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1. RBI to launches pilot project to digitize Kisan Credit Card In MP and Tamilnadu (Sept. 3, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India has decided to launch pilot projects to digitize Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to transform rural credit delivery systems and to improve the quality of credit delivery in the rural areas.

The Digitisation Project

- RBI will launch a pilot project for end-to-end digitalisation of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) lending, developed by the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) Bengaluru**.
- The pilot project would entail automation of various processes within banks and integration of their systems with the service providers.
- The proposed digitalisation of the KCC lending process will make it more efficient, reduce costs for borrowers and reduce Turn Around Time (TAT) from loan application to disbursement significantly.

Where it will be launched

The pilot project will commence in September 2022 in select districts of **Madhya Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu** with **Union Bank of India** and **Federal Bank**, respectively, as partner banks and with active cooperation of the state governments.

Kisan Credit Cards (KCC)

- It was introduced in India by banks in **August 1998** to meet the agricultural credit needs of the farmers.
- The model of KCC scheme was prepared by NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) on the recommendations of **RV Gupta Committee**.
- RBI set up a High Level Committee on Agricultural Credit through Commercial Banks in 1997. The committee was headed by **RV Gupta**.

2. On the lines of Delhi NCR, 'State Capital Region' will be made in UP (Sept. 3, 2022)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** on 2 September proposed to create an **Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region (UPSCR)** on the lines of **Delhi National Capital Region(NCR)**.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- In the proposed SCR in the state, besides Lucknow, six other districts including **Unnao, Sitapur, Rae Bareli, Barabanki, Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat** have been asked to prepare the proposal soon.
- In this context, the Chief Minister has directed the officials of the Housing Department to provide an action plan for the formation of SCR at the earliest.

Instructions for the upgradation of various cities of the state :

- In view of the increasing trend of passengers in metro service in Lucknow, the Chief Minister has asked to prepare a proposal to start the second phase metro service in a week.
- Instructions have also been given to start the **Lucknow Green Corridor** soon and to expand the limits of the Municipal Corporation.
- At the same time, it has also been asked to expedite the process of revival of wetlands in Butler Lake and CG City.
- He has also directed to select 35 acres of land and decorate **Avadh Shilpgram and Kakori Shaheed Smriti Udyan** with dynamic lighting to build a modern convention centre in the capital.
- The Chief Minister has asked to prepare a city development plan for the planned development of big cities of the state.
- At present, the Chief Minister has given instructions to prepare city development plans for **Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Jhansi, Mathura, Bareilly, Meerut, Agra, Chitrakoot, Varanasi and Prayagraj.**
- Whereas under the 2021 policy, the urban logistics plan for **Ghaziabad, Prayagraj, Agra, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi and Meerut** has been asked to be prepared soon.
- The Chief Minister has asked the officials to prepare a master plan keeping in mind the needs of the next 50 years in view of the rapidly growing urban population.

3. Nuakhai Festival (Sept. 2, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 September greeted the nation on the occasion of **Nuakhai, a harvest festival.**

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- **Nuakhai Zuhar** is an agricultural festival, also known as **Nuakhai Parab or Nuakhai Bhetghat.**
- It is celebrated in parts of **Odisha and Chhattisgarh** on the next day of **Ganesh Chaturthi.**
- It is celebrated to welcome the **new crop** of the season.
- Nuakhai is a combination of two words which denote eating new rice as '**Nua**' means new and '**Khai**' means food.
- It is celebrated on the **Panchami Tithi (fifth day)** of the lunar fortnight of the month of **Bhadrapada (August-September),** the day after the **Ganesh Chaturthi festival.**

- On this occasion, farmers offer the first produce from their land to the famous '**Goddess Mata' Devi Samleswari** of Sambalpur district of Odisha.
- **Sambalpuri dances** like Rasarkeli and Dalkhai can be seen in this festival.

4. Bengaluru will soon have 'statue of prosperity' (Sept. 2, 2022)

India's Bangalore city is soon going to become a city with '**Statue of Prosperity**'.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- A ₹20 crore theme park is being built around a statue of **Nadaprabhu Kempegowda** at **Kempegowda International Airport** in **Bengaluru**.
- This idol has now come to be called the '**Statue of Prosperity**'.
- The construction project of the theme park has been entrusted to a firm named **KNK Construction Pvt Ltd**.
- Soil from **31 different districts** will be collected in Bengaluru for the construction of the theme park.
- Karnataka Government has launched a **45-day campaign** to collect the mud from various places across the state.
- 'Statue of Prosperity', which is 108 feet tall, is made of bronze and is accompanied by a 4000 kg heavy sword.

Who was Nadaprabhu Kempegowda?

