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

September
MockDrill100
PDF No. 6

(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 24th October 2021

[Attempt Test No. 6 Here!](#)



An important message from Team Smartkeeda

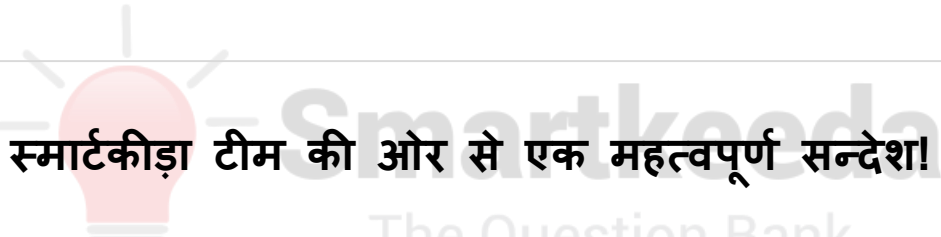
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of September 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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



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National & States Affairs

501. On September 21, Uttar Pradesh government has cleared a proposal to develop an “Electronic Park” for electronic accessories in Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) area. The new Electronic Park is likely to attract an investment of Rs 50,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – cleared a proposal to develop an “Electronic Park” for electronic accessories in Yamuna Expressway area
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

502. On September 18, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated South Asia’s largest product development center “Digital Hub” in Kochi. The state-of-the-art Digital Hub with a built-up space of 2 lakh square feet has a capacity to support 200 startups. Kerala is working towards a four-fold increase in the number of startups by aiming to take their total to 15,000 in the next 5 years by 2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – inaugurated South Asia’s largest product development center “Digital Hub” in Kochi
- Area – 2 lakh square feet | Capacity – 200 startups
- Kerala – aims to have 15,000 startups by 2026
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

503. On September 19, After the poignant verbal attack on Indian Administrative Service (IAS) personnel in the legislative Assembly, the Karnataka government has issued a circular imposing a ban on holding Press Conferences and issuing statements by the bureaucrats. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – issued a circular imposing a ban on holding Press Conferences by the Bureaucrats
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

504. In September 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 2 state-of-the-art & energy-efficient Defence Office Complexes at New Delhi's Kasturba Gandhi Marg and Africa Avenue. The new Defence Office Complexes were constructed by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs for ₹775 Cr under Light Gauge Steel Frame (LGSF) technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated 2 state-of-the-art & energy-efficient Defence Office Complexes in New Delhi
- Cost – ₹775 Cr | Constructed by – Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs under ‘LGSF’ technology
- LGSF technology – Light Gauge Steel Frame technology



505. On September 22, The Kovalam beach in Chennai and Eden beach in Puducherry have now been awarded the prestigious “Blue Flag” certification by the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), taking the number of such beaches in India to 10. The ‘Blue Flag’ is a certification that can be obtained by a beach, marina, or sustainable boating tourism operator, and serves as an eco-label. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kovalam beach (Chennai) + Eden beach (Puducherry) – awarded the “Blue Flag” certification by FEE (Denmark)
- India has now 10 International ‘Blue Flag’ beaches

506. On September 21, The Ministry of Education has formed a “National Steering Committee” for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks. The committee will be chaired by Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan. As per the perspectives of the ‘NEP 2020’, the Committee will develop 4 National Curriculum Frameworks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Education – formed a “National Steering Committee” to develop National Curriculum Frameworks
- The committee will be chaired by – Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar

507. On September 19, The GST Council has decided to extend the tenure of the National Anti-Profitteering Authority (NAA) for 1 more year while an alternative will be explored in the Competition Commission of India (CCI). This is a second extension for the Authority whose term will now continue till November 30, 2022. NAA comes under the Finance Ministry and was established under ‘Section 171’ of ‘CGST Act, 2017’. It started working with effect from December 1, 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GST Council extended the tenure of National Anti-Profitteering Authority (NAA) for 1 more year (till Nov 30, 2022)
- NAA comes under – Ministry of Finance | Established under – ‘Section 171’ of ‘CGST Act, 2017’

508. On September 23, Ministry of Commerce & Industry has launched the “National Single-Window System” for investors and businesses in India. The portal will integrate the existing clearance systems of the Centre and states. It will become a “One-Stop-Shop” for approvals and clearances. This is a big step towards ease of doing business. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry – launched “National Single-Window System” for investors & businesses in India
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash



509. On September 22, Assam is setting up a 'Tea Park' at Chayygaon in Kamrup District which will have rail and port connectivity, cargo and warehouse amenities, processing facilities like tea grinding, blending, packaging and other utility services under one roof. Coinciding with 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', a two-day "Vanijya Utsav & Mega Export Conclave" was organised from September 21-22 in Guwahati. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Tea Park' – is being set up at Chayygaon, Kamrup, Assam
- 2-day "Vanijya Utsav & Mega Export Conclave" – organised in Guwahati, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

510. On September 17, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari has announced that India is likely to get its first Electric Highway between Delhi & Jaipur. It is still a proposed project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India is likely to get its first Electric Highway between Delhi & Jaipur

511. On September 23, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) organized a workshop titled "Connecting all Indians", to make India one of the largest connected countries of the world. The workshop invited both public and private stakeholders including largest internet service providers in India. The workshop was chaired by the Minister of State Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY – organized a workshop titled "Connecting all Indians"
- The workshop was chaired by – Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

512. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) has completed 3 years. In order to celebrate the journey, National Health Authority (NHA) has organised 4-day hybrid (virtual & physical) event, "Arogya Manthan 3.0" from September 23, 2021. AB PM-JAY was launched in 2018. AB PM-JAY provides an annual cashless health cover of Rs 5 lakhs per family. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHA – organised 4-day hybrid event "Arogya Manthan 3.0" to mark 3 years of completion of 'AB PM-JAY'
- 'AB PM-JAY' was launched in 2018 | Annual cashless health cover per family – Rs 5 lakhs
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – Ram Sevak Sharma | Founded in – 2018

513. The Central Government has announced to start Arunachal Pradesh's first Greenfield airport project in Hollongi by November 2022. Hollongi Greenfield Airport will be the largest in the state of the northeast. The Modi Government has started the project 'Aviation Reform' under which 5 new airports will be built along with 6 heliports and 50 new air routes. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Central Government – to start construction of Hollongi Greenfield Airport (Arunachal Pradesh) – by November 2022
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

