



**MONTHLY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS
GK**

DIGEST:



SEPTEMBER

2021



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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST: SEPTEMBER 2021

AREAS SIGNED MOU WITH THREE INSTITUTIONS

Current Context: The Association of Renewable Energy of States (AREAS) entered into MoU with the three institutions namely: National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), and Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bio-Energy (SSS - NIBE).

HIGHLIGHTS

- These institutions come under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **The MoU was signed to promote cooperation in renewable energy technologies in India.**
- The MoU was signed during the 7th Foundation Day of AREAS.
- On the same occasion, AREAS Telephone Directory 2021 was also launched.
- The MoU will help to attain the target of 450 GW of installed renewable energy capacity in the country by 2030.
- The entities will work to explore innovative technologies and solutions for the purpose of renewable energy capacity addition.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NISE: Gurgaon, Haryana
 - HQ of NIWE: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

'MISSION VATSALYA' — MAHARASHTRA

Current Context: The government of Maharashtra launched 'Mission Vatsalya'.

KEY POINTS

- **The mission aims to help women who lost their husbands due to COVID-19.**
- Under this mission, several services and 18 benefits will be granted to the women who lost their husbands due to COVID-19.
- The major focus of the mission is on the widows coming from rural areas, poor backgrounds, and deprived sections.
- The mission covers the schemes like Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Shraavanbal Seva State Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme and Gharkul Yojana, etc. to offer support to the widows.
- Around 8,661 women have applied for the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Anudan Yojana, 405 for the Shraavanbal Seva State Pension Scheme, 71 for the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, 1,209 women for the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, and 3 for Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme.
- Uptil now, 10,349 applications are received for the mission.
- To execute the mission, department staff, child development project officers, local unit officers, and anganwadi sevika are appointed who will make door-to-door visits and will grant the support.
- **Static Part:**
 - Dams in Maharashtra: Koyna Dam(Koyna River), Isapur Dam (Penganga river), Jayakwadi Dam (Godavari River), Totladoh dam (Pench river)
 - National Parks in Maharashtra: Chandoli NP, Sanjay Gandhi NP, Tadoba NP, Navegaon NP

'E-SOURCE' --- IIT MADRAS

Current Context: The IIT Madras is developing an online platform to which will solve the problem of electronic wastes (e-waste).

KEY FACTS

- **The name of the online platform is 'e-source'.**
- The 'e-source' will be a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) online marketplace.
- The stakeholders in the formal and informal sectors will be linked on this platform. It will allow a formal supply chain between various stakeholders. The stakeholders will be responsible for activities like buying or selling.
- **The platform will be headed Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS).**
- The 'e-source' will be a novel open-source solution with the data of stakeholders and will have the potential to tackle the electronic wastes (e-waste).

- It will be based on machine learning technology which will help to trace e-waste as per the guidelines and will look after repair and re-use of e-waste.
- The team which will be working for this platform will be deploying a detection system that will have image processing and natural language processing techniques to detect the product information and upload it to the database.
- The platform will also generate certification by analyzing the product for various protocols and will provide suggestions for compatible replacements of dysfunctional parts.

8TH MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS OF BIMSTEC COUNTRIES

Current Context: India hosted 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Countries in a virtual manner.

DETAILS

- The meeting observed the participation of Agricultural Ministries from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar, and Thailand.
- The meeting was chaired by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education & Director General, ICAR.
- The participants discussed UN Food System Summit 2021 and the ongoing trends in agriculture and food systems at the global level.
- They assured to enhance cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors amongst the BIMSTEC Member States.
- They assured to cooperate to develop resilient agriculture, food systems & value chains.
- They also assured to focus on addressing biosafety and biosecurity concerns and to adopt digital technology in agriculture, and its trade activities.
- The member states of BIMSTEC appreciated India's efforts to offer six slots of scholarships for Master and Ph.D. programs in agriculture and allied sectors. This will help to enhance capacity building in the mentioned sectors.

RABOBANK'S 2021 GLOBAL TOP 20 DAIRY COMPANIES LIST

Current Context: The Rabobank's Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list for 2021 was released.

ABOUT

- **It ranks the dairy industries as per their sales data and financial statements.**
- **The list is topped by, Lactalis, which is based in France.** It has an annual turnover of US \$23.0 billion.
- The 2nd position was marked by Nestle based in Switzerland and the 3rd position was marked by Dairy Farmers of America based in the US.
- **In the list, the Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has secured 18th rank position by having an annual turnover of \$5.3 billion.**

- In 2020, it was placed at 16th position.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Rabobank: Netherlands

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDS 2021

Current Context: The winners for Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 were announced.

DETAILS

- **The winners will be awarded on 28th Nov 2021 at an event at the Ramon Magsaysay Centre in Manila.**
- **The names of the winners are:**
 - **Muhammad Amjad Saqib:** He is Pakistani microfinance and will be awarded for defining the largest microfinance institutions in Pakistan and for servicing millions of families.
 - **Firdausi Qadri:** She is a scientist from Bangladesh and has discovered vaccines that have saved millions of lives.
 - **Steven Muncy:** He has helped the displaced refugees of Southeast Asia and has rebuild their lives.
 - **WatchDoc:** It is the name of a production house that combines documentary filmmaking and alternative platforms to highlight underreported issues happening in Indonesia.
 - **Roberto Ballon:** He is a fisherman from Southern Philippines. He has helped the community to restore their rich aquatic resources and supported them to earn a livelihood.
- **Static Part:**
 - The Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1957 with the memory of 3rd President of the Philippines 'Ramon Magsaysay'

'UBREATHE LIFE' — PLANT BASED SMART AIR PURIFIER

Current Context: The researchers from the IIT Ropar, Kanpur, and the Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University developed the living plant-based air purifier.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The name of the living plant-based air purifier is 'Ubreathe Life'.**
- The 'Ubreathe Life' boost or amplifies the purification process of air in indoor areas like hospitals, schools, offices, or homes.
- It is the world's 1st smart air purifier or smart biofilter.
- Its work principle depends on the air-purifying natural leafy plant. The leaves of the plant and the air comes in interaction or contact with each other and then the air goes to the soil-root space where pollutants are purified.

- The 'Ubreathe Life' eliminates harmful elements, gaseous and biological contaminants by raising oxygen levels in the indoor space with the help of specific plants, UV disinfection, and a stack of pre-filter, charcoal filter, and HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filter.
- The specific plants in the product are peace lily, snake plant, spider plant, etc.
- The product is developed by Urban Air Laboratory which is the startup company of IIT Ropar.
- It is incubated at IIT Ropar, which is a designated iHub - AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) by the Department of Science and Technology.

'Y-BREAK APP'

Current Context: The Union Minister of Ayush, Sarbanand Sonowal launched the 'Y-Break' mobile application (Yoga Break mobile app).

KEY FACTS

- The app consist of Asanas, Pranayam and Dhyana.
- The app was launched as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav'.
- The Ayush Ministry was allotted one week from 30th August to 5th Sept 2021 to promote activities related to Ayush like launching the app, conducting Ayush-related camps in schools, launching Ashwagandha as prophylactic medicine, and distributing medicinal plants to farmers.
- The app aims to create awareness about Yoga and its impact in day to day life.
- The Yoga protocol in the app showcases simple Yogic practices so that people can replicate them easily.

BHARATPE PARTNERED WITH AXIS BANK

Current Context: The BharatPe has entered into a partnership with India's private sector bank, Axis Bank.

KEY POINTS

- **The partnership was made to advance the merchant acquiring business in India.**
- Under this partnership, Axis bank will be playing the role of acquiring a bank for BharatPe's point of sale (PoS) business named as BharatSwipe.
- It will provide acceptance of credit and debit cards for merchants which are associated with BharatPe.
- The partnership will allow BharatPe to boost its merchant acquiring business through the best tech platform of Axis Bank.
- Due to this partnership, the merchants in India will be able to make faster payment transactions with various features in a secure and safe manner.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Axis Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry
 - HQ of BharatPe: New Delhi

- CEO of BharatPe: Ashneer Grover

APPOINTMENTS ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Dorje Angchuk: He is an Engineer in charge at the Indian Astronomical Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) at Hanle in the Ladakh region. He was appointed as an Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and has become the first Indian to be a part of the prestigious organisation.

ABOUT

- **Static part:**
 - HQ of IIA: Bengaluru
 - HQ of IAU: Paris, France
- **Sanjeeb Chaudhuri:** He was appointed as the part-time chairman of the IDFC FIRST Bank Limited by RBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IDFC FIRST Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of IDFC FIRST Bank: V Vaidyanathan
- **Pankaj Kumar Singh:** He was appointed as the Director-General (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF).
- **Mirabai Chanu:** She was appointed as an ambassador for Adidas 'Stay in Play' campaign.
- **Alar Karis:** He was elected as 5th President of Estonia.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Estonia: Tallinn
 - Currency of Estonia: Euro

COMMITTEE WILL BE SETUP FOR NUE LICENSES BY RBI

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will be setting up a 5 members committee to scrutinize applications and suggest recommendations on New Umbrella Entity (NUE) licenses.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The committee will be headed by P. Vasudevan, RBI chief general manager.**
- The members of the committee will look into various aspects of NUE right from the macroeconomic impact to the security risks levels.
- All the suggestions recommended by the committee will be taken into consideration by the central bank before doling out the licenses.
- The NUE will set up its own payment infrastructure which will compete with the National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI).

- The New Umbrella Entities will be for-profit entities that will help to govern and manage payments in the retail sector. It will offer a range of retail payment services like ATMs, point of sale terminals, Aadhaar-based payments, and remittance services. It will also develop new payment methods.
- The central bank has allowed the companies to frame NUE. This will end the domination of NPCI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

40TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PLANNING BOARD (NCRPB)

Current Context: The 40th meeting of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) was held virtually and was chaired by the Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri. He is also the chairman of NCRPB.

KEY FACTS

- He launched the Combined Reciprocal Common Transport Agreement (CRCTA). It will offer carriage facilities among state governments of Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana.
- The dignitaries discussed Draft Regional Plan 2041. This will enable interstate connectivity, trade activities, and transportation facilities.
- At the meeting, 'Pariman' which is the online geoportal was also launched. The portal is based on remote sensing and GIS technology. It is developed by NIC for the NCR planning board.
- **Static Part:**
 - NCR: It signifies National Capital Region. It covers entire Delhi and adjacent districts from the surrounding states of Rajasthan, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. It comes under the NCR Planning Board Act 1985

'SAATH'-- RURAL ENTERPRISES ACCELERATION PROGRAMME

Current Context: The Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme named 'Saath' was launched for Self-Help Group women.

KEY POINTS

- **It was launched by Lieutenant-Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha.**
- The programme will transform the lives of the women, make them independent to deal with social and financial sectors.
- The programme will provide mentorship and market connectivity to the products developed by SHGs.
- It will transform the lives of the women who are associated with SHGs and doing small work.
- The programme will guide the women in every aspect like packaging, marketing, branding, finance, skills so that they can uplift their businesses.

- Under this 'Saath' programme, workshops will be held for 5,000 women. Further from this, 500 women will be selected who will undergo intensive training and a further 100 will be selected for the mentoring.
- Women will be trained in the sectors like Agriculture, Poultry, Animal Husbandry, handloom, and handicraft, and many others.

'PAYNEARBY NEODUKAAN'

Current Context: India's leading branchless banking and digital payments network PayNearby launched 'PayNearby NeoDukaan'.

DETAILS

- **The 'PayNearby NeoDukaan' was launched in association with the Retailers Association's Skill Council of India (RASCI).**
- **The 'PayNearby NeoDukaan' will help in the digital upgradation of retail partners.**
- It is the first-of-its-kind store management tool that gives a digital touch to the retail stores.
- It provides digital payment options like credit management and online wholesale procurement.
- It thus features stores through online mode with a single click and allows them to compete with the e-commerce giants and large format superstores.
- It provides wide-ranging payment options like UPI QR, Aadhaar Pay, mPOS, and SoftPOS to the customers.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PayNearby: Mumbai
 - CEO of PayNearby: Anand Kumar Bajaj
 - HQ of RASCI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of RASCI: Avijit Mitra

EXIM BANK EXTENDS LOAN SUPPORT TO AFRICA FINANCE CORP

Current Context: The Exim Bank has extended a line of credit (LoC) support from the side of GOI to the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), which is an infrastructure solutions provider in the African continent.

ABOUT

- The Exim Bank has provided an LoC of USD 100 million (Rs 730 crore) to the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC).
- The loan support was provided for the development of infrastructure in the Africa continent.
- This will also help to uplift the economic status of the region which has severely suffered due to pandemic COVID-19.
- The total tenure of the soft loan is 10 years.
- **Static part:**

- HQ of Exim Bank: Mumbai

MOU SIGNED BETWEEN DAHD AND MORD

Current Context: The MoU was signed between the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed for the purpose of rural economic development and growth.**
- **Under this MoU, rural economic growth will be attained by leveraging the SHG platform.**
- Under the MoU, the services of the members of the SHGs will be utilized as livestock resource persons and primary service providers. The usage will take place through 'A-HELP' which is the newly framed accredited model.
- The 'A-HELP' signifies Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production.
- The 'A-HELP' accreditation will be granted to the individuals who are already trained under DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission) for livestock (Pashusakhis) by providing further detailed training for being A-HELP workers.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Parshottam Rupala

EARLYSALARY JOINED HANDS WITH HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

Current Context: The consumer lending platform 'EarlySalary' has joined hands with HDB Financial Services Ltd (HDBFS). The HDBFS is an NBFC and subsidiary of HDFC Bank.

KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered to enhance the Digital Lending mechanism in order to give the best experience to their customers.**
- **Under the partnership, both the entities will develop momentum in impact categories of skill upgradation, education loans, and healthcare finance.**
- This will lead to developing a large consumer lending book with EarlySalary.
- The HDBFC will be able to offer a seamless borrowing experience to its customers. It will allow its customers with digital onboarding, easy and secure finance, and customer support services.
- Under this partnership, the EarlySalary aims to disburse loans upto to Rs 1000 crore. It also aims to uplift its platform with new-age technologies in order to have data processing in a safe and secure manner. It also aims to implement AI, Machine learning, and real-time analysis features in its systems.
- The partnership will also help to boost the process of collaboration with Fintechs.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HDBFS: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of HDBFS: G Ramesh

- HQ of EarlySalary: Pune
- CEO of EarlySalary: Akshay Mehrotra

APPOINTMENTS ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2021

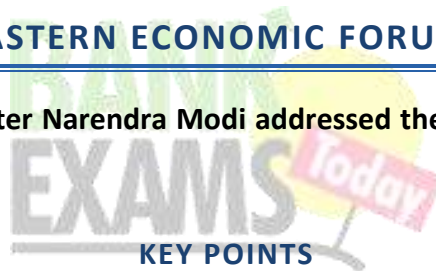
Current Context: Atul Bhatt: He was appointed as CMD of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL). He has replaced PK Rath.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RINL: Visakhapatnam
- **Dr PPK Ramacharyulu:** He was appointed as Rajya Sabha Secretary General by Rajya Sabha Chairman, M Venkaiah Naidu. He has replaced Desh Dipak Verma.
- **Ashish Singhal:** He was appointed as MD of SVC Bank. He has replaced Ajit Venugopalan.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SVC Bank: Mumbai

6TH EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM (EEF)

Current Context: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in a virtual manner.



- **The plenary session of the forum was organized in Vladivostok, Russia.**
- India was also represented by Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri.
- At the forum, PM Modi highlighted the importance of health and pharma sectors and asked the dignitaries to enhance cooperation in these sectors.
- He also mentioned to enhance cooperation in the areas like diamond, coking coal, steel, timber, etc.
- He mentioned India's partnership with Russia in space exploration through the Gaganyaan programme.

HURUN INDIA FUTURE UNICORN LIST 2021

Current Context: The Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021 was released by Hurun Research Institute.

DETAILS

- **As per the list, India is termed to be 3rd largest Unicorn or startup ecosystem in the world.**
- **The list is topped by the USA.**
- The 2nd position was marked by China.

- As per the details from the list, India has 51 unicorns, the USA has 396 unicorns and China has 277 unicorns.
- India has added 3 unicorns every month and hence took the count to 51. India's unicorn is currently worth \$168 billion.
- Zilingo tops the list of the companies which is about to become a unicorn. Zilingo is termed the most valuable Gazelle. And the PepperFry has topped in the cheetahs.
- In terms of cities, Bengaluru has topped for having the most number of Unicorns headquartered in a city. It has 31 unicorns.

'PULSE' — PHONEPE

Current Context: PhonePe has launched India's first interactive geospatial website.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The name of the website is 'Pulse'.**
- All the insights and trends about digital payments in India will be showcased by the website.
- The 'Pulse' website will provide details about the evolution of Digital Payments in India.
- The website will provide inputs on financial data state-wise.
- It will help the people to understand that which part of India is using the UPI service of PhonePe and will showcase that at what level the PhonePe is leading the digital payment era.
- It showcases that more than 2000+ crore digital transactions are made by people with the help of an interactive map of India.
- The 'Pulse Report' was also launched by PhonePe. It will provide complete data and the study made on the evolution of digital payments from the last 5 years.
- It has showcased various data like Average Transaction Value which is around Rs 1896. It revealed that to date around 56 crore Phone Pay app are installed.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PhonePe: Bangalore
 - CEO of PhonePe: Sameer Nigam

EXIM BANK EXTENDED LOC TO MALDIVES FOR SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Context: The Exim Bank has extended line of credit (LOC) to the Maldives with an aim to support financially to develop sports infrastructure in the island nation.

KEY FACTS

- **In this regard, Exim Bank has offered USD 40 million worth of line of credit (LOC).**
- Uptil now, the Exim Bank has extended five LOCs to the Maldives, on behalf of the GOI, thus making its total value USD 1.33 billion.

- The funds were used for various purposes like housing projects, Greater Male Connectivity projects, water and sewerage projects, Addu Development projects, International Cricket Stadium projects, road construction, and sports infrastructure.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Exim Bank: Mumbai
 - Capital of Maldives: Male
 - Currency of Maldives: Maldivian rufiyaa

INDIA SIGNED MOU WITH NEPAL

Current Context: India has signed an MoU with Nepal for the purpose of a construction project conducted in Nepal.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed to reconstruct 14 cultural heritage projects and 103 health projects in Nepal.**
- The construction project was signed between the Indian Embassy in Nepal and Nepal's Central Level Project Implementation Unit (Building) of the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA).
- The main moto of the construction project is to rebuild the national heritage sites of Nepal which were severely affected and damaged due to the 2015 earthquakes.
- The total estimated cost of the construction project is 420 crore Nepalese Rupees.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu
 - Currency of Nepal: Nepalese Rupees
 - Prime Minister of Nepal: Sher Bahadur Deuba
 - President of Nepal: Bidya Devi Bhandai

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2022

Current Context: The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022 was released.

DETAILS

- **The list was topped by the University of Oxford for the sixth consecutive year.**
- The 2nd and 3rd positions were marked by the California Institute of Technology and Harvard University respectively.
- The list is comprised of ranking for 1,600 universities across 99 countries and territories.
- Around 13 parameters were considered under major 4 broad categories to rank the universities.
- **The major 4 broad categories were:** Teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.
- No Indian University is placed in the top 200 lists. IISc Bengaluru has topped India in the list with the rank position in the top 350.

- IIT Ropar is placed in the 351-400 bracket and IIT Indore is placed in 401-500 bracket of the list.

NEGD SIGNED MOU WITH NLU DELHI AND NLIU BHOPAL

Current Context: The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) has signed MoU with National Law University (NLU), Delhi, and National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The NeGD comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- **The MoU was signed to set up Cyber Lab for the 'Online Capacity Building Programme on Cyber Law, Crime Investigation and Digital Forensics'.**
- The cyber lab will allow police officers, cyber cells of states, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judicial officers to gain skills to deal with cyber forensic cases in an efficient manner by following Indian Cyber Law.
- The cyber lab will provide skills, best practices, and proper standards to the officers as per the Indian Cyber Law guidelines.
- The partnership among the 3 entities will provide 9 months online PG diploma-certified course to the 1000 officers. Under this, the officers will be trained through practical approaches at the designated cyber lab at the campus of NLU Delhi.
- The cyber lab will be well equipped with Hybrid architecture which supports both virtual as well as a physical mode of training in the areas of Cyber Law, Cybercrime Investigation, and Digital Forensics.
- The NeGD will develop e-content based on the support received from faculty members.
- The NLIU, Bhopal is the lead academic partner for the course and the PG Diploma Certificate will be awarded by this entity.
- **Static Part:**
 - President and CEO of NeGD: Abhishek Singh

APPOINTMENTS ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Suman Sharma: She was appointed as MD of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). She has replaced Jatindra Nath Swain.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SECI: New Delhi
 - Chairman of SECI: Jatindra Nath Swain
- **Vartika Shukla:** She has become the first woman Chairperson and MD of Engineers India Ltd.
- **Ashok Kumar Tando:** He will be the chairperson of the 12-member committee set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to review the existing guidelines of the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS).
- **Static Part:**

- Union Minister Information and Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur
- **Rani Rampal (India's Women Hockey Player) and Smriti Mandhana (India's Women Cricketer):** They were appointed as brand ambassadors for Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ESFB: Chennai, TN

4TH ROUND OF 'INDO-DANISH JOINT COMMISSION MEETING (JCM)'

Current Context: The 4th round of 'Indo-Danish Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)' was held and the Indian delegation was led by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

KEY FACTS

- **The Denmark delegation was led by Jeppe Kofod.**
- At the meeting, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar mentioned that Denmark is the only country with which India has a green strategic partnership.
- He mentioned that this partnership focuses on growing back greener along with build back better strategy.
- He highlighted about best strategies, strengths, and experiences which India has received from Denmark to grow back greener.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Denmark: Copenhagen
 - Currency of Denmark: Danish Krone

16TH SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 2021

Current Context: The 16th Sustainability Summit 2021 was addressed by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.

DETAILS

- **The summit was held by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).**
- While addressing the summit, Narendra Singh Tomar mentioned that the 16th sustainability is building a resilient future that is leveraging science, technology, and finance.
- He mentioned that how GOI is working to address the various challenges faced by the agriculture sector.
- He mentioned that how the GOI is working to solve the climate change issue and its impact on farming.
- He also highlighted Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi and mentioned that upto now 1,57,000 crore rupees have been deposited in the bank accounts of more than 11 crore farmers.
- He highlighted Kisan Rail, FPOs, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, and many other reforms undertaken by GOI to uplift the agriculture sector in India.

28TH EDITION OF 'SIMBEX-2021'

Current Context: The 28th edition of the Bilateral Exercise between Singapore and India took place.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The name of the annual bilateral maritime exercise is Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX).
- The SIMBEX-2021 was hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.
- India was represented by INS Ranvijay which is a Guided Missile Destroyer along with the shipborne helicopter. The ASW Corvette INS Kiltan, Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora, and P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft were also showcased in the exercise.
- Singapore was represented by Formidable Class Frigate, RSS Steadfast, embarked with an S-70B naval helicopter, Victory Class Missile Corvette, RSS Vigour, Archer Class Submarine, Fokker-50 Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and F-16 fighter aircraft.
- The moto of the exercise was to enhance bilateral defence cooperation between both nations enhance maritime security.
- The navies conducted drills like live weapon firing, advanced naval warfare serials, and anti-submarine, anti-air, and anti-surface warfare drills.

PROJECT AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN INDIA AND US

Current Context: The Project Agreement (PA) between the Ministry of Defence of GOI and the US Department of Defence was signed.

KEY FACTS

- The PA was signed for the purpose of an Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV).
- The agreement was signed under the Joint Working Group Air Systems in the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).
- The objective of DTTI is to have a leadership focus to promote collaborative technology exchange and develop opportunities for co-production and co-development of future technologies for Indian and US military forces.
- This is the major step taken by both nations in order to strengthen defence technology cooperation.
- The PA will enable the collaboration between Air Force Research Laboratory, Indian Air Force, and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the domains like design, development, demonstration, testing, and evaluation of systems in order to develop ALUAV Prototype.
- Both the nations will jointly work to develop ALUAV Prototype.

APEDA SIGNED MOU WITH ICAR-IIMR

Current Context: The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed an MoU with the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millet Research (ICAR-IIMR).

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed with an aim to enhance exports through quality production & processing, enhance value addition and farmers' income.**
- The MoU will be led to having market linkage with farmers and Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs).
- It will also promote commercial cultivation of processable varieties which are developed by ICAR-IIMR for exports. This will lead to having value addition of the highly nutritive variety of cereals, called millets.
- The MoU will develop export centric ecosystem through supply chain linkages, usage of technology, conduction of clinical studies, awareness creation, policy changes, and involvement of entrepreneurs.
- Both the entities will work to develop skills on how to analyze export competitiveness, price volatility of markets, standards for market intelligence, regulations in trade policies, understanding markets, consumer preferences, and emerging segments.
- They will develop Millet Export Promotion Forum in partnership with stakeholders.
- The coordination committee will be framed which will be comprised of experts from both the entities and will look after the execution of the MoU.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of APEDA: New Delhi
 - HQ of IIMR: Hyderabad
 - UN has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets

'KARBI ANGLONG AGREEMENT'

Current Context: The centre signed the 'Karbi Anglong Agreement' which is a tripartite agreement with the representatives of Karbi outfits (Karbi are the ethnic community of Assam).

DETAILS

- The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- The delegation of six Karbi group members signed the agreement which includes Karbi People's Liberation Tigers (R), Karbi Longri North Cachar Hills Liberation Front, Karbi People's Liberation Tigers (Ceasefire), People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri, Karbi People's Liberation Tigers (M) and United People's Liberations Army.
- The agreement will help to maintain peace and prosperity in Assam and under the agreement all the conditions of the Karbi community will be fulfilled.
- Under the agreement, Rs 1000 crore for development of the Karbi Anglong area in the next five years is sanctioned by the Assam government.

- The agreement will also provide reservations for the people of Karbi and the setting up of the Karbi Welfare Council will take place.
- The rehabilitation for the surrendered militants will also take place.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Assam: Himanta Biswa Sarma
 - Governor of Assam: Prof. Jagdish Mukhi

1ST MEETING OF GOVERNING BODY OF 'VATAN PREM YOJANA'

Current Context: The first meeting of the 'Vatan Prem Yojana' governing body was held under the chairmanship of Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.

ABOUT

- **The members approved to undertake public welfare projects worth Rs. 1,000 crores jointly with non-resident Gujaratis by December 2022.**
- **These projects will be undertaken by Gujarat's 'Vatan Prem Yojana'.**
- The public welfare projects will be jointly undertaken by non-resident Gujaratis donors and the Gujarat State Government on a 60:40 ratio by December 2022.
- Under the Yojana, the various projects like smart classes in schools, community hall, primary health center, Anganwadi, library, CCTV surveillance system, water recycling, drainage, sewage treatment, beautification of ponds, bus-stand, solar energy powered streetlights, etc will be implemented and the donors can contribute to these projects.
- Under the yojana, NRIs can contribute 60% of the cost of a village-level project, while the remaining 40% will be managed by the state government.
- The project management unit will be set up for the efficient execution of the yojana and arrangements will be made for the payment of the scheme through a separate bank account. The portal will also be developed so that donors will be able to make payments in an online manner.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Gujarat: Vijay Rupani
 - Governor of Gujarat: Acharya Devvrat

INDIA- 1ST COUNTRY IN ASIA TO LAUNCH A PLASTICS PACT

Current Context: India has become the first country in Asia to launch a Plastics Pact.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The plastic pact is a platform that aims to promote a circular system for plastics.**
- **It was launched by the British High Commissioner to India, Alexander Ellis at the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Sustainability Summit.**
- **The Plastics Pact launched by India is termed as 'India Plastic Pact'.**

- The 'India Plastic Pact' is a joint initiative of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India).
- It is supported by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) and WRAP which is a global NGO in the UK, and endorsed by the British High Commission in India.
- It aims to frame the era in which plastic is valued and does not contribute to creating pollution.
- It focuses on businesses to make the transition towards a circular economy for plastics by 2030.
- The 'India Plastic Pact' will bring together businesses from the Indian Plastic chain and they will contribute towards a circular plastic system. They will keep the plastic in the country but will make sure that it does not harm the environment.
- They will focus on the reduction, recycle and reuse of plastics.
- The 'India Plastic Pact' will also help to create job opportunities and investment in the sector.

