EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS- September

STATES

➤ **Union home minister Amit Shah – announced that the Centre will celebrate September 17 as "Hyderabad Liberation Day"**

✓ The Union Minister unfurled the national flag and kicked off Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations from the Parade ground in Telangana's Secunderabad

✓ The Centre was holding the event to commemorate 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' with the home minister as the chief guest.

✓ The event was held to commemorate 75 years of liberation of Hyderabad state from the rule of Nizam Osman Ali Khan in 1948

✓ The year-long celebrations of Hyderabad Liberation Day will take place from September 17, 2022, to September 17, 2023, as part of Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

✓ Meanwhile, Telangana CM KChandrashekar Rao and his TRS government announced to celebrate the same occasion but with a different name -- "Telangana National Integration Day"

- ✓ According to the CM, Hyderabad had "integrated" into the Indian Union and was not "liberated" by Operation Polo
  - ✓ Operation Polo was the codename given for the military action to annex Hyderabad, which was decided by the then home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
  - ✓ As part of the five-day operation', Indian forces marched into Hyderabad, on September 13, 1948.
  - ✓ Indian Army with 35,000 soldiers suffered only 35 casualties whereas the Hyderabad State suffered 5,738 casualties despite having an army of 2,20,000 soldiers.

- ➢ **Nagaland - celebrated the first-ever "Naga Mircha" (King Chilli) Festival at Seiyhama village in the Kohima District**
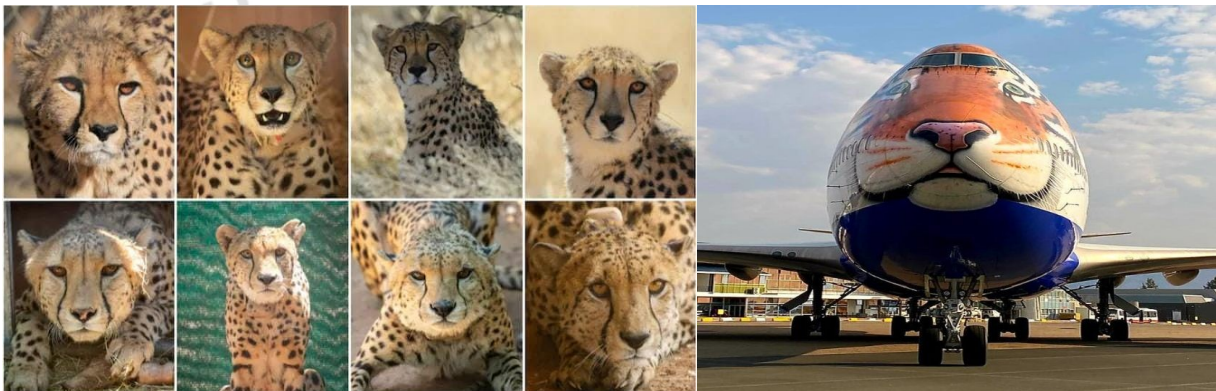

- ✓ The festival held recently on September 10 was sponsored by the Nagaland Horticulture Department
- ✓ Naga Mircha was the first product to receive a GI tag from Nagaland in the year 2008
- ✓ Naga Mircha produced by the Seiyhama is of good quality and the state plans to produce the chilli on a large scale, so that it will be available in the market throughout the year at a cheaper rate
- ✓ Last year, the Seiyhama village reported a total income of Rs.27 lakh through the cultivation of Naga Mircha and this year's estimation of income from the cultivation is estimated at Rs.1 crore.
- ✓ Of the 361 households in the Seiyhama village, 200 households cultivate Naga Mircha, thereby providing them with a sustainable income source.
- ✓ During the inaugural Naga Mircha Festival, Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative was promoted.
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide credit access required for undertaking economic activities in the agriculture and allied sectors, including MSMEs.

