tribal research institutes in order to carry out research activities.

GERMANY LAUNCHED INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY WITH INDIA

Current Context: Presidential country of the European Union, Germany, has launched the Indo-Pacific strategy with India.

KEY POINTS

- The strategy is expected to play an important role in China's aggressive behavior in the Indo-Pacific region as China's foreign policy approach has disturbed many countries.
- Germany's Indo-Pacific strategy with India will also be working its role in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral and Economic Cooperation and the Indian Ocean Rim Association.
- Germany's Indo-Pacific strategy will work in sectors like maritime safety and disaster risk management.
- Germany will also be working with India and Japan in the virtue of UN Security Reforms.
- **The reason behind launching the Indo-Pacific strategy:** (a) 90% of world foreign trade is conducted by sea mainly via the Indian and Pacific Oceans (b) 25-30% world maritime trade is conducted through the Strait of Malacca (c) the South China Sea and its current behavioral impact on global trade.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Germany: Berlin
 - Currency of Germany: Euro

'HOME UTSAV'- ICICI BANK'S VIRTUAL PROPERTY EXHIBITION

Current Context: India's private sector bank, ICICI Bank, has launched a virtual property exhibition with the name 'Home Utsav'.

DETAILS

- **Home Utsav will digitally showcase the real estate properties and projects from various sites of India.**
- **Access link for Exhibition:** www.homeutsavicici.com.
- The virtual exhibition is available for access to both ICICI customers as well as Non-ICICI customers.
- 'Home Utsav' has been launched for Mumbai and Pune regions.
- **Features of Home Utsav:** (a) Wide range of real estate properties and projects will be made available to browse online (b) Attractive home loan interest rates (c) Special processing fees (d) Digital mode for loan sanction process (e) Exclusive direct discounts by developers
- Currently, over 100 projects by more than 600 developers will be made available to browse on this Home Utsav platform.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of ICICI Bank: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakshi

APPOINTMENT AND BRAND AMBASSADORS: 5TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Raj Srivastava: He is appointed as the next **Ambassador of India to the Republic of Croatia**.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Croatia: Zagreb
 - Currency of Croatia: Kuna
- **Dwayne Bravo:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador of 'SBOTOP'** a sportsbook brand.
- **Ayushmann Khurrana:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance: Pune

REVISED PRIORITY SECTOR LENDING GUIDELINES—BY RBI

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has reviewed and released Revised Priority Sector Lending Guidelines.

DETAILS

- **The PSL guidelines are revised to increase the funding for COVID-19 economically impacted sectors.**
- These revised PSL guidelines will offer better credit penetration and increase lending to small and marginal farmers and economically weaker sections of society.
- The new PSL guidelines include some fresh categories that can opt for finance under the PSL sector.
- This includes loans to be offered to the farmers for installing solar power plants, loans for the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG).
- Along with this, RBI has allotted higher weightage to increase PSL in 'identified district' where priority sector credit flow is relatively low.
- The credit limit for FPOs (Farmers Producers Organisations)/ FPCs (Farmer Producer Companies) is increased. The loan limit to be offered on renewable energy has also be increased. The credit limit on health benefits like Ayushman Bharat is also increased by RBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

5TH BRICS CULTURE MINISTERS MEET

Current Context: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel attended the 5th BRICS Culture Ministers Meet.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Russia.**
- The respected members of BRICS nations suggested exploring the options to host a digital online exhibition and also assured to offer cooperation in content sharing websites under the alliance of BRICS.
- They also discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the culture of BRICS nations.

G20 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET

Current Context: The G20 foreign Ministers Meet was hosted by Saudi Arabia and was chaired by Minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al-Saud.

ABOUT MEETING

- **India was represented by External Affairs Ministers S Jaishankar.**
- **In the meet, India proposed 'G20 Principals on Coordinated Cross-Border Movement of People.'**

- **The proposed principle is based on:** (a) Standardisation of quarantine procedures (b) Standardisation of testing procedures and to have universal acceptability of test results (c) Standardisation of movement and transition protocols and rules.
- Also in the meet, all the external affairs ministers of every country discussed about the protection of foreign students who are stuck in the countries and also about the facilitation of movement of stranded seafarers back to their homes.
- They also discussed enhancing international cooperation during this pandemic state of COVID-19.
- India's EAM discussed the measures and actions taken under Vande Bharat Mission and the creation of 'travel bubbles'.

4TH BUSINESS REFORM ACTION PLAN (BRAP) RANKING

Current Context: Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs has released the 4th Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) Ranking for 2018-19.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 4th Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) Ranking for 2018-19 represents the ease of doing business for the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- The BRAP 2018-19 is having 180 reform points. These reform points are business regulatory areas like Single Window System, access to Information, Labour, Environment etc.
- **The ranking is topped by Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh marked 100% compliance to all the reform points.**
- **Second and third ranks are marked by Uttar Pradesh and Telangana respectively.**
- **BRAP is released by DPIIT (Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade) in collaboration with World Bank.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DPIIT: Chennai

'I RAKHWALI' APP —BY PUNJAB

Current Context: Government of Punjab launched 'I Rakhwali' App.

KEY FACTS

- **The app is launched to boost the state's government moto to protect greenery and environment.**
- The app also helps to inspire people to conduct tree plantation activities and become 'Greenary Saviours'.
- The app also gives reporting signs for illegal felling of tress or damage to the forest. These reports are send to Forest Divisional Officers.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Punjab: Amarinder Singh

- Governor of Punjab: VP Singh Bandore
- **Wild Life Sanctuaries in Punjab:** Bir Motibagh WLS, Bir Dosanjh WLS, Abohar WLS,, Bir Aswan WLS, Nangal WLS, Kathlaur Kushlian WLS, Harika Lake WLS, Bir Bhadson WLS, Bir Mehaswala WLS

IIT ROORKEE SIGNS MOU WITH NIUA

Current Context: IIT Roorkee has signed MoU with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

ABOUT

- **The MoU is signed to work in the areas of universal design principles and to have the development of BASIIC (Building Accessible Safe Inclusive Indian Cities), which is the initiative programme of NIUA.**
- Both the entities will engage in this with all their technical support in order to make Indian cities more accessible, safe for living.
- IIT Roorkee and NIUA will collaboratively work in field policy research, knowledge creation, capacity development in order to build safe and smart cities.
- They will also strengthen the emerging possibilities toward urban inclusion by exchanging their R&D works.

60TH SIAM ANNUAL CONVENTION 2020

Current Context: The virtual session of 60th SIAM (Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers) Annual Convention 2020 was held.

DETAILS

- **The session was titled 'Re-Building the Nation, Responsibly'.**
- The session was addressed by union ministers Prakash Javadekar, Nitin Gadkari and Piyush Goyal.
- The panelist who participated in the virtual session of SIAM, expressed their views to boost localization in the Indian automobile sector and to achieve ease of doing business in this particular sector.
- They also expressed their views to harness the country's export in automobile sector.
- **Current appointments are undertaken by SIAM:** Kenichi Ayukawa: He is appointed as new President of SIAM. He is MD and CEO of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. He has replaced Rajan Wadhera.
 - Vipin Sondhi: He is appointed as Vice President of SIAM. He is MD and CEO of Ashok Leyland Ltd.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIAM: New Delhi

2ND EDITION OF ANTI-DENGUE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY DELHI GOVERNMENT

Current Context: Government of Delhi has launched the 2nd edition of Anti-Dengue Campaign.

ABOUT

- The name of the campaign is '10 Hafte-10 Baje-10 Minute' or 10 Weeks-10 o'clock, 10 Minutes.
- The campaign is not only launched to eradicate dengue but also for other vector borne diseases.
- Under this campaign, the residents of Delhi are asked to take out 10 minutes of time to conduct cleaning and sanitizing activities at their homes and in surroundings. They are also asked to inspect their own residence for clean stagnant water in order to avoid mosquito breeding and thus to prevent diseases like dengue, malaria etc.
- Under this campaign, Delhi's residents are also asked to make a phone call to any 10 relatives or friends and advise them to be the part of this campaign and carry out cleanliness activities.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal

MINISTRY OF MSME APPROVED KHADI AGARBATTI AATMA NIRBHAR MISSION

Current Context: Ministry of MSME has given approval for Khadi Agarbatti Aatma Nirbhar Mission.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Khadi Agarbatti Aatma Nirbhar Mission aims to create employment opportunities for migrant workers and skilled artisans in various states on India.
- It will support financially to the local agarbatti industries and handholding artisans associated with this sector.
- Earlier Rs 2.66 crore were offered to about 500 artisans for this mission. Now the support is increased to more than Rs 55 crore.
- Under this scheme, immediate financial support of Rs 3.45 crore will be offered to 1500 artisans.
- Two well-equipped centers at IITs/NITs and at Fragrance and Flavor Development Centre, Kannauj will be developed under this scheme.
- Also, automatic agarbatti making machine and powder mixing machines will be offered to the artisans and industries.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union MSME minister: Nitin Gadkari

35TH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC 2020

Current Context: The virtual session of 35th FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific 2020 was held.

KEY POINTS

- **The conference was held under the chairmanship of Bhutan.**
- India was represented by Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Purshottam Rupala.
- The dignitaries who participated in the conference discussed about the issues of COVID-19 and its impact on sectors like agriculture, natural resources, security of food and quality and quantity of nutrition in food.
- **The next edition of this conference will be chaired by Bangladesh in 2022.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FAO: Rome, Italy
 - Head of FAO: Qu Dongu

CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTRY, GOI ISSUES DRAFT GUIDELINES ON ADVERTISEMENTS

Current Context: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India has issued and released the draft guidelines on advertisements.

DETAILS

- **The guidelines are framed by Central Consumer Protection Authority under the Consumer Protection Act 2019.**
- As per the guidelines, the blogs/tweets/posts by celebrities should be based information or with an experience with the product.
- The disclaimers which are displayed in ads of products and which are in small font size will be treated as misleading ads and will be penalised for same.
- The disclaimers should be displayed such that they can be noticeable by the watcher or by the consumer and must be in similar font size and language of the ads.
- The voiceover format of disclaimer should also be in sync manner of the ads.

AIM PARTNERS WITH FRESHWORKS INC.

Current Context: Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog has partnered with a software company named Freshworks Inc.

HIGHLIGHTS

- They have entered into partnership with an aim to provide support to innovators and entrepreneurs.
- The partnership will also provide efficiency to all the institutes and organisations which are under AIM, NITI Aayog portfolio.
- Role of Freshworks in this partnership is that it will offer credits for its suite of products to AIM and to the institutes and organisations which are under AIM.
- **Freshworks will be offering:** Sales CRM Software, Customer Support Software, Customer Messaging Software, Agile Project Management Software, Cloud Telephony Software, Marketing Automation Software, HR Management Software and IT Service Management Software.
- Role of AIM will be to organize webinars, workshops, training sessions to the innovators and entrepreneurs.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairperson of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi
 - CEO of Amitabh Kant: Amitabh Kant

INDIA, US AND ISRAEL COLLABORATES FOR 5G TECHNOLOGY

Current Context: India, United States and Israel have entered into trilateral development initiative of 5G Technology.

KEY POINTS

- **They collaborated in the virtual US-India-Israel summit which was focused on trilateral partnership in achieving strategic, tech and development areas.**
- The summit was addressed by Israeli Ambassador to India Ron Malka and his counterpart Sanjeev Singla.
- The nations assured to provide 5G technology which will be open, interoperable, reliable and secured one.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of US: Washington DC
 - Currency of US: Dollar
 - Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
 - Currency of Israel: Israeli Shekel

K V KAMATH'S COMMITTEE REPORT RELEASED BY RBI

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has released a report framed by the committee which is led by K V Kamath.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The committee has suggested and recommended financial parameters which focusses on resolutions plans under the 'Resolution Framework for COVID 19 related Stress'.**
- **As per the report, the committee has selected 26 sectors which require reconstructing.** These 26 sectors are selected based on its analysis of various financial parameters which are affected economically due to COVID-19.
- **The sectors which are selected by the committee are:** Power, Construction, Iron and Steel Manufacturing, Roads, Real Estates, Trading Wholesale, Textiles, Chemicals, Consumer Durables, Nonferrous metals, Pharma Manufacturing, Logistics, Gems and Jewellery, Cement, Automobile components, Hotel/Restaurants/Tourism, Mining, Plastic Product Manufacturing, Auto dealership, Aviation, Sugar, Shipping , Port and Port related services, Building materials and Corporate retail outlets.
- The K V Kamath committee has recommended financial ratios for these 26 sectors which could be factored by lending institutions while finalizing resolution plan for a borrower. The financial aspects are related to leverage, liquidity and debt serviceability. These financial aspects will be considered to decide on resolution plan.
- **The lenders are mandated to consider parameters like:** Total outstanding liabilities/adjustable tangible net worth, total debt/EBITDA, Current ratio, Debt Service Coverage Ratio and Average debt service coverage ratio.
- **Other recommendations of the panel are:** (a) Debt coverage ratio should be one and above. (b) Banks should take into consideration pre-covid financial state of the company and impacts of COVID on it in order to frame a recast plan (c) Inter-creditor agreement has been made compulsory in all the cases which involves multiple lending institutions.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

SPARROW PORTAL- JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Current Context: The Union Territory has introduced an online portal named as SPARROW which stands for Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window.