PUNJAB GOV. SIGNED MOU WITH AMCHAM INDIA

Current Context: The Government of Punjab has signed an MoU with the American Chamber of Commerce in India (AMCHAM India).

KEY POINTS

- The MoU was signed during the 29th annual general meeting of AMCHAM India.
- **The MoU aims to promote investment and boost ease of doing business ability for the US member companies in the state.**
- To execute the MoU, a joint working group will be formed which will include members from AMCHAM India and Invest Punjab.
- The joint working group will work to support and develop investment cooperation and enhance the ease of doing business in Punjab and the US.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Punjab: Captain Amarinder Singh
 - Governor of Punjab: V. P. Singh Badnore

ADB APPROVED USD 150 MILLION LOAN TO TAMIL NADU

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of USD 150 million to Tamil Nadu.

KEY FACTS

- **The loan was approved for developing sustainable housing projects in urban poor areas of the state.**
- The funds will be used to grant access to resilient and sustainable housing structures for the urban poor in the state.
- With the help of this fund, the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) will construct sustainable houses in 9 locations of the state and will relocate 6000 households to safe locations which will be vulnerable to various natural hazards.

- The loan will also enhance the economic growth of the state as it contributes 8.54% to the GDP of the country.
- Also, the ADB will grant USD 1.5 million as technical assistance from its Technical Assistance Special Fund. This will support government agencies to enhance capacity building.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Manila, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

4TH 'AUSINDEX'

Current Context: The 4th edition of AUSINDEX which is the bilateral naval exercise commenced on 6th Sep and will be held till 10th Sep 2021.

DETAILS

- **The AUSINDEX is held between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy.**
- **It is being held in the North Australian Exercise Area.**
- India is being represented by INS Shivalik and INS Kadmat which are the Guided Missile Stealth Frigate and Anti-Submarine Corvette respectively.
- Both the navies will conduct complex surface, sub-surface, and air operations through ships, submarines, helicopters, and patrolling aircraft.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Australia: Canberra
 - Currency of Australia: Australian dollar

APPOINTMENTS ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Cyrus Poncha: He was elected as Vice-President of the Asian Squash Federation (ASF) for a tenure of four years. He is Secretary-General of Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) and also a Dronacharya Awardee. Also, Fayez Abdullah S.Al-Mutairi of Kuwait and Tae-sook Hee of Korea are also elected as the Vice-Presidents of ASF.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ASF: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- **S.L.Tripathy:** He was appointed as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of United India Insurance Company Limited. Currently, he is serving as the General Manager and Director at The New India Assurance Company Limited.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of United India Insurance Company Limited: Chennai
 - CEO of United India Insurance Company Limited: Girish Radhakrishnan

- **Prashant Kumar:** He was elected to the board of directors of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC). He is the President of the Bar Association of India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ILAC: United Kingdom
- **Harsha Bhupendra Bangari:** She was appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) of the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank). She has replaced MD David Rasquinha.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of EXIM Bank: Mumbai

INAUGURAL CONCLAVE OF SHIKSHAK PARV WAS ADDRESSED BY PM MODI

Current Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural conclave of Shikshak Parv via video conference.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **At the inaugural conclave, he launched various educational schemes. The Shikshak Parv is being celebrated from 5th to 17th Sep 2021 by Education Ministry under the theme of 'Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India'.**
- PM Modi launched Indian Sign Language Dictionary which is an audio and text embedded sign language video for the hearing impaired and it is in conformity with the Universal Design of Learning.
- He launched Talking Books which are audiobooks for the visually impaired.
- Along with these, the School Quality Assurance and Assessment Framework of CBSE, NISHTHA teachers' training program for NIPUN Bharat, and Vidyanjali portal were also launched.
- At the conclave, PM Modi congratulated teachers who won the National Award for their determination in teaching.
- He also discussed the new National Education Policy.
- He mentioned that 'Vidyanjali 2.0' is a platform for India's motto of 'Sabka Prayas' with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'. It will allow educational volunteers, CSR contributors to conduct school developments.
- PM Modi also mentioned National Digital Architecture (N-DEAR) which will work to eliminate inequality in education. It will be the connectivity between various academic activities same as the UPI interface associated with the banking sector.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Education Minister: Dharmendra Pradhan

HDFC BANK SIGNED MOU WITH NSIC

Current Context: India's largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank has signed MoU with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed to grant credit support to the MSME sector of India.**
- The HDFC Bank will offer MSMEs specially designed schemes that will enhance their competitiveness in the market.
- The support will be granted to the MSME projects in the areas they are located and to other major industrial sectors of India.
- This partnership will help to enhance the growth of MSME and ultimately economy of India, as MSME contributes to 30% of the GDP of India.
- The bank will accept the loans forwarded by NSIC and will sanction the loans on a top priority and as per its lending policy.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan
 - HQ of NSIC: New Delhi
 - CMD of NSIC: Vijayendra

'WISEPOSGO' POS DEVICE

Current Context: The Karnataka Bank launched the POS device (Point of Sales swiping machine) which is a Phone + PoS machine.

KEY FACTS

- **The POS device is named 'WisePOSGo'.**
- **The 'WisePOSGo' is launched in partnership with Mswipe Technologies Pvt Ltd.**
- The 'WisePOSGo' is a one-step forward by Karnataka Bank in the direction of the digital payment infrastructure of India.
- It will help to promote cashless transactions in India.
- It is a compact, lightweight, and user-friendly device through which merchants can also make calls.
- It is designed by keeping in view the cost-centric requirements of the merchants.
- It provides payment support through contactless payment, mobile phone, QR code, pay by link, magstripe, and barcode scanner.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Karnataka Bank: Mangalore
 - CEO of Karnataka Bank: Mahabaleshwara M. S

IPPB JOINED HANDS WITH LIC HOUSING FINANCE

Current Context: The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has joined hands with LIC Housing Finance.

DETAILS

- **They joined hands to sell housing finance products to the former's 4.5 crore customers.**
- The LIC Housing Finance will look after home loan's credit underwriting, processing, and disbursement of the loans.
- The IPPB will look after the sourcing of the home loans.
- Due to this collaboration, the customers will be able to access home loan products of LIC Housing Finance through IPPB's network.
- IPPB will make LIC Housing Finance home loan products accessible to its customers in India.
- Under this collaboration, IPPB's 200,000 postal employees will offer LIC housing loans through its innovative Doorstep Banking Service.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IPPB: New Delhi
 - Tagline of IPPB: Aapka Bank, Aapke Dwaar
 - MD and CEO of IPPB: Venkatram Jayathy
 - HQ of LIC Housing Finance: Mumbai
 - Tagline of LIC Housing Finance: Where dreams come home
 - MD and CEO of LIC Housing Finance: Y Viswanatha Gowd

APPOINTMENTS ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Nirlep Singh Rai: He was appointed as CMD of National Fertilizer Limited (NFL). He has replaced Virendra Nath Datt.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NFL: Noida, UP
- **Neeraj Chopra:** He signed a multi-year brand partnership with Tata AIA Life Insurance.
- **Ramesh Narayan:** He will be inducted into the Asian Federation of Advertising Associations (AFAA) Hall of Fame at AdAsia 2021.
- **Satish Parekh:** He was appointed as President of the India chapter of the International Road Federation (IRF). He has replaced Subhmay Gangopadhyay.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IRF: Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Yoshihide Suga:** He steps down from the post of Japan's Prime Minister.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

AIIA SIGNED MOU WITH NICM WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA

Current Context: The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed MoU with NICM Western Sydney University, Australia. The AIIA comes under the Ministry of Ayush.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to support and appoint an Academic Chair in Ayurveda.**
- The appointment of the chair was funded by Ayush Ministry and Western Sydney University.
- It will commence at the start of 2022.
- The appointed Academic Chair will manage academic and research activities in Ayurveda.
- It will also manage herbal medicine and yoga.
- It will frame academic standards, short-term and medium-term courses, and educational guidelines in Ayurveda.
- It will conduct workshops/seminars/conferences on Ayurveda, provide tutorials to students, and will promote effective usage of Ayurvedic Systems in Australia.
- It will promote Ayurveda medicines into the conventional healthcare sector.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Ayush: Sarbananda Sonowal

NPCI PARTNERS WITH FISERV TO LAUNCH 'nFINI'

Current Context: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with Fiserv to launch 'nFiNi'.

KEY FACTS

- **The 'nFiNi' is a set of services to issue RuPay credit cards by fintech and banks.**
- **It is a RuPay-based API that will enhance credit card-based products in the country.**
- It is basically a banking-as-a-service (BaaS) program as it will grant a wide range of services to fintech and banks to distribute RuPay-based credit cards.
- The 'nFiNi' will power RuPay cards by granting necessary facilities through the NPCI network and FirstVisionTM from Fiserv. The FirstVisionTM is a cloud-based open API integration.
- The 'nFiNi' will provide services like mobile apps, SMS notifications, digital card provisions, and other payment transactions features.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NPCI: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of NPCI: Dilip Asbe

LENDINGKART PARTNERED WITH SBM BANK INDIA

Current Context: The SBM Bank India partnered with Lendingkart which is a fintech start-up.

KEY POINTS

- **They have partnered to grant overdraft (OD) facilities to 1 lakh MSME customers via the platform of Lendingkart.**
- Currently, OD facilities that are offered by most lenders require borrowers to furnish collateral such as property, fixed deposits, and business inventories and many small businesses are not able to provide so.
- So to overcome this, the entities have partnered to offer OD facilities through technology, efficiency, and customized solutions.
- They will provide special features like on-demand disbursement, no paperwork and a digital way of support.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Lendingkart: Bangalore, Karnataka
 - MD of Lendingkart: Harshvardhan Lunia
 - HQ of SBM India: Mumbai

10 MERCHANT BANKS TO MANAGE IPO OF LIC

Current Context: The GOI has selected 10 merchant bankers to manage the Initial Public Offering of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

DETAILS

- LIC's IPO will be launched in the January-March quarter of 2022.
- So the merchant bankers will perform the roles of Issue management, Promotional activities, Credit syndication, Project counseling, and Portfolio management, etc.
- **The 10 merchant bankers are:** Goldman Sachs (India) Securities, Citigroup Sachs (India) Securities, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities India, SBI Capital Market, JM Financial, Axis Capital, BofA Securities, JP Morgan India, ICICI Securities, and Kotak Mahindra Capital Ltd.
- In the last month, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had cleared the way for the IPO of LIC.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LIC: Mumbai
 - Chairperson of LIC: MR Kumar

APPOINTMENTS ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Rajnish Kumar: He was appointed as Economic Advisor to Andhra Pradesh government for the tenure of 2 years.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**

- CM of Andhra Pradesh: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
- Governor of Andhra Pradesh: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- **G.S. Pannu:** He was appointed as President of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT). Currently, he was serving as the Vice-President at (ITAT).
- **V. Vaidyanathan:** He was re-appointed as MD & CEO of IDFC First Bank by RBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IDFC First Bank: Mumbai
- **G C Murmu:** He is India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and was elected as chairman of the Assembly of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for the tenure of 2021-27.
- **Satyajit Tripathy:** He was appointed as CMD of United India Insurance Company Limited (UIIC). He has replaced Girish Radhakrishnan.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UIIC Ltd: Chennai, TN
- **Baby Rani Maurya:** She has announced her resignation from the post of Uttarakhand Governor.

ADB APPROVED LOAN FOR JHARKHAND

Current Context: The GOI and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed the loan agreement for Jharkhand.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The loan agreement was signed to develop water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand.**
- **The loan will be used to enhance the capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) to have improved service delivery in four towns of the state.**
- **In this regard, the ADB has sanctioned a loan of USD 112 million to the Jharkhand.**
- This is the first loan by ADB in the state of Jharkhand.
- The project will ensure continuous water supply to the people and will satisfy the objective under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- The water supply through pipes will be made under the project in the 4 towns of Ranchi, Hussainabad, Jhumri Telaiya, and Medininagar.
- The 4 water treatment plants will have a water capacity of 275 million liters per day.
- Also, 940 km of water distribution network will be constructed to provide water supply to 115000 houses.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Manila, Philippines.
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa
 - CM of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren
 - Governor of Jharkhand: Ramesh Bais

NIRF INDIA RANKINGS 2021

Current Context: The NIRF India Rankings 2021 was released by Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan via video conference.

KEY POINTS

- **This is the 6th edition of the NIRF India Rankings and ranks the higher educational institutions of India as per the criteria to promote excellence.**
- The list is topped by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in the overall domain and engineering domain.
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru was remarked as the best research institution.
- The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad was remarked as the best B-school.
- The Jamia Hamdard was marked as the best pharma institution.
- The AIIMS Delhi was marked as the best medical college.
- Delhi's Miranda House was ranked 1st in the colleges' category and Delhi's Lady Sri Ram College for Women and Chennai's Loyola College was marked at 2nd and 3rd position respectively in the same category.
- In the law domain, the National Law School of India University (NLSUI), Bengaluru won the 1st rank.
- In the architecture domain, the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee won the 1st rank.
- The rankings were released for various categories like engineering, pharmacy, management, overall, research, law, university, ARIIA (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements), medical, college, and architecture.
- The ranks were defined by considering parameters like teaching, peer perception, graduation outcome, research and professional practice, learning and resources, outreach, and inclusivity.

'CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON OFFSHORE WIND'

Current Context: The 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind' was launched by India and Denmark.

KEY FACTS

- **It is part of the green strategic partnership between both nations.**
- It was launched by Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh, and Denmark's Minister for Climate, Energy, and Utilities, Dan Jorgensen.
- The center will be centered on four working groups namely: a) spatial planning b) financial framework conditions c) supply chain infrastructure d) standards and testing.
- At the initial stage, it will focus on the offshore wind sector.
- It will also work to include international governments, generate experience and best practices for the offshore wind sector.
- It aims to become an international center for offshore wind and become the major platform for new and renewable energy.

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Denmark: Copenhagen
 - Currency of Denmark: Danish Krone

'BOB WORLD' — BANK OF BARODA

Current Context: The Bank of Baroda launched 'bob World'.