NATIONAL

➢ **PM Narendra Modi - released eight African cheetahs into a special enclosure at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh on September 17**

✓ The arrival of the big cats in India coincides with PM Modi's 72nd birthday celebrations countrywide
✓ This is the first time that wild southern African cheetahs will be introduced to India, or in Asia, or on any other continent.
✓ The cheetahs have been brought from Africa's Namibia as part of 'Project Cheetah' and the government's efforts to revitalise and diversify the country's wildlife and habitat.
✓ Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and several Union ministers were present at the event
✓ Five of the eight cheetahs are female, between 2 and 5 years of age, and three are males between 4.5 and 5.5 years of age

✓ The eight cheetahs were brought from Windhoek, Namibia's capital in a specially modified Boeing 747 jumbo cargo aircraft to Gwalior as part of the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.
✓ Later, the Indian Air Force's Chinook heavy-lift helicopters carried the cheetahs to Kuno National Park from Gwalior Air Force Station.

- The translocation of the cheetahs cost the exchequer an estimated Rs 70 crore, of which Rs 50 crore was borne by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
- These cheetahs were selected based on an assessment of health, wild disposition, hunting skills and ability to contribute genetics that will result in a strong founder population.
- Radio collar has been installed in all the cheetahs and they will be monitored through satellite
- The Asiatic cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952 after Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of the princely state of Koriya hunted down the last three recorded Asiatic cheetahs in 1947
- Under the Species Recovery Program of the Government of India, species that become extinct are restored in their historic natural habitat.

AFRICA TO INDIA: A GLOBAL 1ST ON PM'S B'DAY

HOW THEY CAME
- Flown in a tiger-faced chartered cargo plane, a modified Boeing 747, with a team of 24 experts, led by Cheetah Conservation Fund founder-director, Dr Laurie Marker
- Sedated cheetahs were in padded crates that had air vents and were locked into rails
- Plane took off from Windhoek, Namibia, & landed at Gwalior at 7.51am Saturday. Original plan to land at Jaipur changed. Brought to Kuno in 2 IAF choppers

MEET THE CATS
- 7 of the 8 cheetahs are called Asha, Obaan, Cibili, Siasa, Savannah, Sasha, Freddy

Age: 2 to 5.5 yrs
Gender: 5 female, 3 male

LONG ROAD TO WILD
- Cheetahs will be initially kept in small enclosure (1.5 sq km), fed buffalo meat
- After about 1 mth, cats to be moved to larger enclosure (12sq km)
- The plan is to release them in wild after about 4 months, if all goes well

> When cheetahs sprint in Kuno, the grassland ecosystem will be restored and it will lead to an increase in biodiversity. Employment opportunities will increase through eco-tourism...
> — PM Narendra Modi

A cheetah being released into an enclosure in Kuno as the PM watches

- Cheetahs will help in the restoration of open forest and grassland ecosystems in India
- They will also help conserve biodiversity and enhance the ecosystem services like water security, carbon sequestration and soil moisture conservation
- Under the ambitious Project Cheetah of the Indian government, the reintroduction of wild species particularly cheetah is being undertaken as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines.
- The 'African Cheetah Introduction Project' in India was conceived in 2009, with a plan to introduce Cheetahs by November last year in Kuno National Park, but it suffered a setback due to the pandemic

- ✓ The Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh was chosen as the optimum location to introduce the extinct animal for its good prey base for Cheetahs.
  - ✓ The park has a good population of Chinkara, Spotted Deer, and Blackbuck, on which the Cheetahs can prey and grow in the wild

SPRINTING BACK TO INDIA

Know Your Cheetahs
1. Asha 2. Obaan
3. Cibili 4. Siasa
5. Savannah
6. Sasha 7. Freddy
8. Eighth name not known yet

Age group: 2 to 5.5 yrs
Gender:
Female ●●●●●
Males ●●●

THE LAST MILE
Mar 2021 | Detailed survey begins in Kuno
Aug 2021 | over 1,000 dogs around Kuno vaccinated. Work on cheetah enclosure starts
Jan 2022 | Cheetah enclosure completed
May 5, 2022 | Final inspection of Kuno
June 2022 | Namibia starts training Indian foresters to manage cheetahs
July 2022 | Namibia govt signs MoU. Cheetahs selected, put in quarantine. Hundreds of cheetals released in Kuno to increase prey base
Sep 17, 2022 | Eight cheetahs arrive at Kuno