KEY FACTS

- **The portal will be launched for Administrative Services Officers of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- The portal will be responsible to bring transparency, by avoiding loss of appraisal reports (APR) during any transition process.
- The portal is said to be beneficial to around 1289 officers and will ensure better monitoring and completion of performance appraisals of JKAS officer within time.
- With the help of SPARROW portal, an applicant can submit APR from any location at any time.
- To build this project, J&K e-governance agency will work in collaboration with National Informatics Centre and General Administration Department.
- **Static Part:**

- Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir: Manoj Sinha

GOI SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT WITH ADB FOR DELHI-MEERUT RRTS CORRIDOR

Current Context: Asian Development Bank has approved to provide funds to Government of India to build a high speed 82 km long Delhi-Meerut Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **For this purpose, ADB and GOI have signed a loan agreement of USD 500 million.**
- The construction of the Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor will provide better regional connectivity and mobility facility to Delhi. This will offer connectivity of Delhi to other cities in neighboring states.
- The first part of the loan will support to carry out construction of first of the three priorities of rail corridor which are planned under NCR Regional plan of 2021. The first part of loan will be utilised to construct electrified tracks, signaling systems, multimodal hubs and design featured stations.
- The construction of the Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor will led to the overall urban development of Delhi as it will be built with the help of high level technologies for RRTS, signaling facilities and well equipped station designs.
- The corridor will be equipped with multimodal hubs in order to have smooth interchange with other transport modes.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of New Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
 - Lt Governor of New Delhi: Anil Bajjal
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines

APPOINTMENTS ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Matthew Hayden and Lisa Singh: Government of Australia has appointed Matthew Hayden (Australian cricket player) and Lisa Singh (Indian origin politician) as **trade envoys for advancing business ties with India.**

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Australia: Canberra
 - Currency of Australia: Australian Dollar
- **Vinkesh Gulati:** He is appointed as **President of Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA)**. He has replaced Ashish H. Kale.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FADA: New Delhi
- **Sanyukta Samaddar:** She is appointed to **head the Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC)** formed by NITI Aayog.

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi

‘SIGNATURE VISA DEBIT CARD’—BANK OF INDIA

Current Context: Bank of India has launched ‘Signature Visa Debit Card’.

KEY FACTS

- **‘Signature Visa Debit Card’ is an international contactless debit card.**
- They have launched this card on the occasion of BOI’s 115th Foundation Day.
- The ‘Signature Visa Debit Card’ is for those people who are maintaining an average quarterly balance of Rs 10 lakhs and above.
- **Features of ‘Signature Visa Debit Card’:** (a) Available in metal and plastic variants (b) Expenditure limit of upto Rs 5 lakhs on POS and e-commerce and Rs 1 lakh on ATM (c) Offers attractive vouchers and discounts on travel, retail, dining, lifestyle, luxury hotels, reward points for online transactions (d) Offers insurance against fraudulent transactions.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bank of India: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Bank of India: Relationship Beyond Banking
 - MD and CEO of Bank of India: Atanu Kumar Das

INDIA’S ECONOMY TO CONTRACT 10.5% FOR FY2020-21 FROM -5%

Current Context: Fitch Ratings has projected that India’s economy to contract 10.5% in FY 2020-21 from the contraction of 5% which was estimated earlier.

DETAILS

- This projection by Fitch is with reference to the September update of Global Economic Outlook (GEO).
- As per the Fitch ratings, the Indian economy will grow by 11% in FY 2021-22 and by 6% in FY 2022-23.
- As per Fitch, in the Q1 of FY 2021, India’s GDP contracted by 23.9% while sharpest GDP contraction in the April-June 2020.
- The Indian arm of Fitch Ratings, has revised India’s GDP growth forecast to (-) 11.8% from (-) 5.3% earlier.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Fitch Ratings: New York, US

FIVE PSUS TO JOIN ISA-CSCA AS CORPORATE PARTNERS

Current Context: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas has announced that five Public Sector units (PSU) which are operated under Petroleum ministry will be joining as corporate partners for International Solar Alliance Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISA-CSCA).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The 5 PSUs are:** (1) Oil and Natural Gas Limited (ONGC) (2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) (3) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) (4) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) (5) GAIL India Limited.
- **Role of these PSUs:** (a) To focus on clean energy transition (b) To deploy solar panels (c) To work to achieve target of GOI to solarize 50% of fuel stations which are running under these PSUs in next five years (d) To contribute to ISA's corpus funds (e) To reduce carbon footprints by focusing more on green energy investments like biofuels and renewable energy.
- This announcement was made in the First World Solar technology Summit of International Solar Alliance which was hosted by India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of International Solar Alliance: Gurugram
 - Director General of International Solar Alliance: Upendra Tripathi
 - HQ of ONGC, IOCL, GAIL India Limited: New Delhi
 - HQ of BPCL, HPCL: Mumbai
 - Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas: Dharmendra Pradhan

EASE BANKING REFORMS INDEX 2.0

Current Context: The EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) Banking Reforms Index 2.0 is framed by the Indian Banking Association (IBA).

KEY POINTS

- **As per EASE Banking Reforms Index 2.0, Bank of Baroda has marked the top position in the ranking list.**
- **The State Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce has marked the Second and Third rank position respectively.**
- The index is prepared with an aim to achieve and analyse the positive changes in PSBs by having a healthy competition among them so that they can learn from each other and adapt to positive values so as to retain customer trust and be on the top position as trustworthy banks.
- Under this index, the Public Sector Bank's performances are analysed and measured by more than 120 objective metrics which are based on six themes.
- **The Six themes are:** (1) Responsible Banking (2) Customer Responsiveness (3) Credit Off-take (4) Governance and HR (5) PSBs as Udayamimitra for MSMEs (6) Deepening Financial Inclusion and Digitalisation
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of IBA: Mumbai
- CEO of IBA: Sunil Mehta

1ST INDIA-ANGOLA JOINT COMMISSION MEET

Current Context: The first joint commission meeting between India and Angola was held via video conference.

KEY POINTS

- **India was represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Angola was represented by Ambassador Tete Antonio, Minister of External Relations.**
- The dignitaries discussed enhancing trade relations between countries and they also discussed to achieve cooperation in the field of telecommunication, agriculture, defence, pharma, health and food processing.
- **Three agreements were signed between them namely:** (a) Agreement to exempt visa for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports (b) Agreement in the fields of health (c) Agreement to achieve cooperation between the ministry of external relations and Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service.
- **The second joint commission meets between India and Angola will be held in 2022.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Angola: Luanda
 - Currency of Angola: Angola Kwanza

INDIA'S FIRST INTEGRATED AMBULANCE SERVICE-- KARNATAKA

Current Context: Chief Minister of Karnataka launched India's First Integrated Ambulance Service to provide medical services.

DETAILS

- **It was launched at Jakkur Aerodrome, Bangalore and is also termed as first air ambulance operating from South India to offer support during medical emergencies.**
- **It will be operated by Air Ambulance firm ICATT (International Critical Air Transfer Team) in collaboration with aviation technology firm Kyathi from HAL airport of Bangalore.**
- The Integrated Ambulance Service is combined with helicopter and land ambulance services which will offer last-mile connectivity.
- It is based on German Isolation Pod which will offer safe service to COVID-19 patients.
- It is equipped with NICU equipment, CRP equipment, stretchers, ECGs and heart monitoring units etc. It will offer medical services like trauma emergency response, planned air transfer, high-risk obstetric transfers and also supports during disaster management relief actions.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Karnataka: B S Yediyurappa

- Governor of Karnataka: Vajubhai R Vala
- **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries of Karnataka:** Nagarhole NP, Bandipur NP, Anshi NP, Bannerghatta NP, Malai Mahadeshwara WLS, Melkote Temple WLS, Nugu WLS

'LEVELS AND TRENDS IN CHILD MORTALITY' REPORT 2020

Current Context: United Nations has released a report titled 'Levels and Trends in Child Mortality' for 2020.

KEY FACTS

- The report is drafted by the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimations (UN IGME).
- As per the report, India's child mortality rate has reduced between 1990 and 2019. The child mortality rate in 1990 was 126 and now it has declined to 34 in 2019.
- As per the report, the child mortality rate globally under five has dropped from 12.5 million in 1990 to 5.2 million in 2019.
- The new mortality rates are released by UNICEF, WHO and Population Division of the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and World Bank Group.
- As per the report, 49% of under-five deaths occurred in Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Congo for 2019.
- The sex-specific under-five mortality rate for India was 122 males and 131 females in 1990, which has now declined to 34 males and 35 males in 2019.
- India has marked a 4.5% annual reduction rate in under-five mortality between 1990 and 2019.
- **Static Part: Under-five mortality rate:** It is the number of deaths among children less than 5 age during a specific time interval.

PM MODI LAUNCHED PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA AND E-GOPALA APP

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and e-Gopala Application.

ABOUT

- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:** The PMSSY is launched with an aim to achieve sustainable development goals for fisheries in India. The funds allotted under this scheme is Rs 20,050 crore. The scheme will be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25.
- **Aim of PMMSY:** (a) To double the income of fish farmers (b) To boost fish production to 70 lakhs tonnes by 2024-25 (c) To reduce post-harvest losses of the fish sector (d) To increase employment opportunities in the fisheries sector (e) To establish finfish hatcheries, construct biofloc ponds, to build ornamental fish culture units, ice plants and fish feeding plants etc.

- **e-Gopala Application:** The app is the digital platform which launched with an aim to achieve breed improvement marketplace. The app will act as an information portal for the direct use of fish farmers. The app will provide information related to buying and selling of disease-free germplasm and will provide availability of quality breeding services like veterinary first aid, artificial insemination and vaccines. Alerts on various government schemes will also be provided via this app.

1ST INDIA-FRANCE-AUSTRALIA TRILATERAL DIALOGUE

Current Context: The first trilateral dialogue between India, France and Australia was held virtually.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The meet was held with an aim to improve the trilateral relations in various sectors of these countries.
- The meet was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary of India, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Secretary-General, Francois Delattre and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Secretary, Frances Adamson.
- The dignitaries discussed to synergies their respective strengths in order to have a peaceful, secure, and wealthy, and a rules-based Indo-Pacific region. They assured to achieve economic and geostrategic reforms with the cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region with reference to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- They also assured to cooperate in marine global common and potential sectors like the blue economy, marine biodiversity and marine pollution. They assured to increase cooperation in these three nations with the help of organisations like ASEAN, IORA and Indian Ocean Commission.
- They decided to work cooperatively in the sectors like humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, maritime domain awareness and mutual logistics support.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of France: Paris
 - Currency of France: Euro, CFP Franc
 - Capital of Australia: Canberra
 - Currency of Australia: Australian Dollar

DOORSTEP BANKING SERVICES BY PSBS

Current Context: Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Doorstep Banking Services by PSBs which is part of EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) Banking Reforms and Department of Financial Services, 2018.

KEY POINTS

- This doorstep banking service is launched with an aim to offer hassle-free and convenient banking services to Indian citizens.
- The service will be offered through universal touchpoints of call center, web portal or mobile app.
- The banking services will be offered at the doorstep by doorstep banking agents which will be deployed to work as service providers at 100 centers across India.
- Currently, services like pickup of the negotiable instrument, new cheque book requisition slip, pick up of 15G/15H forms, IT/GST challans, Delivering Demand drafts and non-personalized cheque book etc are offered to the citizens. However, rest of the financial services will be made available at doorstep from October 2020.
- The benefit of this service can be availed by the customer at nominal charge and is expected to be highly beneficial for senior citizens and divyangs.

APPOINTMENTS AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 11TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Anil Jain: He is appointed as **President of All India Tennis Association (AITA)**. He has replaced Praveen Mahajan.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of AITA: R. K. Khanna Tennis Stadium, Delhi
- **Anil Dhupar:** He is appointed as **Secretary-General of All India Tennis Association (AITA)**. He has replaced Hironmoy Chatterjee.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of AITA: R. K. Khanna Tennis Stadium, Delhi
- **Rajiv Mehrishi:** He is appointed as the Chairperson of the committee formed by GOI to make an assessment of relief to bank borrowers with respect to waiver of interest and waiver of interest on interest on COVID-19 related moratorium. He is the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
- **Preeti Sudan:** She is selected as one of the 11 panelist across the world in the World Health Organization's independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response.
- **Paresh Rawal:** He is appointed as **Chairman of National School of Drama**.
- **Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Smriti Mandhana:** They are appointed as **brand ambassador for Playerzpot**, which is the sports gaming platform.

INDIA SIGNS MOU WITH JAPAN

Current Context: India and Japan has entered into MoU with respect to **Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between armed forces of India and the self-defence forces of Japan**.

KEY POINTS

- They have signed MoU in order to achieve cooperation to provide training to their armed and self-defence forces in the areas of UN Peacekeeping operations, Humanitarian International Relief and other allied areas.
- Both India and Japan will work to improve interoperability between armed and self-defence forces by attaining bilateral defence engagements under special strategic and global partnership reforms of two nations.
- Under this MoU, the Japan Maritime Defence Force (JSDF) will be allowed to use India's military installations in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Also the Mutual Service Logistic Pact under this MoU itself, allows Indian Navy to access to Japan's bases in Djibouti.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Yen

'FIVE STAR VILLAGES' SCHEME – INDIA POST

Current Context: Department of Post launched a scheme titled 'Five Star Villages'.

