

Daily Current Affairs- 08/09/2021

At the Tokyo Paralympics, Indian athletes won 19 medals



- The Tokyo Paralympics came to an end. In the closing ceremony, shooter Avni Lekhra was honored as the flag bearer.
- At the Paralympics this year, about 4,500 athletes from 163 countries competed in 540 events in 22 sports.
- The next competition will be held in Paris.
- India has won a total of 19 medals, including five gold, eight silver and six bronze.

Source: AIR

The caretaker government of the Taliban in Afghanistan



- The Taliban have announced a caretaker government after taking control of Afghanistan.
- Mulla Hassan Akhund will be the caretaker Prime Minister.
- Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzadeh will hold the top post in the government.
- A Taliban spokesman in Kabul said all government appointments had been made to caretaker positions and that the heads of various other departments would be announced soon.
- Taliban leader Abdul Ghani Baradar will be the Deputy Prime Minister in this government.

Source: AIR

Representation of India in WHO SEARO



- Dr. Bharti Praveen Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, represented India at the World Health Organization's Southeast Asia Regional Office.
- He represented India at the Ministerial Roundtable Conference of the 74th Session of the World Health Organization's Southeast Asia Regional Committee.

Source: PIB

India Post Payments Bank, LIC Housing Finance Announces Strategic Partnership to Provide Home Loans



- The Ministry of Communications, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) under the Postal Department, and the country's leading housing finance company LIC Housing Finance Limited (LICHFL) have announced a strategic partnership to provide home loan products to 4.5 crore customers of India Post Payments Bank.
- Through India Post Payments Bank's strong and extensive network of 650 branches and more than 136,000 banking access points, LIC Housing Finance's home loan products will be available to customers across India.

THE World University Rankings 2022

Rank 2022	Rank 2021	Institute	Country/Region
1	1	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
2	4	California Institute of Technology	United States
3	3	Harvard University	United States
4	2	Stanford University	United States
5	6	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
6	5	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States
7	9	Purdue University	United States
8	7	University of California, Berkeley	United States
9	8	Yale University	United States
10	10	The University of Chicago	United States

The Times Higher Education (THE) released World University Rankings 2022.

Global Ranking:

- The **University of Oxford, UK** tops the ranking for the sixth consecutive year.
- Colleges from the United States continue to dominate the top 20 ranks, with **California Institute of Technology, Harvard University and Stanford University** taking the second, third and the fourth spot respectively.

India's Ranking:

- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** is the country's top performing institute, but is ranked in the 301-350 bracket.
- It is followed by IIT Ropar and JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research. Both are in the 351-400 bracket.
- Overall, India is home to 35 of the world's top 1,000 universities.

Source: Indian Express

Karbi Anglong Agreement



- A tripartite agreement '**Karbi Anglong Agreement**' among **five insurgent groups of Assam**, the **Centre** and the **State government** was signed to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong region.
- It was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister, Amit Shah.
- The Karbi Agreement is another milestone in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Insurgency free prosperous North East".

Highlights of the Karbi-Anglong Agreement:

- With this historic agreement, over 1000 armed cadres have abjured violence and joined the mainstream of society.
- A Special Development Package of Rs. 1000 crores over five years will be given by the Union Government and Assam Government to undertake specific projects for the development of Karbi areas.

Other Recent Peace Agreements of the Northeast:

- NLFT Tripura Agreement, 2019
- Bodo Peace Accord

Source: PIB

INSPIRE Awards - MANAK



inspire awards - manak

- The **8th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC)** for the **INSPIRE Awards – MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge)**, has commenced.
- It is showcasing the innovative ideas from 581 students representing various States and UTs of the country.

About The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK scheme:

- The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK scheme is aligned with the ‘Start-up India’.
- It aims to motivate students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10 to become future innovators and critical thinkers.

About INSPIRE scheme:

- **Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)** was approved by the **Government of India** for implementation through the **Department of Science & Technology** to promote science and attract talents for pursuing career in research.
- It was launched by the Prime Minister on 31st December, 2008.

Source: PIB

Sri Lanka declares Economic Emergency to contain Inflation



- The **President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa** had declared an economic emergency due to rapidly **depleting forex reserves, depreciating currency, and rising food prices** in the country.
- The emergency was declared under the **Public Security Ordinance** to prevent the hoarding of essential items, including sugar and rice.

Reasons for Sri Lankan Economic Crisis:

- Sri Lanka during the COVID-19 pandemic suffered a severe setback in its tourism industry which contributes to over 10 percent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and brings in foreign exchange.
- Due to the depletion in the forex reserves, the country had to increase the amount of money to purchase the foreign exchange to import goods. This increase has led to the depreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee by approximately 8 percent so far in 2021.

Measures Taken Under Economic Emergency Crisis:

- The government has appointed a **former Army General as Commissioner of essential services** who is authorized to seize food stocks held by traders and retailers and regulate their prices.

Source: The Hindu