WHAT'S NEXT
- Will be monitored for acclimatisation and regular check-ups are planned
- Their **hunting pattern** will be studied
- Visitors may be allowed after 4 months

CHASING A 50-YEAR-LONG DREAM

1970s First bid to get cheetahs from Iran to India in exchange of Asiatic lions. PM Indira Gandhi initiated discussions with Shah of Iran but the plan never took off as the Shah was deposed in 1979. It wasn't revived as Iran too lost its cheetahs owing to lack of conservation

2009-12 Project Cheetah was frozen until 2009 when a seminar in Rajasthan rekindled the dream. Environment minister Jairam Ramesh asked M K Ranjitsinh of Wildlife Trust of India & Y V Jhala of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to prepare a cheetah road map. Ten sites in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh were surveyed between 2010 and 2012

2012-20 In May 2012, the Supreme Court stayed Cheetah project in wake of questions that a 'completely misconceived' venture was being pushed without consulting the National Board for Wildlife (NBW). This cropped up during the hearing of a petition on shifting Asiatic lions from Gujarat's Gir to Kuno. In Jan 2020, SC lifted its stay and set up a committee to guide NTCA on Project Cheetah

2020-21 WII-Dehradun experts surveyed multiple sites in MP and Rajasthan before settling on Kuno

- ✓ Project Cheetah was approved by the Supreme Court of India in January 2020 as a pilot programme to reintroduce the species to India
- ✓ In July 2020, India and the Republic of Namibia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) around the conservation of cheetahs.
  - ✓ The MoU includes Namibia's participation in Project Cheetah, with the government agreeing to donate the first eight cheetahs to launch the programme.
- ✓ Cheetah is said to be the fastest animal that runs at a speed of 100-120 km per hour
- ✓ Currently, only Iran has Asiatic cheetahs in the wild, numbering around 12, and the majority of the remaining 7,000-strong population of the big cats around the world is of African cheetahs

- ✓ The cheetahs have lost 90% of its global habitat in the last 100 years and only around 100-200 are left with their habitat consistently deteriorating
- ✓ India has a long history of wildlife conservation.
- ✓ One of the most successful wildlife conservation venture 'Project Tiger', which was initiated way back in 1972, has not only contributed to the conservation of tigers but also of the entire ecosystem.

- ➢ **On September 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - unveiled India's National Logistics Policy to bring down the high logistics costs in the country**

- ✓ This new policy aims to expedite last-mile delivery while saving time and money for businesses and address challenges facing the transport sector.
- ✓ The new logistics policy has four critical features - Integration of Digital System (IDS); Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP); Ease of Logistics (ELOG); and System Improvement Group (SIG).
- ✓ During the event, the PM set the goal to bring down cost of logistics to single digit "as soon as possible" from the current 13%-14% of GDP.
- ✓ To achieve this, the policy aims to encourage multimodal transport including roads, railways and water routes.
- ✓ It envisages greater efficiency by ensuring 25-30% freight movement by roads, 50-55% by railways and 20-25% via water routes
- ✓ High logistics cost has been identified as one of the biggest challenges for Indian products to be globally competitive
- ✓ An empowered group of secretaries (EGoS), constituted under the PM Gati Shakti, would monitor and review the implementation of the policy
- ✓ Along with PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, the policy is expected to encourage greater collaboration among ministries and departments across states and the Centre
- ✓ Gati Shakti is essentially a GIS-based multi-department platform with close to 1,500 layers, capturing all utilities and network linkages in various economic clusters.

- ✓ The policy unveils Unified Logistics Interface Platform, which will be a single-window platform for all transportation services, which aims to monitor smooth cargo movement.
- ✓ Similarly, under the policy, a new digital platform - Ease of Logistics Services - has also been started.
- ✓ During his speech, the PM mentioned that ports' capacity has increased and container vessel turnaround time has been cut to 26 hours from 44 hours previously.
- ✓ Schemes like Sagarmala and Bharatmala project that connect ports and dedicated freight corridors expedited the work of Dedicated Freight Corridors to improve logistics connectivity for systematic infrastructure development, said the PM
- ✓ According to the PM, the government has created 40 air cargo terminals to improve the speed of exports and 35 multi-modal logistics hubs are being established in India.
- ✓ The Union government has been working on the National Logistics Policy for three years.
- ✓ The commerce ministry released a draft logistics policy for consultation in 2019, but it was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The National Logistics Policy was once again announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget for 2022-23.
- ✓ Currently, India's logistic sector has over 20 government agencies, 40 Partner Government Agencies, 37 export promotion councils, 500 certifications, more than 10,000 commodities and a $160-billion market.
- ✓ The logistics sector is estimated at 13-14% of GDP.