ABOUT SCHEME

- The scheme is launched to provide universal coverage of flagship postal scheme to Indian rural areas. It ensures that postal services and products reach to every rural part of India.
- **The schemes which are covered under 'Five Star Villages':** (a) Savings Bank Account, KVP certificates, Recurrent Deposit Accounts (b) Sukanya Samridhi Account (c) Funded Post Office Saving Account which are linked to IPPB Accounts (d) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (e) Postal Life Insurance Police or Rural Postal Life Insurance Police.
- The 'Five Star Villages' scheme will be implemented by Gramin Dak Sevak and the team will be headed by Branch Postmaster.
- 5 GDS will be appointed in each team who will conduct a door-to-door awareness campaign and will provide information about schemes under 'Five Star Villages'.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of India Post: New Delhi

INDIA'S GDP RATE AT -9% FOR FY 2020-21—PROJECTED BY CRISIL

Current Context: The CRISIL Rating agency has projected India's GDP rate at -9% for financial year 2020-21.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Earlier in May 2020, CRISIL projected that Indian economy will contract by 5% due to the outbreak of COVID-19 which has affected economic condition of the country.

- As per CRISIL, this 9% contraction is the highest one since 1950s.
- **Also, CRISIL has projected that Indian GDP will grow 10% for FY 2022. And for the next years i.e. between 2023 and 2025, India's GDP will show an average growth of 6.2% annually.**
- **The rating agency also projected that Indian agriculture sector to grow by 2.5% in the current fiscal year.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CRISIL: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of CRISIL: Ashu Suyash

RBI RELEASED GUIDELINES TO HAVE UNIFORM COMPLIANCE PRACTICES IN BANKS

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India released a notification for compliance functions in banks and the role of Chief Compliance Officer (COO).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The guidelines for compliance practices in banks are the board approved compliance policy.
- As per the notice drafted by the central bank, the banks are supposed to have an effective compliance culture, independent corporate compliance function and strong compliance risk management programme both at the bank and group level.
- As per the central bank, this independent compliance function is to be headed by the Chief Compliance Officer (COO). The COO is expected to manage compliance risk effectively. COO will be appointed for a minimum fixed tenure of not less than 3 years.
- The compliance function is responsible to manage the compliance risk of the bank. Compliance risk which is an integrity risk, associated with risk of legal sanctions, regulatory sanctions, financial loss, or the loss which bank may suffer if not followed with the applicable laws, regulations, codes of conduct etc.
- Compliance policy defined by RBI ensures expectations on compliance culture covering from accounts, incentive structure and effective communications and challenges. It also defines the role of COO, defines processes for identifying, assessing, monitoring, managing and reporting on compliance risk throughout the bank.
- Duties of Compliance functions: (a) To appraise the board and management on rules and regulations on any further development (b) Clarifying on any compliance-related issues (c) Conduct assessment of compliance risk at least once in a year by developing risk-oriented activity plan for compliance assessment and to submit activity plan to ACB for approval and for internal audit process (d) To periodically report to respective authority in case of any major changes related to compliance risk and compliance failures (e) To conduct representative compliance testing.
- Role of COO: (a) To conduct audits, inspections and to ensure that banks adhere to internal and external laws (b) To analyze risk areas and ensure bank's operations are with respect to federal laws (c) To assess policies and ensure that policies are in line with rules on mortgage and customer deposits (d) To give compliance advice to risk management unit of an organisation (e)

To work coordinately with bank's COO and to conduct compliance programs to train and educate bank staff on the formation of new regulations.

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

CONCLAVE ON 'SCHOOL EDUCATION IN 21ST CENTURY'

Current Context: A two-day conclave on 'School Education in 21st Century' began on 10th Sep 2020 in a virtual mode.

KEY POINTS

- **The conclave was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- **The conclave is the part of New Education Policy 2020.**
- It was **organized by the Ministry of Education** as the part of Shiksha Parv 2020 initiative, which is to be celebrated like an education festival from 8th Sep to 25th Sep 2020.
- PM Narendra Modi addressed the conclave speaking about NEP 2020 and assured that NEP 2020 is the proper way to fulfil new aspirations and new hopes of India. He also appreciated the efforts of teachers from India for their contribution to MyGov.
- PM Narendra Modi addressed that Indian Students must-have skills of the 21st century. The skills are Critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication.
- PM Modi announced to set up National Evaluation Centre 'Parakh' which will be responsible for overall development in the evaluation system.
- **Technical sessions and discussion conducted in the conclave were on the topics:** (a) 'Foundational Literacy and Numeracy' (b) 'Art Integrated and Toy integrated Pedagogy' (c) 'Early Childhood Care and Education' (d) 'Teaching in Mother Tongue' (e) 'No Hard Separation'.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Education Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

10TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS) 2020

Current Context: The 10th East Asia Summit 2020 was conducted virtually. The agenda of the meet was about international and national developments and to mitigating measures for COVID-19.

DETAILS

- **India was represented by External Affairs Minister for State, V. Muraleedharan.**
- **The meeting was chaired by Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Pham Bin Minh.**
- In the meeting, the dignitaries discussed the ways to strengthen the EAS platform and make it responsible to handle upcoming challenges.
- The ministers discussed the views for mitigating and fast recovery from coronavirus

- They also discussed the work progress in the Manila Plan of Action.
- V. Muraleedharan also acknowledged Vietnam's work in providing supervision towards 'Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN' during the pandemic state of COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Vietnam: Hanoi
 - Currency of Vietnam: Vietnamese Dong

CLIMATE SMART CITIES ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK 2.0

Current Context: Climate-Smart Cities Assessment Framework 2.0 (CSCAF 2.0) is launched by Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (independent charge) Hardeep Singh Puri.

ABOUT

- **Along with this, the minister also launched 'Street for People Challenge'.**
- Both the initiatives were launched during a virtual event organized by Smart Cities Mission under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **The objective of CSCAF 2.0:** (a) To provide a roadmap to cities to fight climate change (b) To build a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development.
- There are total of 28 indicators which are divided into 5 categories for CSCAF 2.0.
- **The 5 categories are:** (a) Energy and Green Buildings (b) Urban Planning, Green Cover and Biodiversity (c) Mobility and Air Quality (d) Water Management (e) Waste Management.
- **'Street for People Challenge':** The challenge aims to inspire Indian cities to adopt measures in order to make cities more walkable and pedestrian-friendly.

PIGGERY MISSION—MEGHALAYA

Current Context: The government of Meghalaya launched 'Piggery Mission' with an aim to reduce annual import of pork to Rs 150 crore and to make Meghalaya Aatma Nirbhar in pork production in the upcoming 3 years.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The funds allotted for this scheme is Rs 209 crores.**
- **The Piggery Mission is launched under Meghalaya Livestock Enterprises Advancement Society (MLEADS).**
- **The financial support to this scheme is offered by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).**
- Under this scheme, the piggery sector will be totally transformed in terms of quality enhancement, skill development, value addition and input cost estimation.
- Under this mission, a regular income source will be provided to members of 300 PACCS (Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies). Interest-free loans will be offered to the state farmers.

- Piggery Mission is implemented under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Meghalaya: Conrad Sangma
 - Governor of Meghalaya: Satya Pal Mallik
 - HQ of NCDC: New Delhi

'iSTARTUP 2.0'—ICICI BANK

Current Context: In order to have a comprehensive banking programme for Indian Startups, ICICI Bank has launched a new product with the 'iStartup 2.0'.

KEY POINTS

- The 'iStartup 2.0' will help the startups and entrepreneurs in the requirements like regulatory assistance, analytics, acquisition, staffing, accounting and digital platform for its customers and in all other banking and allied activities.
- The 'iStartup 2.0' will combine all businesses, trade and their related banking requirements under the one single platform of mobile or internet banking.
- The initiative will offer customers with a current account in three variants namely, Platinum, Gold and Silver.
- The new businesses which are upto 10 years old, in or without partnerships, private or public limited companies and limited liabilities partnerships are eligible to open a current account under 'iStartup 2.0'.
- On opening the current account under 'iStartup 2.0', the startups will be given with an account number instantly at the time of incorporation as ICICI Bank has integrated its APIs with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs website.
- 'iStartup 2.0' will offer many startups with features like instant GST payments, easy bulk connections, payment option through multiple modes, automatic bank reconciliation and inward or outward remittances among others.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of ICICI Bank: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Aapka
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakhshi

24TH GLOBAL ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX 2020

Current Context: Canada's Fraser Institute in partnership with Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi based think tank has released Global Economic Freedom Index 2020.

ABOUT

- As per the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020, India is ranked at 105th position.

- **The ranking position is topped by Hong Kong.**
- The second and third position is ranked by Singapore and New Zealand respectively.
- The least rank position is marked by Venezuela.
- The report is published by the CATO Institute of America in association with more than 70 think tanks in the world.
- **The index is measured in 5 broad areas with respect to Degree of freedom:** (1) Size of Government (2) Legal System and Property Rights (3) Sound Money (4) Freedom to take Internationally (5) Regulation.

17TH SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION'S CULTURE MINISTERS MEET 2020

Current Context: The 17th Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Culture Ministers Meet 2020 was held virtually.

KEY FACTS

- **India was represented by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel.**
- The meeting was held to develop mutual cultural cooperation within SCO and to place a dignified role of culture during the global crisis situation.
- Prahlad Singh Patel highlighted his view that the main aspect which unites all SCO nations is the shared heritage of Buddhist philosophy and its art.
- He expressed his view that in order to deepen the cultural cooperation in SCO nations, digital technology is a vital medium which must be adopted to awaken the custom, culture and tradition.
- Also to promote the mutual bonding among SCO nations, the National Museum of India is in the process to organize the first SCO Exhibition on Shared Buddhist Heritage.
- Also, India is with an aim to share literature works with SCO nations, for this, the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of letters will translate 10 Indian literature works into Russian and Chinese languages.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SCO: Shanghai, China
 - Secretary-General of SCO: Vladimir Norov

LIBERTY GENERAL INSURANCE LTD PARTNERED WITH SPICEJETS

Current Context: Liberty General Insurance Ltd has partnered with SpiceJet's to offer a travel insurance policy.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The name of the travel insurance policy is 'Liberty Secure Travel'.**
- This policy is for the customers who book tickets through the airline's website.

- The 'Liberty Secure Travel' policy offers zero cancellation service which allows customers to cancel the tickets and 100% reimbursement of cancellation charges. This facility is applicable to the domestic network of SpiceJet's.
- The customers who opt for zero cancellation insurance can claim for full cancellation fee reimbursement only for a flight whose booking is made in advance i.e. not beyond 90 days.
- Sum insured on cancellation of tickets is Rs 5000.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Liberty General Insurance Ltd: Mumbai
 - HQ of SpiceJet: Gurgaon, Haryana
 - Chairman and MD of SpiceJet: Ajay Singh

INDIA'S GDP AT -11.5% FOR FY 2021—BY MOODY'S RATING AGENCY

Current Context: The Moody's rating agency has forecasted that India's GDP to contract 11.5% for financial year 2020-21.

DETAILS

- It has also projected that the Indian economy will grow at 10.6% for FY 2021-22.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Moody: New York, United States
 - President and CEO of Moody: Raymond W. McDaniel Jr.

2+2 INTER-SESSIONAL MEET BETWEEN INDIA AND US

Current Context: The bilateral 2+2 Inter-sessional meeting between India and United States was conducted in virtual manner.

ABOUT

- India was represented by Joint Secretary for America in the ministry of external affairs, Vani Rao and Joint Secretary for International Cooperation in the ministry of defence, Somnath Ghosh.
- The meeting was held to discuss the regional and multilateral issues related to COVID-19 pandemic, counter-terrorism and about Indo-Pacific Region.
- The dignitaries also discussed Indian's membership in UNSC (United Nation Security Council).
- They discussed to deepen US-India-Australia-Japan quadrilateral consultations.
- They reviewed the work progress in sectors of defence, security, foreign policy and decided to tale efforts for recent destabilizing actions in South Asia.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of United States: Washington DC
 - Currency of United States: US Dollar

27TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM MINISTER MEET

Current Context: The 27th ASEAN Regional Forum Minister Meet was conducted via video conference.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **India was represented by Union Minister of State for External Affairs, V Muraleedharan.**
- **The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Vietnam.**
- V Muraleedharan discussed about the counter-terrorism, COVID-19 Pandemic and maritime security.
- **Three major aspects were adopted during the meet:** (a) Cooperation to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases (b) Treating childrens who were recruited with terrorist organisations (c) Boost cooperation in sectors of security, Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for External Affairs: S Jaishankar
 - ASEAN 2020 Chairmanship: Vietnam
 - ASEAN Secretariat: Jakarta, Indonesia

INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT 9% FOR FY 21—BY S&P GLOBAL RATINGS

Current Context: The Standards and Poors Global Rating platform have projected Indias Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to contract at 9% for the fiscal year 2020-21.

HIGHLIGHTS

- S&P marked 5% of India's GDP contraction in their previous estimation.
- The reason behind the reduction in GDP is the rising cases of COVID-19 which is impacting on economy of India. The rising COVID-19 cases are keeping private spending and investment at low.
- S&P has projected economic growth for India at 10% for the fiscal year 2021-22.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of S&P Global Ratings: New York, United States
 - President of S&P Global Ratings: John Berisford
- **Economic growth predictions for India by other rating agencies:-**

Name of Agency	Projected growth for India
Morgan Stanley	5%
Fitch	-10.5%
Goldman Sachs	-14.8%
India Ratings and Research	11.8%
Nomura	-10.8%
Moody	11.5%
CARE	-8% to -8.2%

APPOINTMENTS ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Rajnath Singh: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is appointed to head Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to look into Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of OFB: Kolkata
- **Sameer Kumar Khare:** He is appointed as **Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB)** for a tenure of 3 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
- **Takeo Konishi:** Asian Development Bank has appointed Takeo Konishi as **Country Director of India**. He has replaced Kenichi Yokoyama.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
- **Rajesh Khullar:** He is appointed as **Executive Director of World Bank** for a tenure of 3 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, United States
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass
- **Jane Fraser:** She is appointed as **CEO of Citigroup**. She will be replacing Michael Corbat. She has become first female CEO for Citigroup.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Citigroup: New York, United States
- **Subhash Kamath:** He is appointed as **Chairman of Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)**. He has replaced Rohit Gupta.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ASCI: Mumbai
- **NS Rajan:** He is appointed as **Vice Chairman of Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)**.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ASCI: Mumbai
- **Harivansh Narayan Singh:** He is re-appointed as **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha**.
- **Yoshihide Suga:** He is appointed as **Prime Minister of Japan**. He has replaced Shinzo Abe.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Yen

EMPOWERED GROUP OF MINISTERS TO LOOK INTO CORPORATISATION OF ORDINANCE FACTORY BOARD

Current Context: Government of India has formed a Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to look into Corporatisation of Ordinance Factory Board (OFB).

