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Academy

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd (GST NO. - 09AAPCAI478E1ZH)  
Adress: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 02,  
Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, CONTACT NO: 8123002808

## CURRENT AFFAIRS 7 SEPTEMBER 2021

### National News

#### 1. India becomes first Asian nation to launch 'Plastics Pact'



- India has become the first Asian country to create the Plastics Pact, a new forum to promote a circular plastics system.
- On September 3, 2021, the British High Commissioner to India, Alexander Ellis, introduced the India Plastic Pact platform during the Confederation of Indian Industry's 16th Sustainability Summit (CII).
- The Future-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have collaborated on the new platform 'India Plastic Pact,' which aims to build a world where plastic is valued and does not poison the environment.
- The Pact targets the businesses to transition towards a circular economy for plastics by 2030.
- The initiative is supported by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) and WRAP, a global NGO based in the UK, and endorsed by the British High Commission in India.

## 2. Govt launches AYUSH AAPKE DWAR campaign to distribute medicinal saplings



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- The Ministry of AYUSH has initiated a campaign called "AYUSH AAPKE DWAR" as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, with the goal of distributing medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh families in a year.
- Union Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal of Mumbai launched the programme, during which he gave medicinal plant saplings to locals. Following that, the campaign was launched in over 45 different sites around the country.
- The medicinal plants being distributed include Tejpatta, Stevia, Ashoka, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Lemongrass, Tulsi, Sarpagandha and Amla. Under this campaign, it is proposed to undertake the cultivation of medicinal plants across 75,000 hectares in one year.

## Appointments News

### 3. Cyrus Poncha becomes new Vice-President of Asian Squash Federation



- Cyrus Poncha, Secretary-General of the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI), was unanimously chosen as Vice-President of the Asian Squash Federation (ASF) at the ASF's 41st annual general

meeting. The Dronacharya Awardee has been chosen to serve a four-year term.

- For a second term, Hong Kong's David Mui was elected President of ASF without opposition. Mr Fayez Abdullah S.Al-Mutairi of Kuwait and Tae-sook Hee of Korea were both elected as Vice-Presidents of the ASF, in addition to Cyrus Poncha.
- Asian Squash Federation Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- Asian Squash Federation General Secretary: Duncan Chiu;
- Asian Squash Federation Founded: 1980.

### **Agreements News**

#### **4. India and US inks Project Agreement for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle**



- A Project Agreement (PA) for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicles was signed between the Ministry of Defence, the Government of India, and the US Department of Defense (ALUAV). This agreement is part of the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative's Joint Working Group Air Systems (DTTI).
- The two countries will collaborate on the design, development, demonstration, testing, and evaluation of systems in order to jointly create an ALUAV prototype.
- The DTTI's goal is to maintain a strong leadership focus on collaborative technology exchange and potential for co-production and co-development of future technologies for Indian and US military forces.

### **Defence News**

#### **5. 28th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'SIMBEX-2021'**



- The 28th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) took place from September 02 to 04, 2021. The SIMBEX-2021 annual bilateral maritime exercise was hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.
- The Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay with a shipborne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- The exercise aimed to strengthen the bilateral defence ties between both countries. This year's edition of SIMBEX is also a special occasion as it takes place during the ongoing celebrations of the 75th year of India's independence.
- The success of SIMBEX-2021 is yet another demonstration of the mutual resolve on both sides to strengthen the bilateral partnership further in the years ahead.

## Business News

### 6. LIC buys 3.9% stake in Bank of India via open market acquisition



- Through an open market acquisition, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) purchased 3.9 percent (15,90,07,791 shares) of the

Bank of India. LIC had a 3.17 percent ownership in Bank of India prior to this transaction.

- After this buy, LIC currently owns 7.05 percent of Bank of India, or 28,92,87,324 shares. The Bank of India informed SEBI of this information. Companies must notify stock exchanges when an entity owns more than 5% of a listed firm, according to SEBI requirements.
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956;
- LIC Chairman: M R Kumar.

## 7. PhonePe launches digital payment interactive geospatial platform “Pulse platform”



- PhonePe has launched a platform named PhonePe Pulse. Pulse is India’s first interactive platform with data insights and trends on digital payments.
- The platform shows more than 2000 crore digital transactions by customers on an interactive map of India. PhonePe also launched the Pulse Report, an in-depth study on the evolution of digital payments over the past 5 years.
- The report also has insights about how digital payment adoption across India has evolved since 2016 and includes detailed geographical and category-specific trends.
- The insights on the website and in the report have been drawn from two key sources – the entirety of PhonePe’s transaction data combined with merchant and customer interviews.
- The report is available as a free download on the PhonePe Pulse website. This new product is relevant to multiple ecosystem stakeholders including the government, policymakers, regulatory

bodies, media, industry analysts, merchant partners, startups, academic institutions and students.