514. Odisha government is in the process of fitting Elephants with radio-collar to track their movement and prepare a strategy to minimise man-elephant conflict. The radio collars were supplied by IISc, Bangalore, and they will be fitted on elephants of Chandaka Sanctuary and Similipal Sanctuary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha government – is fitting Elephants with radio-collar to track their movement
- The radio collars were supplied by – IISc, Bangalore
- Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary & Similipal Sanctuary – Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

515. On September 21, The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Culture and Tourism G. Kishan Reddy, and Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has laid the foundation stone for the project to develop “Parshuram Kund” in Arunachal Pradesh. Under the ‘Prashad’ scheme, Rs 37.88 Cr have been sanctioned for various initiatives like the development of existing kund, tourist information centre, modern pilgrim facilities etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. Kishan Reddy – laid the foundation stone to develop “Parshuram Kund” in Arunachal Pradesh
- Rs 37.88 Cr have been sanctioned under the ‘Prashad’ scheme for various initiatives
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

516. In September 2021, In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched a Senior Citizens National Helpline “Elderline - 14567” to comfort the distressed elderly through a dedicated decentralized call center. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Sinha (J & K) – launched a Senior Citizens National Helpline “Elderline - 14567”
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

517. On September 21, Amid the growing global focus on the economic impact of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues, the government has set up a key task force under economic affairs secretary Ajay Seth to lay out a concrete road map to bolster India’s sustainable finance architecture. The task force will firm up recommendations to further strengthen the resilience of the country’s financial sector against risks emanating from various climate and ESG issues. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Central gov set up a Task Force to strengthen the resilience of India's Financial Sector against risks emanating from various Climate & ESG issues
- The task force will be headed by – Ajay Seth

518. On September 21, Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAFPD), for the first time, issued uniform parameters for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) for grade A & Common Rice have in case of procurement of Fortified Rice Stocks. Of which, 1% of FRK (w/w) should be blended with normal rice stock, which means 10 gram of FRK must be blended with 1 kg of regular rice. The fortified rice is to be distributed under various government schemes, including the 'Public Distribution System (PDS)' and 'Midday Meals in Schools', by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoCAFPD – issued 'uniform parameters' for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) for Grade A & Common Rice
- 1% of FRK (w/w) should be blended with normal rice stock (i.e. 10 gram with 1 kg of regular rice)
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution: Ashwini Kumar Choubey & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

519. On September 20, Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) is all set to start 75 "Fulwari Centers" in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh. Currently, 25 centres are being run successfully with the strength of around 220 kids of the age between 6 months to 3 years. NCL's project 'Fulwari' aims to address the problem of malnutrition and associated physical and mental development issues of infants. NCL has allocated an amount of Rs 128.86 lakhs under CSR to run this project successfully. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Northern Coalfields Ltd – to start 75 "Fulwari Centers" in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh
- NCL's Project 'Fulwari' aims to address the problem of malnutrition in infants
- HQs of NCL – Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh | CMD – Prabhat Kumar Sinha

International Affairs

520. On September 19, Iran's bid to become a permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has been approved after almost 15 years at the 21st Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State which was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. After the technical and legal process concludes - which could take up to two years - Iran will formally join the SCO group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iran – became the 9th permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | SG – Vladimir Norov | Present Member Countries – 8 | 2021 Presidency – Tajikistan



521. On September 20, Apo Island has become the first of over 7,000 islands in the Philippines to go 'Zero Waste', according to the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Apo Island – became the first 'Zero Waste' Island in Philippines
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte

522. On September 17, The US-based startup Colossal Biosciences has announced plans to bring 'Woolly Mammoths' back from extinction and into the frosty landscape of the Siberian tundra. Colossal has received US\$15 million in initial funds to support research conducted by Harvard geneticist George Church, among other work. Mammoth-like creatures could help restore this ecosystem by trampling shrubs, knocking over trees, and fertilising grasses with their faeces. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Colossal Biosciences (US) – announced plans to bring 'Woolly Mammoths' back from extinction

523. After Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2022, the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has named Accra (Ghana) as "UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023". The year of celebrations will start on 23 April 2023, on World Book and Copyright Day. Since 2001, Accra is the 23rd city to be named the World Book Capital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Accra (Ghana) – named as "UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023" (23rd city)
- Guadalajara (Mexico) – will be "UNESCO World Book Capital for 2022"
- Tbilisi (Georgia) – was "UNESCO World Book Capital for 2021"
- Ghana – Accra – Cedi | President – Nana Akufo-Addo
- Mexico – Mexico City – Peso | President – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

Banking & Economic Affairs

524. On September 24, IndusInd Bank has acquired 4.79% stake in debt-laden bulk tea manufacturer McLeod Russel India by invoking pledged shares for recovery of its dues. McLeod Russel is 152-year old BM Khaitan Group Company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank – acquired 4.79% stake in debt-laden bulk tea manufacturer 'McLeod Russel India'
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – "We Make You Feel Richer"
- HQs of McLeod Russel India – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD & Chairman – Aditya Khaitan



525. On September 21, BLS International Services Ltd has been selected as National Business Correspondent for State Bank of India (SBI) to deliver banking services in urban, semi-urban and rural areas across India. A few days before, SBI selected Paisalo Digital for engagement as 'Corporate Business Correspondent'. Meanwhile, Starfin India Pvt Ltd, the subsidiary of BLS International, has also become the National Business Correspondent for Bank of Baroda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BLS International Services Ltd – selected as 'National Business Correspondent' for SBI
- Paisalo Digital – selected as 'Corporate Business Correspondent' for SBI
- Starfin India – selected as National Business Correspondent for Bank of Baroda
- HQs of BLS International Services – New Delhi | MD – Nikhil Gupta
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

526. On September 22, RBL Bank and Mastercard have launched a new festive campaign #UseBefikar, which rewards existing cardholders with shopping offers and rewards for a seamless payment experience. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank + Mastercard = launched a new festive campaign #UseBefikar that rewards existing cardholders
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja | Chairman – Prakash Chandra
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966

