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# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021

### Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma Remembered on his Birth Anniversary

- **Shankar Dayal Sharma** (19 August 1918 – 26 December 1999) was the ninth President of India, serving from 1992 to 1997.
- Prior to his presidency, Sharma had been the eighth **Vice President of India**, serving from 1987 to 1992.
- He was also the **Chief Minister** (1952–1956) of **Bhopal State**.



### UNITE Aware Platform

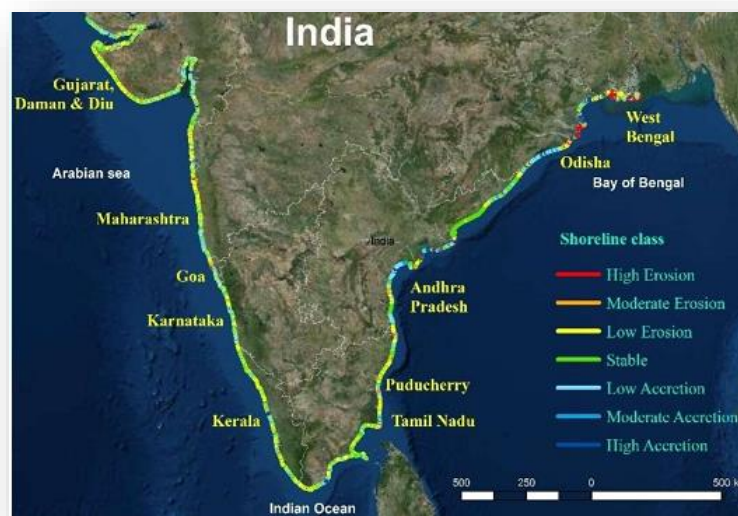
- India, in collaboration with the United Nations (UN), has launched a technology platform to ensure the safety and **security of peacekeepers** who are operating across the world.
- The launch of the **UNITE AWARE platform** came as India assumed the Presidency of the 15-nation **UN Security Council** for the month of August.
- **Aim:** This project aims to demonstrate the impact of **modern surveillance technology** on the detection of **asymmetric threats**.

- **Situational Awareness Software Programme:** It utilizes modern surveillance technology for real time threat assessments to peacekeepers in maintaining security.



## National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)

- The NCCR under the Ministry of Earth Science has published a report that said **one-third of India's coastline** underwent sea erosion in **28 years**.
- As much as **32%** of India's coastline underwent sea erosion and **27%** of it expanded between **1990** and **2018**.
- **60%** of the coastline of West Bengal underwent erosion during the period followed by Puducherry (**56%**), Kerala and Tamil Nadu at **41%** and **41%**, respectively.



## New Development Bank and Proposal for Social Infrastructure

- Recently, during **BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) meet, India proposed that **NDB's** (New Development Bank) scope be expanded to strengthen **Social Infrastructure** besides promoting **industry**.
- **Social Infrastructure** includes the construction and maintenance of facilities that support social services such as healthcare, education, and housing.
- **India** is the chair of the BRICS grouping for 2021.



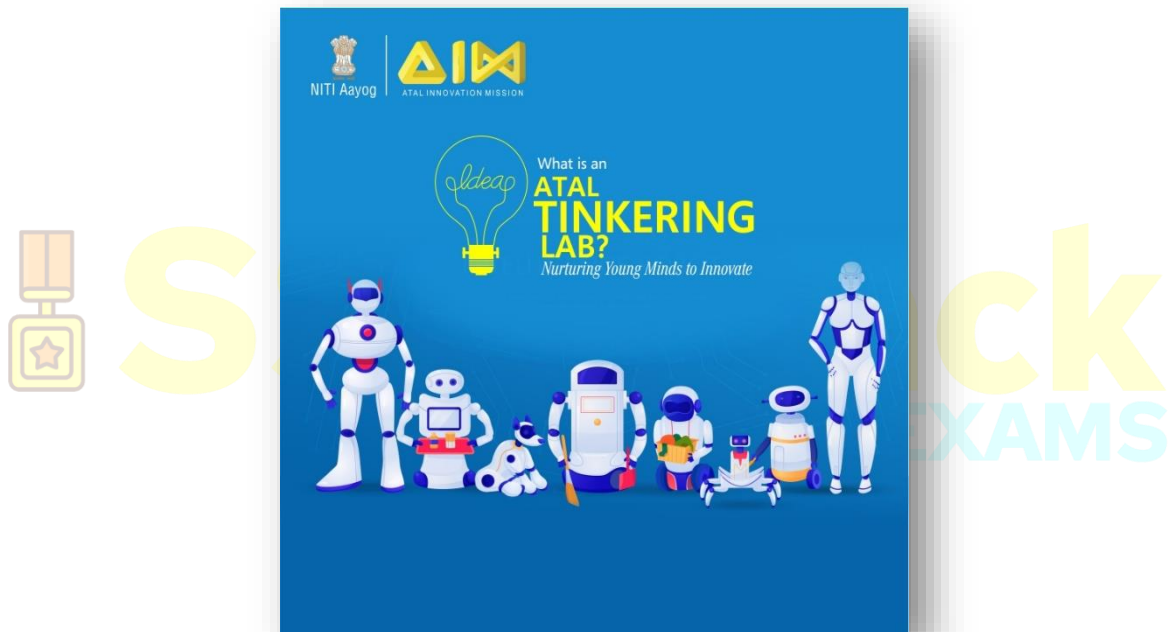
## India Inc Credit Outlook Turns Positive: CRISIL Ratings

