

## ***International News***

### **1. President 3-Nation Visit: Leaves for Greece**

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind** left on a **three-nation visit to Greece, Suriname and Cuba**. The first halt of the nine-day tour will be at Athens, where he will meet **Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos**.
- ii. President** will leave for Suriname on the 2nd leg where he will hold discussions with **President Desire Delano Bouterse**.
- iii. In the last leg of his tour, the President will reach Cuba**. He is scheduled to hold discussions with his Cuban counterpart **Miguel Diaz – Canel Bermudez**.

### **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- **Greece**                      **Capital-** Athens, **Currency-** Euro, **President-** Prokopis Pavlopoulos.
- **Suriname**                      **Capital-** Paramaribo, **Currency-** Surinamese dollar, **President-** Desire Delano Bouterse.
- **Cuba**                      **Capital-** Havana, **Currency-** Cuban      **Peso, President-**Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez.

### **2. Maharashtra CM Meets World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva**

- i. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** met **World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva** in **Washington DC** to seek assistance for a **Multimodal Transport Corridor and the Rural Livelihood Project** which aims to provide sustainable livelihood enhancements in 10,000 villages in the state.
- ii. World Bank** has assured of positive consideration of both the projects. Fadnavis, who is on a three-nation tour, also attended a business discussion organised by **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum**.
- iii. Mr Fadnavis** was bestowed with the **Outstanding Leadership in Development Award by Georgetown India Initiative and Centre for Strategic and International Studies**.

### **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- President of the World Bank- **Jim Yong Kim**.
- Headquarters of World Bank- **Washington, DC**.

### **3. World's Most Experienced Spacewoman Peggy Whitson Retires As Astronaut**

- NASA's record-breaking astronaut, Peggy Whitson**, retired after a 22-year-long career. Whitson, who **joined NASA as a researcher in 1986**, has spent more time off Earth than any other American, totalling 665 days over three International Space Station missions.
- The 58-year-old is the oldest woman to go into space and also the most experienced female spacewalker, with 10 missions.

### **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- **NASA**- National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- NASA was founded in **1958**.
- **James Frederick** is the 13th Administrator of NASA.

## ***National News***

### **4. Nitin Gadkari Releases NABARD Publication on 'Water Productivity Mapping of Major Indian Crops'**

- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari released a book '**Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops**' published by **NABARD** in a function at **New Delhi**.
- The book 'Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops' is based on a study of 10 important crops by a team under the leadership of leading agricultural economist Dr. Ashok Gulati.

### **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- **NABARD** stands for National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development.
- NABARD came into existence on **12 July 1982**.
- **Headquarters**- Mumbai, **Chairman**- Dr Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.

## ***Banking News***

### **5. Fitch Lowers Axis Bank's Outlook To Negative, Cuts ICICI Bank's Support Ratings**

- i. Global Rating agency Fitch has announced that ICICI Bank and Axis Bank** have inequalities in their risk control mechanisms and has revised down its outlook on the latter to negative on sour assets worries.
- ii. It downgraded ICICI Bank's 'support rating' to '3', from '2',** its support rating floor to 'BB+', from 'BBB-'. But the agency has affirmed the issuer default ratings and viability ratings of ICICI Bank and Axis Bank at 'BBB-' and 'BBB-'. **Axis Bank's rating degraded to negative from stable**, pointing to the high proportion of NPAs.

### **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- ICICI Bank stands for Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India.
- Chanda Kochhar is the MD and CEO of ICICI Bank.
- Headquarters of ICICI Bank: Mumbai.
- **Axis Bank CEO and MD-** Shikha Sharma, **Head Office-** Mumbai.

## ***Obituaries***

### **6. Veteran Journalist Adiraju Venkateswara Rao Passes Away**

- i. Senior journalist and writer Adiraju Venkateswara Rao** passed away. He was 79. Rao worked in different Telugu and English newspapers. He also authored several books.
- ii.** He played an active role in the separate Telangana agitation in 1969 and the state government honoured him during the Telangana formation day celebrations recently.