527. On September 22, Federal Bank has partnered with OneCard for a Mobile-first Credit Card that targets India's young & tech-savvy population for the upcoming festive season. It will target young working professionals aged 23-35. The cards will be powered by Visa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank + OneCard = partnership for "Mobile-first Credit Card" targeting India's young population
- The cards will be powered by – Visa
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – "Your Perfect Banking Partner"
- HQs of OneCard – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | CEO – Anurag Sinha (launched by - FPL Technologies)
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

528. On September 24, The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are jointly sponsoring a \$55 million (₹400 Cr) credit guarantee programme titled "India Covid Response Programme for Agriculture Transition" to address the economic impact of covid-19 by supporting loans to farmer producer organizations, ag-tech companies, and companies engaged in clean energy solutions for the agriculture sector. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- DFC + USAID = jointly sponsoring a \$55 million (₹400 Cr) Credit Guarantee Programme in India
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power | Founded in – 1961

529. On September 24, According to the “Deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks - March 2021” published by the RBI, bank deposits grew 11.9% year-on-year during 2020-21 compared to 8.8% in 2019-20 due to high growth in current account and savings account (CASA) deposits. The share of CASA deposits increased to 43.7% in March 2021. Among institutional categories, the household sector held 64.1% share in total deposits. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks - March 2021” – published by the RBI
- Bank deposits grew 11.9% during 2020-21 due to high growth in CASA deposits (compared to 8.8% in 2019-20)
- CASA deposits increased to 43.7% in March 2021
- Household Sector held 64.1% share in total deposits
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

530. On September 23, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and SBI Card launched a “BPCL SBI Card co-branded RuPay Contactless Credit Card”, offering fuel and other benefits. The card will provide rewarding fuel savings and other benefits to the customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BPCL + SBI Card = launched a “BPCL SBI Card co-branded RuPay Contactless Credit Card”
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh | Founded in – 1952
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara

531. On September 23, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank has announced the inauguration of its first branch in Kerala at Kochi. The bank has 600 branches in 201 districts spread across 18 states and 2 Union Territories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank – announced the inauguration of its first branch at Kochi, Kerala
- HQs of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank – Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Govind Singh

532. On September 24, The RBI has issued the “Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Securitisation of Standard Assets) Directions, 2021”. Loans with tenor up to 24 months (2 years) extended to individuals for Agricultural activities will be eligible for Securitisation. The minimum ticket size for issuance of Securitisation notes shall be Rs 1 Cr. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- RBI – issued the “Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Securitisation of Standard Assets) Directions, 2021”
- Loans with tenor up to 24 months extended to individuals for Agricultural activities will be eligible for Securitisation
- Minimum ticket size for issuance of Securitisation notes – Rs 1 Cr
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

Defence Affairs

533. On September 20, India and Indonesia began a 3-day Bilateral Maritime Exercise in the Sunda Strait, in reflection of their growing maritime cooperation. Indian Navy deployed its two frontline warships Shivalik and Kadmatt for the 3rd edition of the exercise “Samudra Shakti”. In pursuance of India’s Act East Policy, exercise “Samudra Shakti” was conceived in 2018 as a bilateral exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India & Indonesia – conducted 3rd edition of “Samudra Shakti” in the Sunda Strait
- INS Shivalik & INS Kadmatt participated in the exercise
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

534. On September 23, Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi, Tamil Nadu received Rs 7,523 Cr order from the Ministry of Defence for the supply of 118 indigenous ‘Arjun Mk-1A Main Battle Tanks’ for the Army. The ‘MBT Arjun Mk-1A’ was designed and developed by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) along with the other laboratories of the DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Heavy Vehicles Factory (Tamil Nadu) – received Rs 7,523 Cr order from Ministry of Defence for the supply of 118 indigenous ‘Arjun Mk-1A Main Battle Tanks’ for Indian Army
- ‘MBT Arjun Mk-1A’ was designed and developed by – CVRDE (DRDO’s lab in Chennai)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty



Schemes & Initiatives

535. On September 17, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), has launched “Phase II of Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme” to promote research in 42 emerging technologies in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and Information Technology (IT)/Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES). Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme was initiated by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in 2014 with an objective to enhance number of PhDs in ESDM & IT/ITES sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw (MeitY) – launched the “Phase II of Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme”
- “Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme” – was launched by MeitY in 2014
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

536. On September 23, Haryana government has decided to cover farmers growing horticultural crops against abiotic factors under a specially-designed scheme “Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana (MBBY)”. It is an assurance-based scheme to compensate crop losses due to adverse weather and natural calamities for farmers growing horticulture crops. Farmers will have to opt for this scheme while registering their crop and area on “Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB)” portal. A seed capital of Rs 10 Cr will be kept aside by the state government for the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – gave nod for implementing “Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana (MBBY)”
- MBBY will cover farmers growing horticultural crops against abiotic factors
- Farmers will have to opt for this scheme registering their crop & area on “Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB)” portal
- Seed capital kept aside by State government for the scheme – Rs 10 Cr
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

Sports & Games

537. On September 23, India’s three-time World Cup gold medal-winning compound archer Abhishek Verma has been elected to World Archery’s athletes’ committee for a 4-year term. Verma, an Arjuna awardee, has won Gold medals in the World Cups in Poland in 2015 and in Paris in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abhishek Verma (Archer) – elected to World Archery Athletes Committee for 4 years

538. 15-year-old Grandmaster D. Gukesh has clinched the “Norway Chess Open 2021” under the masters’ section for the second consecutive tournament of September 2021. He also won gold at the “European Club Cup” which concluded in Macedoni on September 24. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D. Gukesh ([Chess - Tamil Nadu](#)) – clinched the “Norway Chess Open 2021” under the Masters’ Section
- D. Gukesh – won Gold at the “European Club Cup 2021”

539. On September 17, GM Magnus Carlsen has won the 9th edition of “Norway Chess Tournament 2021” for the third time in a row, and the fourth in total. This year, this tournament is sponsored by EY. He won against Grandmaster Ian Alexandrovich Nepomniachtchi of Russia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Magnus Carlsen ([Norway - Chess](#)) – won the 9th edition of “Norway Chess Tournament 2021” (4th time in total)
- Ian Alexandrovich Nepomniachtchi ([Russia](#)) – Chess Player

