

PLUTUS
Academy

CURRENT AFFAIRS



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CURRENT AFFAIRS 27 AUGUST 2021

National News

1. Ohmium launches India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer gigafactory



- Ohmium International, based in the United States, has opened India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing facility in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The plant would produce hydrogen electrolyzers built in India using Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) technology. Green hydrogen comes from non-fossil sources, and blue hydrogen comes from fossil fuels.
- Rather than importing green hydrogen, producers will save money by producing it in India. The gigafactory will produce Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers built in India, with an initial production capacity of 500 MW per year and a capacity of 2 GW per year.
- The PEM hydrogen electrolyzer is the main equipment for the production of green hydrogen as it uses power generated from renewable resources to break water into hydrogen and oxygen.

International News

2. UAE announces the world's tallest observation wheel 'Ain Dubai'



- On October 21, 2021, the world's largest and highest observation wheel will be revealed in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Bluewaters Island is home to the 'Ain Dubai' observation wheel, which stands at a height of 250 metres (820 feet).
- The new record-breaking wheel stands 42.5 metres (139 feet) taller than the current world's tallest observation wheel, Las Vegas' High Roller, which stands at 167.6 metres (550 ft).
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham;
- UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

3. Dubai sets up specialised court to combat money laundering



- The Dubai Courts announced the creation of a specialised court inside the Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal to tackle money laundering.
- The establishment of the Executive Office of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing of Terrorism Financing

This change will allow our stakeholders to increase their efficiency in implementing the National AML/CFT Strategy and National Action Plan and accomplishing its objectives through an empowered and long-term system.

Appointments News

4. RBI approves re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has confirmed Sandeep Bakhshi's re-appointment as ICICI Bank's MD and CEO. From October 15, 2021, through October 3, 2023, this will be in effect.
- Mr Bakhshi's appointment has already been accepted by the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting on August 9, 2019, for a period beginning October 15, 2018, and ending October 3, 2023.
- Bakshi, who was hand-picked by his mentors KV Kamath and N Vaghul, took over as CEO in October 2018, following the departure of his predecessor Chanda Kochhar following the ICICI Bank-Videocon loan controversy.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.

Business News

5. BharatPe launches P2P lending app '12% Club'



- BharatPe has introduced a "12% Club" app that allows customers to invest and earn up to 12% yearly interest or borrow at the same rate. For this app and lending arrangement, BharatPe has teamed with LenDenClub (an RBI-approved NBFC).
- Consumers can invest their savings at any time by using the "12 percent Club" app to lend money. Aside from that, customers can use the 12% Club app to get collateral-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh for a three-month period.
- Chief Executive Officer of BharatPe: Ashneer Grover;
- Headoffice of BharatPe: New Delhi;
- BharatPe Founded: 2018.

Schemes and Committees News

6. Ministry of Electronics & IT launches SAMRIDH programme



- The "Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for pProduct Innovation, Development, and Growth (SAMRIDH)" programme has been created by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister for MeitY, began the programme. The SAMRIDH program's goal is to provide a conducive environment for Indian software product start-ups to improve their products and secure funding to expand their businesses.

- The programme is being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH). It will focus on accelerating the 300 start-ups by providing customer connect, investor connect, and international immersion in the next three years. Investment of up to Rs. 40 lakh will be provided to the start-up through selected accelerators.

7. Ministry of Jal Shakti launches 'SUJALAM' Campaign



- Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a '100 days campaign' named SUJALAM to create more and more Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.
- The Campaign would help in the management of the wastewater and in turn, would help to revive the water bodies through the creation of 1 million Soak-pits and also other Greywater management activities. The campaign started on August 25, 2021, is part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.

The three focus areas of the SUJALAM campaign are:

- Construction of 1 million soak pits;
- Retrofitting of toilets and
- Access to toilets for new households.
- Minister of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Summits and Conferences News

8. Ajit Doval chairs 11th BRICS NSA Virtual Meeting



- The 11th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security was held, via video conferencing. The National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval hosted the meeting since India is the chair for the 2021 BRICS summit.
- The 15th BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held in September 2021. The BRICS meeting of the NSA provided a platform for the five countries to strengthen political-security cooperation.
- The BRICS NSA meeting adopted and recommended the BRICS counter-terrorism action plan for consideration by the BRICS Summit.
- NSA Ajit Doval and other top security officials of the BRICS discussed the Afghanistan scenario, and developments in Iran, West Asia and the Gulf region.
- The Action Plan aims to further strengthen existing mechanisms of cooperation in areas such as financing and combating terrorism, misuse of the internet by terrorists, curbing the travel of terrorists, border controls, protection of soft targets, information sharing, capacity building, and regional and international cooperation.

Defence News

9. 5th India-Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise “KAZIND-21”



- The 5th edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, “KAZIND-21” will be held from August 30 to September 11, 2021, at

Training Node, Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan. The joint training exercise will boost the bilateral relations between India and Kazakhstan Armies.

- The Exercise is also a platform for the Armed Forces of India & Kazakhstan to train for Counter Insurgency/ Counter-Terrorism operations in the mountainous, rural scenarios under UN mandate.
- The Indian Army contingent represented by a battalion of the Bihar Regiment consists of a total of 90 personnel led by a Contingent Commander. The Kazakhstan Army will be represented by a company group.
- The scope of Joint Exercise includes professional exchange, planning & execution of the operation in counterterrorism environment at sub-unit level and sharing expertise on skills at arms, combat shooting and experiences in Counter Insurgency/ Counter-Terrorism operations.
- Kazakhstan PM: Askar Mamin, Capital: Nur-Sultan, Currency: Kazakhstani Tenge.

Important Days

10. International Dog Day 2021



- International Dog Day is observed every year on August 26 to raise awareness about dog adoption and the importance of providing rescue dogs with a safe and loving environment.
- The day was started as National Dog Day in the US in 2004 by pet & family lifestyle expert, animal rescue advocate, conservationist and dog trainer Colleen Paige.
- August 26 was chosen as on this day, Paige's family had adopted their first dog "Sheltie" from an animal shelter when she was just 10 years old.

Obituaries News

11. Former India footballer and Olympian O Chandrasekhar passes away



- Former India footballer O Chandrasekharan, popularly known as Olympian Chandrasekharan in his home state Kerala, passed away.
- Chandrasekharan, who played as a defender, was a member of the Indian team in the 1960 Rome Olympics the last time the country participated in football at the Games.

Miscellaneous News

12. India's First Agri Sectoral Index GUAREX launched by NCDEX



- India's first sectoral index in the Agri commodities basket i.e. GUAREX was launched by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
- GUAREX is a price based sectoral index that tracks the movement in the futures contracts of guar gum refined splits and guar seed on a real-time basis. This index product will offer a lot of opportunities to the value chain.

- The weightage of guarseed and guar gum refined splits in the index will be 63 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively. The index futures will be cash-settled. Initially, Guarex futures contracts expiring in September and October will be made available for trading.

BY SOHIL SINGH

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