



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



SEPTEMBER, 2021

Week-4

22-30 Sept, 2021

Useful for

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

22nd SEPTEMBER 2021

Trojan malware

- According to India's federal cyber security agency, CERT-In, a banking Trojan malware has been detected in Indian cyberspace attacks bank customers using Android phones and has already targeted those from more than 27 public and private sector banks.
- The phishing malware is posing as an "income tax refund". It can jeopardise the privacy of sensitive customer data and lead to large-scale attacks and financial frauds.
- Phishing is a social engineering computer virus attack to steal personal data.

Key Points:

- A trojan is any type of malicious program disguised as a legitimate one. Often, they are designed to steal sensitive information (login credentials, account numbers, financial information, credit card information, and the like) from users.
- Banking trojans are a specific kind of trojan malware. Once installed onto a client machine, banking trojans use a variety of techniques to create botnets, steal credentials, inject malicious code into browsers, or steal money.
- **Functioning:** It collects user information by abusing the Accessibility Service of Android and overlaying a fake screen on top of a genuine app. It uses Android DPC (Device Policy Controller) to provide access to other permissions.

WHO: Revise Air Quality norms

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced a tight revision in its air quality guidelines (AQG). This is the first revision in the global air quality by WHO since 2005.

- In the new guidelines, WHO has lowered the acceptable exposure levels to key pollutants, including ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter (PM).

Key Highlights:

- The guidelines recommend new air quality levels to protect the health of populations, by reducing levels of key air pollutants, some of which also contribute to climate change.
- By striving to achieve these guideline levels, countries will be both protecting health as well as mitigating global climate change.
- WHO move sets the stage for eventual shifts in policy in the government towards evolving newer stricter standards.
- WHO's new guidelines recommend air quality levels for 6 pollutants, where evidence has advanced the most on health effects from exposure. 6 classical pollutants include particulate matter (PM 2.5 and 10), ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and carbon monoxide (CO).

Impact on India

- The move does not have an immediate effect in India as the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) do not meet the WHO's existing standards.
- The government has a dedicated National Clean Air Programme that aims for a 20% to 30% reduction in particulate matter concentrations by 2024 in 122 cities, keeping 2017 as the base year

Steps taken by India:

- Under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), India is committed to minimise 20-30 percent of air pollution in cities.
- NCAP was launched in January 2019 by the MoEFCC. It is the first-ever effort in India to frame a national framework for the management of air quality with a time-bound reduction target.

Climate Change 2021 Report

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently published its report titled "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis".
- Global mean sea level (GMSL) increased by 0.2m between 1901 and 2018. Average rate of sea level rise was 1.3 mm/year in between 1901-1971 and increased to 3.7 mm/year in the year 2006-2018.

Key Points:

- The IPCC report discussed five different shared socio-economic pathways for the future with different levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
 - **Very low and low GHG emissions:** Here, emissions decline to net zero around the middle of the century. Beyond this, emissions are net negative.
 - **Intermediate GHG emissions:** Emissions are double the current level by 2100.
 - **High and very high emissions:** Here, emissions are double the current levels by 2050.
 - In the intermediate scenario, Average warming is likely to exceed 2°C near mid-century.
 - Average global temperature is currently 1.09°C higher than pre-industrial levels while the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere is 410 ppm as compared to 285 ppm in 1850.

23rd SEPTEMBER 2021

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

- India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have officially launched negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- Within five years of the signing of the agreement, bilateral trade in goods is anticipated to reach USD 100 billion, and bilateral trade in services is expected to reach USD 15 billion, resulting in increased social and economic possibilities in both countries.

Key Points:

- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement a type of free trade agreement that encompasses negotiations on trade in services and investment, as well as other aspects of economic cooperation. It may even contemplate negotiating on issues like trade facilitation and customs cooperation, as well as competition and intellectual property rights.
- Free Trade Agreements are less extensive than Partnership Agreements or Cooperation Agreements.
- CEPA also looks into the regulatory side of the trade and includes an agreement that covers these concerns.
- South Korea and Japan have both inked CEPAs with India.

NOTE:

The UAE is the eighth-largest investor in India, having invested \$11 billion between April 2000 and March 2021, while investment by Indian companies in the UAE is estimated to be over \$85 billion.