KEY FACTS

- **The EGoM will be chaired by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.**
- **The other members of EGoM are:** Amit Shah (Union Home Minister), Nirmala Sitharaman (Union Finance Minister), Ravi Shankar Prasad (Union Minister for Law and Justice), Santosh Kumar Gangwar (Union Minister for Labour and Employment) and Jitendra Singh (Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievance and Pension).
- The aim behind this formation of group of ministers to oversee Corporatisation of OFB is that GOI has decided to improve the autonomy, accountability and efficiency in ordinance supplies. For this purpose, the GOI has decided to convert OFB into one or more government owned corporate agencies.
- Currently, OFB is the subordinate office of the defence ministry.
- **Role of EGoM:** To look into entire process of corporatisation, to help in transition support and conduct redeployment plans of employees by managing and safeguarding their wages and retirements. They will decide treatment for land assets of OFB.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of OFB: Kolkata
 - Director General of OFB: C S Vishwakarma
 - Currently, OFB has 41 factories under it which produce ordnance for India's armed forces

IFSCA SIGNS MOU WITH IGPC OF IIM AHMEDABAD

Current Context: The International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) has signed MoU with Indian Gold Policy Centre of IIM Ahmedabad (IGPC-IIMA) to build the International Bullion Exchange (IBE) in India.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **IFSCA will roll out to establish IBE in India and IGPC-IIMA will be the knowledge partner in this establishment of IBE in India.**
- IGPC-IIMA is having expertise in the area of gold markets and hence will offer a proper approach to establish smooth functioning bullion exchange.
- **The IBE will be responsible to reduce the current inefficiency in the market in terms of Indian bullion trade and will create a transparent platform for bullion trading in India.**
- **It will help to achieve price discovery, quality and service in coordination with international standards and will be led to market development in respect to higher degree compliance, traceability and product innovation.**

- The reason behind establishing IBE in India is that the global gold consumption share of India is 20-25% and even after 2 decades of launching gold market in India there is lack of infrastructure facility which will help in creating world connections. And thus if IBE is established it will pave a way to create world connections and will be answered to rest of the challenges and will lead to bringing gold to the Indian economy.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IFSCA: Gandhinagar, Gujarat
 - Chairman of IFSCA: Injeti Srinivas

ADB TO OFFER \$15 MILLION TO SUGUNA FOODS PRIVATE LTD

Current Context: Asian Development Bank has entered with an agreement for debt financing for Suguna Foods Private Ltd.

DETAILS

- **The agreement of \$15 million is signed between ADB and Suguna Foods Pvt LTD.**
- **The financial support will help to sustain poultry farming operations, efficiency in rural livelihoods and enhancing food security.**
- **ADB's liquidity support to Suguna will lead to build inventory buffers and make timely payments to their contract farmers and suppliers.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines.
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

TRAI RECOMMENDS TO SETUP AN INDUSTRY BODY FOR CLOUD SERVICE PROVIDERS

Current Context: The Telecomm Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended to form an industry body for cloud service providers (CSP).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **This recommendation by TRAI is the part of 'light-touch regulatory framework'.**
- Therefore, the TRAI has given authority to Department of Telecom (DoT) to start with the process of setting up of the industry body in this regard and has asked cloud service providers to become its members. **Thus, the first industry body will be set by DoT and it will be the non-profit body.**
- **Steps to set up the first industry body by DoT:** (1) Enrollment of CSP operating in India (2) Formation of adhoc body to frame rules, organizational structures and election process (3) Election of office bearers to work as a regulator industry body.
- The industry body will work in coordination with TRAI and DoT.
- The industry body will allow the stakeholders to be in the right spot in the sequence.

- It will review its work and experience and will take further decision to form multiple industry bodies for various purposes so that it will be able to address multiple market segments.
- Initially, the CSP will be limited to providers who are offering infrastructure as a service and platform as service.
- The membership is not made compulsory for software as service provider. But if they wish, they can acquire for membership on a volunteer basis.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of TRAI: New Delhi

INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT 9% FOR FY 2020-21

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has forecasted that India's GDP to contract 9% for the financial year 2020-2021.

KEY POINTS

- This projection by ADB is published in its 'Asian Development Outlook 2020 Update-September 2020'.
- ADB has mentioned the reason that the economic growth has slowed down because of the outbreak of coronavirus, which has affected the economy of India.
- **However, ADB has forecasted that GDP will grow by 8% in FY 2021-2022.**
- As per projection, inflation is expected to reduce in the remainder of FY2020 to 4.5% with rising food prices and decreased economic activities and then it will reduce to 4% in FY 2021.
- As per ADB, the current account deficit for India is expected to shrink to 0.3% of GDP for this fiscal year. In FY 2022, it will then widen to 0.6% of GDP.
- **ADB has also forecasted that developing Asia's GDP to contract by 0.7% in FY 2020.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

BRAND AMBASSADOR'S SELECTIONS ON 16TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Sachin Tendulkar: He is appointed as **brand ambassador of Paytm First Games**. Paytm First Games is the subsidiary of Paytm.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
 - President of Paytm: Amit Nayyar
- **Amitabh Bachchan:** He is selected by **Amazon for its Alexa Voice Assistant**. He has become the first Indian to deliver his voice to Alexa.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of Amazon: Seattle, Washington, US
- CEO of Amazon: Jeff Bezos
- **Virat Kohli:** He is appointed as **brand ambassador for Great Learning**, an online education platform.

FM INTRODUCED BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 IN LS

Current Context: The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has introduced Banking Regulation Amendment Bill 2020 in Lok Sabha.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The new Banking Regulation Amendment Bill 2020 aims to give power to restructure cooperative banks by RBI in order to protect the interest of depositors.
- Now, the powers of RBI will be extended to cooperative banks after the ratification of bill.
- After the amendment of the bill, Cooperative banks will be able to raise money by public issues or by private placements of equity or by preference shares as well as by unsecured debentures; by having prior recommendations and approvals from RBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

10TH DTTI GROUP MEET BETWEEN INDIA AND US

Current Context: The 10th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting was held virtually between India and the United States.

ABOUT MEETING

- India was represented by Raj Kumar, Secretary of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and the United States were represented by Ellen M Lord, Secretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment, US Department of Defence.
- In the meet, a Statement of Intent (SoI) was signed between two nation's Defence delegations.
- The SoI is signed to strengthen bilateral dialogue on defence technology cooperation between India and the US.
- To achieve the motto of SoI, the dignitaries assured to pursue detail planning and make measurable progress by coordinating with each other.
- The DTTI meet aims to achieve sustain leadership by focusing on bilateral defence trade relations between India and the US. It also aims to create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.
- Under DTTI, four joint working groups namely, land, naval, air and aircraft carrier technologies are established in order to conduct projects in their respective domains.

'BACKYARD HORTICULTURE' PROGRAMME: JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Current Context: The Horticulture Department of Jammu and Kashmir launched a 'Backyard Horticulture' Programme.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The programme is launched under the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) scheme at Pachyat Jaswan, Marh Block, Jammu district.
- **The 'Backyard Horticulture' Programme aims to increase the production of organic fruits for home consumption and to fulfil individual requirements in terms of economic and health.**
- **Under this programme, three fruit yielding plants costing to Rs 200 will be distributed to the farmers at 90% subsidy.**
- The programme is expected to be beneficial to around 600 homes in Zone Marh, Jammu District.
- The methods to plant these fruit yielding plants in the backyard place of homes are given to the farmers.
- **Static Part:**
 - Lt Governor of J&K: Manoj Sinha
 - State animal of J&K: Kashmir Stag (aka Hangul)
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Jammu and Kashmir:** Dachigam NP, Kazinag NP, Hemis NP, Salim Ali NP, Kishtwar NP, Jasrota WLS, Nandini WLS, Overa WLD, Ram Nagar WLS, Surinsar WLS

INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT 10.2% FOR FY 2020-21—BY OECD

Current Context: The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has forecasted that India's GDP to contract 10.2% for the financial year 2020-2021.

KEY FACTS

- This projection by OECD is released in its Global Economic Forecast for 2020.
- As per OECD, the global economy will shrink at 4.5% for the current fiscal year.
- And the growth projection is projected to 5% by OECD.
- OECD in its June forecast has projected India's GDP to contract by 16.7% for FY 2020-21.
- OECD has projected India's GDP to grow 10.7% for FY 2021-2022.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of OECD: Paris, France
 - Secretary-General of OECD: Jose Angel Gurría

CORPORATE AGENCY AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN SBI GENERAL INSURANCE AND YES BANK

Current Context: SBI General Insurance has signed a Corporate Agency Agreement with Yes Bank.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The agreement is signed to distribute SBI General Insurance Company's products to the customers of Yes Bank.**
- The partnership between SBI General insurance and Yes Bank will offer non-life insurance products and services along with the deployment of technology to the customers in order to provide superior and secured finance transactional experience to them.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI General Insurance: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of SBI General Insurance: Prakash Chandra Kandpal
 - HQ of Yes Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Yes Bank: Experience your Expertise
 - MD and CEO of Yes Bank: Prashant Kumar

RBI ISSUES DRAFT RUPEE INTEREST RATE DERIVATIVES DIRECTIONS, 2020

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has released Draft Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives Directions, 2020 to allow foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to undertake exchange-traded rupee interest rate derivatives transactions subject to an overall ceiling of Rs 5,000 crore.

DETAILS

- It is released under Section 45W, RBI Act 1934.
- The aim behind issuing Draft Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives Directions, 2020 is to motivate higher non-resident participation, enhance the role of makers of the domestic market in the offshore market, to increase the transparency and to achieve better regulation in this regards.
- **As per the draft, the FPIs can transact in allowed exchange-traded IRDs subjected to the conditions, 'the net long position of FPIs, collectively and across all exchanges, in exchange-traded IRDs should not exceed Rs 5000 crore.' Also, the net short position of an FPI on exchange-traded IRDs should not exceed its long position in gov. securities and in other rupee debt securities.**
- **Also, the draft states that the reason for offering rupee IRD contracts to a user is that the market maker should classify the user either as a retail user or as non- retail user. Non-retail user is the entities regulated by RBI, SEBI, IRDAI or PFRDA or resident companies having a minimum net worth of Rs 500 crore.**
- **Static Part:** What is Interest Rate Derivatives? : These are the contracts whose values are derived from one or more interest rates, prices of interest-rate instruments or interest rate indices.
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai

- Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

IBSA FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING 2020

Current Context: India-Brazil- South Africa (IBSA) Foreign Ministers Meeting was held virtually.

ABOUT MEETING

- India was represented by external affairs Minister S Jaishankar, South Africa was represented by Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of Republic of SA and Brazil was represented by Fabio Marzano, Secretary for National Sovereignty and Citizenship of the Federation Republic of Brazil.
- In the meet, the ministers discussed the issue related to security, peace, counter-terrorism, trading systems, climate change and sustainable development
- They assured to offer cooperation with international organisations such as African Union Peace and Security Council, United Nations etc. They exchanged their views to boost cooperation in IBSA and appreciated the work done by IBSA to eradicate poverty and hunger issues especially during COVID-19 pandemic situation. The ministers adopted and released the IBSA Joint Ministerial Statement on the Reform of UN Security Council.
- **Static part:**
 - Capital of Brazil: Brasilia Currency of Brazil: Brazilian Real Capital of South Africa: Pretoria (Executive Capital), Bloemfontein (Judicial capital) and Cape Town (Legislative)
 - Currency of South Africa: South African Rand

4TH GLOBAL AYURVEDA SUMMIT 2020

Current Context: Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 4th Global Ayurveda Summit 2020 virtually.

ABOUT SUMMIT

- **The theme for 4th global Ayurveda Summit 2020: 'Emerging Opportunities for Ayurveda during Pandemic'.**
- **Events included in the summit:** 8-day international conference, 30-day international exhibition, business meets.
- The summit has received the participation from more than 25 countries having the objective to be the part of Ayurveda and understand its immunity power.
- The summit will highlight the Ayurveda immunity model at a global level as a solution named as 'Health as one' and 'Immunity through Ayurveda'.
- **Summit is organized by Confederation of Indian Industry, Kerala, Ministry of AYUSH, AMAI (Ayurveda Medical Association of India), AMMOI (Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturers Organisation in India) and AHMA (Ayurveda Hospital Management Association).**
- **Static part:**

- HQ of CII: New Delhi

WORLD BANKS HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX 2020

Current Context: World Bank has released its annual report for Human Capital Index 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The index report is released with the title, The Human Capital Index 2020 Update: Human Capital in the time of COVID-19.**
- Human Capital Index includes the analysis of vital elements of human capital across countries. It is based on health and education analytical data for about 174 countries.
- The index is the collaboration between Human Development Practice Group and the Development Economic Group of World Bank.
- **India has marked a rank position of 116th in the Human Capital Index 2020.**
- **India scored 0.49 in the current human capital index.** However, the score is increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018.
- **The index is topped by Singapore with a score of 0.88.**
- The Second position is marked by Hong Kong and China with a score of 0.81. Japan marked the third rank position with a score of 0.80.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, United States
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass

INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT BY 8.6% FOR FY 2020-21—BY UBS SECURITIES

Current Context: The UBS Securities has forecasted that India's GDP to contract 8.6% for the financial year 2020-2021.

