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Testzone presents
Full-Length Current Affairs Mock
Test Series Month-wise

September
MockDrill100
PDF No.5

(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 18th October 2021

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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

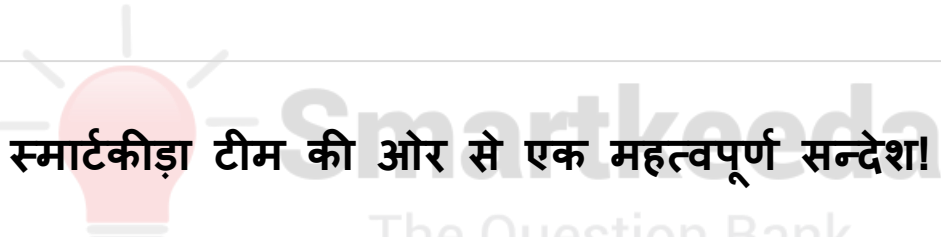
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of September 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF सितम्बर 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



INDEX

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	9
Banking & Economic Affairs.....	10
Defence Affairs.....	13
Schemes & Initiatives.....	14
Sports & Games.....	15
Important Days & Dates.....	16
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	18
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	20
Appointments & Resignations.....	21
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	23
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	25
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	25
Books & Authors.....	27
Obituaries.....	27
Persons in News.....	28
Science & Technology.....	29
Ordinance, Bills and Acts.....	30



National & States Affairs

401. On September 16, The Centre has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) chaired by Rajnath Singh for better implementation of various welfare schemes meant for SC, ST, OBC, minorities and women. PM Narendra Modi is also scheduled to hold several “Chintan Shivir” with his council of ministers on improving the efficiency of the government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Centre constituted a GoM for better implementation of various welfare schemes for SC, ST, OBC, minorities & women
- GoM is chaired by – Rajnath Singh
- PM Narendra Modi – to hold several “Chintan Shivir” with his Council of Ministers

402. On September 14, Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has successfully issued its maiden €300 million 7-year Euro Green Bond issuance. This is the first-ever Euro-denominated Green bond issuance from India. The pricing of 1.841% was achieved which is the lowest yield locked in the Euro markets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PFC – successfully issued India’s first €300 million 7-year ‘Euro Green Bond’ issuance (Pricing – 1.841%)
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon

403. On September 17, Ministry of Defence has constituted a High Level Expert Committee, under the chairmanship of former Member of Parliament Shri Bajjayant Panda, for a comprehensive review of National Cadet Corps (NCC). The aim is to suggest measures which can empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards national developmental. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence – constituted a High Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive review of NCC
- The committee is headed by – Bajjayant Panda
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

404. On September 17, “Swachhata Pakhwada 2021” was launched in Cochin Port Trust by administering the Swachhata pledge in all departments. Shramdaan cleaning activities have also been started in the Port areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Swachhata Pakhwada 2021” – launched in Cochin Port Trust (Kochi, Kerala)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



405. On September 17, MyGov India, under the ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has launched the “Planetarium Innovation Challenge” for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs. The aim of this challenge is to bring together the tech firms and Start-ups (based out of India) with a potential to build an indigenous planetarium system software using latest technologies, including Augmented Reality (A.R), Virtual Reality (V.R) and Merged Reality (MR). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MyGov India – launched the “Planetarium Innovation Challenge” for Indian Start-Ups & Tech Entrepreneurs
- MyGov India – functions under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)

406. On September 17, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology and Conrad Kongkal Sangma, jointly launched “Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture Project (MeghEA)”. The MeghEA initiative is spread across 6 pillars - Governance, Human Resources, Entrepreneurship, Primary Sector, Infrastructure & Environment, and Envision to make Meghalaya a high income state by 2030. The project aims to improve service delivery and governance for the people using power of Digital technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw + Conrad Kongkal Sangma = launched “Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture Project (MeghEA)”
- 6 pillars – Governance, Human Resources, Entrepreneurship, Primary Sector, Infrastructure & Environment and Envision
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

407. On September 19, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced a new mobile app “PRAGATI” (Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator) for the exclusive use of its Development Officers. Besides, LIC has also come out with an artificial intelligence technology based app “Jeevan Saakshaya” which enables Annuitants and retired employees to submit Life certificate from the comfort of their home. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC – launched a new mobile app “PRAGATI” for the exclusive use of its Development Officers
- PRAGATI – Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator
- LIC – launched AI-based app “Jeevan Saakshaya” for retired employees
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

408. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has announced that the government is constructing the world’s longest highway - “Delhi-Mumbai Express Highway”. The expressway is expected to be completed by March 2023. The Expressway will be 1,380 km long and will go up to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) located in Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India is constructing the world’s longest highway - “Delhi-Mumbai Express Highway” (1,380 km long)
- The expressway is expected to be completed – by March 2023



409. On September 17, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has developed an indigenous technology to convert High Ash Indian Coal to Methanol and established its first pilot plant in Hyderabad. This technology will help the country move towards the adoption of clean technology and promote the use of methanol as a transportation fuel (blending with petrol), thus reducing crude oil imports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL – developed India’s first pilot plant to convert High Ash Indian Coal to Methanol – in Hyderabad
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal

410. On September 17, Manipur’s Hathei Chilli (commonly known as the Sirarakhong Chilly), which is found in Ukhrul district and Tamenglong Mandarin Orange have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur’s Sirarakhong Chilly (Hathei Chilli) & Tamenglong Mandarin Orange – granted GI Tag
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan

411. On September 17, Union Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Rajeev Chandrasekhar has inaugurated Nagaland’s 1st Software Technology Parks at Kohima. He also distributed the ‘Kaushal Acharya Award’ and thereafter made an inspection visit to ITI Kohima. On the second day of his tour, Chandrasekhar visited the “Skill Upgradation Centre for Tribal Women” under ‘SANKALP’ and “Handicraft Industry Cluster” at Dimapur. While, Union Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan virtually presented “Kaushalacharya Awards 2021” to 41 skill trainers for their exemplary contribution to the skill ecosystem. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar – inaugurated Nagaland’s 1st Software Technology Parks at Kohima
- Dharmendra Pradhan (MoSDE) – presented “Kaushalacharya Awards 2021” to 41 Skill Trainers
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