- ➢ **On September 17, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi - addressed the students of the Industrial Training Institutes at the first ever convocation of ITIs, 'Kaushal Dikshant Samaroh'**

- ✓ During his virtual address, the PM stressed on the significance of "skilling, reskilling and upskilling" and urged the students to constantly innovate to make a smooth transition
- ✓ The prime minister also said the first ITI in the country was established in 1950 and the country has around 10,000 ITIs at present

- ✓ The PM also the Centre is going to open more than 5,000 new 'Skill Hubs' to promote skill development in India
- ✓ Around 40 lakh students had participated in this virtual program.

- ➢ **On September 17, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya - launched a 15-day voluntary blood donation drive on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday.**

- ✓ The countrywide mega blood donation drive is known as 'Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav' which will continue till 1st October 2022 which is National Voluntary Blood Donation Day
- ✓ Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the drive by donating blood at a camp set up at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi
- ✓ According to the Minister, a total of 87,137 people voluntarily donated blood creating a world record on September 17
- ✓ The previous record -- largest blood donation (multiple venues) involved 87,059 participants and was achieved by Akhil Bhartiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad (india) in 556 blood donation camps across 300 cities in India, on September 6 in 2014.
- ✓ To facilitate the drive, the government has launched a digital platform – E-Rakt Kosh portal – where people can register themselves to become a part of the donation drive.
- ✓ The nationwide drive is supported by the centralised blood bank management information system 'e-RaktKosh portal', which will also act as a national repository of blood donors.
- ✓ People also have the option to register themselves on Covid-19 tracking – Arogya Setu app.
- ✓ So far, 6,136 camps have been approved across the country and around 1,95,925 donors have registered for the drive
- ✓ The drive aims to collect close to one lakh units (1 unit = 350 ml) of blood in a day, besides raising awareness about the need for regular non-remunerated voluntary blood donations.

- ✓ The main purpose of the drive is to create a repository of voluntary blood donors so that those in need can get help on time and minimise the need for replacement blood donation
- ✓ All ministries and departments of the Centre, states and Union territories, non-government and community-based organisations and other stakeholders will be involved in the event
- ✓ There are more than 3,900 blood banks in the country with adequate storage and processing capacity
- ✓ Every blood bank is being encouraged to organise at least one blood donation camp as part of the mega drive.
- ✓ According to the 2021 statistics, India's annual blood requirement is around 1.5 crore units

- ➢ **On September 16, the government – has notified the online delivery of 58 transport-related services without visiting regional transport offices (RTOs) by simply completing Aadhaar authentication, which is voluntary.**
- ✓ The services that can be availed digitally include issue of duplicate driving licence, vehicle registration, transfer and renewal of permits, duplicate fitness certificate, transfer of ownership and conductor licence.
- ✓ The road transport ministry had last year notified only 18 services that could be availed online.
- ✓ Last week, road transport minister Nitin Gadkari had urged state transport ministers to take steps so that people don't need to visit RTOs.
- ✓ The ministry said providing services in a contactless and faceless manner would go a long way in saving time while easing their compliance burden.