540. On September 23, Odisha has been named the host of the 12th edition of Under-21 “FIH Men’s Hockey Junior World Cup 2021” which will be organized by the International Hockey Federation from November 24 to December 5. The event will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Lucknow had hosted the tournament’s last edition. Odisha is also set to host the “2023 FIH Senior Men’s World Cup” in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – to host the 12th edition of “FIH Men’s Hockey Junior World Cup 2021” – at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar
- Odisha – to host the “2023 FIH Senior Men’s World Cup” in Bhubaneswar & Rourkela
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924

Important Days & Dates

541. World Rhino Day is observed on September 22 every year to raise awareness of the need to protect all the five species of rhinoceroses - Black, White, Greater one-horned, Sumatran & Javan rhinos. In 2021, the theme is “Keep the Five Alive”. The day got international recognition in 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 22 – World Rhino Day (since 2011)
- Theme – “Keep the Five Alive”



542. “World Rose Day” is celebrated on September 22 every year and it is dedicated to Cancer patients all across the globe. The World Rose Day was first observed in the honour of 12-year-old cancer patient Melinda Rose from Canada, who died in 1996. She was diagnosed with Askin’s Tumour in 1994. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 22 – “World Rose Day” (dedicated to Cancer patients)

543. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar rode bicycle along with his cabinet colleagues and MLAs from his residence to the secretariat in Chandigarh to observe “World Car Free Day” on September 22. On the occasion of World Car Free Day, the Chief Minister inaugurated an exhibition of electric vehicles at the Civil Secretariat premises. This day coincides with the “European Mobility Week” which was observed from September 16 to 22, 2021. This year, the theme of this week is “Safe and Healthy with Sustainable Mobility”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 22 – “World Car Free Day”
- September 16 to 22 – “European Mobility Week” | Theme – “Safe and Healthy with Sustainable Mobility”

544. Every year, September 23 is celebrated as the “International Day of Sign Languages”. The day supports and protects the linguistic identity of people who are deaf along with other users of sign languages. This year’s theme, declared by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is “We Sign For Human Rights”. According to the UN, the day was first celebrated in the year 2018. The choice of 23 September commemorates the date on which the WFD was established in 1951. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 23 – “International Day of Sign Languages” (since 2018)
- Theme – “We Sign For Human Rights”
- HQs of WFD – Helsinki, Finland | President – Joseph Murray | Established on – September 23, 1951

545. On September 25, “Antyodaya Diwas” is observed on September 25 every year, to mark the birth anniversary of ideologue of Bharatiya Jana Sangh & Bharatiya Janata Party and thinker of right-wing Hindutva ideology Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. In the 1940s, Deendayal Upadhyaya launched “Rashtra Dharma”, a monthly journal, from Uttar Pradesh’s Lucknow for spreading the ideology of Hindutva nationalism. Later, he started ‘Panchjanya’, a weekly magazine, and a daily, ‘Swadesh’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- September 25 – “Antyodaya Diwas” (the birth anniversary of - Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya)
- He launched a monthly journal “Rashtra Dharma” in 1940s

546. The 11th World Pharmacists Day was observed on September 25 to pay tributes to pharmacists for the role they play in improving global health. This year’s theme, developed by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), is “Pharmacy: Always trusted for your health”. The day was introduced in 2009. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- September 25 – 11th World Pharmacists Day (since 2009)
- 2021's Theme – “Pharmacy: Always trusted for your health”

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

547. On September 15, Tata Consumer Products (TCP) has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) to unlock the full potential of millets as a healthier and more sustainable alternative to traditional grains at the “Nutri-Cereals Multi-stakeholders Mega Convention 3.0” which was held in Hyderabad, Telangana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Nutri-Cereals Multi-stakeholders Mega Convention 3.0” – held in Hyderabad, Telangana
- TCP + IIMR = an agreement to unlock the full potential of millets as a healthier & more sustainable alternative
- HQs of TCP – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Sunil A. D’Souza
- HQs of IIMR – Hyderabad, Telangana | Director – Vilas A. Tonapi

548. India has hosted the first “India-United Kingdom (UK) Consular Dialogue” through video conferencing. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Devesh Uttam, a Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs. The two sides discussed ways to further strengthen people-to-people contacts between the two countries as part of the “India-UK 2030 Roadmap”. Both countries agreed to hold the next round of this Dialogue in 2022, in London. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – hosted the first “India-UK Consular Dialogue”
- Indian delegation was led by – Devesh Uttam

549. On September 21, The 11th International Peace Conference on the occasion of UN-International Day of Peace was held at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh. Bhikkhu Sangasena, Founder, Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Leh, was conferred with the 7th Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam World Peace Award, 2021 on the occasion. The award was constituted in 2015 by All India Council for Human Rights, Liberties and Social Justice (AICHLS), New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 11th International Peace Conference – held at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies in Leh, Ladakh
- Bhikkhu Sangasena – conferred with the 7th Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam World Peace Award 2021
- The award was constituted in 2015 by – AICHLS ([New Delhi](#))



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

550. This year in 2021, 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards event was conducted in Los Angeles, California, US. The Crown has won the Outstanding Drama Series. While Ted Lasso has won the Outstanding Comedy Series. Among actors, Jason Sudeikis won the award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series for Ted Lasso and Jean Smart won a trophy in Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for HBO Max series Hacks. Debbie Allen has won the Governors Award. Josh O'Connor has won Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series for The Crown. Olivia Colman has won Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for The Crown. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards – conducted in Los Angeles, California, US

| Category | Winner |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Outstanding Comedy Series | Ted Lasso |
| Outstanding Drama Series | The Crown |
| Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series | Jason Sudeikis (for Ted Lasso) |
| Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series | Jean Smart (for Hacks) |
| Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series | Josh O'Connor (for The Crown) |
| Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series | Olivia Colman (for The Crown) |
| Governors Award | Debbie Allen |

551. On September 21, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been conferred with “SDG Progress Award” for Bangladesh’s steady progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sheikh Hasina – conferred with “SDG Progress Award” – by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- HQs of SDSN – New York, US | Established in – 2012 (sponsored by UN)
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