412. On September 19, The Sikkim government has declared ‘Copper Mahseer’ locally named ‘Katley’ as the State fish. The scientific name of this fish is ‘Neolissochilus Hexagonolepis’. In Sikkim, Katley is found in varied altitudes covering entire state predominantly confined in Teesta and Rangit rivers and their tributaries. In 2014, this fish was categorized as ‘Endangered’ by the IUCN Red List. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sikkim – declared ‘Copper Mahseer’ locally named ‘Katley’ as the State fish
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad



413. On September 16, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned India's largest floating solar PV (Photovoltaic) Project of 25MW at NTPC's Simhadri Thermal Power Station located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL – commissioned India's largest floating solar PV Project of 25MW at NTPC's Simhadri TPS
- Simhadri Thermal Power Station – located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

414. On September 18, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan has launched a commemorative postal stamp in the honour of Rao Jaimal Rathore on his 515th birth anniversary in Srinagar. Rathore was a Rajput warrior general of Chittorgarh who put up a defiant resistance against the vast Mughal army during its siege in 1567 to 1568. Devusinh Chauhan also visited the under construction 14.15 km long Zojila tunnel which will reduce the travel time between Srinagar and Leh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Devusinh Chauhan – launched a commemorative postal stamp on 515th birth anni. of Rao Jaimal Rathore – in Srinagar
- Zojila tunnel – to reduce travel time between Srinagar & Leh | Length – 14.15 km
- Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan

415. On September 19, The Central government has proposed a plan to create a heritage village and boost tourism at Singaperumal Koil and nearby villages in Tamil Nadu. The government has sanctioned ₹25 lakh under the "Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission" based on the State government's suggestion to promote heritage villages and tourism in the region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central gov proposed a plan to create a heritage village & boost tourism – at Singaperumal Koil in Tamil Nadu
- ₹25 lakh is sanctioned to Tamil Nadu under "Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission" to promote heritage villages
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

416. On September 20, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has launched India's first mobile music classroom and recording studio named "Mobile Music Bus" which aims to assist children of Delhi government schools in pursuing their passion in music. The concept of this bus was introduced by Manzil Mystics, a group of children studying in Delhi government schools and it is funded by SBI Card under CSR. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – launched India's first "Mobile Music Bus" to assist children to pursue their passion in music
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

International Affairs

417. On September 16, North Korea has successfully test fired two short-range ballistic missiles (SRBM) from a train during a drill of its Railway Mobile Missile Regiment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- North Korea – test fired two short-range ballistic missiles (SRBM) from a train
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won | President – Kim Jong-un

418. On September 16, The UNESCO has designated Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) as the world’s first “Five-country Biosphere Reserve”. The 1-million hectare Mura-Drava-Danube is the now the largest riverine protected area in Europe. The biosphere reserve covers 700 km of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNESCO – designated Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) as the world’s first “Five-country Biosphere Reserve”
- Total area of the reserve – 1 million hectare (largest riverine protected area in Europe)
- Rivers covered: Mura, Drava & Danube | Countries covered: Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia & Slovenia
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

419. Minister of State for External Affairs (MoS), Meenakashi Lekhi has officially visited Portugal and Spain from 12-17 September 2021 to enhance bilateral ties between two countries. Portugal is the first European country with which India has signed a “Dedicated Agreement on Labour Mobility”. At Casa de la India in Spain, Meenakashi Lekhi inaugurated the “Beatles and India Exhibition”, a PPP model supported by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meenakashi Lekhi – officially visited Portugal & Spain from 12-17 September, 2021
- Portugal – first European country to sign a “Dedicated Agreement on Labour Mobility” with India
- Meenakashi Lekhi – inaugurated a PPP model “Beatles and India Exhibition” – in Spain (supported by ICCR)
- Portugal – Lisbon – Euro | President – Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez | President – Emmanuel Macron
- Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakashi Lekhi

420. On September 19, The United States and European Union announced the “Global Methane Pledge”, an initiative to reduce global methane emissions to be launched at the “UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26)” in November in Glasgow, Scotland. The European Union and eight countries have already indicated their support for the Global Methane Pledge. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- US + EU = announced the “Global Methane Pledge” to reduce global methane emissions
- “UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26)” – to be launched in Glasgow, Scotland (in Nov, 2021)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27

Banking & Economic Affairs

421. On September 17, IIFL Home Finance Ltd (IIFLHFL) has signed an agreement with Punjab National Bank (PNB) for co-lending. It expects to grow its loan book by 25% with this association. Loan sourcing and servicing will be managed by IIFL Home Finance and 80% of the loan will be provided by PNB. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIFL Home Finance + PNB = a co-lending agreement for affordable Housing Loans
- 80% of the loan will be provided by PNB
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal Jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

422. On September 14, Tata Capital has launched “Loan Against Mutual Funds (LAMF)”, whereby customers can digitally avail loans ranging from ₹5 lakh and ₹2 Cr. The end-to-end (onboarding to disbursement) digital loan offering is provided against a wide range of equity and debt schemes across mutual funds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Capital – launched “Loan Against Mutual Funds (LAMF)” | Loans range – from ₹5 lakh & ₹2 Cr
- HQs of Tata Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajiv Sabharwal

423. On September 16, Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have announced a partnership to set up an Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI-ML) Centre at the IISc campus in Bengaluru. The bank has funded the initiative as part of the CSR programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KMB + IISc = partnership to set up an “Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI-ML) Centre” in Bangalore
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”