- ➢ **On September 18, foreign minister S Jaishankar - will begin his visit to the US and will be in the US from September 18 to 28**
- ✓ During his visit, the minister will lead the Indian delegation at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 24.
- ✓ He will later travel to Washington DC for a bilateral meeting with his counterpart Antony Blinken.
- ✓ During the visit, Jaishankar will participate in plurilateral meetings of the Quad, IBSA, BRICS and other trilateral groupings such as India-France-Australia, India-France-UAE and India-Indonesia-Australia.
- ✓ He will also have bilateral meetings with foreign ministers of the G20 and UNSC member states, among others.
- ✓ India will assume the G20 presidency later this year.
- ✓ Jaishankar will be hosting a ministerial meeting of the G4 (India, Brazil, Japan, Germany), as well as participating at the high level meeting of the L. 69 Group on 'Reinvigorating Multilateralism and Achieving Comprehensive Reform of the UN Security Council'.

✓ The L. 69 Group consists of developing countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and Small Island Developing States, focused on reforms of the UN Security Council.

➢ **On September 18, Defence minister Rajnath Singh - will head to Egypt on a three-day official visit**

✓ During the visit, the minister will explore new initiatives to intensify military-to-military engagements and focus on deepening cooperation between the defence industries of the two countries.

✓ India and Egypt, a country that links northeast Africa with the Middle East, will sign a MoU "to provide further impetus to enhanced defence cooperation" during the visit

✓ The Minister will hold discussions with President of Egypt Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and Egypt defence minister General Mohamed Ahmed Zaki

✓ Egypt is among the several countries that has shown interest in acquiring arms produced by India

✓ It has shown interest in procuring the Akash missile systems, which is capable of intercepting hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones and subsonic cruise missiles at a range of 25-km.

➢ **MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) and Meta – have announced the launch of 'XR Startup Program' to support and accelerate XR technology startups across India**

✓ MSH is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and Meta is the parent company of social media giant Facebook

✓ The MeitY Startup Hub is a national platform focused on promoting technology innovation, start-ups, and the creation of intellectual properties.

✓ This Program focuses on skilling and building technological capabilities for the metaverse and will help shape the ecosystem for the emerging technologies, including Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) in the country

- ✓ The joint initiative will be rolled out in four institutions - IIT Delhi, Gujarat University, International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad and Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, Rangpo
- ✓ XR Startup Program will have an Accelerator and a Grand Challenge
- ✓ The Accelerator Program will support 40 early-stage startups working in XR technologies with a grant of Rs 20 lakhs each
- ✓ Further, the Grand Challenge will encourage early-stage innovators in sectors like Education, Learning & Skills, Healthcare, Gaming & Entertainment, Agritech & Climate Action and Tourism & Sustainability
- ✓ Initially, 80 startups will be selected to participate in a Bootcamp, of which 16 innovators will be chosen and presented with grants of Rs. 20 Lakhs each, along with other mentoring services to enable them to fructify Minimum Viable Products (MVP) or prototypes.

- ➢ **The Ministry of Environment of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFC) – has jointly launched the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme.**
- ✓ The programme has been launched recently in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY'S SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

- ✓ It seeks to provide financial and technical assistance to projects focusing on conserving and restoring environment
- ✓ The non-governmental organizations and other institutions working in specific landscapes are eligible to get grants under the programme
- ✓ The programme seeks to build local communities' capacity towards conserving the environment and achieve sustainable development.
- ✓ It focuses on three regions in India – highlands of the North East, Central semi-arid region and Indian coastal region.
- ✓ The GEF Small Grants Programme was launched for the first time in 1992 at the Rio Summit.

- ➢ **Hughes Communications India (HCI) - has recently announced the launch of India's first commercial high-throughput satellite (HTS) broadband service.**

✓ Hughes will provide the HTS broadband using the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) GSAT-11 and GSAT-29 satellites.

✓ The new service would provide high-speed internet to remote locations, enable solutions like Wi-Fi hotspots for community internet access, to extend mobile network reach and satellite internet for small businesses.

✓ The Hughes HTS service is using Ku-band transponders on GSAT-11 and GSAT-19 for the high bandwidth data transfers.

✓ The initial HTS broadband service will begin with internet speeds between 2-10 Mbps (Megabits per second).

✓ The HTS service was pilot launched a year ago in northern parts of the country, including in the frontier areas of Galwan valley in Ladakh.