Matthew Henson Lunar Crater

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named a crater at the Moon's south pole after Arctic explorer Matthew Henson, a black man who discovered and conquered the world's top (Arctic) in 1909.

Key Points:

- Hansen Crater is located at the south pole of the Moon between de Gerlache and Sverdrup craters.
- This is the same area on the Moon where NASA's "Artemis program" aims to land its lunar explorers.
- Matthew Henson was at the forefront of the group's pole exploration during Perry's expedition to reach the North Pole in the Arctic region.

- Artemis Programme was launched by NASA which aims to land the next slate of lunar explorers on the Henson Crater. They will be selected from NASA's increasingly diverse astronaut pool.

NOTE:

International Astronomical Union (IAU) is a non-governmental organisation set up with the objective of advancing astronomy in all aspects such as promoting astronomical research, outreach, education, and development. IAU was founded in 1919 with its headquarter in Paris, France.

CSIR-CMERI : Solar DC Cooking System

- Context:** CSIR-CMERI, handed over Solar DC Cooking System to the Asansol Braille Academy, West Bengal.

Key Points:

- This Solar DC Cooking System is a "Solar Energy based Cooking System" that comprises a solar PV panel, battery bank, charge controller and cooking oven.
- Technology provides a Clean Cooking Environment, fast & uniform heating and Inverter-Less Direct Operation.
- It has a potential to save 1 ton Carbon Dioxide emissions per year per household.
- This system has 20-25% better efficiency and is more Economical as compared to the Conventional Solar based Cooking Systems that loses efficiency owing to AC-DC conversion.

Significance:

- Solar DC Cooking System has 20-25% better efficiency and is more Economical in comparison with Conventional Solar based Cooking Systems which loses efficiency owing to AC-DC conversion.
- The system can also substantially curb carbon dioxide emissions, as even LPG usage emits CO₂. It may help save 290 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2021

- Recently, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has notified the Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2021 whereby it has reduced the patent fees for educational institutions.

Key Points:

- Government has reduced patent filing and processing fees charged on educational institutions by 80%, which is at par with similar concessions provided to start-ups under the Start-up India initiative.
- The step will nurture innovation and creativity in a knowledge economy.
- It will help in promoting greater collaboration between industry and academia.
- By amending the Rules, the procedures are made more compact, time-bound, user-friendly and compatible for e-transactions.

About Patents:

- A patent is a form of preservation of intellectual property. It is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem.
- The term of every patent in India is twenty years from the date of filing the patent application, irrespective of whether it is filed with provisional or complete specification.

24th SEPTEMBER 2021

UNICEF's 'Fed to Fail?' Report

- As per the report "Fed to Fail? The Crisis of Children's Diets in Early Life" published by UNICEF, two in every three children between six months and two years didn't get the nutritious diet needed for healthy growth.

Key Findings:

- The report has found that children under the <2 years of age are not getting the food and nutrients necessary for growth, leading to irreversible developmental harm.
- Poor nutritional intake in the first two years of life can irreversibly harm children's rapidly growing bodies and brains, impacting their schooling, job prospects and futures.
- The report studied 91 countries and found that only half of the children between 6-23 months are being fed the minimum recommended number of meals every day.
- Moreover, only a third of the children consume the minimum number of food groups they need to thrive.
- Inadequate intake of nutrients at an early age puts children at risk of poor brain development, weak learning, low immunity, increased infections and potentially, death.

WFP-ICRISAT: Agreement on Food Security

- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have partnered on programmes and research to strengthen food, nutrition security, and livelihoods in India.

Key Highlights

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on programmes and research in order to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods across India.
- It was signed between WFP India Representative, Bishow Parajuli and Director General of ICRISAT, Dr Jacqueline Hughes.
- Both WFP and ICRISAT will work in collaboration to promote research, advocacy and raise awareness regarding the traditional nutritious crops, undertaking food & nutritional security analysis.
- This agreement is a strategic partnership between WFP and ICRISAT because both are aligned to their

vision of food security, especially for the poorest and vulnerable communities.

About ICRISAT

- The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a non-profit, non-political international organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- ICRISAT and its partners work towards empowering the poorest of the poor people across the world to overcome the threats of poverty, hunger, and a degraded environment through better agriculture.

