

## Daily Current Affairs: 21.04.2021

### 1. Shri Piyush Goyal launches the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme



#### Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

Financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization



- Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution Shri Piyush Goyal launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS).
- **Rs. 945 Crore** corpus will be divided over the next 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.
- The scheme is expected to support an estimated 3,600 startups through 300 incubators.
- SISFS will Secure seed funding, Inspire innovation, Support transformative ideas, Facilitate implementation, and Start startup revolution.
- This Scheme will create a robust startup ecosystem, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns of India, which are often deprived of adequate funding.
- The Government has introduced initiatives like **Startup Innovation Challenges, National Startup Awards, Ranking of States, SCO Startup Forum, Prarambh etc.**
- **Note:** Recently, the government has constituted an experts advisory committee for **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme**, chaired by **H K Mittal** from the Department of Science and Technology.
- The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme was announced **by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 16th January 2021 in his address of 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit'**, marking the five-year anniversary of the Startup India initiative.

### 2. Italy launches first ever mega food park & food processing unit in India



- The pilot project “The Mega Food Park” was launched with the signing of a Letter of Intent between the ICE Office in Mumbai and Fanidhar Mega Food Park, in Gujarat.
- Ambassador of Italy to India, Vincenzo de Luca, and the Ambassador of India to Italy, Neena Malothra were part of the launch.
- **The project aims** to create synergy between agriculture and industry of the two countries and focuses on the research and development of new and more efficient technologies in the sector.
- **Note: Mega Food Park** is a scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing, Government of India with the aim of establishing a "direct linkage from farm to processing and then to consumer markets" through a network of collection centres and primary processing centres. A sanction of 42 food parks has been planned.

### 3. New Regulatory Regime for 8 Medical Items under Drugs and Cosmetics Act



- The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had earlier notified the following medical items to be regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act which was to come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 (under Medical Devices Rules 2017): **All Implantable Medical Devices; CT scan equipment; MRI equipment; Defibrillators; PET Equipment; Dialysis Machine; X-Ray Machine; and Bone marrow cell separator.**
- Accordingly, as per order the importers/manufacturers are required to take import/manufacturing licence from Central Licencing Authority or State Licencing Authority, as the case may be, for import/manufacture of above devices, w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021.
- Transition time of 6 months allowed for ensuring supply chain continuity and access while implementing their regulatory order under Medical Devices Rules (2017).

### 4. India ranks 84<sup>th</sup> in ‘Henley Passport Index: Q2 2021 Global Ranking’



- **Henley Passport Index 2021** has revealed the list of the world's most powerful passports and India has been ranked 84th on it.
- **India's passport got a visa-free score of 58**, which means Indian passport holders can visit 58 countries without prior visa.  
**1st rank-** Japan (visa-free score 193)  
**2nd rank-** Singapore (192)  
**3rd rank-** Germany & South Korea (191)
- **Iraq and Afghanistan** are the countries with the worst passport with visa-free score 28 and 26 respectively.

## 5. 8<sup>th</sup> India- Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise `Khanjar`



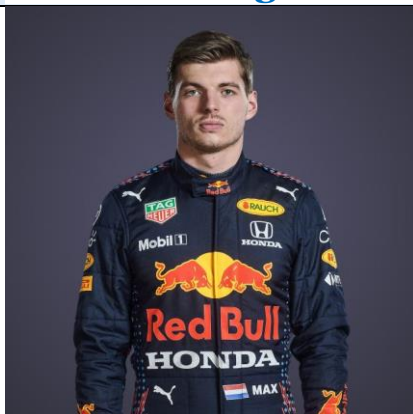
- The special forces of India and Kyrgyzstan have started a two-week military exercise in **Bishkek** with a focus on counter-terror drills.
- The exercise named, `Khanjar`, was inaugurated 16 April, 2021 at the Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek.
- It is the eighth edition of the India-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise.
- The two-week long exercise focuses on high-altitude, mountains and counter-extremism.
- **Note:** The exercise `Khanjar` has been held annually between India and Kyrgyzstan since 2011.
- **Facts about Kyrgyzstan:**  
**Capital:** Bishkek  
**President:** Sadyr Japarov  
**Currency:** Kyrgyzstani som

## 6. India and Germany sign agreement on `Cities combating plastic entering the marine environment`



- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety signed an agreement on Technical Cooperation titled 'Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment'.
- This project is envisaged under the contours of the Joint Declaration of Intent regarding cooperation in the field of '**Prevention of Marine Litter**' signed between Republic of India and Federal Republic of Germany in 2019.
- The project, aimed at enhancing practices to prevent plastic entering the marine environment, will be undertaken at the national level, select states (**Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands**) and in the cities of **Kanpur, Kochi and Port Blair** for a period of three and a half years.
- This project will support the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban's** implementation with special focus on preventing plastic litter entering the rivers and water bodies at source.
- **Note:** It is estimated that 15-20% of all plastics are entering oceans via rivers of which 90% are contributed by 10 of the world's most polluting rivers. Two of these river systems are located in India, namely Ganga and Brahmaputra.

## 7. Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021



- **Max Verstappen (Red Bull)** won the Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021 held at Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrai Circuit in Imola, Italy.
- **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** got second position and **Lando Norris (McLaren)** got third position.



## 8. Roberto Benigni to receive Venice Film Festival's Lifetime Achievement award



- Oscar-winning Italian director-actor Roberto Benigni will receive this year's **Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement** of the **78th Venice International Film Festival**, which runs September 1- 11, 2021.
- The director is best known for his Holocaust drama “Life is Beautiful”. The 1997 film fetched him the best actor and best international film Oscars.

## 9. April 21, National Civil Services Day



- The National civil services day is observed on April 21. It consists of (IAS) Indian Administrative services, (IPS) Indian Police services, (IFS) Indian Foreign services along with central Group A and group B services.
- On April 21, 1947, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the Home Member of Parliament inaugurated the All India Services.
- In his speech at the All India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House, Delhi, he referred to civil servants as the '**steel frame of India**'.
- To mark this occasion, **Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration** is presented to Districts/Implementing Units for implementation of Priority programme and innovation categories.