424. On September 17, National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) or 'Bad Bank' will acquire bad loans or stressed assets worth Rs 2 lakh Cr from banks via 15% in cash and the remaining 85% will be government-guaranteed Security Receipts (SRs). Of the ₹2 lakh Cr, around ₹90,000 Cr of bad loans will be transferred to NARCL in the first phase of the exercise. Moreover, there is 18% weighted average accorded. This means the ₹2 lakh Cr of bad loans has been valued at ₹36,000 Cr. Government has approved the ₹30,600 Cr as a guarantee to back Security Receipts (SRs) which will be issued by NARCL. NARCL, which is 51% owned by Public Sector Banks, will have an operational entity, India Debt Resolution Company Ltd, to manage these assets and find potential buyers for them. While Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Public Financial Institutions will hold maximum 49% stake in India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) which is set up by the government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NARCL will acquire bad loans or stressed assets worth Rs 2 lakh Cr from banks (15% in cash & 85% via SRs)
- Government approved the ₹30,600 Cr as a guarantee to back Security Receipts (SRs)
- Share of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in NARCL – 51%
- PSBs & PFIs will hold maximum 49% stake in India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (set up by government)
- MD of the NARCL – Padmakumar Madhavan Nair | Lead Sponsor – Canara Bank (with 12% equity)

425. On September 16, The Reserve Bank of India has given approval to Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) to form a "Special Committee of Directors" with three independent directors as its members, to oversee operations in the absence of an MD and CEO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI gave its approval to Ujjivan SFB to form a "Special Committee of Directors" to oversee operations
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Interim CEO – Carol Furtado | Founded in – 2004

426. On September 15, NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), an international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has partnered with Singapore based Liquid Group Pvt Ltd to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) QR-based payments acceptance in 10 markets across North Asia and Southeast Asia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIPL + Liquid Group = partnership to enable UPI-based payments acceptance in 10 Asian markets
- HQs of NIPL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Ritesh Shukla
- HQs of Liquid Group – Singapore | CEO – Jeremy Tan

427. On September 12, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank has launched various initiatives to mark its centennial (100th anniversary). The bank launched a doorstep banking services "TMB Mobile DigiLobby" and a "Mobile Vaccination Drive" to create awareness on Covid-19 vaccination. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 12 – 100th anniversary of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank – launched "TMB Mobile DigiLobby" & "Mobile Vaccination Drive"
- HQs of TMB – Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu | CEO – K. V. Rama Moorthy



428. On September 14, The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Kuppam Co-operative Town Bank, Kuppam located in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh for non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions issued by RBI contained in the Master Circular on Income Recognition, Asset Classification, Provisioning and other related Matters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Kuppam Co-operative Town Bank (Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

429. On September 21, Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced to acquire a 9.98% stake in KFin Technologies for Rs 310 Cr. KFin Technologies provides technology solutions across a broad spectrum of asset classes spanning mutual funds, alternative investment funds and pension funds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – to acquire a 9.98% stake in KFin Technologies for Rs 310 Cr
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of KFin Technologies – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Sreekanth Nadella

430. On September 20, HDFC Bank and Paytm have partnered to launch a comprehensive range of Credit Cards powered by Visa. The partnership aims to provide one of the widest range of offerings across customer segments, with a special focus on millennials, business owners and merchants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + Paytm = partnership to launch a comprehensive range of Credit Cards powered by Visa
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

431. On September 20, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has announced strategic partnership with Tata AIG General Insurance and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance for distribution of their non-life insurance products across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB + Tata AIG Gen Ins + Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins = a strategic partnership for distribution of Non-life insurance products
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthy | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018
- HQs of Tata AIG Gen Ins – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Neelesh Garg
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel

432. On September 20, Yes Bank has partnered with Visa to offer credit cards to its customers. The suite consists of 9 credit card variants on the Visa platform that service all segments. YES Bank is also in the process of completing technology integration with NPCI and plans to issue Rupay branded Credit Cards in due course. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Yes Bank + Visa = partnership to offer suite of 9 Credit Cards to its customers
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

433. On September 20, Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have launched an international co-branded “RuPay NCMC Platinum Contactless Debit Card”. It’s powered by NCMC feature enabling contactless transactions across all the public transport systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoB + BPCL = launched an international co-branded “RuPay NCMC Platinum Contactless Debit Card”
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India’s International Bank”
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh | Founded in – 1952

434. On September 20, PayPoint India has entered into a partnership with Bank of Baroda (BoB) to provide banking services across India through the Business Correspondent (BC) model. It is a part of BoB’s new initiative “BOB NOWW” (New Operating model and Ways of Working). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoB + PayPoint India = partnership to provide banking services across India through Business Correspondent model
- “BOB NOWW” – **N**ew **O**perating model and **W**ays of **W**orking
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India’s International Bank”
- HQs of PayPoint India – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Defence Affairs

435. India and Nepal has begun the 15th edition of a 14-day military exercise “Surya Kiran” in Pithoragarh of Uttarakhand with a focus on counter-terror drills and disaster relief operations. The Indian side in the joint exercise was represented by the 6th Garhwal Regiment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India & Nepal – conducted 15th edition of military exercise “Surya Kiran” – in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba



Schemes & Initiatives

436. In September 2021, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has announced to start “Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna” covering 36000 villages across India. The villages with 50% tribal population will be given priority under the rural development programme. PMAGY is a rural development programme that was launched by the central government in fiscal year 2009-10 for the development of villages that have a higher ratio (over 50%) of people belonging to the scheduled castes.