552. On September 23, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has announced Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka of South Africa as the winner of the “2021 Global Goalkeeper Award”. She is a former United Nations under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women. This year's three additional “Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards” were given to Fairouz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh (2021 Change-maker Award), Jenifer Colpas of Colombia (2021 Progress Award), and Satta Sheriff of Liberia (2021 Campaign Award). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka ([South Africa](#)) – conferred with “2021 Global Goalkeeper Award” – by BMGF
- Three additional “Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards”:
 - 2021 Change-maker Award: Fairouz Faizah Beether ([Bangladesh](#))
 - 2021 Progress Award: Jenifer Colpas ([Colombia](#))
 - 2021 Campaign Award: Satta Sheriff ([Liberia](#))



553. On September 24, NHPC's 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station in Sikkim has been conferred with the prestigious "Blue Planet Prize" by International Hydropower Association (IHA), a London based non-profit membership association operating in 120 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station (Sikkim) – conferred with the "Blue Planet Prize" – by IHA (London, UK)
- 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station – built, owned & being operated by NHPC
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh

554. On September 23, Government e Marketplace (GeM) has been announced as the winner in the 'Best Use of Digital Technology' category at the "CIPS Excellence in Procurement Awards 2021" (CIPS Awards). GeM was shortlisted as a finalist in two additional categories as well, i.e. 'Public Procurement Project of the Year' and 'Best Initiative to Build a Diverse Supply Base'. The CIPS Awards were given by the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS), London. Government e Marketplace is a 100% Government owned Section 8 Company setup under the aegis of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GeM – won the 'Best Use of Digital Technology' category at the "CIPS Excellence in Procurement Awards 2021"
- GeM was winner in other two categories as well:
 - 'Public Procurement Project of the Year'
 - 'Best Initiative to Build a Diverse Supply Base'.
- The CIPS Awards were given by – Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (London, UK)

555. On September 21, Union Chemicals & Fertilizers Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya has presented ICC (Indian Chemical Council) Annual Awards for the Year 2020. The government has given an incentive of more than Rs 6000 Cr under 'PLI Scheme' to Chemical Industry. The ICC was founded in 1938 by Acharya P. C. Ray and Dr B. D. Amin. The awards were given category-wise as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – presented "ICC (Indian Chemical Council) Annual Awards 2020"
- Chemical Industry – received an incentive of more than Rs 6000 Cr under 'PLI Scheme'
- HQs of ICC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Ravi Goenka | Founded in – 1938
- Winners:

| Award | Recipient |
|--|---|
| Lifetime Achievement Award | - Santrupt Misra - Ajay Shriram - Aniruddha B. Pandit |
| ICC Acharya P. C. Ray Award for Development of Indigenous Technology | Galaxy Surfactants Ltd |
| ICC Award for Excellence in Process Design & Engineering | Jubilant Pharmova Ltd |

556. On September 24, President Ram Nath Kovind has presented the “National Service Scheme Awards” for the year 2019-20 to 42 awardees in 3 different categories. NSS is a Centrally Sector Scheme which was launched in the year 1969 with a motto of “Not Me, But You”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – presented the “National Service Scheme Awards 2019-20” – to 42 awardees in 3 categories
- HQs of NSS – New Delhi | Motto – “Not Me, But You” | Launched in – 1969

Appointments & Resignations

557. On September 22, Howzat Fantasy Sports Platform, a leading fantasy sports platform of Junglee Games, has appointed former Indian international cricketer Suresh Raina as a Brand Ambassador to promote its brand among sports lovers across India. Suresh Raina is the first Indian batsman to make a century in all three formats of international cricket and the first-ever player to score 5,000 runs in the IPL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suresh Raina – appointed as Brand Ambassador of Howzat Fantasy Sports Platform (a product of Junglee Games)

558. On September 22, The Government of India has extended the term of Uday Kotak (MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank) as the Non-Executive Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS) for 6 months till April 2, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uday Kotak – tenure extended as the Non-Executive Chairman of IL&FS Ltd – for 6 months (till April 2, 2022)
- HQs of IL&FS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Uday Kotak | MD – C. S. Rajan

559. On September 22, The government has appointed Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari as the next Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of Indian Air Force (IAF). The current CAS, Air Chief Marshal R. K. S. Bhadauria, is set to retire on September 30. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vivek Ram Chaudhari – appointed as the next Chief of IAF (succeeding - R. K. S. Bhadauria)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

560. On September 22, Justin Trudeau has won 3rd term as the Prime Minister of Canada. He has been the leader of Liberal party since 2013 and in power since 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Justin Trudeau (Liberal party) – won 3rd term as the PM of Canada (in power since 2015)
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau



561. On September 23, Punjab Chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi has approved the appointment of Anirudh Tiwari as the Chief Secretary of the state. A 1990-batch IAS officer, Anirudh Tiwari replaced Vini Mahajan. Varun Roojam has been appointed Special Principal Secretary to Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anirudh Tiwari – appointed as the Chief Secretary of Punjab
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Charanjit Singh Channi | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

562. On September 20, Facebook India has appointed ex-IAS officer and former Uber executive Rajiv Aggarwal as the Director of Public Policy. He succeeds Ankhi Das. He succeeds Ankhi Das. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajiv Aggarwal – appointed by Facebook India as the Director of Public Policy (succeeding - Ankhi Das)
- HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

563. In September 2021, EY in India announced the appointment of NS Vishwanathan (Former deputy governor of the RBI) and Nandkumar Saravade (Former founding CEO of Reserve Bank Information Technology - ReBIT) as Advisors in the Financial Services practice. Mr. Vishwanathan will help strengthen EY's regulatory counsel while Mr. Saravade will solidify the firm's Forensics and Cyber Security practice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. S. Vishwanathan & Nandkumar Saravade – appointed as Advisors of EY India in the Financial Services practice

564. In September 2021, Raninder Singh was re-elected as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI). Kanwar Sultan Singh was elected unopposed as the Secretary-General. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Raninder Singh – re-elected as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)
- HQs of NRAI – New Delhi | President – Raninder Singh | Secretary General – Kanwar Sultan Singh

565. On September 20, The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) General Conference, which began in Vienna, elected Kuwait's Ambassador, Sadiq M. Marafi, as President of the 65th regular session of the Conference. Ambassador Marafi is Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to the international organizations in Vienna, including the IAEA, since September 2013. India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu was elected as the External Auditor of the IAEA at the General Conference for 6 years (2022-2027). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 65th IAEA's General Conference – held in Vienna, Austria
- Sadiq M. Marafi (Kuwait) – elected as the President of the 65th regular session of IAEA's General Conference
- G. C. Murmu (CAG) – elected as the External Auditor of the IAEA – for 6 years (2022-2027)
- HQs of IAEA – Vienna, Austria | Director General – Rafael Mariano Grossi | Founded in – 1957