- Nadaprabhu Kempegowda was the **founder of Bengaluru city**.
- He was a close associate of **King Krishnadevaraya** in the **Vijayanagara Empire**.
- He provided financial support for the construction of the city of Bangalore and forts around its perimeter in the late 1530s.

5. After 100 Years, Nagaland Gets Second Railway Station (Aug. 31, 2022)

The north-eastern state of **Nagaland** has got its second railway station after a gap of more than 119 years with the commissioning of a new branch at **Shokhuvi**.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The first railway station was opened here in the year 1903, which is famous as Dimapur Railway Station.
- State Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio flagged off the Donyi Polo Express from Shokhuvi Railway Station. Describing the day as historic, he called it "Red Letter Day" for the province.

- Earlier, the Donny Polo Express ran daily between Guwahati in Assam and Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh. Which has now been extended to Shokhuvi, a few kilometres away from Dimapur, by increasing the number of railway stations.
- Where this railway station is located is a small village called Shokhuvi, which is located 25 km away from the district headquarter Dimapur.

Nagaland State :

- Nagaland was formally recognized as a separate state on December 1, 1963, with Kohima declared as its capital.
- It is bounded by Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast, Manipur in the south and Assam in the west and northwest and Myanmar (Burma) in the east.
- Mithun (Gyal) is the state animal of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Blyth's Tragopan is the state bird of Nagaland.
- The Konyaks are the largest tribe, followed by the Aos, Tangkhul, Semas and Angami.
- Other tribes include the Lotha, Sangtam, Phom, Chang, Khim Hungama, Yimchungar, Zeliang, Chakhesang (chokri) and Rengma.

Protected Areas in Nagaland :

- Intanki National Park
- Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary
- Puliebadze Wildlife Sanctuary
- Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary

Major Festivals :

- The '**Hornbill Festival**' is a festival held in Nagaland every year from 1 to 10 December.

6. PM Modi Inaugurates 'Smriti Van' Earthquake Memorial in Kutch, Gujarat (Aug. 30, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated India's first earthquake memorial Smriti Van to the nation in **Bhuj, Gujarat** on 28 August 2022.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Smriti Van is a unique memorial in which the names of more than 12,000 people who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake in January 2001 have been inscribed.
- This monument is built on top of Bhujiyo hill which is spread over 470 acres of land.

- It is the first such memorial in the country.
- An earthquake simulator has been installed in the monument which will provide the real experience of the earthquake to the visitors.
- A state-of-the-art Smriti Van Earthquake Museum has also been built in this.

Features of the memorial :

- The museum displays Gujarat's topography, reconstruction initiatives and success stories after the 2001 earthquake, and provides information on future preparedness for a variety of disasters.
- It has a block to recreate the feel of an earthquake with the help of a 5D simulator and also a block to pay tribute to the lost souls.
- The eight-block and 11,500-square-metre museum will showcase the Harappan civilization of the region.
- The museum also has 50 audio-visual models, a hologram, interactive projection and virtual reality facilities for visitors.

7. Uttarakhand CM launched Mukhyamantri Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana (Aug. 30, 2022)

On the occasion of National Sports Day, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched Mukhyamantri Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana in the state.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Under the scheme sports scholarships of Rs 1500 will be provided every month to the players between the age group of 8 to 14 years.
- A total of 3900 budding sports persons will benefit from **Mukhyamantri Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana**, in which 1950 boys and 1950 girls will be included.

Other announcements made by the Chief Minister on this occasion :

- The Chief Minister said that a sports development fund would be set up in the state. Under this, eight sports coaches will be appointed in each district.
- The Malkhamb game will be included in sports policy.
- Along with this, the contract trainers in the Sports Department will be given the same honorarium as the contract trainers of the Sports Authority of India.
- He also announced efforts to re-implement four percent reservation for skilled sportspersons in state services.

About Uttarakhand State :

- Formation - 09 November 2000
- Capital - Dehradun
- Number of Divisions - 02 (Garhwal and Kumaon)
- State bordering the state - 2 (Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh)
- Countries bordering the state - 2 (Nepal, Tibet (China))
- State flower - Brahma Kamal (local name - Kaulpadya) (Scientific name - *Sosuria ablevets*)
- State Tree - Buransh (Rhododendron)
- State animal - musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*)
- State Bird - Monal (Lophophanes inornatus)
- state sport - football
- Number of Vidhan Sabha Members - 70
- Number of Members in Lok Sabha - 5
- Seats for Rajya Sabha - 3
- Chief Minister - Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Governor - Gurmeet Singh

8. Uttar Pradesh govt to construct India's first education township (Aug. 25, 2022)

On the lines of countries like America, the first education township in the country will be developed in Uttar Pradesh with the aim of making all types of education and skill development training easily available at one place.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Education township means easy access to all types of education and skill development training at one place.
- CM Yogi Adityanath has directed to develop five such townships in the state.
- The focus of the township will be on top-class education that will attract students not only from the country but also from African, Latin American and Central Asian countries.
- Education township will be open to the government and private sector.
- In this education township, prestigious government and private universities of the country and the world will be able to open their campuses.