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – to start “Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna” covering 36000 villages across India
- ‘PMAGY’ was initially launched by Central Government – in 2009-10
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda | Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta & Bishweswar Tudu

437. On September 19, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched “Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana” to empower youth by way of providing entry-level training in industry-relevant skills through Railway training institutes. The training will be provided to 50,000 candidates over a period of three years. Initially, the training will be provided to 1000 candidates. Candidates who are 10th pass and between 18-35 years shall be eligible to apply. The program curriculum has been developed by Banaras Locomotive Works. 75 Railway training institutes spread across the country have been shortlisted to provide training. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw (Railway Ministry) – launched “Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana” to train 50,000 youths in 3 years
- Criteria: Education – 10th pass | Age – 18-35 years
- The program curriculum is developed by – Banaras Locomotive Works
- 75 Railway training institutes are shortlisted to provide training
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

438. On September 17, Ministry of Law & Justice has launched Pan-India Special Campaign for Justice Delivery at doorstep. As part of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”, Department of Justice has launched the “Ek Pahal” drive across India from September 17 till October 2 to encourage mass registration under ‘Tele-Law’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Law & Justice – launched Pan-India Special Campaign for Justice Delivery at doorstep
- Department of Justice – launched “Ek Pahal” drive across India
- Ministry for Law & Justice: Kiren Rijju | Constituency – Arunachal West
- MoS in Ministry of Law & Justice – S. P. Singh Baghel



439. On September 19, Goa's government Pramod Sawant has launched "Sarkar Tumchya Dari" (Government at Your Doorstep) initiative with the intention to take services and facilities to the doorsteps of citizens. This initiative is aimed at grievance redressal and to ensure that every resident of Goa can take the full benefits of the various official schemes and initiatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa – launched "Sarkar Tumchya Dari" (Government at Your Doorstep)
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

Sports & Games

440. On September 17, India's Pankaj Advani has successfully won the "Asian Snooker Championship" in Doha, Qatar defeating Amir Sarkhosh of Iran. He won this title for second successive time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pankaj Advani ([Indian Snooker Player](#)) – won the "Asian Snooker Championship" in Doha, Qatar (2nd time)
- Amir Sarkhosh ([Iran](#)) – a Snooker Player

441. On September 19, a 17-year-old & a 12th standard student from Telangana, Raja Rithvik has become 70th Chess Grandmaster after crossing the ELO 2,500 mark in the Vezerkepzo GM Chess Tournament in Budapest, Hungary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Raja Rithvik ([Telangana](#)) – became India's 70th Chess Grandmaster
- He won "Vezerkepzo GM Chess Tournament" – in Budapest, Hungary

442. On September 17, Harmilan Kaur Bains has created a National record in 1500m with winning time of 4:05.39s at the 60th "National Open Athletics Championship" held at Warangal, Telangana. With this, she broke Sunita Rani's 19-year-old National record that came with the Busan Asian Games gold in 2002. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harmilan Kaur Bains ([Punjab](#)) – created a National record in 1500m at 60th "National Open Athletics Championship"
- 60th "National Open Athletics Championship" – held at Warangal, Telangana
- She broke Sunita Rani's 19-year-old National record

443. "Together for a Shared Future" was revealed as the official motto of the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games 2022 which is to be held in Beijing, China. While the Mascot of "2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games" is 'Bing Dwen Dwen' which is a Panda. And the Mascot of "2022 Beijing Winter Paralympic Games" is 'Shuey Rhon Rhon' which is a Chinese Lantern. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Motto of “2022 Beijing Winter Olympic & Paralympic Games” – “Together for a Shared Future”
- Mascot of “2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games” – Bing Dwen Dwen (a Panda)
- Mascot of “2022 Beijing Winter Paralympic Games” – Shuey Rhon Rhon (a Chinese Lantern)

Important Days & Dates

444. On September 18, 2021, United Nations initiated the first-ever “International Equal Pay Day” and demanded that women receive equal remuneration for work of equal value. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 18 – 1st “International Equal Pay Day” – by UN

445. September 18 is observed as “World Water Monitoring Day” (WWMD) which was established in 2003 by America’s Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) as a global educational outreach programme. Also known as “World Water Monitoring Challenge”, and “EarthEcho Water Challenge”, WWMD is basically an educational programme that is generally used to emphasize the importance of water for all living organisms, including humans, animals and plants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 18 – “World Water Monitoring Day” (also known as “EarthEcho Water Challenge”)
- America’s Clean Water Foundation established “WWMD” in 2003
- March 22 – ‘World Water Day’ ([to be noted](#))

446. World Bamboo Day is observed by the World Bamboo Organisation (WBO) on September 18 every year with the aim to raise awareness to conserve and promote the bamboo industry. World Bamboo Day was founded by Kamesh Salam in 2009 at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok. This year, the WBO is launching a new hashtag: “#PlantBamboo” to honor World Bamboo Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 18 – “World Bamboo Day” – by WBO (founded by Kamesh Salam in 2009)
- This year, the WBO has launched a new hashtag for this day – “#PlantBamboo”
- [HQs of WBO – Antwerp, Belgium](#)

447. International Red Panda Day is observed on the 3rd Saturday of September. This year, the 12th IRPD falls on September 18 with the aim to raise public awareness and support for red panda conservation issues. International Red Panda Day was first celebrated by the Red Panda Network in 2010. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 18 (3rd Saturday of September) – 12th International Red Panda Day (since 2010)



448. On September 18, The 36th International Coastal Cleanup Day was celebrated consecutively for the 10th year by Eastern Naval Command (ENC). On the occasion, ENC undertook Coastal Cleanup Drive at Yarada Beach, Bheemili Beach and other sea fronts within premises of naval units at Visakhapatnam. The Southern Naval Command (SNC) observed International Coastal Clean-up Day with focus on mangrove plantation and clearance of plastic/non-biodegradable waste along waterfront areas in and around Kochi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 18 (3rd Saturday of September) – 36th International Coastal Cleanup Day (since 1986)
- The day was celebrated by ENC in – Visakhapatnam (AP) & by SNC in Kochi (Kerala)

449. On September 17, Tamil Nadu has observed the 143rd birth anniversary of rationalist leader E. V. Ramasamy, popularly known as “Periyar” or “Thanthai Periyar”, as the first ever “Social Justice Day”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 17 – first “Social Justice Day” – observed by Tamil Nadu (143rd birth anniversary of E. V. Ramasamy)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

450. The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was established in 1951 in Rome, Italy. This organisation declared Sunday in the last week of September as the ‘International Day of the Deaf’. Now, the day has been extended to a week, and is now called the “International Week of the Deaf”. The week is celebrated during the last week ending on the last Sunday of September. This year, the week was observed between September 20 to 26 with the theme of “Celebrating Thriving Deaf Communities”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 20 to 26 – “International Week of the Deaf” (Last week ending on the last Sunday of September)
- 2021’s Theme – “Celebrating Thriving Deaf Communities”
- HQs of WFD – Helsinki, Finland | President – Joseph Murray | Established in – 1951