DETAILS

- **The 'bob World' is the digital banking platform.**
- It aims to offer banking services to its customers under a single roof.
- More than 220 services are converged under this platform.
- The 'bob World' covers 95% of all retail banking services, therefore customers can access them at the domestic and global level.
- The platform will be rolled out in phases, under four key pillars of Save, Invest, Borrow and Shop.
- It also consists of integration with e-commerce in order to offer a rewarding experience of banking and beyond to its customers.
- The customers will be benefited from the virtual banking experience in a seamless manner.
- It offers digital account opening in 10 minutes along with the issuance of instant virtual debit cards, online loan applications with instantaneous disbursement for selected loan products.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bank of Baroda: Vadodara, Gujarat
 - MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda: Sanjiv Chadha

APPOINTMENTS OF NEW GOVERNORS

Current Context: Lt Gen Gurmit Singh: He was appointed as Governor of Uttarakhand. He replaced Baby Rani Maurya.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- **Banwarilal Purohit:** He was appointed as Governor of Punjab. Initially, he was serving as the Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Punjab: Amrinder Singh
- **R.N.Ravi:** He was appointed as Governor of Tamil Nadu. Initially, he was serving as the Governor of Nagaland.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Tamil Nadu: M K Stalin

- **Prof. Jagdish Mukhi:** He was appointed as Governor of Nagaland. Initially he was serving as the Governor of Assam.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio

ONEWEB SIGNED MOU WITH HUGHES NETWORK SYSTEM

Current Context: OneWeb which is backed by Bharti Group has signed MoU with Hughes Network System which is a United States company.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to distribute satellite services in India and the US.**
- The MoU was signed at the session held at Satellite 2021 in the US for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite service in both countries.
- The MoU is the strategic agreement that will distribute satellite service networks in India and mostly to the sectors like large enterprises, SMEs, government entities, telecom sectors, Internet Service Providers in rural parts of India.
- Both entities will jointly expand their satellite distribution network at the global level.
- The partnership can be termed as 'Hughes offered OneWeb's low latency and high-speed connectivity satellite distribution network'.
- The services will be granted by Hughes Network Systems, LLC, and Hughes Communications India.
- The parent company of Hughes named 'EchoStar' is a major investor in OneWeb and it is working to build its initial constellation of 648 LEO Satellites and the service associated through it will commence in 2021 in the Arctic region, Alaska, UK, and Canada.
- And by the end of 2022, OneWeb will grant its connectivity services globally.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of OneWeb: London, UK

INDIA AND ADB SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT FOR MAHARASHTRA

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India (GOI) signed loan agreement to enhance rural connectivity and rural economy in the state of Maharashtra.

KEY POINTS

- **In this regard, the loan of \$300 million was signed between GOI and ADB.**
- The funds will be used to provide finance to the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project.
- The loan amount will also be used to improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900km in 34 districts of the state.

- Initially, in August 2019, ADB granted \$200 million funds which are being used to improve and maintain the condition and safety of 2,100 km of rural roads across the state.
- So this current loan is the addition to USD 200 million, granted by ADB in August 2019.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
 - Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

13TH BRICS SUMMIT

Current Context: The 13th BRICS Summit was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

KEY FACTS

- The summit was held in a virtual manner and the dignitaries participated via video conference in the summit.
- **The theme of the summit was:** 'BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus.'
- **BRICS Leaders namely:** President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Xi Jinping of China, and President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa participated in the summit.
- PM Modi expressed his gratitude towards BRICS members for cooperating with India during its ongoing BRICS Chairmanship.
- He mentioned to boost the cooperation among BRICS nations with the motto of 'Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably'.
- He mentioned the need to speed up 'build-back' by speeding up vaccination, resilience creation through the pharma sector, innovation using digital tools for the public good, reforms in multilateral institutions, and solving issues related to climate change.

US-INDIA STRATEGIC CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP (SCEP) MEETING

Current Context: The Ministerial meeting of the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) was held in a virtual mode.

DETAILS

- **India was represented by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri and the US was represented by U.S. Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm.**
- Both the dignitaries discussed progress and achievements made by both nations in various sectors.
- They assured to cooperate in the energy sector by adding emerging fuels to the list of their cooperation.
- Both the nations cooperate in the areas of power and energy efficiency, oil and gas, renewable energy, and sustainable growth.
- And they have decided to add the 5th area to their cooperation i.e. the emerging fuels.

- They decided to frame India-US Task Force which will look after building and executing cooperation in the biofuels sector.
- They also announced renaming the Gas Task Force to India-US Low Emissions Gas Task Force. This task force will help to develop innovative projects to provide support to India's vision of a gas-based economy.

IIT KANPUR SIGNED MOU WITH IAF

Current Context: The IIT Kanpur has signed MoU with Indian Air Force (IAF).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed for collaboration in the academic and research sector, particularly in the aerospace technology domain.**
- **The MoU was also signed to set up Air Vice Marshal Harjinder Singh Chair of Excellence.**
- The centre will promote teaching, research, and technology development in Aerospace technologies, Aircraft Structural Integrity & Aircraft Health Monitoring.
- Both the entities will develop robust technologies both in the academic and research domains in Aerospace Technology.
- The MoU will grant long-term partnership in the area of shared experience, shared technical knowledge and foster development in the domain of Aerospace Technology.
- The MoU will also grant research degrees to Ph.D. scholars working in IIT Kanpur under the Aerospace Technology domain.
- **Static Part:**
 - Air Chief Marshal: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

5TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT 2021

Current Context: The 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) 2021 was held in Vienna, Austria.

KEY POINTS

- **India was represented by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.**
- **The 5WCSP was organised by the Austrian Parliament, Inter Parliamentary Union, and the United Nations.**
- The 5WCSP is the world's largest function of the highest level of parliamentary representation.
- It was held under the theme of 'Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism.'
- The theme of the conference aims to promote peace and sustainable development at the global level.
- Around 110 speakers of parliament from the world participated in the conference.
- They discussed international parliamentary actions, global response to the pandemic, and post COVID-19 recovery.

- They also discussed issues like climate change, misinformation, and enhancing youth participation in politics.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IPU: Geneva, Switzerland

APPOINTMENTS ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Bhupendra Patel: He was appointed as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat. He has replaced Vijay Rupani.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of Gujarat: Acharya Devvrat.
- **Iqbal Singh Lalpura:** He was appointed as chairman of the National Commission for Minorities.
- **Aziz Akhannouch:** He was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Morocco.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Morocco: Rabat
 - Currency of Morocco: Moroccan Dirham
- **Rahul Dravid:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of Piramal Realty.

INDIA AND AUSTRALIA HELD INAUGURAL 2+2 DIALOGUE

Current Context: India and Australia began inaugural 2+2 Dialogue.

DETAILS

- **India was represented by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.**
- They held the discussion with their counterparts, Peter Dutton and Marise Payne.
- The ministerial dialogue aims to strengthen defence and overall strategic partnership between both nations.
- They aim to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific cooperation amid China's increasing military assertiveness in the region.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Australia: Canberra
 - Currency of Australia: Australian Dollar

'MILLET MISSION' — CHHATTISGARH

Current Context: The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel launched the 'Millet Mission'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The 'Millet Mission' aims to offer proper price rates to farmers for minor cereal crops.**
- The mission also aims to make the state India's millet hub.
- To implement and execute the mission the state government has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, and the collectors of 14 districts of the state.
- Through this mission, the state farmers will also receive input assistance support for millet, procurement support, and arrangements, and best expertise advice to process the crops.
- The mission will help to enhance the productivity of crops like Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi.
- The farmers will be given the assistance of Rs.9000 per acre and Rs.10,000 per acre for growing Kodo, Kutki, and Ragi instead of paddy.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel
 - Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey

DBS BANK PARTNERED WITH SWIFT

Current Context: The DBS Bank has entered into a partnership with SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications) Global Payment Innovations.

KEY POINTS

- **Through this partnership, DBS Bank will offer the latest data by online tracking for cross-border payments.**
- **DBS Bank has thus launched real-time online tracking for cross-border collections for businesses in India and by doing so it has become the first bank in India and Asia-Pacific to offer this service to its clients.**
- The partnership will prove beneficial to 4000 corporates and small businesses in India.
- Due to this, the visibility in cross-border payments can be tracked by the corporate units.
- They will be able to manage working capital, track incoming payments and overall cash position.
- The partnership will provide accuracy for intraday credit line needs, transparency, and visibility to corporate treasuries.
- The corporates can avail of this service through 'DBS IDEAL-DBS' which is the online corporate banking portal.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of DBS Bank India: Mumbai
 - HQ of SWIFT: La Hulpe, Belgium

APPOINTMENTS ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Justice M. Venugopal: He was appointed as new Acting Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

ABOUT

- **Prativa Mohapatra:** She was appointed as vice president and managing director for Adobe India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Adobe: California, United States
 - CEO of Adobe: Shantanu Narayen
- **Pawan Kumar Goenka:** He was appointed as chairperson of the Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-SPACE). He was the former MD of Mahindra & Mahindra.
- **Vijay Goel:** He was appointed as Vice-Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS). It is the site of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi. It was framed in September 1984 as an autonomous body and functions under the Ministry of Culture.
- **Jim Lanzone:** He was appointed as CEO of Yahoo. He was serving as CEO of the Dating app Tinder and now has replaced Guru Gowrappan, with the post of Yahoo CEO.
- **Renate Nyborg:** She was appointed as CEO of the Dating app Tinder by replacing Jim Lanzone.
- **Sameer Sharma:** He was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh. He has replaced Aditya Nath Das.

AMTRON PARTNERED WITH IBUS

Current Context: The undertaking of the Assam Government named Assam Electronics Development Corporation Limited (AMTRON) has partnered with iBus Networks and Infrastructure Private Limited (iBUS).

KEY FACTS

- **The AMTRON has appointed iBus as its business partner to deploy and manage digital infrastructure.**
- Both the entities will offer better connectivity solutions like IT Park, hospitals, SEZs, and other commercial zones with digital touch to them.
- They will jointly identify business opportunities and then will deploy digital infrastructure to those opportunities.
- Both the entities aim to contribute to Digital India moto.
- They will provide better access to internet services in Assam.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of iBus: Bengaluru
 - HQ of AMTRON: Guwahati

PRADHAN MANTRI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA

Current Context: The Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda announced that Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) will be started in 36000 villages of India.

DETAILS

- **The villages having 50% of the tribal population will be given priority under the scheme.**
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will commence and execute the scheme.
- Around 1,700 tribal villages in Assam will be diverted into model villages through this scheme.
- Also, 184 new Van Dhan Kendras will be set up in Assam and it will benefit around 60,000 people.
- The PMAGY is a rural development program that aims to uplift and develop villages in the country. The villages having over 50% of people from scheduled castes will be selected for the scheme.
- All the major and mandatory facilities like electrification, housing, sanitation, water supply, and rural roads, etc will be provided to the villages under the scheme.
- The technical support to the scheme is provided by the 'National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)'.

'MEDICINE FROM THE SKY'—TELANGANA

Current Context: The Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched the 'Medicine from the Sky' project in Telangana.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The 'Medicine from the Sky' is the first of its kind project which aims to transport vaccines and other essential products to remote areas with the help of drones.**
- The project is taken on a pilot basis in 16 green zones of state and will be enhanced at the national level later on.
- The data will be analyzed for the duration of 3 months by the health ministry, IT ministry, state government, and the Centre
- Due to this project, Telangana has become the 1st state in India to make use of drones for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLoS) to deliver medicines and other products.
- The project is launched by the state government in association with World Economic Forum, NITI Aayog, and HealthNet Global.
- Under the project, the first delivery was conducted by Delhi based drone delivery tech firm named Sky Air Mobility in partnership with Blue Dart Express.
- Around 5 kg vaccines box from Vikarabad District hospital were delivered towards health community center located at the distance of 3 km.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Telangana: K. Chandrashekar Rao
 - Governor of Telangana: Tamilisai Soundararajan

CLIMATE ACTION AND FINANCE MOBILIZATION DIALOGUE (CAFMD)

Current Context: The 'Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)' was launched by India and the USA.

KEY POINTS

- **The CAFMD will help to enhance India-US bilateral cooperation in the domains of climate and environment.**
- It was launched by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Bhupender Yadav with U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC) in New Delhi, John Kerry.
- The CAFMD is one of the two major goals of India and the USA namely India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership and the other one is Strategic Clean Energy Partnership.
- It will work to make nations aligned with swift climate action by adopting resilient economic development.
- It will take into consideration national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.
- It will provide various opportunities to both nations to work jointly in climate change by addressing their financial aspects.
- It will also give the way for green collaborations for both nations.

PPBL PARTNERED WITH DMRC

Current Context: The Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) partnered with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

DETAILS

- **They have partnered to develop the country's first FASTag based metro parking facility.**
- Under this partnership, PPBL will enable the processing of all FASTag based transactions for cars having a valid FASTag sticker at the Kashmere Gate metro station.
- The PPBL has also enabled a UPI-based payment solution for 2-wheelers who enter the parking site.
- Due to this partnership, the car owners are no longer required to tender cash.
- Also, the parking fee will be directly deducted from the wallet or account linked with the FASTag of the respective vehicles.
- The parking fees can also be paid in a digital manner via UPI payment.
- At present, the facility is made available at the metro station's gate number 6 and it offers parking space for 174 two-wheelers & 55 four-wheelers.
- This partnership is one step forward to digitize the DMRC.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PPBL: Noida, UP

'IRASTE' PROJECT

Current Context: The Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari launched 'Project iRASTE'. It was launched in Nagpur.

KEY FACTS

- **The Project iRASTE signifies:** intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering.
- **The project is a collaborative initiative of Intel India, IIIT-H (International Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad), CSIR-CRRI (Central Road Research Institute), Mahindra & Mahindra, and NMC (Nagpur Municipal Corporation).**
- The project aims to enhance road safety and reduce road accidents in Nagpur.
- The project uses the features of AI (Artificial Intelligence), as AI will help to develop smarter and safer vehicles, roads, and drivers.
- It aims to frame a blueprint to Vision Zero for the country.
- The 'Project iRASTE' will focus on vehicle safety, mobility analysis, and road infrastructure safety.
- The Advanced Driving Assistance Systems (ADAS) will be utilised in the project work. It will provide safety for fleets and road users. The alerts from ADAS will improve driver performance.
- There will be also mobility analysis which will continuously monitor dynamic risks of the entire road network to define grey and black spots i.e. the high risk or accident-prone areas.
- It will also consist of Collision Avoidance System (CAS).
- The technical guidance will be granted by CSIR-CRRI. The entity has performed a road safety audit for about 9000km.
- The ADAS technology, IIIT Hyderabad will look after population-scale road safety via Intel's AI center for advanced AI research.
- The Mahindra & Mahindra will perform road safety, public awareness programs, and driver training.