Arjun Mk-1A

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) placed an order with Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Chennai for supply of 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun Mk-1A for the Indian Army.
- Defence ministry placed this order with Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Chennai to supply the 118 Arjun Mk-1A tanks.

About Arjun Mk-1A:

- The state-of-the-art MBT Mk-1A is a new variant of the Arjun tank designed to enhance firepower, mobility and survivability.
- Arjun Mk-1A is infused with 72 new features and more indigenous content from the Mk-1 variant,
- Arjun Mk-1A tank would ensure effortless mobility in all terrains, besides precise target engagement during day and night.
- Arjun Mk-1A has been customized for missile firing and the advanced GMS has a built-in laser target designator.

■ DO YOU KNOW?

The MBT Arjun Mk-1A has been designed and developed by Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), along with other laboratories of DRDO. It was developed within two years that is 2010-12.

25th SEPTEMBER 2021

WMO Report: Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recently released a report titled 'Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections'.

Key Highlights:

- The WMO studied seven climate indicators — CO₂ concentration, temperature, ocean acidification and heat, sea ice extent, glacier melt and sea-level rise. It found that rising CO₂ concentration due to human activities was a key driver of global climate change.
- CO₂ concentration drives global climate change and is indirectly responsible for risks related to several climate indicators. Thus reducing carbon emissions is the most effective and necessary climate-related action to achieve SDGs.
- Its release coincides with the United Nations General Assembly annual session and the opening in September 2021 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Action Zone, which is dedicated to accelerating action on the SDGs.

Objective of WMO report:

- WMO published its report with the aim of demonstrating the connections between global climate and SDGs. This goes far beyond the SDG 13 for climate action.
- Report also champions the need for greater international collaboration, which is required to achieve the SDGs. It also seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 °C or even 1.5 °C by the end of the current century.

Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission

- The Prime Minister of India launched Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission which is also known as the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM). Currently, the Mission is being implemented in the pilot phase across 6 union territories.
- The nationwide launch of the Mission coincides with the 3rd anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPM-JAY).

About PM-DHM

- It aims to provide digital health IDs for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms, and citizens access health records electronically when required.
- The pilot project of the Mission had been announced by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August 2020. The project is being implemented in the pilot phase in six States & Union Territories.
- This scheme will digitalize healthcare by creating a country-wide digital health ecosystem.
- It will enable the patients to store, access and give consent to share their health records with doctors as well as health facilities of their choice.
- Unique digital health ID will comprise all the health records of each individual. It will be created with the help of details such as Aadhar and mobile number in order to generate a unique ID for them.
- Under this scheme, a national digital health ecosystem will be created by means of provision of a wide-range of data, information & infrastructure services, and duly leveraging open & interoperable standards-based digital systems.

NOTE:

The National Digital Health Mission is currently in its pilot phase in the union territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chandigarh, and Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Ladakh and Puducherry.

H.P.: World's highest EV charging station opened

- Pune-based EV charging infra startup goEgoNetwork has installed its electric vehicle charging facility at Kaza in the Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh, making it the world's highest EV charging station.

Key Highlights

- The EV charging station was opened recently in order to promote a sustainable environment.
- It is the world's highest electric vehicle charging station located at 500 ft.
- Along with the EV charging station, two women drove electric vehicles from Manali to Kaza to promote a clean and green environment.
- All the products including chargers of this station are made in India.

26th SEPTEMBER 2021

QUAD Leaders' Summit 2021

- PM Modi along with his counterparts from Australia and Japan recently attended the first in-person summit of Quad leaders which was held in Washington, the US.

Key Highlights

- Meeting was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with leaders of the US, Japan, and Australia. US President Joe Biden is hosting all of them at the White House.
- The focus of the first-ever in-person Quad summit in 2021 will be on 'deepening our ties and advancing practical cooperation' on areas such as promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific, combatting COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the climate crisis, and partnering on emerging technologies and cyberspace, stated the White House statement.
- PM Modi shared concerns regarding extremist elements in Afghanistan

- During the meeting, PM Modi noted that four nations of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue came together in the interest of humanity amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the "Quad vaccine initiative" will help Indo-Pacific nations.