451. The “International Day of Peace”, also known as “World Peace Day” is observed every year on 21 September. This day is celebrated around the world to strengthen the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. This day promotes global solidarity for building a peaceful and sustainable world. This year, the theme is “Recovering better for an Equitable and Sustainable World”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 21 – “International Day of Peace” or “World Peace Day”
- Theme – “Recovering better for an Equitable and Sustainable World”

452. “World Alzheimer’s Day” is observed on September 21 every year. The day aims to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. The theme in 2021 is “Know dementia, know Alzheimer’s”. The month of September is regarded as “World Alzheimer’s Month”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 21 – “World Alzheimer’s Day”
- Theme – “Know dementia, know Alzheimer’s”
- September – “World Alzheimer’s Month”



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

453. The World Economic Forum has announced that its next 52nd Annual Meeting will be held at Davos-Klosters, Switzerland in January 2022 under the theme “Working Together, Restoring Trust”. The Annual Meeting 2022 will be the first global leadership event to set the agenda for a sustainable recovery. Ahead of the Annual Meeting 2022, the WEF hosted the 5th Sustainable Development Impact Summit virtually from September 20-23, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 52nd “WEF Annual Meeting 2022” – to be held at Davos-Klosters, Switzerland (in January 2022)
- Theme – “Working Together, Restoring Trust”
- WEF – hosted the 5th “Sustainable Development Impact Summit”
- HQs of WEF – Coligny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab | Founded in – 1971

454. On September 18, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has addressed the “G-33 Virtual Informal Ministerial Meeting”. The meeting was organised by Indonesia to discuss the ‘Agricultural Priority issues of G-33’ and the way forward for the 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), scheduled to be held from November 30 to December 3, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – addressed the “G-33 Virtual Informal Ministerial Meeting” – organised by Indonesia
- 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO – scheduled to be held in Nov-Dec, 2021
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

455. On September 17, PM Narendra Modi has virtually participated in the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The meeting was chaired by Emomali Rahmon, the President of Tajikistan. At Dushanbe, India was represented by External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar. The SCO Summit was followed by an Outreach session on Afghanistan between SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO). Prime Minister participated in the outreach session through a video-message. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – participated in the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO held in Dushanbe
- Meeting was chaired by – Emomali Rahmon (Tajikistan) | India was represented by – S. Jaishankar
- PM Narendra Modi – also participated in the “Joint SCO-CSTO Outreach Session on Afghanistan”
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | SG – Vladimir Norov | Member Countries – 8 | 2021 Presidency – Tajikistan
- Tajikistan – Dushanbe – Somoni | President – Emomali Rahmon



456. On September 17, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology & Department of Science and Technology, Renu Swarup addressed the 3rd edition of “Life Sciences Conclave” organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). CII released the report titled “Taking India’s Life Sciences to the Global Stage - ‘Make in India’ to fuel 4x growth in Biosimilars and Vaccines by 2026”. Besides, India’s biotechnology market is expected to grow to \$150 billion by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd edition of “Life Sciences Conclave” – organised by the CII
- “Taking India’s Life Sciences to the Global Stage - ‘Make in India’ to fuel 4x growth in Biosimilars and Vaccines by 2026” report – released by the CII
- India’s biotechnology market is expected to grow to \$150 billion – by 2025
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – T. V. Narendran | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895

457. On September 17, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has presided over the 45th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council in Lucknow. The GST Council has agreed to levy Compensation Cess paid to the states for an extended period up to March 2026 to enable the Centre to repay the loans. Besides, from January 1, food delivery apps like Zomato & Swiggy will have to collect and deposit 5% GST with the government, in place of restaurants. During the meeting, it was also announced that Carbonated Fruit Beverages of fruit drink and Carbonated Beverages with fruit juice will be subject to a GST of 28% with an additional 12% of compensation cess. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – presided over the 45th meeting of the GST Council in Lucknow, UP
- GST Council extended the period to levy Compensation Cess – till March 2026
- From January 1, Food delivery apps will have to collect & deposit 5% GST with the government instead restaurants
- 28% GST + addi. 12% of compensation cess – on Carbonated Fruit Beverages of fruit drink & Carbonated Beverages with fruit juice

458. On September 16, 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting was held virtually with the theme of “We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper”. The meeting is aimed at coordinating efforts of ASEAN countries in pursuing the goal of energy security and energy transition that will benefit the people of our region. Krishan Pal Gurjar, Union Minister of State for Power, attended the meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Krishan Pal Gurjar – attended the 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting
- Theme – “We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper”

459. On September 17, India focused upon healthcare, energy, digital revolution and innovation at the 6th BRICS Young Scientist Forum, hosted by India's Department of Science & Technology (DST), in collaboration with the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru (NIAS). The valedictory address at the forum was given by Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV&OIA) & BRICS Sherpa at BRICS Young Scientist Forum. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India's DST + NIAS (Bengaluru) = hosted the 6th BRICS Young Scientist Forum
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2021 – India

460. On September 15, Meeting of BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities and Experts on Tax Matters was held virtually under Chairmanship of India. Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj, in his capacity as Head of Tax Authorities in India, presided over this meeting. The broad theme of the meeting was “Redefining Business Processes of Tax Administration amidst Challenges posed by COVID-19 and in the Digital Era”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tarun Bajaj – presided over “Meeting of BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities and Experts on Tax Matters”
- Theme – “Redefining Business Processes of Tax Administration amidst Challenges posed by COVID-19 & in Digital Era”

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

461. On September 14, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has received “Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar” for 2020-21. This is the fourth time in a row that PNB received the first prize. Union Bank of India won 5 awards for excellent implementation of official language Hindi under different categories of Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar. UBI bagged third prize for 2020-21 in Nationalised Bank Category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – received the 1st prize in “Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar” for 2020-21 (4th time 1st prize)
- UBI – received the 3rd prize in “Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar” for 2020-21 (Nationalised Bank Category)
- UBI – won 5 awards for excellent implementation of official language ‘Hindi’ under different categories
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