AMNS SIGNED MOU WITH NSIC

Current Context: The Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India (AMNS India) has signed MoU with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).

ABOUT

- **The MoU was signed to offer critical steel products to MSMEs in the steel sector.**
- They will jointly frame a network that will deliver critical products to the MSME units.
- NSIC will offer marketing access through its networks. It will also provide financial support to market products of AMNS India.
- The AMNS India will thus be able to use a hypermart network.
- With the help of this partnership, the MSME customers will also be able to avail of special pricing which will be determined by NSIC, AMNS India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NSIC: New Delhi
 - HQ of AMNS India: Surat, Gujarat

'PROJECT UDAAN'—IIT BOMBAY

Current Context: The IIT Bombay has launched 'Project Udaan'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'Project Udaan' is a language translator which will make it easy for the students to understand educational content in their own language.
- The project is a donation-based project and is an end-to-end ecosystem.
- It will translate the scientific and technical content available in the English language to Hindi or other languages.
- It is based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and the AI-based software will translate the educational content in one-sixth of the time taken by a team of linguistic experts working manually on it.
- The 'Project Udaan' is developed by Institute Chair Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Prof. Ganesh Ramakrishnan along with his team from IIT Bombay.
- The project fulfills the motto of the New Education Policy in which it is mentioned to impart higher education through Indian languages.
- The goal of the project is to translate 500 engineering texts in Hindi in one year and in 15 Indian languages in 3 years.
- It has also set the goal to develop a web platform that will have a translation workbench, domain-specific linguistic resources like dictionaries in order to have an efficient and consistent quality translation.

'SHOONYA CAMPAIGN'

Current Context: The NITI Aayog in partnership with US-based Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India launched the 'Shoonya Campaign'.

KEY FACTS

- The 'Shoonya Campaign' aims to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and the industry.
- It aims to promote the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and make people aware of the positive impacts of EVs on health, the environment, and the economy.
- Under the campaign, a corporate branding and certification program was launched, which will identify and promote efforts taken by industries to transit to the usage and developing EVs.
- There will be an online tracking platform that will display the campaign's impact. It will display information like vehicle kilometers electrified, carbon savings, criteria pollutant savings, and other advantages gained from EVs.
- The entities like e-commerce companies, auto manufacturers, and logistics fleet operators will contribute to the campaign.

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairperson of NITI Aayog: PM Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

18TH ASEAN-INDIA ECONOMIC MINISTERS CONSULTATIONS

Current Context: The 18th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations was held in a virtual manner.

KEY POINTS

- India was represented by Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.
- The consultation meeting was co-chaired by Anupriya Patel and H.E. Dato Dr. Amin Liew Abdullah, Minister of Finance and Economy, Brunei Darussalam.
- The meeting observed the participation of economic ministers of ASEAN countries.
- The Indian side discussed mass vaccinations, capacity enhancement, and economical initiatives to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.
- India also highlighted the reforms taken in the sectors like agriculture, insurance, logistics, etc.
- The dignitaries discussed ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement.
- The dignitaries discussed enhancing partnership in ASEAN India by making investments in the health and pharma sectors.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ASEAN: Jakarta, Indonesia

AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY SIGNED MOUS WITH PRIVATE COMPANIES

Current Context: The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare signed five MoUs with the private companies.

DETAILS

- **The MoUs were signed with:** CISCO, ITC Limited, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms Limited, and NCDEX e-markets Limited (NeML).
 - a) **MoU with Jio Platforms Limited:** It was signed to conduct a pilot project to provide advisories for farmers in the Jalna & Nasik districts of Maharashtra.
 - b) **MoU with ITC Limited:** It was signed to build a Customized Site-Specific Crop Advisory service. This will be implemented in the Sehore and Vidisha districts of Madhya Pradesh. It will prove beneficial in Wheat crop operations.
 - c) **MoU with Cisco:** It was signed to frame conceptualize the Proof of Concept in ineffective knowledge sharing among farmers, administration, academia, and industry in the regions of Kaithal district of Haryana and Morena district of Madhya Pradesh.

- d) **MoU with NCDEX e Markets Limited (NeML):** It was signed for framing services like Market Linkages, Financial Linkages, Aggregation of demand, and Data Sanitization in Guntur (Andhra Pradesh), Nasik (Maharashtra), and Devanagere (Karnataka).
- e) **MoU with Ninjacart:** It will help to develop and host Agri Marketplace Platform (AMP). It will be executed in Anand (Gujarat), Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh), and Indore (Madhya Pradesh).
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar

INDIA TO GROW AT 7.2% IN 2021—UNCTAD

Current Context: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has projected that India's economy to grow at 7.2% in 2021.

ABOUT

- The growth will be against a contraction of 7% in 2020.
- In 2022, India will observe an economic growth of 6.7%, slower than the expected growth rate in 2021.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNCTAD: Geneva, Switzerland

ASSAM GOVERNMENT SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH SIDBI

Current Context: The Government of Assam signed an agreement with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The agreement was signed to set up an innovation fund to promote the startups in the state.**
- **In this regard, the SIDBI and Assam Government signed a commitment letter of Rs 350 crore.**
- Both entities will create clusters to make the agreement work in a seamless manner and promote startups.
- The partnership will also promote a 'one district-one-product initiative'.
- The agreement will work to promote, finance, and develop the MSME sector.
- They will jointly support and promote self-help groups to the enterprise level and bring them into the formal sector of the economy.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow, UP
 - National Parks in Assam: Dibru-Saikhowa NP, Kaziranga NP, Manas NP, Nameri NP, Orang NP

'ATL SPACE CHALLENGE'

Current Context: The NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has collaborated with ISRO and CBSE to launch the 'ATL Space Challenge'.

KEY POINTS

- This is in line with the center's decision to open the space sector for private participation.
- The 'ATL Space Challenge' was launched for all the school students of India.
- The moto of the challenge is to contribute to space science and technology.
- The challenge will provide a platform for the students of classes 6 to 12. It will allow them to innovate solutions and solve various digital age space technology problems.
- Atal Tinkering Labs and non-ATL schools are allowed to take part in the challenge.
- The participated schools will receive grants to set up labs to encourage the students to take up space sciences.
- The challenge is aligned to the World Space Week 2021 which will be observed from 4th to 10th Oct 2021.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairperson of NITI Aayog: PM Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Vice President of India and Rajya Sabha Chairperson, M Venkaiah Naidu, and Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla launched 'Sansad TV'.

KEY FACTS

- It was launched at the Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe.
- The launching of the 'Sansad TV' has added a major and vital chapter to India's parliamentary system.
- **The 'Sansad TV' programming will be based on 4 categories of:** Functioning of the Parliament and democratic institutions, governance and implementation of schemes and policies, history and culture of India, and issues of interest to the common man.
- The shows on this channel will be hosted by veteran Congress leader Karan Singh, economist Bibek Debroy, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, and advocate Hemant Batra.
- The proceedings of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha will also be showcased.

UTTAR PRADESH MATRA BHUMI YOJANA

Current Context: The CM of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath announced to launch of 'Uttar Pradesh Matra Bhumi Yojana'.

DETAILS

- **The scheme allows the direct participation of the common man in the development work of the state.**
- **The scheme will strengthen the participatory rural economy and infrastructure.**
- Under the scheme, every person will be able to directly participate in various works of infrastructure development taking place in villages.
- 50% of the total cost of the project will be managed by the state government and the remaining 50% will be contributed by the interested people.
- Also, the project can be named after the relatives of the collaborators as per their wishes.
- The health centers, anganwadis, library, gymnasium, cattle breed improvement, CCTVs installation, fire service stations, etc will be developed under the scheme.
- **Static Part:**
 - Wild Life Sanctuaries in UP: Katarniaghat WLS, Chandra Prabha WLS, Kaimoor WLS, Kishanpur WLS, Saman Bird Sanctuary, Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Okhla Bird Sanctuary

PLI SCHEME FOR AUTO, AUTO-COMPONENTS AND DRONE INDUSTRIES

Current Context: The Union Cabinet approved the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto, auto-components, and drone industries.

ABOUT

- **The approval was made with an aim to enhance the manufacturing capabilities of Indian industries.**
- The PLI scheme will lead to emerge advanced automotive technologies' for the global supply chain in India.
- **The cabinet announced to provide Rs. 26,058 crore incentives to the industries for the period of 5 years.**
- Out of the total funds, Rs 25,938 crores are sanctioned for the automobile industry and Rs 120 crores for the drone industry.
- This PLI scheme is part of the overall announcement of PLI schemes for 13 sectors which was made during Union Budget 2021-22, with the outlay support of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore.
- This will support the industries to overcome the deficiency in cost availability which is needed to manufacture advanced automotive technology products in India.

VIL PARTNERED WITH APSDMA AND CELLTICK

Current Context: The Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) has collaborated with Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) and Celltick to launch India's first cell broadcast-based public warning system (PWS).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The APSDMA comes under the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Celltick is the world's largest cell broadcast-based products provider and a global leader of PWS.
- Due to this collaboration, Andhra Pradesh has become the first Indian state to implement Celltick's cell broadcast-based public warning system.
- It will deliver real-time geo-targeted warning alerts in a secure manner in 10 Indian languages during the situations like natural or man-made disasters.
- The warning alerts will be delivered to the subscribers of VIL in the state and to the domestic/international roaming customers of VIL.
- The Cell Broadcast Centre (CBC) of Celltick allows the authorities to make use of Vodafone Idea (Vi) networks by subscribers of Vi in the state.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of VIL: Mumbai
 - HQ of Celltick: USA

'AUKUS'

Current Context: The United States, United Kingdom, and Australia have announced the new partnership and the name of the new partnership is 'AUKUS'.

KEY POINTS

- **The 'AUKUS' is the trilateral security partnership that is made for the Indo-Pacific region.**
- The announcement of the partnership was made by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, and US President Joe Biden.
- The aim of the partnership is to have a safe and secured Indo-Pacific region.
- Under this partnership, the first project will be undertaken to help Australia to acquire a nuclear-powered conventionally-armed submarine fleet.
- Under the AUKUS, there will be an exchange of technology, services, and R&D work among the member nations.
- The major focus areas of the AUKUS will be cyber capabilities, AI, Quantum Technologies in the Indo Pacific Region.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital and Currency of Australia: Canberra and Australian dollar
 - Capital and Currency of the US: Washington DC and US Dollar
 - Capital and Currency of UK: London and Pound Sterling

APPOINTMENTS ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Justice (Retired) Indu Malhotra: She was appointed as new Ombudsman cum Ethics Officer of Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) for a tenure of 1 year.

ABOUT

- **Amit Saxena:** He joined RBI Innovation Hub as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO). He is the Global Deputy CTO of the State Bank of India.
- **Rohit Sharma:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of TAGG, which is a tech-driven lifestyle electronic brand.
- **Kriti Sanon:** She was appointed as Indian Brand Ambassador of FOSSIL, which is an American watches and accessories firm.

RAIL KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA

Current Context: The Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

KEY FACTS

- **The Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana comes under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.**
- **Under the Yojana, the entry-level training will be given to the youths by Railway Training Institutes.**
- The trainings will be related to industrial-based skills.
- Around 50,000 candidates will be trained under the yojana within the span of 3 years.
- Initially, training will be given to 1000 candidates in four trades like Welder, Electrician, Fitter, and Machinist.
- The trainings will be conducted in 75 Railway Training Institutes from across India.
- The training sessions will be free of cost and the selection of the participants will be made as per the applications received online. Then the selection process will follow a transparent mechanism based on marks in matriculation.
- The trainees will then have to appear for the assessment and will be awarded certificates in their respective trade by the National Rail & Transportation Institute after completion of their training sessions.
- The candidates between the age of 18 and 35 years and who are 10th passed can apply for the yojana.

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO) SUMMIT

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented the Indian delegation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit via video conference.

DETAILS

- **This was the 21st edition of the SCO summit and had special importance as the SCO organization is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2021.**
- While addressing the meeting, PM Modi welcomed Iran as the new member of the SCO and three new dialogue partners namely Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.

- PM Modi mentioned that today we are facing the biggest challenges related to security, peace, trust deficit, and these challenges are growing day by day due to increasing radicalization. So he urged member nations to cooperate with each other and tackle the challenges and bring peace and security to every member nation.
- He urged that the youth must be motivated to adopt science and rational thinking. He mentioned that the startups and entrepreneurs must develop innovative spirits jointly in order to make India a stakeholder in emerging technology.
- He also mentioned that India is committed to increasing its connectivity with Central Asia and has asked central Asian countries to connect with India's vast market.
- He highlighted developing connectivity projects with transparency, consultancy, and participation by each member nation and has asked to respect the territorial integrity of all the countries.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SCO: Beijing, China

CABINET APPROVED 100% FDI IN THE TELECOM SECTOR

Current Context: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved various structural and process reforms in the Telecom sector.

HIGHLIGHTS

- By approving reforms it aims to provide relief to telecom service providers, who are dealing with the issues like high levels of debt.
- Total 9 structural and 5 process reforms were approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The reforms will secure and generate job opportunities, healthy competition, maintain the interests of consumers, enhance liquidity and investment in Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).
- The Union Cabinet allowed 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the telecom sector via the automatic route. 49% of FDI was allowed through the automatic route, so now the Union cabinet has raised the FDI from 49% to 100% in the telecom sector.
- In the case of the government route, the foreign investors are supposed to take prior approval of the respective ministry or department to make an investment. But in the case of the automatic route, the foreign investors have to only notify the RBI after the process of investment is done.
- Another reform is that the definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) was changed and from onwards all non-telecom revenue will be removed from AGR.
- The moratorium was announced on statutory dues of the telecom sector for four years. It will be applicable from 1st Oct 2021.
- The Spectrum auctions will be conducted in the last quarter of every financial year.
- The monthly compounding of interest on spectrum usage charges was replaced with annual compounding.
- The penalty on payment of license fees, spectrum user charges were removed.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw

'REFORMS IN URBAN PLANNING CAPACITY IN INDIA'

Current Context: The report titled 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India' was released by NITI Aayog.