KEY FACTS

- Earlier it has projected GDP contraction to 5.8%.
- As per UBS Securities, India's potential rate of growth has reduced to 5.75- 6.25% as per the estimation against 7.1%.
- It has also projected that India's GDP will show the growth by 10% for the financial year 2021-2022.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UBS Securities: Beijing, China

INDIA HAPPINESS REPORT 2020

Current Context: The India Happiness Report 2020 is released which covers all Indian states and union territories.

ABOUT REPORT

- The report measures happiness across the country contributing to peoples happiness and COVID-19 impact on happiness.
- The report is the analytical study covering 16,950 people between March 2020 to July 2020. The study is done by Prof. Rajesh K Pillania.
- **Overall States and UT which marked the first three rank position in India Happiness Report 2020: Mizoram (Rank 1), Punjab (Rank 2) and Andaman and Nicobar (Rank 3).**
- **The big States which marked the first three rank position in India Happiness Report 2020: Punjab (Rank 1), Gujarat (Rank 2) and Telangana (Rank 3).**
- **The small States which marked the first three rank position in India Happiness Report 2020: Mizoram (Rank 1), Sikkim (Rank 2) and Arunachal Pradesh (Rank 3).**
- **Union Territories which marked the first three rank position in India Happiness Report 2020: Andaman and Nicobar Island (Rank 1), Puducherry (Rank 2) and Lakshadweep (Rank 3).**
- As per the report, worst Impact of COVID-19 is on Maharashtra, Delhi and Haryana.

WHATSAPP PARTNERED WITH COMMON SERVICES CENTERS

Current Context: Facebook-owned WhatsApp messaging app has entered into a partnership with Common Service Centers (CSC).

DETAILS

- **They have entered into the partnership for a WhatsApp chatbot which will work to empower and educate rural people by offering them Digital literacy services and resources at their doorstep.**
- **They will work to remove the digital divide gap in the rural economy and will create livelihood by promoting rural entrepreneurship.**
- The WhatsApp chatbot is expected to be beneficial to about 10 million people by August 2021.
- The CSC and WhatsApp in collaboration will offer cost-effective videos, voice content, data content in the sector of education, health, e-governance, telemedicine and other private services.
- **To avail the benefit of WhatsApp chatbot people can send "Namaste" at CSC Academy's WhatsApp contact number +91 9999189321 to access the details and benefits of digital literacy chatbot service.**
- People can also avail course modules of flagship programs like Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Shaksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) and Digital Beti initiative in English and other regional languages.

10TH BRICS NSA MEET

Current Context: The 10th edition of BRICS National Security Advisor (NSA) took place virtually.

ABOUT MEETING

- **The meeting was chaired by the Russian Federation.**
- **India was represented by Ajit Doval, NSA of India.**
- The dignitaries discussed anti-terrorism draft strategy.
- They also discussed combating terrorism and focusing on global and regional security.
- **Static part:**
 - Capital of Russia: Moscow
 - Currency of Russia: Russian Rouble

SMART CITY INDEX 2020

Current Context: The Smart City Index 2020 is released by the Institute for Management Development in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Total 109 Indian cities are surveyed in Smart City Index 2020, by considering the perceptions of 120 residents of each city.
- The smart city index is based on the data for economic and technology availability and development in the cities. This data is collected from residents of the city.
- **The Smart City Index 2020 is topped by Singapore.**
- **The second and third rank is marked by Helsinki and Zurich respectively.**
- **From India, Hyderabad has topped among all Indian cities, with the rank of 85th position.**
- **Other rank position for Indian cities:** New Delhi (86th Rank), Mumbai (93rd Rank), Bengaluru (95th Rank).
- As per the analysis of Smart City Index 2020, Indian cities have witnessed a decline in their rank position compared to previous estimations.

'APNA GHAR DREAMZ' HOME LOAN SCHEME—BY ICICI HOME FINANCE

Current Context: The ICICI Home Finance has launched a home loan scheme with the name 'Apna Ghar Dreamz'.

KEY FACTS

- The scheme is launched for skilled labourers like electricians, mechanics, painters, grocery store owners etc. in the informal sector of Delhi.

- **The credit amount under 'Apna Ghar Dreamz' loan scheme ranges from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 50 lakhs.**
- The scheme also allows for the customer to avail the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) for lower-income groups or economically weaker sections (EWS/LIG) and Middle-income groups (MG- I &II).
- As the 'Apna Ghar Dreamz' loan scheme is for the informal working sector, the scheme does not demand any documents which are required to get a loan from a formal financial institute.
- A special 20-year tenure loan is offered under this scheme, which requires basic documents like PAN Card, Aadhar Card and bank statement of the past 6 months.
- The beneficiaries is required to have a minimum balance of Rs 1500 for a loan up to Rs 5 lakh and a minimum balance up to Rs 3000 for loan above Rs 5 lakh.
- **Static Part:**
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Home Finance: Anirudh Kamani

'ARTHIKA SPANDANA'-- KARNATAKA

Current Context: Government of Karnataka launched the loan disbursement programme with the name 'Arthika Spandana'.

KEY POINTS

- **The programme aims to disburse the loan of Rs 39,300 crore from various cooperative institutions.**
- Rs 15,300 crore will be disbursed to the agriculture sector and Rs 24,000 crore will be allotted for non-agri sectors.
- Around 1549 cooperatives will be benefited by this programme.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Karnataka: B S Yediyurappa
 - Governor of Karnataka: Vajubhai Vala
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries of Karnataka:** Nagarhole NP, Bandipur NP, Anshi NP, Bannerghatta NP, Malai Mahadeshwara WLS, Melkote Temple WLS, Nugu WLS

TWO MAJOR AGRICULTURE AND RAISING FARMER'S INCOME BILL PASSED IN LS

Current Context: Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Narendra Singh Tomar introduced the two major farm reformative bills in Lok Sabha (LS). Both the bills are passed by Lok Sabha.

KEY FACTS

- **The bills passed by LS are:** (a) Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 (b) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.
- **Both the bills aim to bring development in agriculture sector and to raise the income of farmers.**
 - **Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020:** This bill offers barrier free inter-state and intra-state trade operations for farmers. The farmers and traders can sell and purchase agri produce at remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels. The bill also offers framework for electronic trading and the matters related to it. It has also provided framework for electronic trading in the transaction platform to ensure seamless trade electronically.
 - **Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020:** This bill aims to create a framework for farming agreements which will empower farmers so that they can engage themselves in agri-allied activities like agri-business firms, wholesale, exports and retail operation of farm produce. The bill transfers the risk of market unpredictability from farmer to the sponsor so that farmers will be able to utilise modern technology. The bill aims to increase farmers income and reduce the cost of marketing for them.

APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATION AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 19TH SEP 2020

Current Context: Lt Gen Rajesh Pant: He is appointed as **head of the committee to look into and examine the reports of digital surveillance on prominent Indian Nationals by Chinese firm Shenzhen Zhenhua Data Information Technology Company Ltd.**

ABOUT

- **Ajay Tirkey:** He is appointed to **head the committee to prepare the roadmap to regularize the land leasing activity in agriculture sector.** He is secretary of department of land resources, under rural development ministry.
- **Harsimrat Kaur Badal:** She is the Union Minister and offered her **resignation from Union Minister of food processing industries**, which was accepted by President Ram Nath Kovind with immediate effect.
- **Suresh Raina:** He is appointed as **brand ambassador for 9stacks** which is the online poker platform.

MUKHYAMANTRI MAHILA UTKARSH YOJANA-- GUJARAT

Current Context: Government of Gujarat launched a Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY). MMUY offers interest-free loans to the women's group of Gujarat.

ABOUT SCHEME

- **Under this yojana, a Joint Liability and Earning Group (JLEG) will be formed.** Around 50,000 JLEG will be formed in the rural and urban areas of the state. Each group will be comprised of 10 women members.
- **Around 10 lakh women will get the benefit of MMUY.**
- In the rural areas of Gujarat, the yojana will be implemented by Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company and in the urban areas of Gujarat, the yojana will be implemented by Gujarat Urban Livelihood Mission.
- **Static Part:**
 - **CM of Gujarat:** Vijaybhai R Rupani
 - **Governor of Gujarat:** Acharya Dev Vrat
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Gujarat:** Blackbuck NP, Gir NP, Vansda NP, Balaram Amji WLS, Gir WLS, Girnar WLS, Gaga Great Indian Bustard WLS, Jambugodha WLS, Jessore WLS, Khijadiya WLS, Nal Sarovar WLS, Pniya WLS, Porbandar Lake WLS, Thol Lake WLS, Wild Ass WLS

NATIONAL GENERIC DOCUMENT REGISTRATION SYSTEM—JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Current Context: Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The NGDRS is the shift from a manual registration system to the online registration system launched for having online registration and transactions for sale-purchase of land.**
- NGDRS is developed by National Informatics Centre under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme.
- **Also, the stamp papers are replaced by e-stamps which are developed in coordination with Stockholding Corporation of India.**
- After launching NGDRS, J&K has become 10th in the state/UT to be the part of NGDRS.
- **NGDRS will provide transparency in registration and transactions related to land, hassle-free service delivery, online process for uploading documents without having a manual visit at the registration office for submission.**
- **The entire process is reduced to 15 minutes and with minimum personal visit to the registration office.**
- NGDRS is the one forward step towards National Integration and towards, 'One Nation, One Software' goal.
- **Static Part:**
 - **Lt Governor of J&K:** Manoj Sinha
 - **State animal of J&K:** Kashmir Stag (aka Hangul)

- **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in J&K:** Dachingam NP, Kazinag NP, Hemis NP, Salim Ali NP, Kishtwar NP, Jasrota WLS, Nandini WLS, Overa WLS, Ram Nagar WLS, Surinsar WLS

NITI AAYOG PARTNERED WITH INDIAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

Current Context: NITI Aayog has entered into partnership with the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP). They have entered into partnership to offer training, mentorship and capacity building to government officials and public policy scholars.

KEY FACTS

- They aim to have faster intermediation of knowledge and its use within public domain system
- Both the organisation will jointly conduct evidence building exercises, conferences and podcast series
- Under this partnership, ISPP officers will interact with DMEO and NITI Aayog's experts regarding the current policies.
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of NITI Aayog:** New Delhi
 - **Chairperson of NITI Aayog:** Narendra Modi
 - **Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog:** Rajiv Kumar
 - **CEO of NITIAayog:** Amitabh Kant

APPOINTMENTS ON 20TH SEP 2020

Current Context: Narendra Singh Tomar: He is given with additional charge of Ministry of Food Processing Industries. He is Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

ABOUT

- **Anil Dhasmana:** He is appointed as Chief of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRRO). He has replaced Satish C. Jha.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NTRRO: New Delhi
- **Retd. Col. Dr Girija Shanker Mungali:** He is appointed as member of Asian Football Confederation Task Force. Currently, he is the Chairman of Club licensing committee of AIFF (All India Football Federation).

MINISTRY OF AYUSH SIGNS MOU WITH MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Current Context: An MoU is signed between Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development to control malnutrition in India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Both the ministries will work to combat malnutrition under POSHAN Abhiyan. Thus they will integrate AYUSH into POSHAN Abhiyan and will control malnutrition through Ayurveda, Yoga and AYUSH mechanisms.
- Both the ministries will adopt the time-tested and scientifically proven health solution, probably AYUSH solutions to control and eradicate malnutrition among children and womens of India.
- Under this MoU, medicinal, nutri gardens and yoga programmes will be developed at anganwadi centers.
- They will frame the baseline data in nutritional status for target population.
- Also, #Ayush4Aganwadi awareness campaign will be launched by both ministries under Digital India initiative.
- **Static Part:**
 - **Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy):** Shripad Yesso Naik
 - **Union Minister for Women and Child Development:** Smriti Irani

EMMY AWARDS 2020

Current Context: The Primetime Emmy Awards, which honors the best in television were held. This was the 72nd edition of Emmy awards. The categories for which the winners were declared is mentioned below:

AWARDS LIST

Award Category	Winner
Outstanding Drama Series	Succession
Outstanding Comedy Series	Schitt's Creek
Outstanding Limited Series	Watchmen
Best Actor (Drama)	Jeremy Strong (Succession)
Best Actress (Drama)	Zendaya (Euphoria)
Best Actor (Comedy)	Eugene Levy (Schitt's Creek)
Best Actress (Comedy)	Catherine O'Hara (Schitt's Creek)
Outstanding Television Movie	Bad Education
Outstanding Variety Talk Show	Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
Outstanding Director (Drama)	Andrij Parekh (Succession)
Outstanding Director (Comedy)	Daniel Levy (Schitt's Creek)

INDIA OFFERS FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MALDIVES TO COMBAT COVID-19

Current Context: Government of India has extended financial support to the Maldives to combat the impact of COVID-19. India has offered the loan amount of 250 million dollars to the Maldives.

