

## Daily Current Affairs 21.09.2021

### Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY)



- The Ministry of Railways launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

#### About Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY):

- The aim is to impart training skills to the youth in various trades to bring qualitative improvement.
- The training will be provided to 50000 candidates over a period of three years.
- The training will be provided in 4 trades viz. Electrician, Machinist, Welder and Fitter.
- The scheme is being launched for 1000 participants initially and will be over and above the training provided to apprentices under the Apprentice Act 1961.

#### About Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):

- It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
- The 1st version of PMKVY was launched in 2015.
- PMKVY 2.0 was launched for 2016-20.
- PMKVY 3.0 was launched in 2021.

Source: PIB

### Reforms in Telecom Sector



- The Union Cabinet approved a number of structural and process reforms in the Telecom sector.
- These are expected to protect and generate employment opportunities, promote healthy competition, protect interests of consumers, infuse liquidity, encourage investment and reduce regulatory burden on **Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)**.

#### **About the Main Reforms:**

- Rationalization of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR): Non-telecom revenue will be excluded on prospective basis from the definition of AGR.
- **Spectrum Tenure:** In future Auctions, tenure of spectrum increased from 20 to 30 years. Surrender of spectrum will be permitted after 10 years for spectrum acquired in the future auctions.
- **FDI:** To encourage investment, **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route** permitted in Telecom Sector.
- Auction calendar fixed - Spectrum auctions to be normally held in the last quarter of every financial year.
- Moratorium/Deferment of upto four years in annual payments of dues arising out of the AGR judgement, with however, by protecting the Net Present Value (NPV) of the due amounts being protected.

Source: PIB

## **AUKUS Group**



- The **US, UK and Australia** have announced the formation of AUKUS – a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region.
- It was announced in a joint address by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison and US President Joe Biden with a vision for a safer and more secure Indo-Pacific.
- Under the **AUKUS** alliance, the 3 nations have agreed to enhance the development of joint capabilities and technology sharing, foster deeper integration of security and defence-related science, technology, industrial bases and supply chains.
- Under the first major initiative of AUKUS, Australia would build a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines with the help of the US and the UK, a capability aimed at promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: TOI

## 'Ease of Doing Business' report

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### WORLD BANK GROUP

- The World Bank Group has decided to discontinue the 'Ease of Doing Business' report.
- The World Bank has now said that a new approach will be worked out to assess countries' business and investment climates.
- In August 2020, World Bank paused the publication of the Doing Business report following a number of irregularities were reported regarding changes to the data.
- The international financial institution later confirmed that the changes were inconsistent with the Doing Business methodology.

#### **About Ease of Doing Business Report:**

- The Ease of Doing Business Report was introduced in 2003 to provide an assessment of objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 190 economies.

#### **India's Performance:**

- In 2014, India was at 142nd position on the Ease of Doing Business Index and made significant improvements after the government launched an ambitious program of regulatory reforms.
- India moved to 63rd position on World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Ranking 2020.

Source: The Hindu

## Biosphere Reserve

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- UNESCO designated **Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD)** as the world's first '**5-country biosphere reserve**'.

#### **About Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD):**

- The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers and stretches across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.
- The total area of the reserve — a million hectares — in the so-called 'Amazon of Europe', makes it the largest riverine protected area on the continent.

- The new reserve “represents an important contribution to the European Green Deal and contributes to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in the Mura-Drava-Danube region.”

### **Biosphere Reserve:**

- Biosphere reserves are sites established by countries and recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program to promote sustainable development.
- There are 727 biosphere reserves in 131 countries, including 22 transboundary sites.

### **Biosphere Reserves in India:**

- Presently, there are 18 Biosphere Reserves in India.
- Twelve of the eighteen biosphere reserves are a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, based on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme list.

Source: DTE

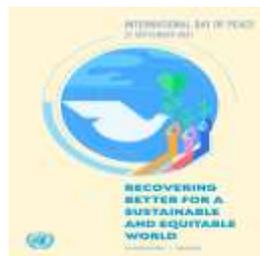
## **Exercise ‘Surya Kiran’**



- **15th Edition of Indo - Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise ‘Surya Kiran’** between Indian Army and Nepali Army commenced from 20 September 2021 at **Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand**.
- It will continue till 03 October 2021.
- During this exercise, an Infantry Battalion from Indian Army and an equivalent strength from Nepali Army would be sharing their experiences gained during the conduct of various counter-insurgency operations over a prolonged period in their respective countries.
- Also, there would be a series of Expert Academic Discussions on various subjects such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, High Altitude Warfare, Jungle Warfare etc.
- The exercise is part of an initiative to develop inter-operability and sharing expertise between the two nations.
- **Note:** Last edition of Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Nepal in 2019.

Source: PIB

## **International Day of Peace**



- Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September.
- The 2021 **theme** for the International Day of Peace is “**Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world**”.

**Background:**

- The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

Source: un.org

**Paithani saree**



- Yeola in Nashik district has got the geographical exhibition status of Paithani here.
- Therefore, this paithani saree has got a place on the postage stamp.
- The envelope was recently unveiled by Postal Superintendent.
- Recently, grapes and onions have also been given a place on postage stamps.

Source: AIR News