



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 10-09-2022

NATIONAL NEWS

Centre-State Science Conclave

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Centre-State Science Conclave being held in Ahmedabad on 10 September 2022, virtually.
- The first of its kind science conclave is being organised to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship in the country and strengthen Centre-State coordination and collaboration mechanisms.
- There will also be discussions on the need for doubling private sector investments in research and development by 2030 and agriculture-technological interventions for improving farmers' income.
- The Deep Ocean Mission and its relevance for coastal states will also be discussed.

India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the results of India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale start-up challenge in September.
- The challenge was launched under Amrut 2.0 in March 2022.
- A total of 76 startups have been selected out of 222 entries, which through their innovative ideas will help local civic bodies and water supply departments conserve water and resolve its scarcity.
- They will be provided Rs 20 lakh as funding support as well as mentorship.
- The Challenge aims at empowering startups in the water/ used-water sector to grow through innovation and design that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate employment opportunities.

First National Electric Freight Platform - e-FAST

- NITI Aayog in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI), India launched the country's first national electric freight platform - e-FAST India.

- e-FAST India stands for Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport - India.
- It will help strengthen partnerships and identify and support innovative freight solutions.
- The platform also aims to raise awareness on freight electrification bolstered by on-ground demonstration pilots and evidence-based research.
- It will also support scalable pilots and inform policies aimed at accelerating freight electrification in India.

Online Portal For MRSSA

- The online portal of the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act (MRSSA) was launched by chief minister of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma.
- The web-based system is first being rolled out in seven localities of Shillong, Meghalaya.
- It will also act as a strong intelligence gathering system for authorities to monitor and act, based on the intelligence inputs gathered from the online database.
- The digitisation and preparation of the online database for the MRSSA could also be beneficial for monitoring and better implementation of other services and programmes of the government.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EAM on 3-Day Visit to Saudi Arabia

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will embark on a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia beginning on 10 September 2022.
- This will be his first visit to the Kingdom as External Affairs Minister of India.
- During his visit, he will co-chair the inaugural Ministerial Meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation (PSSC) with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia.
- Both sides will review the bilateral relations and discuss ways to enhance them.

BANKING

Project to Digitize Kisan Credit Card in MP and Tamil Nadu

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the pilot project for end-to-end digitalization of lending via Kisan Credit Cards (KCC).

- The pilot project would entail the automation of various processes within banks and the integration of their systems with the service providers.
- The proposed digitalization of the KCC lending process will make it more efficient, reduce costs for borrowers and reduce Turnaround Time (TAT).
- It is developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in association with the Rural Bank of India (RBI).
- The pilot will commence in September 2022 in select districts of Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with Union Bank of India and Federal Bank.
- The project is being launched as a part of the initiative for the digitalization of Rural Finance in India.

Kisan Safalta Card for Agri Financing

- Agribazaar is a private sector electronic Agri Mandi, which launched 'Agribazaar Kisan Safalta Card'.
- The Agribazaar Kisan Safalta Card is a quick and easy way to help farmers to meet their pre- and post-harvest farm requirements and allied expenses. Farmers can use Agribazaar Kisan Safalta Card to get financing.
- The card has a 12-month repayment period, which provides enough time to pay off the balance.
- The amount of the card is adjustable for marginal farmers, which ranges from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000.
- The maximum limit of the Agribazaar Kisan Safalta Card can be increased annually based on crop yield and repayments.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Singapore Confers Meritorious Service Medal

- Former India Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba has been conferred Singapore's prestigious military award, Meritorious Service Medal (Military) (MSM(M)), by President Halimah Yacob.
- Lanba was conferred the award for his outstanding contributions in enhancing the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy.
- Singapore's Minister for Defence Ng Eng Hen presented the award to Lanba.
- These professional exchanges have strengthened interoperability, deepened mutual understanding and trust between personnel from both the militaries.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

- Volker Turk of Austria has been appointed as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Turk following approval by the General Assembly.
- Turk will succeed Michelle Bachelet of Chile.
- The new High Commissioner is currently coordinating global policy work as an Under-Secretary-General in the UN's Executive Office.
- Previously, he was the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at UN refugees, UNHCR, in Geneva where he played a key role in the development of the landmark Global Compact on Refugees.