- The credit rating agency, **CRISIL** upgraded India Inc's credit quality outlook for FY22 from "**cautiously optimistic**" to "**positive**", based on continued improvement in demand. This comes after the setbacks caused by the second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic in Q1 of FY22.
- A CRISIL rating study of **43 sectors** shows that the current recovery is broad-based. By the end of this fiscal, **28 sectors** are on course to see a **100 per cent rebound** in demand to pre-pandemic levels, while 6 will see upwards of **85 per cent**.

## Student Entrepreneurship Program' (SEP 3.0)

- **NITI Aayog** along with **La Fondation Dassault Systemes** to commence the third series of the '**Student Entrepreneurship Program**' (SEP 3.0) for the young innovators of **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)**.

- The Student Entrepreneurship Programme is based on the theme of '**Made in 3D – Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program**', which was conceptualized and rolled out in France by **La Main à la Pate Foundation** and **La Fondation Dassault Systèmes** Europe in 2017.
- As a part of the program, a total of 50 teams from 26 states are selected. These teams include the top 20 teams of (Atal Tinkering Lab) **ATL Marathon 2019**, 10 teams from Aspirational Districts, 10 teams selected by Dassault, and 10 teams from Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Northeast regions.
- The **Student Entrepreneurship Programme** will serve as a catalyst and help accelerate the entrepreneurial journey of the young innovators in creating a new innovative India.



## PM Modi greets people on occasion of Sanskrit week

- **Sanskrit week** is being celebrated from **August 19 to 25** to promote and popularize this ancient language.
- In a message, **Prime Minister Modi** said, Sanskrit language is so rich that it touches every aspect of our life.
- In **1969**, the Ministry of Education of Government of India issued instructions to celebrate Sanskrit Day at the Central and State levels.
- **Sanskrit Day** is celebrated on Shraavana Poornima, that is the full moon day of the Shraavana month in the Hindu calendar.



## Afghanistan will no longer be able to access lender's resources: IMF

- **IMF** informed that this step was due to lack of clarity within the international community over recognizing a government in Afghanistan.
- Resources of over **370 million \$** from the IMF had been set to arrive on 23 August. These funds were part of a global IMF response to the economic crisis.
- Access to the IMF's reserves in **Special Drawing Rights (SDR) assets**, which can be converted to government-backed money, have also been blocked.
- SDRs are the IMF's unit of exchange based on sterling, dollars, euros, yen, and yuan.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. New Development Bank was formed in**

- A. 2014
- B. 2015
- C. 2016
- D. 2017

**ANSWER: A**

**2. New Development Bank was formed at \_\_\_\_\_ Summit**

- A. Rio
- B. Mexico
- C. Shanghai
- D. Fortaleza

**ANSWER: D**

**3. President of New Development Bank is**

- A. Marcos Prado Troyjo
- B. K. V. Kamath
- C. Dr. Wang Yi
- D. Jair Bolsonaro

**ANSWER: A**

**4. National Centre for Coastal Research is located at**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Visakhapatnam
- D. Chennai

**ANSWER: D**

**5. United Nations Peacekeeping began in \_\_\_\_\_ when the Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East.**

- A. 1948
- B. 1958
- C. 1968
- D. 1977

**ANSWER: A**

**6. AMRUT, Digital India, Atal Innovation Mission, Medical Education Reform were initiatives by**

- A. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- B. MHRD
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. UGC

**ANSWER: C**

**7. \_\_\_\_\_ is currently the CEO of NITI Aayog.**

- A. Rajiv Kumar
- B. Amitabh Kant
- C. Rajiv Mehrishi
- D. Arvind Panagariya

**ANSWER: B**

**8. CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited) is a subsidiary of**

- A. Reliance Inc.
- B. Dalal Street
- C. S & P Global
- D. Berkshire Hathaway

**ANSWER: C**

**9. HQ of CRISIL is in**

- A. New York
- B. Paris
- C. Mumbai
- D. London

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Who was The President of India when Shankar Dayal Sharma was serving as The Vice President of India?**

- A. R. Venkataraman
- B. K. R. Narayanan
- C. Giani Zail Singh
- D. Mohammad Hidayatullah

**ANSWER: A**







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