About QUAD:

- The Quad is a strategic dialogue between the United States (US), India, Australia, and Japan.
- The Quad was formed in 2007 by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe along with support from the then US Vice President Dick Cheney, Indian PM Manmohan Singh, and Australian PM John Howard.

PM Modi addressed UNGA

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Key Highlights:

- PM Modi was the first world leader who addressed the UN General Assembly in this session.
- In an address to the 74th session of the UNGA that combined elements of a campaign speech and a call to action, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has showcased his government's developmental and environmental record, and set out its agenda
- He also attended his first in-person Quad summit, hosted by Joe Biden.
- Theme for General Debate for year 2021 is "Building Resilience through hope to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations".

About United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- The UNGA is a principal component of the United Nations. It is the main governing body of the organisation and is also the most representative body in the UN.

- All the members of the UN are represented in the UNGA, which is sometimes referred to as simply the GA. Hence, it has 193 members (all the UN member countries).
- It is also responsible for the UN budget, appointment of non-permanent members to the Security Council, appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations etc. it is the only UN organ where all the member states have equal representation.

All Cryptocurrency transactions illegal in China

- The Central bank of China has recently declared all the Cryptocurrency transactions illegal. This decision also banned transactions using Bitcoin.

Key Points:

- The global values of cryptocurrencies including Bitcoin have massively fluctuated during 2020-2021 partly due to Chinese regulations that sought to prevent speculation and money laundering.
- But for now, holding Bitcoin or any other cryptocurrency is not illegal in China. Only their use is illegal.
- Chinese notice has banned all the related financial activities involving cryptocurrencies like transactions involving virtual currency derivatives, selling tokens, trading crypto, and illegal fundraising.

About Cryptocurrency:

- Cryptocurrency is a specific type of virtual currency, which is decentralised and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques. Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple are a few notable examples of cryptocurrencies.
- Strong cryptography is used to secure transaction records, control the creation of additional coins as well to verify the transfer of coin ownership.

NOTE:

Cryptocurrency was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in May 2020. Recently, the government has announced to introduce a bill; Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, to create a sovereign digital currency and simultaneously ban all private cryptocurrencies.

27th SEPTEMBER 2021

Switzerland legalised Same-sex Marriage

- Switzerland allowed legalise civil marriage and the right to adopt children for same-sex couples by a nearly two-thirds majority in a referendum making it one of the last countries in Western Europe to legalise gay marriage.

Key Points:

- According to results of referendum, 64.1% of voters voted in favour of same-sex marriage in the nationwide.
- Apart from opening up the option of marriage to all couples, the government also approved an amendment to Switzerland's marriage law which was put to voters in a referendum.
- This law also grants lesbian couples to get access to sperm banks as well as allows same-sex couples to adopt children.
- Under the amended law, same-sex couples will be able to have a civil wedding. They will be granted the same institutional and legal rights as heterosexual couples.

NOTE:

Italy is the only country in Western Europe which does not allow marriage between same-sex couples. It only allows civil unions.

India is Dubai's second biggest trade partner

- India has emerged as Dubai's second biggest trading partner after China with the overall volume touching 38.5 billion dirham in the first half of 2021.

Key Points:

- According to a Dubai government statement, the emirate had a trade volume of 86.7 billion dirham with China in H1 (first half) of 2021, followed by India and the U.S. at third position.
- Trade with India grew 74.5% year-on-year to 67.1 billion dirham from 38.5 billion dirham in H1 2020.
- China recorded 30.7% growth year-on-year with total trade with Dubai standing at 66.3 billion dirham in H1 2020.
- Saudi Arabia came fourth with 30.5 billion dirham up 26% from H1 2020, followed by Switzerland at 24.8 billion dirham.
- The total share of the five biggest trade partners in H1 2021 amounted to 241.21 billion dirham compared to 185.06 billion dirham in H1 2020, up 30.34%.

Top commodities of trade:

- Gold topped the list of commodities in H1 external trade of Dubai, amounting to 138.8 billion dirhams. It accounts for 19.2% of Dubai trade.
- Gold is followed by telecoms amounting to 13% of total trade. It is followed by Diamonds, jewellery and vehicle trade. Non-oil external trade of Dubai has increased by 31% in the first half of 2021.