- Primary and secondary schools like Atal Residential Schools will also be included in this.
- Universities and colleges will be established for undergraduate and postgraduate studies.
- There will also be studies and research of courses related to management, technology, law and medicine.
- Several coaching institutes like Abhyudaya will also be started in the education township. Through these preparations will be made for competitive exams like NEET, IIT, Union Public Service Commission.
- Housing will also be available in the township.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -***About Uttar Pradesh State :***

- Uttar Pradesh is the largest state (in terms of population) in India and the fourth largest in terms of area.
- On 9 November 2000, the Indian Parliament created the state of Uttaranchal (present-day Uttarakhand) from the northwestern (mainly hilly) part of Uttar Pradesh.
- The number of districts in Uttar Pradesh is 75 and the division is 18.
- State Bird – Stork or Kraunch
- State Tree - Ashoka
- State flower - Palash or Tensu
- State Emblem - 2 fish and arrow command in a circle approved since 1938
- Foundation Day - 24 January 1950
- Number of Members of Legislative Assembly- 403
- Number of Legislative Council members - 100
- Number of Lok Sabha Members- 80
- Number of Rajya Sabha members- 31
- Governor- Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister- Yogi Adityanath

9. Kerala to introduce online monitoring system of medicines in govt hospitals (Aug. 25, 2022)

Kerala government will soon launch an online monitoring facility to track the availability and distribution of medicines in government medical institutions in the state.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The facility has been introduced after reports of shortage of medicines, even basic medicines, in government hospitals.
- Kerala Health Minister Veena George announced the launch of this surveillance system to ensure the availability and distribution of medicines in hospitals.
- This process is developed to balance the demand for medicines keeping in mind the need and potential growth in each hospital along with storage and distribution of medicines.
- When all the hospitals will update the data regarding the distribution of medicines on a daily basis then it will be possible to know the stock of medicine in the hospital and medicines can be distributed as per their shortage.
- After that if there is a certain percentage shortfall in any medicine, it should be reported to KMSCL so that the medicines can be procured without any delay.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About Kerala State :

- Kerala is located at the south-west end of India. The state of Travancore (Cochin) was formed on 1 July 1949 by merging the princely states of Travancore and Cochin.
- The state of Kerala was formed on 1 November 1956 by merging Travancore-Cochin and Malabar under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- Kerala was known as Aranyaka in ancient times.
- It is the world's first Baby Friendly State recognized by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- **Kerala is also known as 'God's own home'.**
- Kerala accounts for 98% of the country's black pepper production. The rubber sector in Kerala is 83% of the country. There are plantations of tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom and spices here.
- Lake - **Vembanad, Ashtamudi**
- Festival - **Onam is celebrated at the time of harvesting.**
- Folk Dance - **Kathakali**
- Major Tribes - **Adyan, Irrawalan, Kamar, Kurman**
- Capital - **Thiruvananthapuram**
- Sex Ratio - **1084 (State with Highest Sex Ratio)**
- Literacy - **93.91% (Most literate state)**

10. Punjab, Haryana agree to name Chandigarh airport after Shaheed Bhagat Singh (Aug. 23, 2022)

Recently Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala have collectively decided to name Chandigarh International Airport after Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Earlier, the Punjab Assembly had passed a resolution to name the airport as 'Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh International Airport, Mohali' but Haryana opposed it as it was named after Mohali.
- Now after the agreement between the two states on the name of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, this proposal will soon be sent to the central government.
- The Central Government has announced to name 13 airports of the country, in which some states have also proposed names for the airports of their area and sent them to the Central Government.

Other recently changed airport names :

- Hisar Airport- Maharaja Agrasen Airport
- Ayodhya Airport - Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram Airport
- Kurnool Airport- Freedom Fighter Narasimha Reddy Airport
- Agartala Airport- Maharaja Veer Vikram Airport
- Gorakhpur Airport- Mahayogi Gorakhnath Airport
- Jharsuguda Airport - Veer Surendra Sai Airport

About Bhagat Singh :

- Bhagat Singh was born in 1907 in the Punjab province of British India.
- His father's name was Sardar Kishan Singh and mother's name was Vidyavati Kaur.
- Leaving the National College of Lahore, Bhagat Singh founded the Naujawan Bharat Sabha for the independence of India.
- Bhagat Singh and his associate Shivram Rajguru shot John Saunders, a British police officer, in December 1928.
- Subsequently, Bhagat Singh (aged 23) was convicted and hanged on March 23, 1931.