KEY POINTS

- It was released by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar, CEO Shri Amitabh Kant, and Special Secretary Dr. K. Rajeswara Rao.
- The report defines the measures to enhance urban planning capacity in India.
- As per the report, India is home to 11% of the total global urban living population and India will surpass China by 2027 by becoming the most populous country.
- The report mentions that there is a need to plan and manage Indian cities as the current planning data is complex.
- So the report states that every Indian city should set the target to become a 'Healthy City for All' by 2030.
- The NITI Aayog suggests implementing the '500 Healthy Cities Programme' for a tenure of 5 years, under which major cities will be selected.
- The scheme named 'Preparation and Revision of Development Control Regulations' is to be implemented to enhance development control regulations under the '500 Healthy Cities Programme'.
- The report states that cities must adopt programmatic Intervention for the Planning of Health, Re-engineering of Urban Governance, Revision of Town and Country Planning Acts.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairperson of NITI Aayog: PM Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

APPOINTMENTS ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Alka Nangia Arora: She was appointed as CMD of National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC).

ABOUT

- **Baijayant Panda:** He was appointed as the Chairperson of the committee set up by Defence Ministry to review the National Cadet Corps. The committee will work to suggest measures to empower NCC Cadets so that they can contribute effectively towards nation development.
- **Rajnath Singh:** He was appointed to chair the Group of Ministers (GoM) set up by GOI to improve the implementation of various schemes for SC, ST, OBC, Minorities, and Women.
- **Pankaj Tripathi:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador for Fino Payments Bank Limited.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Fino Payments Bank Limited: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Fino Payments Bank Limited: Qadar Aapki Mehnat Ki

MINISTRY OF AYUSH SIGNED MOU WITH AMERICAN HERBAL PHARMACOPOEIA

Current Context: The Union Ministry of Ayush has signed an MoU with American Herbal Pharmacopoeia.

DETAILS

- **The Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) which comes under Ayush Ministry has signed the MoU on the behalf of the respective ministry.**
- The MoU was signed to enhance the export potential of the ASU&H (Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and Homoeopathy) drugs.
- Both the entities will work to frame safety and standards for ASU&H drugs.
- The joint committee will also be set up which will define an action plan to execute the MoU.
- The MoU will help to strengthen, promote and develop standards in the Ayurveda and other Indian Traditional Systems of Medicine between both the nations by observing equality and mutual benefit.
- The MoU will also help the ministry to spread its valuable products globally and enhance export, especially to the US market.
- Under the MoU, there will be an exchange of technical data for the development of Monographs, training, exchange of Herbarium specimens, and various research samples.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Ayush: Sarbananda Sonowal

KMBL PARTNERED WITH IISC

Current Context: The Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) partnered with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The partnership was made to set up a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI-ML) Centre at the IISc Bangalore.**
- The partnership was made under KMBL's CSR project on Education & Livelihood.
- The centre will offer Bachelor's, Masters and short-term courses in domains like artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, fintech, reinforcement learning, image processing, computer vision, natural language processing, speech understanding, robotics, computational finance and risk management, cyber security, fraud analytics, blockchain, biomedical engineering and technology, healthcare, etc.
- The research on AI and ML will also take place in the centre.
- The centre will be spreaded across 1,40,000 square feet in the campus.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of KMBL: Mumbai

INDIA & EL SALVADOR HELD THIRD FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS

Current Context: The Third Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and El Salvador were held recently in San Salvador.

KEY POINTS

- India was represented by Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), and El Salvador was represented by Ambassador Adriana Maria Mira, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Integration and Economic Promotion.
- Both sides reviewed cooperation activities under health, trade, investment, tourism, energy, aquaculture, transport, aviation, infrastructure, consular, and culture.
- They also assured to exchange best practices and solutions in the public diplomacy domain.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of El Salvador: San Salvador
 - Currency of El Salvador: US Dollar

'EK PAHAL DRIVE'

Current Context: The 'Ek Pahal Drive' was launched by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

KEY FACTS

- It is the Pan-India Special Campaign that aims to grant Justice Delivery at the doorstep.
- It was launched to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law and create aspiration of access to justice for people.
- The campaign was jointly launched by the Department of Justice and NALSA.
- The tele-law provides pre-litigation advice, consultation to beneficiaries by panel lawyers through a network that covers 51,434 Common Service Centres present in 50,000 Gram Panchayats of states and UTs together.
- The campaign includes the deployment of 185 Mobile Vans and other vehicles to showcase films and documentaries which display the Access to Justice program.
- Various initiatives like door-to-door campaigns, banner displays representing legal services, roadshows, nukkad nattak were held under the campaign to serve the goal like 'abka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Nyaya'.
- The campaign is being executed from 17th Sep to 2nd Oct 2021.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Law and Justice: Kiren Rijiju

APPOINTMENTS ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Manika Shyokand: She was appointed as 'Goodwill Ambassador' of the water conservation campaign in Haryana.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar
 - Governor of Haryana: Bandaru Dattatreya
- **Raninder Singh:** He was re-elected as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).
- **Static Part:**
 - The NRAI governing body for the sport of Shooting in India
- **Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi:** He was appointed as the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocate by United Nations Chief Antonio Guterres.
- **Static Part:**
 - Along with him, Microsoft President Brad Smith, STEM activist Valentina Munoz Rabanal and K-pop superstars BLACKPINK were also appointed as new SDG advocates.
- **Captain Amrinder Singh:** He resigned from the post of Chief Minister of Punjab.
- **Charanjit Singh Channi:** He will be appointed as the Chief Minister of Punjab.
- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of Punjab: Banwarilal Purohit

IIFL HFL SIGNED CO-LENDING AGREEMENT WITH PNB

Current Context: The IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL) has signed a co-lending agreement with Punjab National Bank (PNB).



- **The co-lending agreement aims to enhance the distribution of affordable housing loans and MSME loans.**
- As per the agreement, the 80% amount of the loan will be granted by PNB.
- The IIFL HFL will manage loan sourcing, documentation, and other servicing work for loans.
- The major focus states for loan distribution under the agreement are: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka.
- The loans will be entitled to low-interest rates.
- The IIFL HFL aims to enhance its loan business by 25% with this partnership.
- Earlier IIFL HFL signed a similar co-lending agreement with ICICI Bank, Central Bank of India, and Standard Chartered Bank.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PNB: New Delhi
 - Tagline of PNB: The name you can bank upon

GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2021

Current Context: The Global Innovation Index 2021 was released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

HIGHLIGHTS

- It was framed in partnership with the Portulans Institute. The entities received support from corporate network partners, like the Confederation of Indian Industry, Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, Ecopetrol Group (Colombia), and the Turkish Exporters Assembly.
- **As per the index, India is ranked at 46th position with a score of 36.4.**
- Under the Lower middle-income category, India is placed at 2nd position after Vietnam.
- **The 1st rank was marked by Switzerland with a score of 65.5 in the high-income group category.**
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are marked by Sweden and the USA respectively in the high-income group category.
- The index delivers metrics about innovation performance for 132 nations and economies.
- Various indicators like political environment, education, infrastructure, and business sophistication were considered by the index to frame the rankings for nations.
- For India, the index defines that the country is developing and adopting sophisticated services that are technologically dynamic and can be traded internationally.
- **Countries which made top three positions in the high-income group:** Switzerland, Sweden, and the USA respectively.
- **Countries which made top three positions in the upper-middle-income group:** China, Bulgaria, and Malaysia respectively.
- **Countries which made top three positions in the lower-middle-income group:** Vietnam, India, and Ukraine respectively.
- **Countries which made top three positions in the low-income group:** Rwanda, Tajikistan, and Malawi respectively.

BYJU'S PARTNERED WITH NITI AAYOG

Current Context: India's major ed-tech startup, Byju's has partnered with India's think tank NITI Aayog.

KEY POINTS

- **They have partnered to grant free access to tech-driven learning programs for students in 112 aspirational districts of India.**
- Under the partnership, two major modules will be covered namely Byju's Career-Plus program and a volunteer initiative for the school-going children.
- In Byju's Career-Plus program, the Aakash Institute and Byju's will grant free classes to 3000 merit students from classes 11 and 12. This program will prepare students for entrance exams of medical and engineering field like NEET and JEE respectively.

- In the volunteer initiative, free coaching classes will be given to the students from classes 6 to 12 through Byju's learning platform and an app for the period of 3 years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
 - Chairman of NITI Aayog: PM Narendra Modi
 - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant
 - HQ of Byju's: Bengaluru

G-33 VIRTUAL INFORMAL MINISTERIAL MEETING

Current Context: The G-33 Virtual Informal Ministerial Meeting was organised by Indonesia and was chaired by Indonesian Minister of Trade, Muhammad Lutfi.

KEY FACTS

- **India was represented by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- The meeting was held to discuss the Agricultural Priority Issues of G33.
- At the meeting, Union Minister Piyush Goyal mentioned that G-33 must find solutions with positive outcomes for Public Stockholding for food security.
- The dignitaries discussed the finalization of a special safeguard mechanism for the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- The dignitaries adopted G-33 Joint Ministerial Statement and assured cooperation in aspects for the welfare of agriculture at a global level.

15TH INDIA NEPAL JOINT MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE NAMED 'SURYA KIRAN' BEGINS

Current Context: The 15th India-Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise named 'Surya Kiran' began on 20th Sep 2021.

DETAILS

- **It is being held in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.**
- The major focus of the exercise is countering terror drills and perform disaster relief operations.
- The exercise will also enhance interoperability between the militaries of India and Nepal.
- The Infantry Battalion from both nations will be conducting training to share expertise to counter-terrorism, perform disaster relief operations and boost interoperability.
- Both the entities will become familiar with each other's weapons, techniques, and equipment.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu
 - Currency of Nepal: Nepalese Rupee

HDFC BANK PARTNERED WITH PAYTM

Current Context: India's major private sector bank, HDFC Bank has entered into a partnership with Paytm.

ABOUT

- **They have partnered to launch co-branded credit cards on the Visa platform for business holders, millennials, and merchants.**
- The HDFC Bank-Paytm co-branded credit cards will be launched in October 2021.
- It will be having features like monthly installments (EMIs), and buy now pay later (BNPL) and the other entire features will be added to the card by Dec 2021.
- It will offer best-in-class rewards and cashback for users.
- Due to this partnership, HDFC Bank will be able to gain its lost market share in the credit card area as the bank was banned by RBI for about 8 months from performing digital offering businesses.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan
 - Tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world
 - HQ of Paytm: Noida, UP
 - CEO of Paytm: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

FSSAI'S 3RD STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX

Current Context: The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya released the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The index is the effort taken by GOI to provide safe and quality food to the Indians.**
- **The index measures the performance of all the Indian states in 5 parameters.**
- **The 5 parameters were:** Human Resource and Institutional Data; Compliance; Food Testing (Infrastructure and Surveillance); Training and Capacity Building; Consumer Empowerment.
- The Union Minister also felicitated nine leading States/UTs for performing upto the mark as per the index standards.
- He also flagged off 19 Mobile Food Testing Vans (Food Safety on Wheels), which will supplement the food safety ecosystem in India. By doing so, the total number of Mobile Food Testing Vans went to 109.
- He also released e-books that describe recipes of various local seasonal food items, millets, and plant-based protein-rich ingredients.
- **Winners for the larger states section:** Gujarat, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu respectively.
- **Winners for the smaller states section:** Goa, Meghalaya, and Manipur respectively.

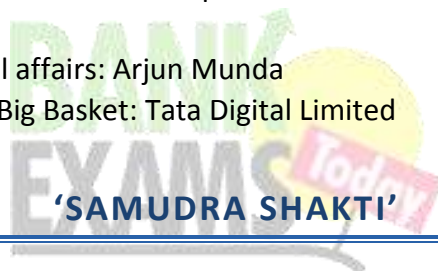
- **Winners for the Union Territories section:** Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and New Delhi respectively.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of FSSAI: New Delhi

TRIFED SIGNED MOU WITH BIG BASKET AND PURTY AGROTECH

Current Context: The TRIFED signed 2 MoUs, one with Big Basket and the other with PurtyAgrotech of Jharkhand.

KEY POINTS

- The MoU is part of GOI's transformational programs for tribal livelihoods.
- **Both the MoUs will help to transform and boost the livelihoods of the tribal community.**
- The MoU between TRIFED and Big Basket will promote and sale natural Van Dhan products through the Big Basket platform.
- And the MoU between TRIFED and Purty Agrotech will promote the art of growing pearls among other tribal entrepreneurs in India and enhance the potential of the respective market.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Tribal affairs: Arjun Munda
 - Parent organisation of Big Basket: Tata Digital Limited



Current Context: The Navies of India and Indonesia held the 'Samudra Shakti' Bilateral Exercise.

KEY FACTS

- **This was the third edition of the 'Samudra Shakti'.**
- **India was represented by INS Shivalik and Kadmatt which reached Jakarta, Indonesia. India's Aircraft P8I also participated in the exercise.**
- **The 3rd 'Samudra Shakti' exercise was held at Sunda Strait, Indonesia.**
- The exercise helped to boost mutual understanding and interoperability between both the navies of the nations.
- The exercise also helped to enhance maritime security.
- Various tasks like Military Interdiction Operations (MIO), Cross Deck Landings, Air Defence serials, Practice Weapon Firings, Replenishment Approaches, and Tactical Manoeuvres were performed in the exercise.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Indonesia: Jakarta
 - Currency of Indonesia: Indonesian Rupiah

PAYPOINT INDIA PARTNERED WITH BANK OF BARODA

Current Context: PayPoint India has partnered with the Bank of Baroda (BoB).

DETAILS

- **They have partnered to provide banking services in India via Business Correspondent (BC) Model.**
- This partnership will prove beneficial to give a major push for financial inclusion.
- As the commercial banks are finding it unviable to set up their branches in remote locations, PayPoint has come up with its expertise solutions to take the financial services to such locations where bank branches are not reaching.
- The PayPoint will be utilizing its vast and ever-expanding distribution network to deliver essential banking services. The services will be granted via BC customer service points.
- The partnership is part of BoB's initiative called 'BOB NOWW-New Operating model and Ways of Working'.
- Thus due to this partnership, the banking services will reach unbanked areas in India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BoB: Vadodara, Gujarat
 - Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank are amalgamated with BoB
 - Tagline of BoB: India's International Bank
 - HQ of PayPoint India: Mumbai

APPOINTMENTS ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Vice Chief of IAF Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari: He was appointed as the next Chief of Air Staff. He will be replacing Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria.