KEY FACTS

- The loan amount is the revenue and budgetary support for tackling COVID-19 impact on the Maldivian economy.
- Under this loan agreement, the State Bank of India will subscribe to a Treasury Bond which will be issued by Government of Maldives with a comfortable 10 year tenor of repayment
- **Static Part:**
 - **Capital of Maldives:** Male
 - **Currency of Maldives:** Maldivian Rufiyaa
 - **President of Maldives:** Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

EPIDEMIC DISEASES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 PASSED IN RAJYA SABHA

Current Context: The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020 is passed in Rajya Sabha. The bill was introduced by the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan.

ABOUT

- **The bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897.**
- **The bill includes protection rights for healthcare workers who are doing their jobs in combating epidemics.**
- **The bill also includes an extension of powers for the central government so that they can take required action and frame rules to limit the spread of the pandemic in their respective states.**
- **The one who harms the health care workers will be given imprisonment for 3 months to 5 years along with fine amount between Rs 50,000 to 2 lakhs.**
- The bill provides safety rights to health care workers including, public and clinical health care providers like doctors, nurses, people who take initiative to work to combat the epidemic, or any person or group designated by the state government to work to combat the epidemic.
- The bill states 'act of violence' performed against health care workers like harassment at their workplaces, harm to their personal and professional equipment, harm or injury or danger to their lives, loss or damage to their property or not obeying their suggestions.
- Complaint cases registered under this will be investigated within 30 days by police officers.

'GHAR TAK FIBRE' SCHEME AND 9 HIGHWAY PROJECTS-- BIHAR

Current Context: To boost the self-reliant goal in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ghar Tak Fibre' Scheme and laid the foundation stone for Nine Highway Projects.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'Ghar Tak Fibre' scheme is launched by following the motto of Digital India programme and the scheme will be connecting 45,945 villages of Bihar through optical fibre internet service.
- The 'Ghar Tak Fibre' scheme will help the citizens of Bihar to avail digital services like e-education, e-agriculture, telemedicine, tele-law and other digital-based schemes of Bihar state.
- The scheme will be executed by the Department of Telecom (DoT), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Common Services Centers.
- Also, PM Modi launched Nine Highway Projects allotted with the funds of Rs 14,528 crores.
- The Nine Highway Projects includes constructing six-lane highways and three bridges on rivers. The highway project will construct the roads of 350 km.
- The highway roads will offer connectivity among Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Bihar: Nitish Kumar
 - Governor of Bihar: Phagu Chauhan
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries of Bihar:** Valmiki NP, Bhimbandh WLS, Kaimur WLS, Barela Jheel Salim Ali-Jubba Sahni Bird Sanctuary, Gautam Buddha WLS, Kanwar Jheel Bird Sanctuary, Pant WLS, Udaipur WLS, Vikaramshila Gangetic Dolphin WLS, Nagi Dam Bird Sanctuary, Kusheshwar Asthan Bird Sanctuary

FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCORE LTD SIGNED MOU WITH ITI KALAMASSERY

Current Context: Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) has entered into an agreement with Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Kalamassery with an aim to improve industry-institute interaction.

KEY FACTS

- The FACT is the PSU which comes under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.
- Under this MoU, various interactive programmes will be implemented which will allow the sharing of training facilities in order to have academic and industrial interaction between ITI students and FACT employees.
- Various technical courses, seminars, presentations, workshops will be conducted by FACT to train the ITI students.
- Also, industrial visits, joint projects and on-job training in FACT will be conducted under this agreement.
- **Static Part:**
 - MDHQ of FACT: Kochi

VISA INC. AND IFUNDWOMEN TO SUPPORT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Current Context: Visa Inc. and its global partner IFundWomen has launched a grant program to offer support to Indian Women Entrepreneurs.

KEY POINTS

- IFundWomen is itself a funding marketplace for women businesses.
- **Under this grant program, Indian Women Entrepreneurs will be able to receive fund from Visa and thus can expand their businesses. Women Entrepreneurs can avail the fund through a series of grants.**
- **For promoting this program, Visa has partnered with FLO, which is the ladies wing of FICCI and with Instamojo.**
- Under the grant program, Visa has asked women, entrepreneurs, to submit their application for funds requirement from 21st Sep to 20th Oct 2020.
- They are also asked to submit a small video on the website which will describe their business in short.
- 3 winners will be shortlisted and they will receive grants of Rs 7, 00,000 each. They will also get training and coaching regarding their business by Visa and IFundWomen.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Visa Inc.: California, United States
 - HQ of IFundWomen: New York, United States

SBI CARDS AND PAYMENT SERVICES LTD PARTNERED WITH GOOGLE

Current Context: The SBI Cards i.e. SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd has entered into a partnership with Google.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have entered into a partnership to allow SBI customers to use their SBI Credit Cards to make payments via Google Pay app on their smartphones.**
- Now onwards, SBI Card users will be able to make online transactions via Google Pay through options like Tap and Pay, Bharat QR and online payments.
- They have also assured to offer safe and secured payment transactions to the customers.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd: Gurgaon, Haryana
 - MD and CEO of SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd: Ashwini Kumar Tewari
 - HQ of Google: California, US
 - CEO of Google: Sundar Pichai

INDIA'S NOMINAL GDP TO GROW BY 19%: MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Current Context: Ministry of Finance, GOI estimated that India's nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by 19% for the financial year 2021-2022 on a low base.

DETAILS

- This estimation was informed by the Chief Economic Advisor to Finance Ministry, Krishnamurthy Subramanian.
- The Nominal GDP means it takes into consideration a country's GDP using current prices without adjusting for inflation.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman

NATIONAL RHINO CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Current Context: On the occasion of World Rhino Day which is observed on 22nd Sep, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched National Rhino Conservation Strategy.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is launched for Indian one-horned rhinoceros.
- The conservation initiatives which are undertaken for rhino till now has led to enrich grassland management which has ultimately helped to reduce negative impacts of climate change through carbon sequestration.
- **The National Rhino Conservation Strategy will work to conserve rhino species under 5 objectives namely, protection, expanding the distribution range, research, monitoring and adequate and sustained funding.**
- **Static Part:** In India, the population of rhino is high in West Bengal, Assam and Uttar Pradesh. Also, Rhinoceros is the only large mammal species in all over Asia, which is down-listed from endangered to vulnerable in the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).
 - **HQ of IUCN:** Gland, Switzerland

RS PASSED INDIAN INSTITUTES OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020

Current Context: On 22nd Sep 2020, Rajya Sabha (RS) passed Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020.

KEY POINTS

- **In Lok Sabha, the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020** was passed on 20th March 2020.

- The bill proposes to declare 5 IITs in PPP (Public-Private Partnership) mode at Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala and Raichur as institutions having national importance equal to 15 IITs. That is, the statutory status will be granted to these 5 IITs by this bill.
- As per the bill, the institutions will be entitled to use the nomenclature of B.Tech or M.tech or PhD degree like the one which is issued by Universities or Institutes having National Importance.
- Currently, Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) are working as societies which are registered under Societies Registration Act,1860. After the passage of the bill, they will be registered under the IIIT (PPP) Act 2017 with other 15 IITs.
- Thus this bill will attract students to take admission to these IITs to pursue education which is required to develop a firm research base in Information Technology in India.

YUWAAH: A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

Current Context: A Statement of Intent (SoI) is signed between the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and UNICEF (United Nations Children Fund) to launch a global multi-stakeholder platform named 'YuWaah'.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 'YuWaah', the multi-stakeholder platform is launched to make youth and young people career ready.
- It will provide entrepreneurship coaching both in online and offline manner so as to develop an entrepreneurial mindset among the young people.
- It will also boost digital skills, life skills and professional skills and ethics in them.
- YuWaah will create economic opportunities for young people by providing them jobs or by making them self-employed.
- It will also offer career guidance through career portal and will make them skilled to explore their career of choice.
- Department of Youth Affairs will motivate experts to join YuWaah Technical Working Groups or Taskforces so as to offer training, guidance to the young people in their respective career.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of State (IC) for Youth Affairs and Sports: Kiren Rijiju
 - HQ of UNICEF: New York, United States

GOOGLE PAY ROLLS OUT TOKENISATION ON ITS PLATFORM

Current Context: Google Pay has launched a feature for card based payments through tokenisation on its platform.

DETAILS

- For this purpose, Google pay has entered into partnership with Visa.

- **This tokenisation feature will allow consumers to perform payment transactions by using credit or debit cards without sharing the card details through the secure digital token which will be attached to their smart phones.**
- The feature will offer the use of the tap-to-pay feature on near-field communications (NFC) enabled POS terminal and online merchants.
- It will work with online merchants, offering with seamless One Time Password (OTP) experience, without directing to 3D secure sites.
- The Goggle Pay's tokenisation feature will allow the secure omni-channel experience to the users.
- The feature will be rolled out to the users of Axis, SBI Card and Kotak bank.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Visa: California, United States
 - HQ of Google: California, US
 - CEO of Google: Sundar Pichai

APPOINTMENTS ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Simanchala Dash: He is appointed as **Advisor to Executive Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF)** for a tenure of 3 years.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IMF: Washington DC, United States
 - MD of IMF: Kristalina Gerogieva
- **Retd. Col. Bah Ndaw:** He is appointed as **Interim President of Mali.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mali: Bamako
 - Currency of Mali: West African CFA Franc
- **Col. Assimi Goita:** He is appointed as **Vice President of Mali.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mali: Bamako
 - Currency of Mali: West African CFA Franc
- **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala:** He is appointed to **head the committee** formed by SEBI to develop a framework for onboarding non-profit organisation and for profit enterprises. They will also develop framework for prescribing disclosure requirements related to performance and aspects for social audits and social impact.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi

MUKHYA MANTRI KISAN KALYAN YOJANA—MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: Government of Madhya Pradesh will be launching Mukhya Mantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana for the state farmers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The yojana will be following the path of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, the initiative of central government.
- **Under this yojana, the farmers who are getting Rs 6000 per annum, will be getting additional finance support of Rs 4000. Thus, the state farmers, will be getting Rs 10,000 as annual financial support.**
- The scheme will be beneficial to 80 lakh farmers.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
 - Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries of Madhya Pradesh:** Kanha NP, Bandhavgarh NP, Panna NP, Satpura NP, Madhav NP, Ghatigaon WLS, Kheoni WLS

RAJYA SABHA PASSED THREE LABOUR CODES FOR THE WELFARE OF COUNTRY'S WORKERS

Current Context: Rajya Sabha (RS) passed three labour codes namely (1) Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (2) Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (3) Social Security Code, 2020.

KEY POINTS

- The labour codes are passed with an aim to provide overall welfare to the worker community of India.
- **Under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020**, effective dispute resolution mechanism will be followed in the time-bound manner at every institution.
- **The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020** will provide safe working environment for all workers especially to women. This code will offer safety to workers while on the job.
- **The Social Security Code, 2020** will provide the framework in which the workers belonging to organized and un-organized sectors will be included under social security measures. The code contains provisions related to EPFO, ESIC, building construction workers, maternity benefits, gratuity for un-organized sectors. The code will fulfill Prime Minister's vision of Social Security.
- All these 3 codes will prove beneficial to about 50 crore workers from organized and un-organized sectors.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Labour and Employment: Santosh Kumar Gangwar

'KRITAGYA' HACKATHON

Current Context: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) launched a Hackathon named as 'Kritigya'.

KEY FACTS

- **The hackathon is launched to promote potential technology solutions which will enhance farm mechanism with the focus on women-friendly equipments.**
- The hackathon is open for participation to students, teaching faculties, and innovators, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders from any institute/university/organisation. A group of maximum 4 participants is allowed to form to participate in hackathon.
- **The participants are supposed to provide innovative approaches and technical solutions by adopting technology which will enhance farm productivity and profitability so as to meet the aim of achieving potential technology solution in farm mechanism.**
- The prize amount declared for the winners is Rs 5 lakhs , Rs 3 lakhs and Rs 1 lakh for first, second and third winners respectively.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of agriculture and farmers welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar

INDIA'S ICREATE SIGNS MOU WITH ISRAEL

Current Context: India's International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology (iCreate) has signed MoU with Israel's Start-Up Nation Central to boost the innovation and technology bilateral cooperation between startups and corporates of India and Israel.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- As per the MoU, the innovators and entrepreneurs of both nations will collaborately work on various projects.
- **iCreate and Start-Up Nation Central will launch an Online Acceleration Program for market penetration with relevant technologies which fulfill the requirements of Indian corporations. This program will help to shortlist the most relevant solutions and technology providers.**
- **This MoU will help to realize and adapt India's and Israel's tech solutions and to develop innovative technologies in various sectors.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
 - Currency of Israel: Israeli Shekel
 - HQ of iCreate: Ahmedabad, Gujarat
 - Chairman of iCreate: Manoj Kumar Das

APPOINTMENTS ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: AK Dixit: He is appointed as **New Administrator of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank by Mumbai.** He has replaced JB Bhoria.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PMC Bank: Mumbai
 - CEO of PMC Bank: Surinderpal Singh Ram Singh
- **Alexander Lukashenko:** He is appointed as **President of Belarus.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Belarus: Minsk
 - Currency of Belarus: Ruble
- **Ishmael Toroma:** He is appointed as **President of Bougainville, an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bougainville: Buka Island
 - Currency of Bougainville: PNG Kina
- **Khushi Chindaliya:** She is 17 year old Indian girl who is appointed as **Regional Ambassador for India by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)- Tunza Eco Generation (Green).** The program is to be held in Sep 2020.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya

PM NARENDRA MODI LAUNCHED 'AGE APPROPRIATE FITNESS PROTOCOL'

Current Context: To celebrate and promote the first anniversary of Fit India Movement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Age Appropriate Fitness Protocol' virtually at Fit India Dialogue.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Fit India Dialogue was organized to address the first anniversary of Fit India Movement.
- In the Fit India Dialogue, PM Modi interacted with various sportsperson, fitness experts and many more via video conferencing. PM Modi interacted to Virat Kohli (Indian Cricket player), Milind Soman (Model, Actor and Runner), Rujuta Diwekar (Nutritionist) were among them.
- The fitness protocols are defined by fitness enthusiast by following the aim of good health and fitness of people belonging to a different category of age.
- **There are three categories of age for which the fitness protocols are defined namely, 5-18 years age category, 18-65 years age category, 65+ years age category.**
- At the dialogue, PM Modi laid the mantra of 'Fitness ka Dose, Adha ghanta Roz' (Fitness dose, Half an Hour every day). He also urged to practise yoga, play different sports for at least half an hour daily to Indian citizens.
- **Static Part: Fit India Movement:** It was launched on the occasion of National Sports Day in 2019 (29 August 2019).

