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India becomes first Asian nation to launch 'Plastics Pact'



- **India** has become the **first country in Asia** to launch a **Plastics Pact**, a new platform to promote a circular system for plastics.
- The India Plastic Pact platform was launched on September 03, 2021, by the British High Commissioner to India, **Alexander Ellis**, at the **16th Sustainability Summit** hosted by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- The new platform 'India Plastic Pact' is a joint effort of the **World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India)** and the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, and envisions to create a world where plastic is valued and does not pollute 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.

GoI launches AYUSH AAPKE DWAR campaign to distribute medicinal saplings



- As a part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** celebration, the Ministry of AYUSH has launched a campaign titled '**AYUSH AAPKE DWAR**', which aims to distribute medicinal plant saplings to **75 lakh** households in one year.
- The campaign was inaugurated by the Union Minister of AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** from Mumbai, during which he distributed medicinal plant saplings to citizens. Subsequently, the campaign was launched from more than 45 locations across 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.

India and US inks Project Agreement for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle



- The **Ministry of Defence, the Government of India** and **US Department of Defence** have signed a Project Agreement (PA) for **Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV)**. This agreement is signed under the Joint Working Group Air Systems in the **Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)**.
- Under the collaboration, the two countries will work towards the design, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation of systems to co-develop an ALUAV Prototype.
- The DTTI aims to bring sustained leadership focus to promote collaborative technology exchange and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of future technologies for Indian and US military forces.

28th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise ‘SIMBEX-2021’



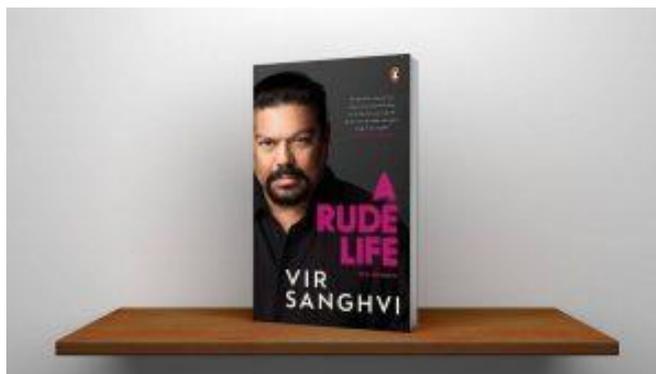
- The 28th edition of the **Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** took place from September 02 to 04, 2021. The SIMBEX-2021 annual bilateral maritime exercise was hosted by the **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)** in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.
- The Indian Navy was 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.

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.

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.

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.

Karnataka government to ban online gambling



- Karnataka government on September 4, 2021, decided to impose a ban on online games or betting by amending the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, excluding lottery. The ban includes online games that include transactions from electronic devices like computers or mobile phones.
- The amended bill will be tabled in the upcoming session of the legislature, which is scheduled to begin on September 13, 2021, and last till September 24, 2021.
- The decision to ban online gambling in Karnataka came in after the state government received several complaints regarding cyber fraud.