ABOUT

- **Gordon Brown:** He was appointed as the Ambassador for Global Health Financing of the World Health Organisation (WHO). He was a former British Prime Minister.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland
- **Rajiv Aggarwal:** He was appointed as the Director of Public Policy by Facebook India. He has replaced Ankhi Das.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Facebook: California, United States.
 - CEO of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg
- **Justin Trudeau:** He won the Prime Minister election of Canada for the third term and will serve as PM of Canada.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Canada: Ottawa

- Currency of Canada: Canadian dollar

MERGER DEAL SIGNED BETWEEN ZEEL AND SPNI

Current Context: The board of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) approved the merger of the company with Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The aim behind this merger is to attain higher growth and profitability and become leading media and entertainment company across South Asia.
- As a part of this merger, majority stakes will be held by SPNI.
- The shareholders of SPNI will also infuse growth capital into SPNI as part of the merger.
- The merged firm will be then listed on the Indian stock exchanges.
- Under the merger, SPNI shareholders will hold a 52.93% stake and Zee shareholders will hold a 47.07% stake.
- The MD and CEO of the merged entity will be Punit Goenka. He is the CEO of Zee Entertainment.
- The SPNI has the authority to nominate majority directors on the board of the merged entity.

GROWTH FORECAST FOR INDIA TO BE AT 9.7% FOR FY22—OECD

Current Context: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has forecasted India's growth to be at 9.7% for the current fiscal year of FY22.

KEY POINTS

- The OECD has pared its growth forecast for India by 20 basis points to 9.7% for FY22.
- The reason behind the reduction is the growing risk of the pandemic in the country.
- India's growth projection for FY23 was also reduced by 30 basis points to 7.9%.
- The inflation forecast for India was raised by 50 basis points to 5.9% for this fiscal FY22 and by 70 basis points to 5.5% for the next year FY23.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of OECD: Paris, France

'AC001' ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV) CHARGER—ARAI

Current Context: The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has developed Electric Vehicle (EV) charger.

KEY FACTS

- The name of the EV charger is 'AC001'.

- By developing the charger the ARAI aims to give a push to EV development and EV adoption in the country.
- In order to promote EV in India, its infrastructure for charging is vital, and the mobility chargers are imported ones, so the ARAI decided to develop an indigenous EV charger.
- The 'AC001' EV charger is cost-effective and was designed by considering safety norms and power standards.
- The cost of the charger will be in the range of Rs 50,000 - 60,000.
- It will be manufactured and promoted by Bharat Electronics. The charging points will be set up by Bharat Electronics and the parts for EV charger systems like Type 1, Type 2, CCS & CHAdeMO will be manufactured at the local level.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ARAI: Pune

UP GOV. TO SETUP 'ELECTRONIC PARK'

Current Context: The Uttar Pradesh government announced to set up of 'Electronic Park' along the Yamuna Expressway near Noida.

DETAILS

- The 'Electronic Park' will be dedicated to electronic devices and their accessories.
- It will attract an investment of Rs 50,000 crore.
- It will be the major platform for employment generation and will appoint thousands of local youths.
- It will be set up in an area of 250 acres either in Sector 14 or Sector 10 of the YEIDA near Jewar Airport.
- Various national and international entities working in electronics domains like mobile phones, TVs, etc will set up their units in the park.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath.
 - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
 - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Uttar Pradesh: Bakhira Bird Sanctuary Mahavir Swami Sanctuary, Samaspur Sanctuary, Sandi Bird Sanctuary, Sohagi Barwa WLS, Kachhua Sanctuary

INDIA'S GDP TO BE AT 10% FOR FY22 —ADB

Current Context: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected that India's GDP to be at 10% for FY 2021-22 (FY22).

ABOUT

- Earlier it had projected the GDP for India to be at 11% for FY22.
- The reduction in the growth forecast was made due to the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.

- The ADB has projected that India's GDP to be at 7.5% for FY2022-23 (FY23).
- The multilateral funding agency ADB has also raised the inflation forecast for FY2021-22 to 5.5%, earlier it had projected 5.2% for the same.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ADB: Manila, Philippines
 - President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

INDIA DEBT RESOLUTION COMPANY LTD (IDRCL)

Current Context: An asset management company (AMC) was set up by the Government of India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The name of the AMC is India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).**
- **The IDRCL was set up with a paid-up capital of Rs. 80.5 lakh on an authorized capital of Rs 50 crore.**
- **The IDRCL will work in coordination with National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL).**
- **It will work to eradicate bad loans.**
- **Some of the PSBs are shareholders of IDRCL and these are:** Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of India (BoI), Bank of Maharashtra, SBI, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, Indian Bank, and IDBI Bank.
- The PSBs and public financial institutions will hold 49% of the maximum stake in the newly formed company.
- The rest of the stakes will be owned by private sector entities.
- The IDRCL is a company that will operate to manage the asset, bring market professionals and turnaround experts.
- It will function to perform debt management, operational management, resolution advisory, support, and consultancy services in the domains of debt and insolvency resolutions.
- The advisory services for debt resolution will be provided by the company.
- It will manage corporate debtor working affairs and will assist asset reconstruction companies (ARCs).

APPOINTMENTS ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Rajiv Bansal: He was appointed as Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Currently, he is serving as CMD of Air India. He has replaced Pradeep Singh Kharola.

ABOUT

- **Suresh Raina:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of Howzat Fantasy Sports Platform.
- **K Kasturirangan:** He was appointed to head a 12-member committee set up by the Education ministry to frame new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher, and adult education.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Education Minister: Dharmendra Pradhan

FEDERAL BANK PARTNERED WITH ONECARD

Current Context: The Federal Bank has partnered with OneCard, which is a fintech company.

KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered to launch a mobile-first credit card which will prove beneficial to India's young, tech-savvy community between the age group of 23 and 35 years.**
- The card is expected to become popular during the upcoming festive season in which consumer credit demand is highest.
- The OneCard app will issue the credit card in just 3 minutes and will activate it instantly in virtual format until the physical card gets delivered.
- The control of the card can be made by the user via the app. The user can track spends and rewards to set the transaction limit on the card.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Federal Bank: Aluva, Kerala
 - MD and CEO of Federal Bank: Shyam Srinivasan
 - CEO of OneCard: Anurag Sinha

DAHD SIGNED MOU WITH BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

Current Context: The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has signed an MoU with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed to improve India's livestock sector.**
- **It will help to support food and nutritional security.**
- **It will also help to protect the economic well-being of small-scale livestock producers.**
- Both the entities will work to enhance animal health and various production programs will be executed to attain the objectives of the MoU.
- They will work to strengthen animal husbandry infrastructure, develop of entrepreneurship skills in the respective sector.
- The technical assistance will be granted by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It will assist in designing and delivering new technologies. It will make sure that best practices are being implemented.
- Under the MoU, the One Health framework will also be implemented which will track and resolve animal and human health challenges and will prevent infection and disease outbreaks.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Seattle, Washington DC, US

1ST INDIA-UNITED KINGDOM CONSULAR DIALOGUE

Current Context: The first edition of the India-United Kingdom Consular Dialogue was hosted by India in a virtual format.

DETAILS

- India was represented by Devesh Uttam, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The UK was represented by Jennifer Anderson, Director Consular Services, Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office.
- Both the entities discussed enhancing community contact between both nations as a part of the India-UK 2030 roadmap.
- They assured to coordinate with each other to share systematic information and cooperate in Visas and develop mutual legal assistance.
- The next edition of the dialogue will be held in London.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of UK: London
 - Currency of UK: Pound Sterling

NCL PARTNERED WITH NTPC LIMITED

Current Context: The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) has partnered with NTPC Limited.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The NCL is the subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL).
- **They have partnered to set up a solar power project of 50 megawatts in Madhya Pradesh.**
- **The solar project will be set up at Nigahi coal mines of NCL in the Singrauli district of the state.**
- The CIL NTPC Urja Private Ltd (CNUPL) will coordinate the project. The CNUPL is the joint venture of Coal India Ltd and NTPC.
- The entire project is said to be completed in one year.
- Under the project, the NTPC will help NCL to get the successful bidder. And the job of NCL will be to get executed the entire project through that successful bidder.
- The project will also fulfill the goal of CIL to attain 3000MW of solar power by 2023-24. By doing so, it will thus become a net-zero company.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CIL: Kolkata, West Bengal
 - HQ of NCL: Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh

ICRISAT SIGNED MOU WITH WFP

Current Context: The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) signed MoU with United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

KEY POINTS

- They have signed MoU to enhance partnership for various initiatives and programs which will strengthen food, nutrition security, and livelihoods in India.
- Both the entities will develop frameworks for policy formation to fulfill the MoU objective. The framework will not only be implemented in India but also at the global level.
- They will focus on climate-resilient food security, nutrition, smallholder farmers, and poor people.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ICRISAT: Hyderabad
 - HQ of WFP: Rome, Italy

RBI ALLOWED LENDERS TO SELL FRAUD LOANS TO ARCS

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed the transfer of loans which are classified as fraud by lenders to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs).

KEY FACTS

- **This will give the way for the resolution of such accounts.**
- Post the transfer, the legal responsibilities like reporting, monitoring, filing of complaints with law enforcement agencies etc will move to the ARCs.
- The decision by RBI will grant the way for focussed recovery efforts on loans that are trillions of rupees worth.
- So, by taking the RBI's permission and with subject to some conditions, the banks will now be able to sell stressed loans in default for more than 60 days or those classified as bad loans including fraudulent loans.
- However, transfer of these exposures to ARC does not absolve the lender from fixing staff accountability which is required under the extant instructions on frauds.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

FOUNDATION STONE FOR 3 PROJECTS LAID AT NEW MANGALORE PORT

Current Context: The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of three projects at New Mangalore Port in Karnataka.

DETAILS

- **The projects include a truck parking terminal, modification of the U.S. Mallya Gate, and the newly built business development Centre which is to be dedicated to the nation.**
- The truck parking terminal will be built in the area of 17,000 sq meters at the cost of Rs. 1.9 crores.
- It will be provided gatehouse, concrete pavement, restaurant, and dormitory at the project of Rs. 5 crores. It will be completed by 2022-23.
- The U.S. Mallya Gate will be redeveloped at a cost of Rs. 3.22 crores. It will be completed by March 2022.
- The Business Development Centre will grant the facilities for the EXIM trade fraternity under a single roof.

DEFENCE MINISTRY SIGNED DEAL WITH AIRBUS DEFENCE AND SPACE OF SPAIN

Current Context: The Ministry of Defence, GOI signed a contract with Airbus Defence and Space of Spain to procure 56 C-295 military transport aircraft.

ABOUT

- The C-295 military transport aircraft will replace Avro-748 planes of IAF.
- Out of the total aircraft, 16 will be procured in a fly-away condition, others will be manufactured and assembled by the Tata Advanced Systems (TASL).
- They have a capacity of 5-10 tonnes.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh

INDIA SUPPORTS MALDIVES TO CONSTRUCT SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS

Current Context: The EXIM Bank has completed its agreement with Fahi Dhiriulhun Corporation India (FDC) which is based in Maldives.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The agreement was for the purpose to grant buyers credit worth \$228 million to construct Social Housing Units in Hulhumale phase II.**
- **Around 4000 Social Housing Units will be constructed in the sanctioned funds support.**
- The construction activities will be undertaken by India's National Building Construction Company (NBCC) and JMC Projects of India.
- Both these entities have good experience in real estate developmental activities and civil construction projects at the national as well as at the international level.
- In a total of 4000 social housing units, 2800 units will be of 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets facilities whereas the remaining 1200 units will be of 2 bedrooms and 2 toilets facilities.

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Maldives: Male
 - Currency of Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa

‘INDIA COVID RESPONSE PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE TRANSITION’

Current Context: The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) together announced to sponsor a credit guarantee program for India.

KEY FACTS

- **The credit guarantee program is worth \$55 million.**
- **The name of the credit guarantee program is ‘India Covid Response Program for Agriculture Transition’.**
- The ‘India Covid Response Program for Agriculture Transition’ aims to solve issues faced due to COVID-19 in the agriculture sector.
- Under the program, loans will be distributed to the farmer producer organizations, ag-tech companies, and companies dealing in clean energy solutions.
- The program aims to develop a positive impact through granting clean technologies to smallholder farmers, particularly women, to develop market linkages and increase incomes.
- The total duration of the program is 8 years and will benefit more than 200,000 smallholder farmers in the country.
- The technical assistance for business management will also be provided by Rabo Foundation. It will assist in building stronger linkages to the markets.
- The loans to the FPOs will be provided by Samunnati Financial, Maanaveeya, and Avanti Finance, which are the Indian lenders.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of USAID: Washington, DC, USA
 - Administrator of USAID: Samantha Power

QUAD LEADERS SUMMIT

Current Context: The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) of India, Australia, the United States, and Japan Leaders meeting was held.

KEY POINTS

- **This was the first in-person meeting in which PM Narendra Modi participated with leaders of the US, Japan, and Australia.**
- The meeting was hosted by US President Joe Biden at the White House.
- At the meeting, the leaders of quad assured to work together for a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

- They also decided to frame a joint plan to provide Covid-19 vaccines around Asia.
- They launched a climate initiative by taking a pledge of 'decarbonize at pace' and 'keep climate goals within reach'.
- They assured support for free, open, and rule-based order rooted in international law to enhance security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

IIT DELHI SETUP 'COE ON QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES'

Current Context: The IIT Delhi has set up the 'Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Quantum Technologies'.

DETAILS

- **The CoE will allow me to conduct research work in the Quantum Technologies sector.**
- It will promote synergy and coherence among the institute's operations and assist principal investigators to secure additional funding from the DST and other funding bodies.
- The centre will focus on domains like quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing, and metrology, and quantum materials and devices.
- It will also conduct research work related to quantum processors, cryogenic controllers, semiconductor cubics like CMOS and 2D materials, quantum sensing and measurement, quantum biophotonics, and single-photon detectors.

PM MODI ADDRESSED 76TH SESSION OF UNGA

Current Context: Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held in New York.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Theme for the session was:** 'Building Resilience through hope to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations'.
- While addressing the session, PM Modi discussed the pandemic situation and its impact on economy.
- He mentioned that there is a need to eradicate terrorism by enhancing cooperation among the nations.
- He also highlighted that 'When India grows the world grows, when India reforms, the world transforms'.
- The debate was participated by 109 heads of state and government in person and 60 delivered their speeches through pre-recorded video statements.