566. On September 21, Mastercard has named Magnus Carlsen, the highest-rated chess player of all time, as a Mastercard Global Brand Ambassador. Mastercard has joined Meltwater Champions Chess Tour as an official partner. Together with Carlsen and the Tour, Mastercard is curating a wide range of Priceless experiences and exclusive cardholder benefits, via Priceless.com. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Magnus Carlsen ([Norway - Chess](#)) – appointed as a Mastercard Global Brand Ambassador
- Mastercard – joined Meltwater Champions Chess Tour as an Official Partner
- [HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966](#)

Amount & Agreements

567. On September 24, India and UAE have officially launched “India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)” negotiations and a deal for the same can be signed in March 2022 subject to the completion of legal procedures and ratification by both parties. UAE is currently India’s third largest trading partner. While, India is UAE’s second largest trading partner. UAE is the 9th largest investor in India with over \$18 billion in committed funds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + UAE = officially launched “India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)” negotiations
- UAE – India’s third largest trading partner | India – UAE’s second largest trading partner
- [UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

568. On September 24, EXIM Bank of India has concluded agreements with Fahi Dhiriulhun Corporation Limited (FDC) of Maldives to extend Buyers Credit of around \$228 million for the construction of 4000 Social Housing Units in Hulhumale’ Phase II. The construction will be undertaken by National Buildings Construction Company (NBCC) and JMC Projects (India) Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EXIM Bank ([India](#)) + Fahi Dhiriulhun Corp ([Maldives](#)) = a pact of \$228 million for 4000 Social Housing Units in Hulhumale
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)
- [HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD – Harsha Bangari | Founded in – 1982](#)



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

569. On September 20, Health Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya has released FSSAI's 3rd "State Food Safety Index" for the year 2020-21 to measure the performance of States across 5 parameters of food safety - Human Resources & Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment. Among the large states, Gujarat was the top ranking state, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Among the small states, Goa stood first followed by Meghalaya and Manipur. Among UTs, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and New Delhi secured top ranks. On the occasion, Mr. Mandaviya flagged off 19 Mobile Food Testing Vans Food Safety on Wheels to supplement the food safety ecosystem across India taking the total number of such mobile testing vans to 109. Mr Mandaviya also launched various innovative initiatives by FSSAI including the "Eat Right Research Awards and Grants" to encourage and recognize high-quality research in the area of food safety and nutrition in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh Mandaviya – released FSSAI's 3rd "State Food Safety Index" for 2020-21
- Large States: 1st – Gujarat, 2nd – Kerala, 3rd – Tamil Nadu
- Small States: 1st – Goa, 2nd – Meghalaya, 3rd – Manipur
- UTs: 1st – J & K, 2nd – Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 3rd – New Delhi
- Mansukh Mandaviya – flagged off 19 Mobile Food Testing Vans Food Safety on Wheels (Total No. of vans - 109)
- Mansukh Mandaviya – launched "Eat Right Research Awards and Grants"
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teatota | CEO – Shri Arun Singhal
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

570. On September 21, Dramatic changes are needed in global food systems to address Nutrition Disparity, as per the report titled "Transforming Food Systems for Rural Prosperity" released by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The report called for investment in rural farms and local small- and medium-size enterprises. Food systems are responsible for 37% of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and are also highly vulnerable to a Changing Climate, according to the report. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Transforming Food Systems for Rural Prosperity" report – released by IFAD
- Report: Dramatic changes are needed in global food systems to address Nutrition Disparity
- Report: Food systems are responsible for 37% of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- HQs of IFAD – Rome, Italy | Presidents – Kanayo F. Nwanze & Gilbert Houngbo

571. In September 2021, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere program (MAB-ICC) was for the first time held in the African continent at Abuja, Nigeria. 20 new sites in 21 countries across the world were added to the UNESCO's 'Global Network of Biosphere Reserves'. For the first time, Lesotho, Libya and Saudi Arabia joined the list. The latest additions bring the total number of reserves to 727 in 131 countries - a zone covering nearly 5% of the planet. 'Mura-Drava-Danube' has become the first MAB site to be managed by 5 countries - Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “UNESCO’s MAB-ICC” held in the African continent at Abuja, Nigeria (for the first time)
- 20 new sites in 21 countries were added to the UNESCO’s ‘Global Network of Biosphere Reserves’ (Total - 727)
- ‘Mura-Drava-Danube’ – the first MAB site to be managed by 5 countries
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

572. On September 17, The UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization has released a report titled “Tracking progress on food and agriculture-related SDG indicators”. The report focuses on 8 of the SDGs, which were adopted at a “UN Summit” in New York in 2015. According to the report, the Covid-19 pandemic might have pushed an additional 83 to 132 million people into chronic hunger in 2020. Around 14% of all food is lost along the supply chain due to Covid-19 disruption. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Tracking progress on Food & Agriculture-related SDG indicators” – released by UNFAO
- Covid-19 pandemic might have pushed an additional 83 to 132 million people into Chronic Hunger in 2020
- Around 14% of all food is lost due to Covid-19 disruption
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

573. On September 23, The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced new stringent “Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs)” - a revision of its 2005 guidelines, to assess the effects of air pollution and its health impact. As per the new guidelines, the upper limit of annual PM 2.5 is 5 microgram per cubic meter. The WHO AQGs set thresholds for 6 key air pollutants - particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and carbon monoxide (CO). India last revised its air pollution standards in 2009 and these are already seen as more relaxed than the WHO 2005 guidelines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs)” – released by the WHO (a revision of WHO’s 2005 Guidelines)
- Upper limit of annual PM 2.5 – 5 microgram per cubic meter
- WHO AQGs set thresholds for 6 key air pollutants – PM2.5, PM10, O₃, NO₂, SO₂ & CO
- India last revised its air pollution standards – in 2009
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