✓ Elon Musk's SpaceX offers a similar service with Starlink, which uses a constellation of low-Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites to provide high-speed satellite internet connectivity.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

➢ **India - voted in favour of allowing Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to address the United Nations virtually**

✓ More than 100 countries voted in favour of allowing the Ukraine President to address the high-level UN General Assembly session next week through a pre-recorded video statement

✓ This is the second time in two months that India voted in favour of Ukraine

- ✓ Earlier, in August, India backed Zelensky's right to address the UN Security Council virtually
- ✓ On September 16, the 193-member General Assembly voted on the decision to allow Zelenskyy, due to the ongoing war following Russia's invasion.
- ✓ The decision was adopted with 101 votes in favour, seven against, including Belarus, Cuba, Eritrea, Russia and Syria and 19 abstentions.
- ✓ As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual meeting of world leaders at the General Assembly was all virtual in 2020 and hybrid in 2021

COMMITTES

- ➢ **The government - has constituted an expert committee to suggest ways for boosting venture capital and private equity (VC/PE) investments in Indian startups**
- ✓ The six-member panel will be headed by M Damodaran, the former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

- ✓ The expert committee includes Meleveetil Damodaran, former Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); G Mahalingam, former whole-time member of SEBI; DP Nagendra Kumar, former member (GST), CBDT; Ashish Verma, former Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax; Poonam Gupta, Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research; Prabhat Ranjan Acharya, Director at Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management.
- ✓ The workings of this "expert committee" will be coordinated by Syed Zubair Naqvi, Joint Director (DI), DEA.
- ✓ The committee will suggest measures to further accelerate investment into start-ups and sunrise sectors.
- ✓ It will also suggest forward looking measures and future ready regulatory practices, in addition to studying and emulating global best practices
- ✓ In her Budget speech 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to set up an expert committee to examine and suggest appropriate measures to scale venture capital and private equity investments in India.

- According to an Ernst & Young report, PE/VC investments in the country in July this year were the lowest in over a year, both in terms of value and volume, standing at $3 billion
- In 2021, companies had cumulatively raised $77 billion of venture capital and private equity, more than 60% compared to 2020

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **NITI Aayog - has recently hosted the inaugural edition of Shoonya Forum on September 14 in New Delhi to commemorate the first anniversary of Shoonya Campaign.**

- Shoonya Campaign is India's zero pollution e-mobility campaign aimed at improving air quality through the promotion of electric vehicles
- The campaign has 130 industry partners, including ride-hailing, delivery and EV companies.
- G20 Sherpa and former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant delivered the keynote address in the forum
- At the forum, more than 25 Shoonya partners announced their commitment and pledged to accelerate India's clean mobility initiatives with Electric Vehicles
- The National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Energy Storage (Part III) report was released during the event

DEFENCE

- **INS Satpura and P8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft – are participating in a multinational naval exercise, Kakadu 2022, being hosted by the Royal Australian Navy in Darwin in Australia**
- The two-week-long exercise to be held both in harbour and sea from September 12 to 24 involves ships and maritime aircrafts from 14 navies
- This biennial maritime exercise brings together around 3,000 personnel, 15 warships and more than 30 aircraft from 22 countries.
- It is being conducted with the support from the Royal Australian Air Force under the theme 'partnership, leadership and friendship'.

- ✓ During the harbour phase of the exercise, the ship's crew will engage in operational planning interactions and sports activities with participating navies
- ✓ The inaugural edition of the Exercise Kakadu was held in 1993
- ✓ Meanwhile, the defence ministry has said the Indian Air Force contingent participating in Exercise Pitch Black 22 in Australia has returned after successful participation in the multinational exercise
- ✓ Exercise Pitch Black 22 was hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force at its Darwin Air Base.
- ✓ Spanning over a duration of three weeks, the exercise saw the participation of 17 Air Forces and over 2500 military personnel.
- ✓ The IAF contingent included four Su-30 MKI & two C-17 aircraft.