462. On September 17, The 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner and India's Social Activist, Kailash Satyarthi is among 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocates appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Kailash Satyarthi will focus on protecting and promoting the rights of children around the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kailash Satyarthi – appointed as a SDG Advocate to protect & promote the rights of children around the world
- Kailash Satyarthi is among 17 SDG Advocates – appointed by the UN | He received ‘Nobel Peace Prize’ (2014)



463. On September 19, The National Academy of Letters announced names of 8 writers for the “Sahitya Akademi Fellowship”. The executive board also announced the “Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2020” in 24 Indian languages. The English translation of Kannada novel “Ghachar Ghochar” written by Vivek Shanbhag and translated by Srinath Perur, and the Hindi translation of Thiruvalluvar’s ‘Thirukkural’ by TES Raghwan won the award among 22 others. The Akademi Award carries prize of ₹1,00,000 while translation carries prize of ₹50,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sahitya Akademi Fellowship” given to 8 writers (Prize - ₹1,00,000)
 - Ruskin Bond
 - Vinod Kumar Shukla (Hindi)
 - Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay (Bengali)
 - Mundanat Leelavathy (Malayalam)
 - Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade (Marathi)
 - Dr Tejwant Singh Gill (Punjabi)
 - Swami Rambhadracharya (Sanskrit)
 - Indira Parthasarthy (Tamil)
- “Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize” given in 24 Indian languages (Prize - ₹50,000)



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Appointments & Resignations

464. On September 12, Former managing director of Mahindra & Mahindra Pawan Kumar Goenka has been designated as the Chairperson of Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-Space). IN-SPACE was established in 2020 under the Department of Space, as the nodal agency for regulating private companies in the Space sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pawan Kumar Goenka – appointed as the Chairperson of ‘In-Space’

465. On September 13, Fino Payments Bank Limited (FPBL) has appointed Indian actor Pankaj Tripathi as its first brand ambassador for two years. Pankaj Tripathi will be the face of Fino’s first ‘Fikar Not’ campaign. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pankaj Tripathi – appointed as first Brand Ambassador of Fino Payments Bank – for 2 years
- HQs of FPBL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rishi Gupta



466. On September 13, Japanese sports major, ASICS has announced Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa as its new brand ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joshna Chinappa ([Squash Player](#)) – appointed as Brand Ambassador of ‘ASICS’ - a leading sports brand in India
- HQs of ASICS – Hyogo, Japan | CEO – Motoi Oyama | MD of ASICS India – Rajat Khurana

467. On September 16, A global high-performance wellness brand, Hyperice has appointed Virat Kohli as Global Brand Ambassador and Athlete-Investor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli ([Cricketer](#)) – appointed as Athlete-Investor & Global Brand Ambassador of ‘Hyperice’ - a wellness brand
- HQs of Hyperice – California, US

468. Emami Ltd has roped in actor Sonu Sood as a brand ambassador for its flagship pain relief offering, Zandu Balm. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sonu Sood – appointed as Brand Ambassador of Emami Ltd’s pain relief brand “Zandu Balm”
- HQs of Emami Ltd – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Naresh Bhansali

469. On September 15, Former Supreme Court judge and one of India's foremost legal luminaries, Justice (Retired) Indu Malhotra will be the new Ombudsman cum Ethics Officer of Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA). The DDCA’s general body is headed by its President Rohan Jaitley. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indu Malhotra – appointed as Ombudsman cum Ethics officer of Delhi & Districts Cricket Association (DDCA)
- President of DDCA – Rohan Jaitley

470. On September 17, Alka Nangia Arora has assumed the additional charge of the post of Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC). Ms. Alka Arora is serving as a Joint Secretary in Ministry of MSME. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alka Nangia Arora – assumed the additional charge as the CMD of NSIC
- HQs of NSIC – New Delhi | CMD – Alka Nangia Arora | Founded in – 1955

471. On September 18, The Haryana government has appointed ‘Femina Miss Grand India-2021’ Manika Sheokand as the ‘Goodwill Ambassador’ of water conservation campaign. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manika Sheokand – appointed as ‘Goodwill Ambassador’ of water conservation campaign of Haryana
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya



472. On September 20, The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced the appointment of Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, as its ambassador for Global Health Financing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gordon Brown (Former PM of UK) – appointed as Ambassador for Global Health Financing of the WHO
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

473. On September 22, Amit Saxena, Global Deputy Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of State Bank of India, has joined Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) as its new CTO. Saxena will be based in Bangalore and will report to Rajesh Bansal CEO of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Saxena – appointed as new Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of 'Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)'
- CEO of RBIH – Rajesh Bansal | CTO of RBIH – Amit Saxena
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

474. On September 22, Bulgarian President Rumen Radev has reappointed Stefan Yanev as the Caretaker PM of Bulgaria to lead an interim government until the country holds its third set of parliamentary elections this year on November 14, 2021. Rumen Radev also appointed Valery Beltchev as interim finance minister of Bulgaria. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Stefan Yanev – appointed as Caretaker PM of Bulgaria
- Bulgaria – Sofia – Lev | President – Rumen Radev | Caretaker PM – Stefan Yanev

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

475. The World Bank Group has announced to discontinue its "Ease of Doing Business" reports, an annual flagship report that the international financial institution has been publishing since 2002. This comes after "data irregularities" were reported internally in an ethics review of Doing Business 2018 and 2020, in June, 2021. India ranked 63rd in the last "2020 Ease of Doing Business" index which was topped by New Zealand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Ease of Doing Business" reports – discontinued by World Bank (publishing since 2002)
- Last "2020 Ease of Doing Business" index: India – 63rd | Top – New Zealand