- CEO of Phonepe: Sameer Nigam
- Headquarters location of Phonepe: Bengaluru, Karnataka.

## Economy News

### 8. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 24th meeting of FSDC



- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC). Finance Minister is the chairperson of FSDC. It must be noted that FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the Governor, RBI.
- Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is the apex level forum set up by the Government of India for strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.

## Sports News

### 9. Tokyo Paralympics 2020: India finishes 24th with record 19 medals



- India finished their campaign at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 with an all-time high of 19 medals which includes five gold, eight silver, and six bronze.
- This is the best medal tally for India a single edition of the Paralympic Games. India is placed at 24th position in the overall medal tally out of a total of 162 nations.
- Javelin thrower Tek Chand was the flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics.
- Shooter Avani Lekhara was India's flag-bearer at the closing ceremony.

#### 10. Max Verstappen wins Dutch Grand Prix 2021



- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the formula one Dutch Grand Prix 2021. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) came second while Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) came third.
- The Red Bull driver's leading seventh win of the season and 17th of his career moved him three points ahead of the defending champion, who finished second but softened the blow with a bonus point for fastest lap.

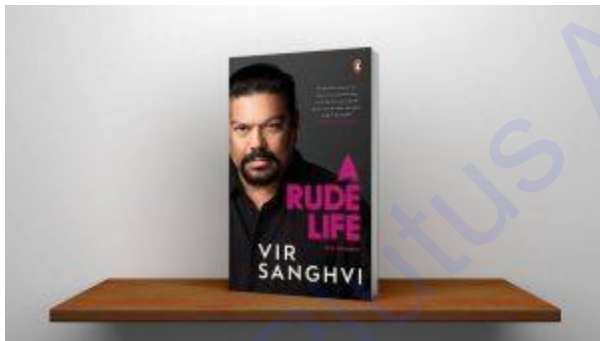
#### Books and Authors News

#### 11. Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth by Angelina Jolie



- Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie has recently announced her upcoming book, titled “Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth”. The book has been written jointly by Angelina Jolie, Amnesty International and human rights lawyer Geraldine Van Bueren QC.
- This book will be helpful to young people and children from around the world in making them aware of their rights and how to claim these rights decided years ago based on what would make them healthy, balanced, safe and stable adults.

## 12. A book title “A Rude Life: The Memoir” by Vir Sanghvi



- Vir Sanghvi, one of India’s most recognised journalists, has come out with a memoir titled A Rude Life. ‘A Rude Life: The Memoir’ has been published by Penguin Random House.
- Through this book, the author has shared his views and experience of the most eventful careers in Indian journalism, including his personal life, stories of and about celebrities and politicians, middlemen and behind-the-scene actors.

## Important Days

### 13. National Teachers’ Day: 05 September





- The 5th of September is celebrated as teacher's day all over India. This day is celebrated as the teacher's day to mark the birthday of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who was the former president of our country.
- He was a philosopher, a scholar, and the Bharat Ratna Awardee. He was the second President of India (1962 to 1967) and the first Vice President of India (1952–1962).
- The Ministry of Education presents the National Teachers Awards on this occasion every year. In 2021, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will confer National Awards on 44 teachers from across the country.

#### 14. International Day of Charity: 05 September



- The International Day of Charity is observed annually on September 05. It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012. September 5 was chosen in order to commemorate the death anniversary of Mother Teresa, who had always been engaged in charitable work.
- Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for “work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace.”
- The prime purpose of the International Day of Charity is to raise awareness and provide a common platform for charity related activities all over the world for individuals, charitable, philanthropic

and volunteer organizations for their own purposes on the local, national, regional and international level.

## **Obituaries News**

### **15. Former IOC President Jacques Rogge passes away**



- Former President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Jacques Rogge has passed away.
- He had spent 12 years as president of IOC, from 2001 to 2013, overseeing three summer Games and three winter Games, as well as creating the Youth Olympics. He was then succeeded by Thomas Bach. He was the 8th President of IOC.

**BY SOHIL SINGH**