574. On September 22, Delhi ranked at 36th position and Bengaluru ranked at 23rd position in the “Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2021” released by Startup Genome. The list is topped by the Silicon Valley in California, US. Mumbai has retained its top position in the ‘Top Emerging Ecosystems’ ranking for the second year in a row. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2021” – released by Startup Genome | Top – Silicon Valley (California, US)
- Among Top 50: Delhi – 36th | Bengaluru – 23rd
- Mumbai – retained its top position in the ‘Top Emerging Ecosystems’ ranking (2nd year in a row)



575. On September 22, The report titled “Fed to Fail? The Crisis of Children’s Diets in Early Life” was released by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). In an analysis of 91 countries, the report found that half of children aged 6-23 months are not getting adequate food or nutrients they need to thrive and grow well, leading to irreversible developmental harm. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Fed to Fail? The Crisis of Children’s Diets in Early Life” report – released by UNICEF
- Half of children aged 6-23 months are not getting adequate food or nutrients to grow well
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946

Arts & Cultural Affairs

576. Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has inaugurated the first “Himalayan Film Festival” in the Union Territory of Ladakh. Thakur has kicked-off the 5-day festival which was held in Leh district from September 24-28. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur – inaugurated the first “Himalayan Film Festival” in Leh, Ladakh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: L. Murugan

Acquisitions & Mergers

577. On September 21, US-based private equity fund CA Rover Holdings, a part of Carlyle Group and an affiliate of Carlyle Asia Partners, has sold a 3.4% stake (3.2 Cr shares) in SBI Cards for \$443 million (₹3,267 Cr). In 2017, Carlyle Group had acquired total 26% stake in SBI Cards from GE group for ₹2,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CA Rover Holdings – sold 3.4% stake (3.2 Cr shares) in SBI Cards for \$443 million (₹3,267 Cr)
- CA Rover Holdings (US) – a part of Carlyle Group & an affiliate of Carlyle Asia Partners
- HQs of Carlyle Group – Washington, D.C., US | Co-CEOs – Kewsong Lee, Glenn Youngkin
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara



578. On September 23, Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) will merge their operations to create an entity with over \$2 billion in annual revenues, 75 channels across different genres, and a 26% viewership share. Under the terms of the merger agreement, ZEEL will own 47.07% stake and 52.93% will be held by SPNI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sony Pictures Networks India + Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd = are being merged
- They will create: Annual Revenue of \$2 billion, 75 channels & 26% viewership share
- HQs of SPNI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – N. P. Singh
- HQs of ZEEL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Punit Goenka

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

579. On September 15, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have entered into a working arrangement agreement to achieve common safety and environmental protection standards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EASA + DGCA = a working arrangement agreement for Common Safety & Environmental Protection Standards
- HQs of EASA – Cologne, Germany | Executive Director – Patrick Ky
- HQs of DGCA – New Delhi | Director General – Arun Kumar

580. On September 20, The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) and e-grocery platform Bigbasket, have signed an MoU for the promotion and sale of natural Van Dhan products. Another such collaboration in this direction has been done with Purti Agrotech of Jharkhand for developing pearl cultivation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Bigbasket = an MoU for promotion & sale of natural Van Dhan products
- TRIFED + Purti Agrotech (Jharkhand) = collaboration for developing Pearl Cultivation
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna | Chairman – Ramesh Chand Meena | Founded in – 1987
- HQs of Bigbasket – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEOs – Hari Menon & VS Sudhakar

581. On September 22, The Odisha government has signed an MoU with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support sustainable and inclusive agriculture transformation. There will be joint endeavour to bring sustainable production, food quality improvement, reduce vulnerability to drought, pest and other climate-related risk. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Odisha + Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (US) = an MoU to support Sustainable & inclusive Agri transformation
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

582. On September 21, The Odisha government has roped in UNICEF and Centre for Policy Research (CPR) for urban-rural convergence on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) and Plastic Waste Management (PWM). A Letter of Understanding (LoU) was signed between the departments of Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) and the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) and UNICEF and CPR for sanitation facilities in villages around urban areas of the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + UNICEF + CPR = an LoU for sanitation facilities in villages around urban areas of the state
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946
- HQs of CPR – New Delhi | President & Chief Executive – Yamini Aiyar

583. On September 22, TRIFED has entered into an MoU with Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FIIT), a unit established by IIT Delhi and M/s Rusicaa Beverages Private Ltd (Jharkhand) to commercialize the production of Mahua Nutra beverage - A Heritage Drink in Jharkhand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + FIIT (IIT Delhi) + Rusicaa Beverages = an MoU to commercialize the production of Mahua Nutra beverage
- Mahua Nutra beverage – a Heritage Drink in Jharkhand
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna | Chairman – Ramesh Chand Meena | Founded in – 1987
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais
- Director of IIT Delhi – V. Ramgopal Rao

584. On September 22, The Telangana government has entered into an agreement with Wingsure, an insurtech venture of SRI International, for AI-driven personalised insurance and advisory services to small and underserved farmers in the state. The Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) Department of the Government of Telangana will guide and facilitate the implementation of the solution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana + Wingsure = an agreement for AI-driven personalised insurance & advisory services to farmers
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



585. On September 22, At the “Tamil Nadu Exports Conclave”, Tamil Nadu government has signed 24 MoUs worth ₹2,120 Cr with various industries that would generate employment for 41,695. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) will set up “Cotton Depots” for the first time in the state. The MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (MTIPB) has entered in to an MoU with Flipkart to promote e-commerce among MSMEs in the State through a supplier developer program. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – signed 24 MoUs worth ₹2,120 Cr with various industries at “Tamil Nadu Exports Conclave”
- Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) will set up “Cotton Depots” for the first time in Tamil Nadu
- MTIPB + Flipkart = an MoU to promote e-commerce among MSMEs in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

586. On September 23, Coal India Ltd’s subsidiary Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) has partnered with power major NTPC to install a 50 MW Solar Power Project in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh. This is the first ground mounted solar project of NCL. Notably, CIL has planned to produce 3,000 MW of solar power by 2023-24 and become a net-zero company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCL + NTPC = partnership to install a 50 MW Solar Power Project in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh
- HQs of NCL – Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh | CMD – Bhola Singh
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

587. On September 22, The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) have signed a multi-year MoU to work together on sustainably improving India’s livestock sector to support India’s food and nutritional security. The “National One Health” platform will be established as part of this partnership to improve coordination, productivity, and support livelihoods of small-scale producers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying + BMGF – a multi-year MoU to support India’s livestock sector
- “National One Health” platform will be established as part of this partnership