'STRENGTHENING CLINICAL TRIAL RESEARCH CAPACITY IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES' PROGRAMME

Current Context: Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs launched the first phase of the programme for 'Strengthening Clinical Trial Research Capacity in Neighboring Countries'.

KEY POINTS

- The 'Strengthening Clinical Trial Research Capacity in Neighboring Countries' is the training programme which is launched to support researchers and investigators to strengthen their clinical trial capabilities in compliance with ICH-GCP (International Conference on Harmonization-Good Clinical Practice).
- The programme was launched to attain the objective of Ind-CEPI mission (India Centric Epidemic Preparedness) for Rapid Vaccine Development and Supporting Indian Vaccine Development which is supported by the global initiative of CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation). Aim of Ind-CEPI mission is to support capacity building and regional networking for Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).
- Thus under this training programme launched by DBT, India wants to fulfil its commitment to achieving moto of Ind-CEPI mission.
- The Training Programme was attended by different departments of countries like Nepal, Maldives, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Afghanistan.

RBI RELEASED CYBER SECURITY VISION FRAMEWORK FOR UCBS

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India released Cyber Security Vision Framework for Urban Cooperative Banks(UCBs).

KEY FACTS

- The central bank has released this vision under the title 'Technology Vision for Cyber Security for UCBs 2020-2023'.
- Under this framework of vision, RBI has mentioned 4 guiding principles for UCBs. The guiding principles are formulated because of heterogeneity of UCBs in India in terms of size, region, digital depth and finance capability.
- In order to prescribe cyber security controls for UCBs, RBI has decided to follow differentiated tier-wise approach. The tiers would be decided by depending on risk exposure of digital services offered by UCBs.
- The approach will look into that UCBs with high IT penetration and offering all payment services are brought at par with other banks who are having mature cyber security infra and practices.
- Also, the board of UCBs will be assigned to implement the primary responsibilities of cyber security controls.

- As per RBI, the implementation of cyber security framework will be a cost intensive process, therefore responsibility of implementation, monitoring, compliance and response will be assigned from board level to user level.
- Also, RBI has asked the banks to include review on cyber security posture and specific indicators as a part of calendar of reviews, which is to be submitted to the BOD during meetings. This is to be implemented in 2020.
- Also, RBI has directed that UCBs need to develop their own technology vision document which mentions their plans to use IT solutions in their banking businesses in a secured manner. For UCBs in levels 2 to 4 will have to achieve this by 2021 and for UCBs in level 1, will have to achieve by 2022.
- **The cyber security framework is aimed to achieve its objective like:** (1)Governance Oversight (2)Utile Technology Investment (3)Appropriate Regulation (4)Robust Collaboration (5)Developing IT and Cyber security skill sets and infrastructure.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

'MOKSHA KALASH YOJANA 2020'—RAJASTHAN

Current Context: Chief Minister of Rajasthan has given approval to launch 'Moksha Kalash Yojana 2020'.

KEY POINTS

- The 'Moksha Kalash Yojana 2020' is the initiative of Rajasthan State Broad Transport Corporation.
- 'Moksha Kalash Yojana 2020' aims to offer free bus travel to two members of the family of the deceased to immerse ashes of their loved ones in the river Ganga at Haridwar.
- The expenses for the travel will be undertaken by the Devasthan Department, Government of Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation will manage the scheme and will look into the registration process and other facilities of travel of family members.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot
 - Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra
 - National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries of Rajasthan: Desert NP, Machiya Safari Park, Keoladeo Ghana NP, Ranthambore NP, Sariska NP, Kumbhalgarh WLS, Darrah NP, MountAbu WLS, Sita Mata WLS, Keladevi WLS

APPOINTMENTS, EXTENSION AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Rajat Sud: He is appointed as MD of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL). He has replaced S Gopal. EESL is the joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of EESL : New Delhi
 - Chairman of EESL: Rajeev Sharma
- **Mohamed Hussein Roble:** He is appointed as **Prime Minister of Somalia.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Somalia: Mogadishy
 - Currency of Somalia: Somali Shilling
- **Uday Kotak:** His tenure to be the **Non-Executive Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) has been extended** to one year i.e. till October 2021.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IL&FS: Mumbai
- **Sonu Sood:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador of Acer India.**

'MUKHYAMANTRIR GRAMMYA PARIBHAN ACHONI YOJANA'—ASSAM

Current Context: Government of Assam launched 'Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribhan Achoni Yojana'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribhan Achoni Yojana' belongs to state transport department.
- **Under this yojana, light motor vehicle service will be provided villages of Assam in order to improve rural connectivity and to generate employment.**
- **The light motor vehicle will be provided to one beneficiary of each village.**
- In the first stance of scheme, 10,000 villages will be covered under funds of Rs 100 crore.
- **The state government will provide 25% cost of the vehicle or Rs 1 lakh to the eligible entrepreneur.**
- In future, the yojana will be offering rural connectivity to about 26000 villages of Assam.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowol
 - Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi
 - National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries of Assam: Orang NP, Dibru Saikhowa NP, Nameri NP, Manas NP, Kaziranga NP, Garampani WLS, Bornadi WLS, Chakrashila WLS, Panidehing WLS

WORLD RISK INDEX 2020

Current Context: The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft and University of Stuttgart, Germany has released the World Risk Index 2020.

KEY POINTS

- The World Risk Index 2020 is the part of the World Risk Report 2020.
- **As per the ranking in the index, India has been ranked at the 89th Position among 181 countries. India is termed under the category of Medium Risk.**
- **The ranking is topped by Vanuatu which is termed under the category of Very High Risk. The second position is marked by Tonga, termed in the category of Very High Risk.**
- **The 181st Rank position is marked by Qatar, termed under the category of Very Low Risk.**
- The World Risk Index is the analytical and statistical model for analysing the global risk of disasters like earthquakes, floods, droughts, storms and sea-level rise. It is calculated by analysing each country through the multiplication of exposure to extreme climatic conditions and natural calamities.
- As per the report, Global Hotspots are in Oceania, South East Asia, Central America, West and Central Africa.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Vanuatu: Port Vila
 - Currency of Vanuatu: Vanuatu Vatu

'U-RISE' PORTAL - UTTAR PRADESH

Current Context: Government of Uttar Pradesh launched 'U-Rise' Portal. It is the Unified Portal. The significance of Unified U-Rise portal is 'Unified Re-imagined Innovation for Student Empowerment'.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The U-Rise portal is launched to empower students through practical and technical knowledge in the areas of making familiar to online exams, digital content, digital assessment, digital exam papers, online webinars, internships, e-library, online video contents etc. in their academics.**
- The portal will empower around 20 lakh students of UP state.
- **It will also deliver information regarding career counselling, employment opportunities for the students.**
- The portal is developed by Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Technical University.
- **Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to launch this portal and also the first state to implement National Education Policy 2020.**
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel

'SAFEPAY' CONTACTLESS DEBIT CARD FACILITY—IDFC FIRST BANK

Current Context: IDFC First Bank will be launching 'SafePay', a contactless debit card facility.

DETAILS

- **Under this digital facility, the user will be able to perform contactless debit card payments by waving a smartphone against a Near Field Communication (NFC)-Enabled POS Terminal.**
- The NFC-enabled POS facility is incorporated in the IDFC First Mobile App.
- The operation and features of SafePay are verified by Visa. The facility is developed in order to maintain social distancing norms as there will be no need to handle the card to a merchant for payment.
- SafePay allows the contactless payments for upto Rs 2000 per transactions or upto a limit of Rs 20,000 per day.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IDFC First Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of IDFC First Bank: V Vaidyanathan

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE ON BIODIVERSITY 2020

Current Context: Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar attended Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity 2020.

ABOUT MEETING

- **The Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity 2020 was hosted by the People's Republic of China.**
- The dialogue was conducted virtually because of pandemic COVID-19 and the **topic for dialogue was 'Biodiversity beyond 2020: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth'.**
- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar elaborated India's role in the conservation of biodiversity by hosting COP (Conference of Parties).
- He also highlighted that India is taking efforts to conserve the tiger population. And it has resulted in double in tiger population from the last decade.
- He mentioned that India's forest cover is currently at 25%. And India has set the target to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land and to achieve land degradation neutrality by the year 2030.
- He also mentioned India has set up 25 lakh Biodiversity Management Committee which accesses the benefits of the convention on biological diversity.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of China: Beijing
 - Currency of China: Renminbi

AYUSH MINISTRY SIGNS MOU WITH HERBAL INDUSTRY BODIES

Current Context: The National Medicinal Plants Boards (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH has signed agreement with Herbal Industry Bodies.

KEY POINTS

- **They have signed an agreement to promote medicinal plant cultivation.**
- **The industry bodies included in this MoU are:** ADMA, Mumbai (Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association), AMAM, New Delhi (Association for Manufacturers of Ayurvedic Medicines), AMMOI, Thrissur (Ayurvedic Medicines Manufacturers Organisations of India), AHNMI, Mumbai (Association for Herbal and Nutraceutical Manufacturers of India), FICCI and CII.
- **Under this MoU, AYUSH ministry will carry out sustainable supply of quality raw materials to AYUSH, Nutraceutical and Herbal industries.**
- **The NMPB will provide the buy-back guarantee to the farmers/gatherers on NMPB supported medicinal plant cultivation and collection programs.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Minister of State (IC) of AYUSH: Shripad Yesso Naik

QUAD GROUP MEET 2020

Current Context: The senior's officials from foreign ministries virtually attended the Quad Group of countries meet.

ABOUT MEETING

- The meet was held during the 74th session of the United Nations high-level week.
- **The Quad Group meeting was the part of having periodic consultation and discussion of Indo-Pacific Region.**
- **Quad Group is the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) which is the formation of the United States, Australia, Japan and India.**
- **In the Quad Group Meet of 2020, the senior officials of foreign ministries from this Quad countries discussed the current and proposed practical cooperation in the areas of infrastructure development, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and maritime security.**
- They discussed the role and importance of digital connectivity, secure networks for establishing 5G services.
- Michael Pompeo, Foreign Secretary of the US, discussed his work of promoting clean telcos in order to stop China's 5G giant Huawei technologies from establishing shop networks in other countries.
- He also mentioned that the United States has selected a list of companies which will work to offer security in various areas like cyber, maritime etc from the Chinese government.
- The senior officials from foreign ministries assured to support the ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific Region. They will work cooperatively to promote the leadership of ASEAN in farming the architecture of Indo-Pacific Region.
- They assured to cooperate to work together in the Mekong sub-region, South China Sea in order to support international law and to have regional stability. They also assured to attain quick recovery efforts during the post-pandemic period.

CONTACTLESS PAYMENT SOLUTION FOR MASS TRANSPORT-FINO PAYMENTS BANK & FINTECH PARTNERS

Current Context: The NFC (Near Field Communication) based Contactless Payment Solution for Mass Transit System is introduced by Fino Payments Bank Ltd and Fintech Partners.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The NFC based Contactless Payment Solution for mass transportation will be worthy for state bus transport during this pandemic situation where social-distancing and minimum contact is important to avoid the spread of the virus.
- **The NFC based prepaid smart card system provides contactless or tap-and-go payments enabling the cashless ticket system and also promotes digital cash usage.**
- This solution can be used offline for ticket collection and customers can recharge their smart card in online as well as in offline mode.
- Currently, the system is utilised in Maharashtra's State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) and will be extended to other states as well.
- **To develop this contactless payment solution, Fino Payments Bank Ltd partnered with Fintech Partners like City Cash.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Fino Payments Bank Ltd: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Fino Payments Bank Ltd: Rishi Gupta

APPOINTMENT AND BRAND AMBASSADORS ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh: She has become **India's first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale Combat Aircraft** which was inducted in IAF on 10th Sep 2020.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Chief of Air Staff in IAF: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
- **Aamir Khan:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador for CEAT Limited.**
- **Yuvraj Singh:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador for Akash Educational Service Ltd.**

4TH JIMEX 2020

Current Context: The 4th edition of JIMEX 2020 Maritime exercise commenced on 26th Sep 2020.