476. On September 16, NITI Aayog has launched a report titled “Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India”. As per the report, India is home to 11% of the total Global Urban Population. By 2027, India will surpass China as the most populous country in the world. The report suggested that every city must aspire to become a ‘Healthy City for All’ by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India” report – launched by NITI Aayog
- India is home to 11% of the total Global Urban Population
- India – to surpass China as the most populous country in the world – by 2027
- Report: Every city must aspire to become a ‘Healthy City for All’ – by 2030
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

477. On September 16, “United in Science 2021” report is a collection of the latest climate science information which is coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), with input from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Global Carbon Project (GCP) etc. The report states that global emissions in the power and industry sectors were already at the same level or higher in January-July 2021 than in the same period in 2019, before the pandemic. While emissions from road transport remained about 5% lower. Fossil CO₂ emissions from coal, oil, gas and cement - peaked at 36.64 GtCO₂ in 2019, followed by a significant drop of 1.98 GtCO₂ (5.6%) in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, Global mean sea levels rose 20 cm from 1900 to 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “United in Science 2021” report – released by the WMO (input from UNEP, WHO, IPCC & GCP)
- Global emissions from Power & Industry Sectors are back to 2019 levels or even higher in 2021
- Global emissions from Road Transport remained about 5% lower
- Fossil CO₂ emissions from coal, oil, gas & cement in 2019 – 36.64 GtCO₂
- Global mean sea levels rose 20 cm from 1900 to 2018
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950

478. On September 20, India is expected to become the world’s 3rd largest importer by 2050 with a 5.9% share of Global Imports, following China and the United States (US), according to a report titled “Global Trade Outlook” by the UK’s Department of International Trade. Currently, India is on the 8th spot on the list of largest importing countries with a 2.8% share. India will jump to the 4th position by 2030 with a 3.9% share as per the report. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Trade Outlook” report – released by Department of International Trade (UK)
- India – to become the world’s 3rd largest importer by 2050 (with 5.9% share) | 1st – China | 2nd – US
- India – to become the world’s 4th largest importer by 2030 (with 3.9% share)
- Currently, India’s position – 8th (with 2.8% share)



479. On September 21, India has climbed two spots to 46 in the “Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021” released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The world’s most-innovative economy in 2021 is Switzerland followed by Sweden & the US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021” – released by WIPO | India’s position – 46th (from 48th in 2020)
- 1st – Switzerland, 2nd – Sweden, 3rd – US
- HQs of WIPO – Geneva, Switzerland | Director General – Daren Tang

Acquisitions & Mergers

480. On September 22, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of Andhra Pradesh government’s 10.4% stake in Gangavaram Port Limited (GPL) by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones Limited (APSEZ) under ‘Section 31(1)’ of the ‘Competition Act, 2002’. The CCI has previously approved APSEZ’s acquisition of 89.6 per cent stake in Gangavaram Port from the DVR family and Windy Lakeside Investment Limited. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved acquisition of Andhra Pradesh government’s 10.4% stake in Gangavaram Port – by APSEZ
- Gangavaram Port – located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

481. On September 15, Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) under the Ministry of AYUSH, and American Herbal Pharmacopoeia, USA signed an MoU for strengthening the quality of Ayurvedic and other Indian Traditional Medicine products globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PCIM&H + American Herbal Pharmacopoeia (US) = an MoU to strengthen the quality of Ayurvedic & other Indian Traditional Medicine products
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai



482. On September 17, NITI Aayog has partnered with BYJU'S to provide students free access to BYJU'S high-quality and tech-driven learning programmes in 112 Aspirational Districts of India. The collaboration comprises two main components - "BYJU'S Career-Plus programme" (for 3,000 meritorious students of classes 11 and 12 who aspire to appear for NEET and JEE) & "Voluntary Programme" (for children of school-going age, classes 6-12). Besides, BYJU'S has recently acquired 100% stake in US-based K-12 coding platform Tynker. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + BYJU'S = to provide free access to BYJU'S 'Premium Learning' resources in 112 Aspirational Districts
- "BYJU'S Career-Plus programme" – for students of classes 11 & 12
- "Voluntary Programme" – for children of classes 6 to 12
- BYJU'S – acquired 100% stake in K-12 coding platform 'Tynker' (US)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of BYJU'S – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Byju Raveendran | Founded in – 2011

483. On September 18, Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) has signed an MoU with Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) for installation of Public Charging Stations for electric vehicles in Punjab. The CESL is a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL) - a Joint Venture of PSUs under Ministry of Power. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab + CESL = an MoU for installation of Public Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles in Punjab
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Charanjit Singh Channi | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- HQs of CESL – Kolkata, West Bengal | Head – Mahua Acharya

484. On September 18, The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has partnered with Cordelia Cruises to launch India's first indigenous luxury cruise liner. Cordelia Cruises are being operated by Waterways Leisure Tourism for marketing and promotion of the first indigenous luxury cruise in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRCTC + Cordelia Cruises = partnership to launch India's first Indigenous Luxury Cruise
- Cordelia Cruises – being operated by Waterways Leisure Tourism
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Mahendra Pratap Mall

485. On September 15, The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has signed an MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC) to increase the business opportunities and income of fair price shops (FPS). CSC will tie up with the individual State Government for signing up of bilateral MoUs for providing interested FPS dealers access to Digital Seva Portal (DSP) for delivery of CSC services. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Dept. of Food & Public Distribution + CSC = an MoU to increase the business opportunities & income of FPS
- HQs of CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd – New Delhi | CEO – Dinesh Kumar Tyagi

Books & Authors

486. On September 19, Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar has released a book titled “Dancing with Dreams”, a collection of poems penned by his Andhra Pradesh counterpart Adityanath Das. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – released “Dancing with Dreams” book – authored by Adityanath Das
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

487. On September 17, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released a book titled “Shining Sikh Youth of India” to commemorate the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Teg bahadur. The book is written by Prabhleen Singh, Administrative Officer of Punjabi University, Patiala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh released “Shining Sikh Youth of India” book – written by Prabhleen Singh
- The book is released to commemorate the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Teg bahadur
- Prabhleen Singh’s other books: “Prominent Sikh of India” & “Prominent Sikh of USA”

