

National Current Affairs

1. LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL) has launched 'Udyam', a skilling centre in **Bengaluru** to empower youths of the country.

Note:

- It has been launched in association with **Lok Bharti Education Society**, the implementing partner.
- The Centres of Excellence will provide training to marginalised youth in the BFSI, retail, and IT/ITES sectors. Under UDYAM, Centres of Excellence (COE) has been started in Delhi and Bangalore and later on be expanded to other cities.

2. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed penalties on **prepaid payment instrument (PPI)** issuers for violation of regulatory norms **five**.

Note:

- RBI has imposed the penalty of Rs 29,66,959 and Rs 10,11,653 on Western Union Financial Services Inc, USA, and MoneyGram Payment Systems Inc, USA, respectively, for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.
- In another statement, the RBI said, a penalty of Rs 3.05 crore was imposed on Vodafone m-pesa and Rs 1 crore each on Mobile Payments, PhonePe, Private and GI Technology. Also, a penalty of Rs 5 lakh has been imposed on Y-Cash Software Solutions

3. The Chief Economic Advisor **Krishnamurthy Subramanian** has been included in the **Advisory Council** of the 15th Finance Commission as its member.

Note:

- Subramanian will be the twelfth member of the Council. The Advisory Council was set up in April 2018 to advise the commission on any issue or subject related to the terms of reference (ToR) of the commission.
- It also helps on matters pertaining to fiscal devolution and improving the quality and reach and enforcement of its recommendations.

4. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released a vision document for ensuring a safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable **e-payment system**.

Note:

- The 'Payment and Settlement Systems in **India: Vision 2019 - 2021**', with its core theme of 'Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience', envisages achieving "a highly digital and cash-lite society" through the goal posts of competition, cost-effectiveness, convenience and confidence (4Cs).
- The payment systems landscape will continue to change with further innovation and entry of more players which is expected to ensure the optimal cost to the customers and freer access to multiple payment system options.
- The document talks about creating customer awareness, setting up a **24X7 helpline** and self-regulatory organization for system operators and service providers, among others.

5. The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** has appointed as the **Country Director** in India -- **M Hari Menon**.

Note:

- Menon will replace Nachiket Mor, who held this position for the past three years and resigned last month.
- With an endowment of USD 50.7 billion, Gates Foundation is the world's largest private philanthropic organisation and has offices in Delhi and Patna.



6. Naveen Patnaik sworn in as Odisha CM for the 5th term.

Note:

- The Biju Janata Dal secured 112 seats [BJP-23, INC-9, CPI(M)-1] in the 147-member Odisha Assembly in the recently concluded elections.
- Currently, Mr. Patnaik (MLA- Bijepur) is the third Indian chief Minister after Pawan Chamling (CM-Sikkim) and Jyoti Basu (CM-West Bengal) to win five consecutive terms as Chief Minister of an Indian state.

7. **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Pema Khandu** sworn in as **Arunachal Pradesh CM**.

Note:

- Arunachal Pradesh Governor Mr. B. D. Mishra administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Khandu and his cabinet colleagues at the Dorjee Khandu state convention hall in Itanagar.
- BJP won an impressive 41 seats [JD(U) - 7, (NPP- 5), (IND-2), (INC-4), (PPA-1)] in the 60-seat house in the Assembly elections.

8. **Narendra Modi. sworn-in as the Prime Minister** of India for the **second time**.

Note:

- During the ceremony, Apart from PM Modi, 57 ministers administered the oath of office and secrecy by President Ram Nath Kovind. There are 24 cabinet ministers including Rajnath Singh, BJP President Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, D V Sadanand Gowda, an, Ram Vilas Paswan,, Narendra Singh Tomar, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Thanwar Chand Gehlot, Ramesh Pokhriyal, Arjun Munda, Smriti Irani, Harsh Vardhan, Prakash Javadekar, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Prahlad Joshi, Mahendra Nath Pandey, Arvind Sawant, Giriraj Singh and Gajendra Shekhawat.
- Nine leaders took oath as minister of state with independent charge.
- 24 leaders who took oath as the minister of state.

9. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released a postage stamp to commemorate the 750th birth anniversary of **Sri Vedanta Desikan**.

Note:

- Mr Naidu, the textbooks must throw light on the lives of great saints and spiritual icons such as Sri Vedanta Desikan. Sri Vedanta Desikan was a Sri Vaishnava guru/philosopher and one of the most brilliant stalwarts of Sri Vaishnavism in the post-Ramanuja period. He was a poet, devotee, philosopher and master-teacher (desikan).

10. A government-appointed **advisory group** has suggested **issuance of Bonds** wherein people declaring undisclosed income -- **Elephant Bonds**.

Note:

- 'Elephant Bonds' wherein people declaring undisclosed income will have to mandatorily invest half of that amount in these securities.
- The high-level panel also recommended a host of other measures that include a road map for doubling India's exports of goods and services to over USD 1,000 billion by 2025. The panel was headed by economist Surjit Bhalla.

11. The fifth **Smart Cities India 2019 expo** was held in **New Delhi**.

Note:

- The expo was organized by **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)** and Exhibitions India Group, the event builds upon Government of India's '**Smart Cities Mission**' through a display of a vast array of products and solutions relevant to building smart cities in India.

12. Microsoft has launched a software named to help countries ensure secure and verifiable voting -- **ElectionGuard**.



Note:

- The tool “**ElectionGuard**” will enable end-to-end verification of elections, open results to third-party organisations for secure validation, and allow individual voters to confirm their votes were correctly counted.
- "ElectionGuard" provides each voter a tracker with a unique code that can be used to follow an encrypted version of the vote through the entire election process via a web portal provided by election authorities.

13. India has invited the leaders of the **BIMSTEC Member States** for the swearing-in ceremony of **PM Narendra Modi**.

Note:

- According to **Minister of External Affairs** (MEA), Invitations have also been sent to the **current Chair of the Shanghai** Cooperation Organization, Sooronbay Jeenbekov(President of Kyrgyzstan) and Pravind Jugnauth (Mauritius Prime Minister).
- The BIMSTEC, or the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, member states are Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan including India.

14. The most spectacular **festival of Kerala** has begun at Thekkinkadu Maidan -- **Thrissur Pooram**.

15. **Sikkim Krantikari Morcha** (SKM) President has sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Sikkim -- Prem Singh Golay.

Note:

- Governor Ganga Prasad administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Golay and his 11 cabinet colleagues at Palzor Stadium in Gangtok.
- Mr. Golay is not a member of the State Assembly at present as he did not contest the polls. Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (founded in 2013) won a slender majority in the 32-member legislative assembly by bagging 17 seats against 15 won by Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF).

16. Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma** has launched the -- Aroma Mission.

Note:

- The Aroma mission has been launched for Rs 18 crore to strengthen the livelihood condition of farmers and create employment opportunities in the state.