HPCL PARTNERED WITH ICICI BANK

Current Context: The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has partnered with ICICI Bank.

KEY POINTS

- **The partnership will allow the customers to use their ICICI Bank FASTag to purchase fuel and lubricants at HPCL retail outlets.**
- Under this partnership, the ICICI Bank FASTag commercial vehicle users will be able to avail digital experience for one tag for fuel, toll, and parking payments.
- By doing so, the HPCL has become 1st oil marketing company to make available cashless facilities to allow FastTags for fuel purchases.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HPCL: Mumbai
 - HQ of ICICI Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakhshi

‘AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION’

Current Context: The ‘Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission’ was launched by PM Narendra Modi via video conference.

ABOUT

- The mission is also known as the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).
- It will be implemented in pilot phases in 6 UTs.
- The mission aims to develop an online platform by delivering data, infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems.
- It will maintain and ensure security for confidential health-related personal data.
- It will allow access and exchange of health records of citizens with their health experts and doctors.
- The mission will bring about revolutionary changes in the health facilities of India.
- The health ID for every citizen will be used as their health account. The health records of the citizens will be linked to these accounts and they can view them on mobile phone app when required.
- The mission will thus help to connect patients with hospitals across the nation via a technology platform.

INDIA SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH BHUTAN FOR DEVELOPMENT IN SMALL SATELLITES

Current Context: An implementing arrangement agreement was signed between India and Bhutan for the joint development of a small satellite.

DETAILS

- The agreement was signed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Scientific Secretary, R Umamaheswaran, and the Department of Information Technology and Telecom (DITT) of Bhutan, Director, Jigme Tenzing.
- The current agreement is the part of MoU signed between both nations for the purpose of peaceful uses of outer spaces.
- Under the agreement, both the entities i.e. ISRO and DITT will develop joint satellites.
- The agreement will help to enhance innovation in the space technology domain and will allow having technology transfer between both nations.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bhutan: Thimphu
 - Currency of Bhutan: Bhutanese Ngultrum
 - HQ of ISRO: Bengaluru
 - Chairman of ISRO: K Sivan

HDFC BANK—‘OVERALL MOST OUTSTANDING COMPANY IN INDIA’

Current Context: As per the poll conducted by Asiamoney, which is the reputed publication, HDFC Bank was voted as ‘Overall Most Outstanding Company in India’.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The poll was titled ‘Asia’s Outstanding Companies Poll’ and it aims to acknowledge those companies who have shown their excellence in various domains like financial performance, management team, excellence, investor relations, and CSR initiatives.
- The poll also acknowledges publicly listed companies in 2 categories of country and sector in which it operates.
- The voting was made by around 1070 fund managers, analysts, bankers, and rating agencies.
- As per the voting results, HDFC Bank received the most number of votes among listed companies in India and was termed as ‘Overall Most Outstanding Company in India’.
- **This recognition is in addition to the ‘Most Outstanding Company in India – Banking Sector’, through which the bank was honoured for the 4th consecutive year since the commencement of the poll from 2018.**
- **Therefore the bank gained two major recognition from the Asiamoney poll i.e. ‘Overall Most Outstanding Company in India’ and ‘Most Outstanding Company in India – Banking Sector’.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan
 - Tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world

APPOINTMENTS ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: Debabrata Mukherjee: He was unanimously elected as chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the period of 2021-2022. He is the chief marketing officer of United Breweries.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - ABC: It certifies and performs audits of major publications like newspapers and magazines in India. Its HQ is in Mumbai
- **Pratap G. Pawar:** He was unanimously elected as deputy chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for a period of 2021-2022.
- **Static Part:**
 - ABC: It is a non-profit circulation-auditing organisation.
- **Magnus Carlsen:** He was appointed as Mastercard Global Brand Ambassador. He is Norwegian chess grandmaster and current World Chess Champion, World Rapid Chess Champion, and World Blitz Chess Champion.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Mastercard: New York, US

NEW RULES FOR SECURITISATION OF STANDARD ASSETS—RBI

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has framed new rules for the Securitisation of Standard Assets.

DETAILS

- The new set of rules will be applicable to all scheduled commercial banks, excluding RRBs, all-India term financial institutions, SFBs, and NBFCs.
- The RBI has specified Minimum Retention Requirement (MRR) for different asset classes under Master Direction RBI (Securitisation of Standard Assets) Directions, 2021.
- For underlying loans with an original maturity of 24 months or less, the MRR will be 5% of the book value of the loans being securitised.
- For underlying loans with an original maturity of more than 24 months as well as loans with bullet repayments, the MRR shall be 10% of the book value of the loans being securitised.
- And for residential mortgage-backed securities, the MRR for the originator will be 5% of the book value of the loans being securitised, irrespective of the original maturity.
- The minimum ticket size for the issuance of securitisation notes will be Rs 1 crore.

2021 SHANTI SWARUP BHATNAGAR PRIZE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Current Context: During the 80th Foundation day of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for science and technology 2021 was announced.

KEY FACTS

- This award is delivered to that scientist below age 45 years by CSIR for giving their excellent contributions in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, medicine, engineering and earth, atmosphere, ocean, and planetary sciences.
- The award is comprised of a cash price of Rs 5 lakhs.
- **Below is the list of winners for each category:**
 - **Biological Sciences category:** (a) Dr. Amit Singh (Dept. of microbiology and cell biology IISc, Bengaluru) (b) Dr. Arun Kumar Shukla (Dept. of biological sciences and bioengineering, IIT Kanpur)
 - **Chemical sciences category:** (a) Dr. Kanishka Biswas (International Centre of Materials Science) and (b) Dr. T Govindaraju, (Bio-organic Chemistry Laboratory). Both the winners are from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru
 - **Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences category:** Dr. Binoy Kumar Saikia. He is from Coal and Energy Research Group, CSIR North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat
 - **Engineering sciences category:** Dr. Debdeep Mukhopadhyay. He is from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Kharagpur
 - **Mathematical sciences category:** (a) Dr. Anish Ghosh (School of Mathematics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai) (b) Dr. Saket Saurabh (Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai)
 - **Medical sciences category:** (a) Dr. Jeemon Panniyammakal (Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram) (b) Dr. Rohit Srivastava (Department of biosciences and bioengineering, IIT Bombay)
 - **Physical sciences category:** Dr. Kanak Saha from Pune's Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE

Current Context: The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah addressed the first-ever National Cooperative Conference (Sehkarita Sammelan).

KEY POINTS

- **The event was held at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.**
- It was the country's first such cooperative conference and was held with an aim to strengthen the Indian Cooperatives.

- It was organised by IFFCO, National Cooperative Federation of India, Amul, Sahakar Bharti, NAFED, KRIBHCO, and all cooperatives together.
- While addressing the event, he mentioned that GOI has set the goal to develop the Cooperative sector of the country and the roadmap for the same is framed.
- He also mentioned the importance of cooperatives for the country as it can be led to a lot of development for the country at national as well as at the international level.
- It will be the major entity contributing to make India a \$5 trillion economy.
- He assured that the current problems which are being faced by cooperatives like the taxation front will soon be resolved.
- He highlighted that number of primary agriculture cooperatives (PACs) will be increased to three lakh in the next five years.

INDIA AND OMAN SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION

Current Context: India and Oman have entered into an agreement to exchange white shipping information and enhance maritime security cooperation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The agreement was signed between Chief of Navy Staff Admiral Karambir Singh and his Omani counterpart Admiral Saif bin Nasser bin Mohsen Al-Rahbi in Muscat.
- Under the agreement, the exchange of related data for the purpose of identity and movement of commercial non-military merchant vessels will take place.
- The agreement signed between the Royal Navy of Oman and the Indian Navy will enhance the cooperation between these navies and will allow them to exchange data on merchant shipping traffic.
- The information-sharing will take place between the Information Fusion Centre of the Indian Navy and the Maritime Security Centre of Oman Navy.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Oman: Muscat
 - Currency of Oman: Omani Rial

WMA LIMIT SET AT RS 50,000 CRORE—RBI

Current Context: The Reserve bank of India (RBI) has set the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for central government at Rs. 50,000 crore for the second half of the financial year 2021-22 i.e. October 2021 to March 2022.

KEY POINTS

- WMA is a tool used by RBI under its credit policy. It is used to provide advance amounts to the states to match up with the temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments. It is repayable in every situation, not later than three months from the date of making the advance.

- The RBI can trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the GOI utilises 75% of the WMA limit.
- The interest rate on WMA will be repo rate and for an overdraft will be 2% above the repo rate.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikant Das

'CLUB VISTARA INDUSIND BANK EXPLORER' CREDIT CARD

Current Context: The IndusInd Bank collaborated with Vistara, which is the TATA SIA Airlines Limited.

KEY POINTS

- **They collaborated to launch the 'Club Vistara IndusInd Bank Explorer' Credit Card.**
- The credit card offers the user a complimentary 'Gold' class membership to Club Vistara (CV), which is the frequent flyer program of the airline in which, the user can earn points on every flight.
- The earned points can be redeemed by the user to avail of awards on the flights.
- The credit card allows the user to travel for international tours in a cashless mode, in which also CV points can be earned.
- Also, other travel and lifestyle exclusive facilities are offered by the credit card like complimentary access to over 600 airport lounges across the globe, Zero foreign currency mark-up, milestone rewards, dining, and entertainment-related benefits.
- It offers Gift vouchers of Rs 25,000, Oberoi Hotel & Resorts Gift Voucher.
- Also, the complimentary personal Air Accident insurance covers up to Rs. 2.5 crore is offered on the credit card.
- Both entities aim to transform the travel experience via credit cards.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Vistara: Gurugram, Haryana
 - HQ of IndusInd Bank: Pune

INDIA TO BE EXTERNAL AUDITOR TO THE IAEA

Current Context: India was elected to be the external auditor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

DETAILS

- The IAEA works to promote peaceful usage of nuclear energy.
- **India will be its external auditor for the tenure of six years i.e. from 2022 to 2027.**
- India has beaten Germany and the United Kingdom to become the external auditor to the IAEA.
- India's Comptroller and Auditor General GC Murmu will be the external auditor of IAEA and the External Affairs Ministry.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of IAEA: Vienna, Austria

TENURE OF COMPANY LAW COMMITTEE EXTENDED BY A YEAR

Current Context: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has announced that it has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year.

ABOUT

- **The tenure is extended till 16th Sep 2022.**
- **The committee is chaired by Rajesh Verma, Corporate affairs secretary.**
- The Company Law Committee was framed in 2019 and is comprised of 11 members.
- It works to suggest measures to improve the operation and functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- It suggests recommendations on the issues related to the implementation of the Companies Act and Limited Liability Partnership Act.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman

RBI IMPOSED RS 2 CRORE PENALTY ON RBL BANK

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed Rs 2 crore penalty on RBL Bank.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The penalty was imposed for not following provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The penalty was imposed in exercise of powers vested in it under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with section 46 (4) (i) of the Act.
- As per the analysis made by RBI, it was found that RBL Bank was non-compliant in opening five savings deposit accounts for a cooperative bank and composition of the board of directors.
- **The central bank has also imposed a penalty of Rs 11 lakh has been imposed on the Jammu & Kashmir State Co-operative Bank Limited, Srinagar.** The penalty was imposed due to inadequacy in regulatory adherence. The cooperative bank has not followed section 23 read with section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 by opening branches without the prior permission of the RBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of RBI: Mumbai
 - Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das
 - HQ of RBL Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of RBL Bank: Vishwavir Ahuja

APPOINTMENTS ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Current Context: CK Ranganathan: He was appointed as President of All India Management Association (AIMA) for a tenure of one year. He has replaced Harsh Pati Singhania. He is the CMD of CavinKare Pvt Ltd.

ABOUT

- **Fumio Kishida:** He will be becoming Prime Minister of Japan. He defeated Taro Kono in the election process.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Japan: Tokyo
 - Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen
- **Aveek Sarkar:** He was re-elected as Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PTI: New Delhi
- **Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh:** He was appointed as 34th Director-General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC). He has replaced Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Aich.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NCC: New Delhi

INDIA AND THE US SIGNED TWO MOUS

Current Context: India and the United States signed two MoUs at the concluding session of the 4th Indo-US Health Dialogue.

KEY POINTS

- The closing session was addressed by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- **One of the MoU was signed to enhance cooperation Health and Biomedical sciences sector.**
- **The second MoU was signed to enhance cooperation with International Centre for Excellence in Research (ICER).**
- The MoU of Health and Biomedical Sciences has signed the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of India and the Department of Health and Human Services of the USA.
- The MoU to enhance cooperation with ICER was signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) & the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).
- Both the MoUs will help to enhance health cooperation between India and the US.

PAYTM PARTNERED WITH RIA MONEY TRANSFER

Current Context: The Paytm Payments Bank has partnered with Ria Money Transfer, which is a cross-border money transfer entity.

KEY FACTS

- **Under this partnership, both entities will provide the facility to the users to receive funds from their relatives living abroad.**
- By doing so, the Paytm Payments Bank has become 1st digital wallet in the country to allow international remittances by accepting deposits from abroad.
- Also, the Ria Money Transfer (business segment of Euronet) has become the first money transfer company that will connect 333 million Paytm users.
- The partnership will prove beneficial to more than 3.6 billion bank accounts and 410 million mobile and virtual accounts in India.
- People abroad can now transfer money to Paytm wallet through the Ria Money Transfer app or website to India.
- The money transfer will take place in real-time with security features.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm Payment Bank: Noida, UP
 - HQ of Ria Money Transfer: California, US

LS SPEAKER INAUGURATED NIDHI 2.0 SCHEME

Current Context: The Lok Sabha (LS) Speaker, Om Birla inaugurated NIDHI 2.0 Scheme.

- **The NIDHI signifies the National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry.**
- It was inaugurated during the event organised by the Tourism Ministry on the occasion of World Tourism Day.
- The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Tourism with an aim to digitize the tourism sector and promote ease of doing business for the hospitality & tourism sector.
- The scheme encourages associated units to register themselves on the platform and become part of the hospitality and tourism industry.
- The NIDHI 2.0 Scheme will be inculcated with more features and also accommodates travel agents, tour operators, & others.
- At the occasion, the MoU was also signed among the Tourism ministry, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and The Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI). The MoU will work to promote and have sustainable initiatives in the tourism sector of India.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy