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INTERNATIONAL

1) 11th Meeting of BRICS

Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, chaired the 11th Meeting of BRICS. Ministers of Agriculture from Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa held meeting virtually under the theme- "BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agrobiodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security".

NATIONAL

1) Navies of India and Germany conducted a joint exercise in Gulf of Aden

The joint exercise included helicopter landings as well as search & seizure operations. Frigate 'Trikanth' from Indian Navy exercised with German frigate called 'Bayern'. INS Trikanth is deployed for anti-piracy patrol in Gulf of Aden region.

2) Bharat Series

Government of India has introduced a new registration mark under the Bharat Series (BH-Series) for new vehicles. New registration mark was launched in order to facilitate seamless transfer of vehicles. Vehicle with this registration mark will not require assignment of any new registration mark when owner of the vehicle shifts from one state to other.

3) Delhi has world's most CCTV Cameras in Public Places

According to Forbes India Report, Delhi has surpassed the megacities like Shanghai, New York and London in having the greatest number of CCTV cameras installed per square mile. As per the report, Delhi on the top with 1,826.6 CCTV cameras per square mile. Delhi is followed by London.

4) 'Gandiv'

The third edition of the week-long annual exercise called 'Gandiv' was launched by the NSG. Multiple cities are hosting synchronised commando drills as part of a national mock exercise being carried out by the counter-terrorism force NSG to check its response time and reaction to hostage and hijack-like situations. Gandiv was the name of Arjuna's bow in Mahabharata.

5) e-Shram Portal

Ministry of Labour & Employment, Bhupender Yadav has launched e-Shram Portal to link Unorganised Workers with social security schemes being implemented by the Government. In this portal, Unorganised Workers can register themselves and in turn benefit from various social security schemes.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) RBI is set to launch the trial program of its digital currency

According to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, RBI is set to launch the trial program of its digital

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currency by December 2021. Currently, RBI is working on bringing its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in a phased manner. RBI is also studying different aspects of digital currency and investigating its security as well as its impact on the financial sector of the country.

2) Neobank

FREO, India's 1st credit-led Neobank, made a partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank and launched a zero-balance savings account named 'Freo Save' for its customers. The account will offer a 7 percent interest rate on a minimum balance of Rs 1 lakh. Neobank is a kind of digital bank without any branches. It works entirely online instead of being present physically at a specific location.

3) RBI Empaneled South Indian Bank as Agency Bank

The RBI has empaneled South Indian Bank, the Kerala based private sector lender, as an 'Agency Bank' to facilitate transactions related to Central and State government on behalf of the RBI.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1) AY.12

Indian states have reported new cases of sub-lineage AY.12 of SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant, in recent months. According to experts, this new sub-lineage could be a reason behind the recent surge in COVID cases in Israel. The number of Delta Family have expanded from four to 13 variants.

2) 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit'

Ministry of Electronics and IT has launched the India's first 'Quantum Computer Simulator Toolkit'. It was launched to enable researchers and students to do research in Quantum Computing in a cost-effective manner. This toolkit has been developed jointly by scientists of IIT Roorkee, C-DAC and IISc Bangalore.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Sonu Sood

Arvind Kejriwal has announced that Bollywood actor Sonu Sood will be the brand ambassador of the Delhi government's 'Desh Ke Mentors' programme. The programme will be soon launched by Delhi Government. The programme entails "adopting" one to ten government school students who can be mentored by citizens who are successful in their respective fields.

2) Alia Bhatt

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Samsung India to endorse Galaxy Z, a series of foldable smartphones, in India. Samsung India is set to launch its Galaxy Z Fold3 5G and Galaxy Z Flip3 5G smartphones in India from 10th September 2021.