588. On September 22, The B2B marketplace of Flipkart Group, Flipkart Wholesale has partnered with SME lending platform Davinta Financial Services to offer ‘Buy Now Pay Later’ (BNPL) credit facility to all its retailers. The Flipkart Group includes Flipkart, Myntra, Flipkart Wholesale, and Cleartrip. Davinta focuses on micro-enterprises and its flagship product “Vyaapaar Shakti” is a BNPL credit facility designed for small retailers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart Wholesale + Davinta = partnership to offer ‘Buy Now Pay Later’ (BNPL) credit facility to all its retailers
- Davinta’s flagship “Vyaapaar Shakti” – is a BNPL credit facility designed for small retailers



- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- HQs of Davinta – Bangalore, Karnataka | Co-founder & CEO – Ravi Garikipati

589. On September 23, The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Telangana’s International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have signed an MoU on programmes and research to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods in India against the impacts of climate change. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WFP + ICRISAT (Hyderabad) = an MoU to improve food, nutrition security & livelihoods in India
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36

Books & Authors

590. In her latest book, “The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India”, senior journalist Kaveree Bamzai has juxtaposed the careers of the three Khans, Aamir, Shah Rukh, and Salman, with the most tumultuous times in the history of the republic.

Key Points:

- “The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India” book – authored by Kaveree Bamzai
- The book is about 3 Khans: Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan & Salman Khan

591. Politician-writer M. Veerappa Moily and poet Arundhati Subramaniam were among the 20 authors who received the “Sahitya Akademi Award” for 2020 at a ceremony on September 19, 2021. Moily received the prestigious award for his epic poetry “Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam” in Kannada, while Arundhati Subramaniam won the award for her English poetry collection, “When God is a Traveller”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam” – authored by M. Veerappa Moily
- “When God is a Traveller” – authored by Arundhati Subramaniam

592. On September 23, Netflix has officially announced to make a limited series on the 2015’s Pulitzer Prize-winning book “All the Light We Cannot See”. The book is authored by American author Anthony Doerr. The novel was published in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Netflix announced to make a limited series on “All the Light We Cannot See” novel – authored by Anthony Doerr
- The novel received ‘Pulitzer Prize’ in 2015 | The novel was published in 2014
- HQs of Netflix – California, US | Co-CEOs – Ted Sarandos & Reed Hastings | Founded in – 1997



593. On September 24, Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu has launched a book on Smart Villages titled “Smart Villages: Bridging the Global Urban-Rural Divide” which is published by Springer Nature Switzerland AG. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sridhar Vembu – launched a book on Smart Villages titled “Smart Villages: Bridging the Global Urban-Rural Divide”
- Publisher – Springer Nature Switzerland AG

Obituaries

594. On September 21, President of the Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad and Mahant of Bade Hanuman temple of Prayagraj Narendra Giri passed away. Giri was found hanging from a ceiling fan by a rope. Giri hailed from the trans-Ganga area of Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Giri ([Uttar Pradesh](#)) – President of the Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad – passed away
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



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Person in News

595. As per the Guinness World Records, Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama (Japan) have been confirmed as the oldest identical twins living (female) and the oldest identical twins ever (female) at the age of 107 years and 300 days as of 1 September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Umeno Sumiyama & Koume Kodama ([Japan](#)) – confirmed as the oldest identical twins at the age of 107 years
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen

596. In September 2021, 31-year-old CISF official Geeta Samota has successfully scaled Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres), the highest peak in Africa. Earlier this month, Sub Inspector Geeta Samota had scaled Mount Elbrus (5,642 metres) in Russia, the highest peak in Europe. With this, she became the ‘fastest Indian’ to summit two peaks located in Africa and Europe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Geeta Samota ([CISF Official](#)) – became the ‘fastest Indian’ to summit two peaks located in Africa & Europe
- Geeta Samota – successfully scaled the highest peak in Europe - Mount Elbrus (5,642 metres) – in Russia
- Geeta Samota – successfully scaled the highest peak in Africa - Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres) – in Tanzania



Science & Technology

597. On September 22, The Directorate of Cashew Research (DCR), under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Puttur in Dakshina Kannada, has released “Nethra Jumbo-1” - a new jumbo nut hybrid cashew. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAR-DCR (Puttur, Karnataka) – released “Nethra Jumbo-1” - a new jumbo nut hybrid Cashew
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | Established in – 1929

598. On September 18, the four amateur astronauts who went on a private space trip have landed safely back to Earth after orbiting the planet for three days. SpaceX’s “Inspiration4” mission is now officially a Success. It was launched through ‘Falcon 9’ rocket & ‘Crew Dragon’ spaceship. The SpaceX’s Dragon spacecraft ‘Resilience’ splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Florida in the United States. The flight was part of an effort of massive fundraising for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in the US, to raise \$200 million for childhood Cancer research. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX’s Dragon spacecraft ‘Resilience’ carrying 4 astronauts – splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean
- SpaceX’s “Inspiration4” mission is now officially a Success
- It was launched through ‘Falcon 9’ rocket & ‘Crew Dragon’ spaceship
- The flight was part of an effort to raise \$200 million for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (US) for childhood Cancer research
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

599. On September 21, Researchers from the Universities of Tubingen and Zaragoza have discovered the fossil of a previously unknown species namely “Vishnuonyx Neptuni”, meaning “Neptune’s Vishnu”. The species was discovered from a 11.4-million-year-old strata in the area of Hammerschmiede, which is a fossil site in Bavaria, Germany. an extinct species of Otter that lived in southern Asia. Fossils of these now extinct otters were first discovered in sediments found in the foothills of the Himalayas. Now, a newly found fossil indicates it had travelled as far as Germany. The discovery has been described in the ‘Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fossil of “Vishnuonyx Neptuni” (Neptune’s Vishnu) - an extinct species of Otter – discovered in Bavaria, Germany
- Discovery published in – ‘Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology’
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

600. In September 2021, Rajasthan state assembly has passed a bill titled “Rajasthan Tourism Business (Amendment) Bill, 2021” to make misbehavior with tourists a cognizable offence. The Bill was brought in the year 2010 for the purpose of improving the pace of tourism business development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – passed a bill to make misbehavior with tourists a cognizable offence
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra





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