Obituaries

488. On September 16, Former Gabonese Prime Minister Casimir Oye Mba passed away in Paris, France after he was hospitalized for COVID-19 infection. He was 79. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Casimir Oye Mba – Former Prime Minister of Gabon – passed away
- Gabon – Libreville – CFA franc | President – Ali Bongo Ondimba | PM – Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda

489. Former Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika passed away recently. He was 84 years old. Abdelaziz Bouteflika had ruled the North African country, Algeria for two decades before his resignation in April 2019. He is Algeria’s longest-serving President till date. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Abdelaziz Bouteflika – Former President of Algeria – passed away (Algeria’s longest-serving President)
- Algeria – Algiers – Dinar | Prime minister – Abdelaziz Djerad | President – Abdelmadjid Tebboune

490. On September 17, Eminent theoretical Physicist and Cosmologist, Thanu Padmanabhan (affectionately known as ‘Paddy’) passed away at the age of 64. The much-feted Astrophysicist was awarded the ‘Padma Shri’ in 2007. Along with his wife Vasanthi, Professor Padmanabhan also authored a popular book “The Dawn of Science: Glimpses from History for the Curious Mind” in 2019. For research in Theoretical Physics, he was ranked 24th amongst top scientists in the world by Stanford University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thanu Padmanabhan (Paddy) – Astrophysicist & Cosmologist – passed away (‘Padma Shri’ in 2007)
- “The Dawn of Science: Glimpses from History for the Curious Mind” – authored by Thanu Padmanabhan + Vasanthi

491. On September 19, Eminent Litterateur & Social Worker Manorama Mohapatra passed away. She was 87. She was the former editor of Odia daily newspaper namely “The Samaja”. Mohapatra has more than 40 books and novels to her credit. Her first book is ‘Juar Jeiunthi Uthe’. For her immense contribution to the field of literature, she was appointed as secretary of Utkal Sahitya Samaj from 1982 to 1990 and President of Odisha Sahitya Akademi in 1991. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manorama Mohapatra (Odisha) – a Litterateur & Social Worker – passed away
- She was the former Editor of Odia daily newspaper namely “The Samaja”

492. On September 19, The former England footballer Jimmy Greaves, one of the game's greatest goalscorers and characters, has died at the age of 81. Greaves was a member of England’s 1966 World Cup-winning squad. He scored total 44 goals in his 57 appearances for England. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jimmy Greaves (England) – a Football Player – passed away

Person in News

493. On September 17, Sana Ramachand Gulwani, a Pakistani woman has created history by becoming the first Hindu woman in Pakistan to pass the prestigious Central Superior Services (CSS) examination in Pakistan. She has been selected for the elite Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS), becoming the first Hindu Pakistani woman to do so. Sana Ramachand hails from a rural area of Shikarpur district in Sindh province. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sana Ramachand (Sindh, Pakistan) – became the 1st Hindu woman civil servant in Pakistan
- She passed the prestigious Central Superior Services (CSS) examination in Pakistan
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

Science & Technology

494. On September 18, The Department of Space (DoS) has entered into a Framework MoU with aerospace startup Agnikul Cosmos for access to ISRO facilities and expertise towards the development and testing of subsystems/systems of space launch vehicles. The ISRO and IN-Space committee signed a Framework of MoU on behalf of Department of Space. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + IN-Space committee + Agnikul Cosmos = a Framework MoU for access to ISRO facilities & expertise
- HQs of Agnikul Cosmos – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Co-Founder & CEO – Srinath Ravichandran
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969

495. On September 16, SpaceX has launched the first crew of space tourists into orbit - the first civilian mission of its kind named "Inspiration4". It lifted off aboard a 'Falcon 9' rocket. The 'Inspiration4' crew posed in front of the 'Falcon 9' rocket and 'Crew Dragon' spaceship that launched them into space. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – launched the first crew of space tourists into orbit under 3-day mission "Inspiration4"
- It was launched through 'Falcon 9' rocket & 'Crew Dragon' spaceship
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

496. On September 17, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on technologies to develop reusable satellite launch vehicle named "GSLV Mk-III" to enable the vertical landing of its rockets. It is similar to what SpaceX is doing, and to recover the first and second stages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO is working on technologies to develop reusable satellite launch vehicle named "GSLV Mk-III"
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969

497. On September 21, IIT Delhi researchers have designed & developed a device called "Liquid-solid Interface Triboelectric Nanogenerator" that can generate electricity from water drops, raindrops, water streams, and ocean waves which can be stored in batteries for further use. The device has been developed using "Triboelectric Effect" and "Electrostatic Induction". [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IIT Delhi researchers – developed a device that can generate electricity from water drops, raindrops & water streams
- The device is called – “Liquid-solid Interface Triboelectric Nanogenerator”
- The device is developed using – “Triboelectric Effect” & “Electrostatic Induction”
- Director of IIT Delhi – V. Ramgopal Rao

498. On September 15, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has made a discovery of teeth of new species of ‘Hybodont Shark’ of Jurassic age from Jaisalmer, Rajasthan for the first time. This finding has been published in ‘Historical Biology’ journal. It is named by the research team as Strophodus jaisalmerensis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Teeth of a new species of ‘Hybodont Shark’ of Jurassic age – discovered in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan (by GSI)
- HQs of GSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director General – Rajendra Singh Garkhal
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

499. On September 20, China has launched unmanned cargo aircraft (UCA) named “Tianzhou-3” or “Heavenly Vessel” on ‘Long March-7Y4’ rocket with supplies for under-construction space station. It was launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan, China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched unmanned cargo aircraft (UCA) named “Tianzhou-3” or “Heavenly Vessel”
- It was launched on ‘Long March-7Y4’ rocket | From Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site – in Hainan, China
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

500. On September 18, Rajasthan assembly has passed a Bill titled “Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2021” to amend an act on mandatory registration of marriages, including registration of Child marriages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – passed a Bill to amend an act on mandatory registration of marriages including Child marriages
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra





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