ECONOMY/BUSINESS

- ➢ **On September 17, the Central Board of Direct Taxes - unveiled revised guidelines for compounding of offences under the Income Tax Act**
- ✓ The new norms are aimed at facilitating ease of doing business and decriminalisation of violations.
- ✓ Some of the major changes made for the benefit of taxpayers include making offence punishable under Section 276 of the Act as compoundable.
- ✓ This would mean that the taxpayer will now have the option of avoiding prosecution or jail term by paying a fine subject to fulfilling certain conditions.
- ✓ The scope of eligibility for compounding of cases has also been relaxed in the revised guidelines
- ✓ Accordingly, the case of an applicant who has been convicted with imprisonment for less than two years, which was previously non-compoundable, has now been made compoundable.
- ✓ Under the I-T Act, there are provisions for initiating prosecution proceedings against taxpayers for various offences, apart from imposing penalty for defaults.
- ✓ The Centre has taken several steps to decriminalise minor offences under various Acts and has also removed or made redundant several provisions and laws to promote ease of doing business and reduce the compliance burden.

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- ✓ The reforms undertaken by the government to ease the compliance burden had helped India to improve its rank to 63 from 142 in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking.

RANKINGS

- ➢ **Uttar Pradesh - has topped in the country with the construction of 8,462 lakes, under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Mission Amrit Sarovar, which is aimed at conserving water for the future.**

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh is ranked second with 1,668 lakes, Jammu and Kashmir third with 1,458 lakes, Rajasthan fourth with 898 lakes and Tamil Nadu fifth with 818 lakes in the implementation of the mission
- ✓ Altogether 15,497 Amrit Sarovars in Uttar Pradesh, 5,994 in MP, 3,699 in Jammu and Kashmir, 5,097 in Rajasthan and 3,765 in Tamil Nadu have been identified for development under the mission.
- ✓ Within Uttar Pradesh, Lakhimpur Kheri has secured the first position by constructing 256 Amrit Sarovars (lakes), while Gorakhpur and Pratapgarh have got second and third positions, with 244 and 231 lakes, respectively.
- ✓ In all 1.20 lakh Amrit Sarovars will be developed in the U.P., which is the most in the country
- ✓ In the first phase of the mission, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, a target was set to develop 75 Amrit Sarovars in 75 districts of the state, which was completed ahead of schedule.
- ✓ The government has also developed 7,500 Amrit Sarovars under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- ➢ **International Coastal Cleanup day – September 17, 2022**

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✓ The International Coastal Cleanup day is an annual event during which citizens from all around the world come together to clean up the coastlines and waterways.

✓ The International Coastal Cleanup Day came into existence more than 30 years ago.

✓ It was founded by Linda Maraniss and Kathy O'Hara, both of whom worked at the Ocean Conservancy, a nonprofit environmental agency that specializes in formulating resolutions and policies at federal and governmental levels

✓ The third Saturday in September is designed as the International Coastal Cleanup day

✓ Globally, International Coastal Cleanup Day is coordinated by the International Coastal Cleanup Association (ICCA).

✓ The goal of the ICCA is to reduce the amount of plastic and other waste that ends up in our oceans, by collecting trash and debris from coastal and marine habitats

✓ In India, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is in charge of the programme since 2006

✓ This year, the ICG is integrated its efforts with the Ministry of Earth Sciences' flagship programme 'Swachh Sagar-Surakshit Sagar' ("Clean Coast, Safe Seas")

✓ This is the culmination of the 75-day long clean-up drive which was started on July 5 by the ministry of earth sciences and other central organizations

✓ The ICG has cleaned up 7500 kms stretch covering 75 beaches over 75 days under the programme

➤ **World Patient Safety Day - September 17**

- ✓ The day is observed every year to create awareness on safety measures needed to be taken to prevent and reduce risks, errors, and harm faced by the patients
- ✓ It was established in 2019 by the 72nd World Health Assembly through the adoption of resolution WHA 72.6 - 'Global Action on Patient Safety'
- ✓ World Patient Safety Day also focuses on scaling up the implementation of the WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm
- ✓ The theme for this year is 'Medication Safety', with the slogan being 'Medication Without Harm'.
- ✓ The theme focuses on raising awareness about the medication error and unsafe medication practices, which would cause adverse health consequences, disabilities and deaths.
- ✓ To address this issue, the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030 was adopted to promote policies, strategies and actions to remove avoidable risks and harm to patients and healthcare workers.