Weaver Services and Design Resource Center

- Union Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles announced that Weaver Services and Design Resource Centre will be set up in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.

Key Points:

- Goyal announced the setting up of Weaver Services and Design Resource Centre during an interaction program with handloom artisans and handicrafts that was organized under 'Seva and Samarpan Abhiyan' in Kullu.
- The Centre in Kullu will impart skill up-gradation of artisans, provide modern equipment and training to prepare qualitative new designs.

28th SEPTEMBER 2021

2021 Russian Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton became the first Formula One (F1) driver to win 100 races after finishing first in the 2021 Russian Grand Prix to retake the championship lead from Max Verstappen.

Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton, the seven-time World Champion, overtook the long-time race leader Lando Norris late on.
- Lewis Hamilton on September 26, 2021, became the first Formula One (F1) driver to win 100 races after finishing first in the 2021 Russian Grand Prix to retake the championship lead from Max Verstappen.
- Sir Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton is a British racing driver and currently competes in Formula One for Mercedes. He has previously driven for McLaren from 2007 to 2012. Hamilton has won the joint-record seven World Drivers' Championship titles in Formula One.

Indo-US Health Dialogue 2021

- The 4th session of the Indo-US Health Dialogue 2021 was inaugurated recently which was hosted by India.
- Both leaders spoke about a variety of topics, including Covid-19, climate change, and economic cooperation.

Key Points

- The issues that were discussed at the dialogue include: strengthening of epidemiological research and surveillance, vaccine development, One Health, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, health systems and health policies.
- During the dialogue, an MoU was signed between the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services of the USA concerning cooperation in the field of health and biomedical sciences.
- Moreover, the two countries also signed a separate memorandum to continue joint support for the highly productive Indo-U.S. International Center of Excellence in Research (ICER) program. It is an infectious disease research partnership located at the National Institute for Research on Tuberculosis in Chennai.

■ NOTE:

The United States is India's second-largest commercial partner and a major destination for its goods and services exports. During the 2020-21 year, the United States will overtake Mauritius as the second-largest source of foreign direct investment into India.

Training Program for Women in Dairy Farming

- National Commission for Women (NCW) launched a nationwide training and capacity building programme for women in dairy farming.

Key Facts

- The programme aims to empower women and help them achieve financial independence by training them in the quality enhancement of dairy products.
- As part of the programme, the NCW is collaborating with agricultural universities all across India to identify and train women associated with dairy farming in different aspects such as value addition, quality enhancement, packaging and marketing of dairy products among others.

About NCW:

- National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body that advises the government on all policy matters related to women. The body was established on January 31, 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution. It was established by an act called National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

29th SEPTEMBER 2021

SDG Progress award 2021

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been conferred with SDG Progress award for Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- Award was conferred by the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- This event was a significant international acknowledgement of the nation's success in spearheading the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) after achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

About SDSN:

- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was set up in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. Led by development economist Jeffery Sachs, the SDSN seeks to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development.

■ NOTE:

SDGs are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals that have been designed as a "blueprint of achieving a better and more sustainable future for all". These goals were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by 2030.

National Single Window System for Investors and Businesses

- The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs & Distribution launched the “National Single Window System” for Investors and Businesses.

Key Highlights:

- The portal will serve as a one stop-shop for investors for approvals and clearances.
- The National Single Window System (NSWS) will usher in a change from the legacy of running to government offices and will promote the ease of doing business.
- The portal, as of today, hosts approvals across 18 Central Departments and nine States, and another 14 Central Departments and five States will be added by December 2021.
- NSWS will provide end-to-end facilitation and support to investors, facilitate clearances at the Centre and State levels, provide pre-investment advisory to new businesses, and share information related to land banks.
- It seeks to address information asymmetry, duplication of information submitted across platforms and authorities, and inefficient tracking of approvals and registration faced by investors.
- This portal will help in bringing Transparency, Accountability & Responsiveness in the ecosystem. All information will be available on a single dashboard.

Study: COVID can cause Delirium

- A study of 150 patients hospitalised for Covid in the US at the beginning of the pandemic found that 73 per cent had delirium.
- The study, published in the journal BMJ Open, found that patients with delirium tended to be sicker, with more comorbidities like hypertension and diabetes, and appeared to have more severe Covid-related illness.