ABOUT EXERCISE

- **JIMEX is the bilateral naval exercise conducted between India and Japan.**
- **JIMEX signifies Japan-India Maritime bilateral Exercise.**

- **JIMEX 2020 commenced in North Arabian Sea.**
- This year's JIMEX observed the norms of **non-contact at-sea-only format** because of COVID-19.
- **The Indian Navy was represented by:** (1) Indigenously built stealth destroyer Chennai (2) Teg class stealth frigate Tarkash (3) Fleet Tanker.
- **The Japan Navy was represented by:** (1) JMSDF Ships Kaga (2) Guided Missile destroyer, Ikazuchi (3) Commander Escort Flotilla-2 (4) P81 long-range maritime patrol aircraft, integral helicopters and fighter aircraft.
- The navies of both countries showcased a high degree of inter-operability and performed jointly operational skills.
- They conducted various advanced naval exercises across the spectrum of maritime operations.
- They conducted multi-faceted exercise which included weapon firings, cross deck helicopter operations, anti-submarine and air warfare drills.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen
 - Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

ADB APPROVES LOAN FOR SECONDARY TOWNS OF RAJASTHAN

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank has approved loan to develop water supply services and sanitation infrastructure in secondary towns (localities having 20,000 to 1 lakh residents) of Rajasthan.

KEY FACTS

- **A loan amount of 300 million dollars is approved by ADB to secondary towns of Rajasthan.**
- The loan amount will improve the access to water services for about 5.7 lakh people of Rajasthan.
- The sanitation services will prove beneficial to about 7.2 lakh people of 14 secondary towns of Rajasthan.
- With the help of this loan, water supply facilities in 8 project towns will be developed by 2027 with the help of various implementation projects.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Asian Development Bank: Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - President of Asian Development Bank: Masatsugu Asakawa
 - CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot
 - Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Rajasthan:** Ranthambore NP, Sariska NP, Desert Natural Sanctuary, Mukundara Hills NP, Darrah NP, Mount WLS, Kumbhalgarh WLS, Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary

WORLD BANK OFFERS LOAN TO BANGLADESH

Current Context: World Bank has approved loan to Bangladesh to improve access to clean and safe water services and to develop sanitation services in rural parts of the country.

KEY POINTS

- **For this purpose, the World Bank has approved a loan amount of 200 million dollars to Bangladesh.**
- The loan amount will be utilised for Bangladesh Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project.
- The Bangladesh Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project will be beneficial to about 6 lakh people of Bangladesh as they will get access to clean water through piped water schemes.
- The sanitation facilities built under Bangladesh Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project, will be beneficial to over 3.6 million rural people of the country.
- Thus because of access to water facilities, there will be prevention in spreading diseases like diarrhoea, will also reduce stunting problems in children under the age of 5 years.
- Bangladesh has also decided to use this loan amount to build 2500 handwashing stations in public places with water facilities in order to stop the spread of pandemics.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka
 - Currency of Bangladesh: Taka
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, United States
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass

IRDAI IDENTIFIES LIC, GIC AND NEW INDIA ASSURANCE AS D-SIIS

Current Context: The Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has identified LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India), GIC (General Insurance Corporation of India) and New India Assurance as D-SIIs (Domestic-Systematically Important Insurers).

DETAILS

- IRDAI has also asked these three insurance companies to increase the level of corporate governance, by identifying relevant risks and to have risk free management culture.
- They are also asked to increase regulatory supervision by IRDAI.
- The mark of D-SIIs refers to insurers of such size, market importance level and global inter-connections whose failure or distress can result in a significant dislocation in the country's finance system. Therefore, to fulfil the mark of D-SIIs, these insurers have to function their operation without any interruptions in insurance services to the economy of the country.
- The D-SIIs are perceived as insurers which are 'too big or too important to fail' (TBTF).
- **The parameters defined by IRDAI to identify such insurers, monitor them, identify their methodology and supervision of their mark of D-SIIs are:** Size of operations with respect to total revenue, including premium underwritten and the value of assets and global activities with more than one jurisdiction.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IRDAI: Hyderabad
 - Chairman of IDRAI: Subhash C Khuntia
 - HQ of LIC, GIC, New India Assurance: Mumbai

INDIA AND DENMARK SIGNS MOU FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COOPERATION

Current Context: India and Denmark has entered into MoU agreement for Intellectual Property (IP) Cooperation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The MoU is signed to increase IP cooperation between two nations so that can share best practices, experiences and knowledge related to IP and its way of creating awareness among authorities.
- The DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) signed MoU with Danish Patent and Trademark Office, Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, Denmark.
- India has signed MoU with an objective of National IPR Policy and becomes a major economy in global innovation.
- Both the nations will develop a biennial work plan to build this MoU and to achieve cooperation in IP activities.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Denmark: Copenhagen
 - Currency of Denmark: Danish Krone

APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Neetu David: She is appointed as **Chairman of Women's National Selection Panel by BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India)**. She was the finest women cricketer of India in the 90s. The other members of the Women's National Selection Panel are Mithu Mukherjee, Renu Margrate, Arati Vaidya and V Kalpana.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BCCI: Mumbai
 - President of BCCI: Sourav Ganguly
- **Mustapha Adib:** He has announced his **resignation to be the Prime Minister of Lebanon**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Lebanon: Beirut
 - Currency of Lebanon: Lebanese Pound

HEALTH IN INDIA REPORT 2020

Current Context: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the 'Health in India Report 2020'.

ABOUT REPORT

- The report describes data related to the health sector of the country.
- To draft this report, the information was provided by NSS Schedule 25.0 (Household Consumption: Health).
- The report is framed on the basis of survey which was conducted from around 1.13 households which covered around 5.55 lakh people.
- **As per the report, nearly 7.5% of Indians are suffering from disease.**
- **In rural area, 6.8% are suffering from an ailment, and in urban area, 9.1% are suffering from an ailment.**
- The report also describes the health sector on the basis of religious community across country.
- **As per the data from report, the Zoroastrian community are most susceptible to ailments.** As per the analysis, 31.1% of Zoroastrian, are suffering from ailments.
- **The data for other religious community is:** Jains (11.2%), Sikhs (11%), Christians (10.5%), Muslims (8.1%), Buddhists (8%) and Hindus (7.2%).
- As per the gender classification of health, females are more susceptible to suffering from ailments than men.
- In rural areas, 6.1% male and 7.6% females are suffering from ailments.
- In urban areas, 8.2% male and 10% females are suffering from ailments.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of state of Statistics and Programme Implementation (IC): Rao Inderjit Singh

DESTINATION NORTH EAST 2020 FESTIVAL

Current Context: The 'Destination North East 2020 Festival' was inaugurated by Union Home Minister, Amit Shah via video conference.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The theme for 'Destination North East 2020 Festival': 'The Emerging Delightful Destinations'.**
- The festival is held from 27th Sep-30th Sep 2020.
- It is launched to introduce various Indian cultures, tourist destinations from North-East parts of India so that the whole country will get the knowledge about the North-East culture and its tourism.
- The festival promotes and showcases heritage, tourism, culture and business of North east India.
- In this 4 day festival, audio visual presentation describing tourist destinations of NE states is showcased. Also, the handicraft works, local products of each NE state is presented in this festival.
- **Static Part:**
 - Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (IC): Jitendra Singh
 - Union Minister of Tourism and Culture: Prahlad Singh Patel

RBI TO LAUNCH 'POSITIVE PAY SYSTEM' FOR CHEQUE TRUNCATION SYSTEM

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India is set to introduce 'Positive Pay System' for Cheque Truncation System (CTS).

KEY POINTS

- For this purpose, RBI has issued directive under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of the Payments and Settlement System Act 2007.
- **RBI will start this 'Positive Pay System' from 1st January 2021.**
- **The 'Positive Pay System' is announced in order to prevent frauds related to bank cheques.**
- **The system will developed by National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).**
- **All the banks will have to enable the system for all account holders issuing cheques for amount of Rs 50,000 and above.**
- **However, the usage of this system is as per the choice of account holder, but banks may make it compulsory in case of cheques pertaining to the amount of Rs 5 lakhs and above.**
- **Working Mechanism of 'Positive Pay System':** Under this system, the issuer of the cheque will have to submit details of cheque like date, name of the beneficiary, payee and amount. Further, all these details will be cross verified before the cheque is presented for payment. In case if any discrepancy is found by CTS to the drawee and presenting bank, redressal measured will be taken.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
 - HQ of NPCI: Mumbai

INDIA'S GDP FOR FY 2021 AT -12.6%-- BY NCAER

Current Context: The National Council of Applied Economics Research (NCAER) has projected that India's GDP growth is at -12.6% for the financial year 2020-2021 with the remaining three quarters expected to observe a fall.

DETAILS

- Also, the NCAER has predicted India's GDP to grow by 7% for financial year 2021-2022.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NCAER: New Delhi

APPOINTMENT AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 29TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: Moctar Ouane: He is appointed as **Prime Minister of Mali.**

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Mali: Bamako
 - Currency of Mali: West African CFA Franc
- **Meeta Makhan:** She is appointed to **head the 3 member committee which will run the daily affairs of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB)**. The appointment of the committee is approved by RBI. The committee will exercise the discretionary powers of MD and CEO of LVB in an ad-interim.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LVB: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - Tagline of LVB: Changing Face of Prosperity
- **Amitabh Bachchan:** He is selected by Reserve Bank of India for the **customer awareness campaign** to prevent frauds in user accounts.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
- **Robin Uthappa:** He is appointed as **brand ambassador for Kerala based startup named 'Entri'**, a local language learning app for job opportunities.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT BY 11% IN FY21 --- ICRA

Current Context: Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency (ICRA) has revised its forecast rating for the contraction of India's GDP for FY 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per domestic rating agency ICRA, India's GDP to contract by 11% in FY 2020-21.**
- Earlier ICRA has projected a contraction of 9.5% in FY 2020-21. But, now they have revised the contraction rating because of continuous impact of COVID-19 on the Indian economy.
- ICRA has projected India's GDP contraction of 12.4% in Q2FY21.
- It has also revised its projection for its year-on-year (YOY) forecasts for Q3FY21 to (-)5.4% from (-)2.3% and for Q4FY21 to (-)2.5% from (+)1.3%.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICRA: Gurugram, Haryana

PFC SIGNS MOU WITH MINISTRY OF POWER

Current Context: The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed MoU with the Ministry of Power, GOI to detail the targets to be achieved by PFC during FY 2020-21.

KEY POINTS

- **Government of India has set a revenue target of Rs 36,000 crores for the current financial year.**
- **Along with this revenue target, GOI has also set performance-related targets, which are to be achieved during this fiscal year.**
- The performance related targets set for current fiscal year, defined by GOI are Operating profit as a percentage of revenue from operation, Profit After Tax (PAT) as a percentage of average net worth and non-financial parameters related to Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS).
- The MoU agreement was signed by Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary of Power, GOI and R S Dhillion , CMD of PFC.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PFC: New Delhi
 - CMD of PFC: R S Dhillion
 - Minister of State (IC) of Power: Raj Kumar Singh

BSE SIGNS MOU WITH YES BANK

Current Context: The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed MoU with private sector bank, Yes Bank.

DETAILS

- **The MoU is signed to empower SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises).**
- Under this MoU, BSE and Yes Bank will work together to empower SMEs by making them more competitive, develop solutions for their growth and will address the challenges of SMEs.
- They will conduct knowledge events and will also arrange export promotion facilities for SMEs.
- SMEs will also be guided with finance solution and support by BSE and Yes Bank.
- Customized services and products of Yes Bank will be offered to the SMEs which are listed under the BSE platform.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BSE: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of BSE: Ashish Kumar Chauhan
 - HQ of Yes Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Yes Bank: Experience our Expertise
 - MD and CEO of Yes Bank: Prashant Kumar

PM MODI INAUGURATED 6 MEGA PROJECTS IN UTTARAKHAND

Current Context: Under the Namami Gange Mission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 6 mega projects in Uttarakhand.

KEY FACTS

- **The 6 mega projects will be undertaken for:** Upgradation of 27MLD plant at Jagjeetpur, Haridwar, Construction of 68 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), Construction of 18 MLD STP at Sarai, Haridwar.
- The 68 MLD Jagjeetpur project is the first sewage project taken up on hybrid annuity of PPP mode.
- PM Modi inaugurated six STPs located in Haridwar, Rishikesh and Badrinath.
- This inauguration of STPs is considered very vital as Haridwar-Rishikesh zone contributes to 80% of waste water load of Uttarakhand into river Ganga.
- Along with these projects, PM Modi also inaugurated first-of-its-kind a museum on River Ganga at Chandi Shat, Haridwar. The name of museum is '**Ganga Avalokan**'. The museum is established by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
- 'Ganga Avalokan' Museum will showcase the traditional culture and rejuvenation activities of River Ganga.
- Also, PM Modi released the book titled as '**Rowing Down the Ganges**'. The book defines the story of Ganga.
- Also, the **logo for Jal Jeevan Mission** was released by PM Modi.
- At the same event, PM Modi introduced '**Margdarshika for Gram Panchayats and Paani Samities under Jal Jeevan Mission**'.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Trivendra Singh Rawat
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya

APPOINTMENT AND BRAND AMBASSADOR ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Current Context: S S Deswal: He is given an **additional charge to be the DG of NSG (National Security Guard)**. He is also serving as DG of ITBP (Indo Tibetan Border Police).

ABOUT

- **P D Vaghela:** He is appointed as **Chairman of TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India)**. He has replaced R S Sharma.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of TRAI: New Delhi
- **Shekhar Kapur:** He is appointed as **President of FTII (Film and Television Institute of India)**. He has replaced BP Singh.
- **Sunil Sethi:** He is appointed as **Advisor to KVIC (Khadi and Village Commission)**. He has replaced Ritu Beri. Currently, Sunil Sethi is also the Chairman of Fashion Design Council of India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of KVIC: Mumbai
 - Chairman of KVIC: Vinai Kumar Saxena
- **Aamir Khan:** He is appointed as **Brand Ambassador of Vedantu**, Online Learning Platform. Recently he was also appointed as Brand Ambassador of CEAT.