About Delirium:

- Delirium is a serious disturbance in the mental state in which a person is confused, agitated and unable to think clearly. Start of delirium is usually rapid, that is within hours or a few days.
- It can often be traced to one or more contributing factors like a severe or chronic illness; changes in metabolic balance like low sodium; infection, medication, surgery, alcohol or drug intoxication or withdrawal.
- Signs and symptoms of delirium usually begin over a few hours or a few days. They often fluctuate throughout the day, and there may be periods of no symptoms.

30th SEPTEMBER 2021

PM POSHAN Scheme

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the PM POSHAN scheme in Schools, which is a Centrally Sponsored National Scheme.

Key facts

- The PM POSHAN scheme would run for five more years. It will run from 2021-2022 to 2025-26.
- Scheme has been approved with a financial outlay of 54,062 crore rupees from the Central Government.
- State Government and Union Territories administrations have sanctioned an outlay of 31,733 crore rupees.
- In this phase, the scheme will cover around 11.80 crore children studying across 11.20 lakh schools.
- The Central Government will further bear an additional cost of 45,000 crore rupees to provide food grains to these children.
- Total budget of the scheme is 1,30,795 crore rupees.
- This Centrally-Sponsored Scheme will cover all school children who are studying in Classes 1st to 8th in government schools as well in government-Aided Schools.

About PM-POSHAN:

- Poshan Abhiyaan, also known as the National Nutrition Mission (NNM), was launched in 2018 (although the programme was being implemented in 2017) by the Government of India with the aim of tackling the malnutrition problem prevalent in India.
- The chief objective of the mission is to reduce the level of under-nutrition and also enhance the nutritional status of children in the country.
- The mission is a multi-ministerial initiative and aims at removing malnutrition from the country by 2022.
- Poshan Abhiyaan is India's flagship scheme to improve the nutritional outcomes of adolescents, children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- The mission leverages technology and convergence between various modules and departments.

National Action Plan for dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030 (NAPRE)

- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare released the "National Action Plan for Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030 (NAPRE)".
- The action plan aims to reduce human deaths due to dog-mediated rabies to zero by 2030 through sustained mass dog vaccination and appropriate post-exposure treatment. The vital elements of the strategy are prevention, promotion, and partnership.
- On the occasion, ministers also launched the "Joint Inter-Ministerial Declaration Support Statement" in order to eliminate dog-mediated rabies from India by 2030 following the approach of one health.

About NAPRE:

- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has drafted the National Action Plan for Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030 (NAPRE) in consultation with the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- As part of the plan, the ministers have urged all the States and UTs to make Rabies a notifiable Disease.

They also launched the "Joint Inter-Ministerial Declaration Support Statement" for Elimination of Dog mediated Rabies from India by 2030 through One Health Approach.

NASA's Lucy Mission

- NASA is ready to send its first spacecraft to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids to glean new insights into the solar system's formation 4.5 billion years ago.
- In 2025, it will fly by the inner main-belt asteroid 52246 Donald Johanson, which was named for the discoverer of the Lucy hominin fossil.
- In 2027, it will arrive at the L4 Trojan cloud, where it will fly by four Trojans, 3548 Eurybates (with its satellite), 15094 Polymele, 11351 Leucus, and 21900 Orus.
- After these flybys, Lucy will return to the vicinity of the Earth whereupon it will receive a gravity assist to take it to the L5 Trojan cloud.
- Three instruments comprise the payload: a high-resolution visible imager, an optical and near-infrared imaging spectrometer and a thermal infrared spectrometer.
- Lucy's discoveries will open new insights into the origins of our Earth and ourselves.

About Trojans:

- Trojans are small celestial bodies or asteroids, sharing the orbit of larger one. They remain in a stable orbit, nearly 60° ahead or behind the main body.
- The Jovian Trojans are asteroids that revolve the Sun in the same orbit as Jupiter and are uniformly dark with a hint of burgundy colour, and have matte surfaces that reflect little sunlight.
- The Trojans are stabilized by the Sun and its largest planet in a gravitational balancing act. There may be as many Trojans as there are asteroids in the asteroid belt.
- These primitive bodies hold vital clues to deciphering the history of the solar system, and perhaps even the origins of organic material on Earth.