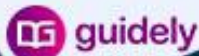


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Banking & Finance

RBI in News

- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: British Raj
- Subsidiaries: Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran

RBI Monetary Policy

- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India held its meeting in New Delhi.
- The committee was headed by RBI Governor Shakti kanta Das.
- The repo rate was kept the same at 4%



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- The reverse repo rate was kept at 3.35%
- The members decided to provide Rs 10,000 crore additional liquidity facility to National Housing Bank (NHB), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). In order to mitigate COVID-19 impact on households, loans against gold have been enhanced to 90% of the value as against the current 75%
- In June, the retail inflation was 6.09%.
- This includes food items such as meat, cereals, fish and pulses.

RBI launches pilot scheme for Offline Retail Payments Using Cards and Mobile Devices

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched pilot scheme for small value payments in offline mode. The pilot scheme shall be undertaken till March 31, 2021 only.
- Under the scheme, authorised Payment System Operators (PSOs) – banks and non-banks – will be able to provide offline payment solutions using cards, wallets or mobile devices for remote or proximity payments.
- This has been done to do away with the impediments caused due to lack of internet connectivity or low speed of internet, especially in remote areas.

Some major points related to this scheme are:

- Maximum limit of a payment transaction will be Rs 200. (For a single transaction.)
- The total limit for offline transactions on an instrument shall be Rs 2,000, at any point of time. Resetting of the limit shall be allowed in online mode with AFA.
- Payments could be made using cards, wallets or mobile devices or through any other channel. Payments may be made in remote or proximity mode.

Reserve Bank of India to set up Innovation Hub for financial sector in India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it is planning to set up an Innovation Hub in order to promote innovation across the finance sector in India by leveraging on technology.
- The Innovation Hub will be promoting, supporting, and hand-hold cross thinking spanning national boundaries and regulatory permits.
- It will act as a centre for ideation and incubation of new capabilities which can be leveraged to create viable and innovative financial products or services to help achieve the broader objectives of efficient banking services, deepening financial inclusion, strengthening consumer protection, business continuity in times of emergency.

RBI permits banks to invest in debt instruments through mutual funds

- RBI has permitted banks to invest in debt instruments through mutual funds or exchange traded funds without allocating additional charges.
- As per RBI's extant Basel III guidelines, if a bank holds a debt instrument directly, it would have to allocate lower capital as compared to holding the same debt instrument through a mutual fund- or exchange traded fund.
- It has been decided to harmonise the differential treatment existing currently.
- This will result in substantial capital savings for banks and is expected to give a boost to the corporate bond market.



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RBI bars banks from opening current accounts for customers having availed cash credit or overdraft facilities

- The Reserve Bank of India has barred banks from opening current accounts for customers who have availed cash credit or overdraft facilities, with a view to improve credit discipline.
- In a notification, the Central Bank said, rather than opening a new current account, all transactions should be routed through a Cash Credit or OverDraft account.

RBI announces 'positive pay' feature to enhance safety of cheque payments

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has decided to introduce a mechanism of 'Positive Pay' for all cheques of value Rs 50,000 and above.
- This will cover approximately 20 percent and 80 percent of total cheques by volume and value, respectively.
- Under the 'positive pay' system, a customer who issues the cheque clicks a picture of the cheque before handing it over to the beneficiary and uploads the same on the bank's mobile application.

RBI approves Dividend of Rs 57,000 crore to Government

- The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India has approved the transfer of Rs 57128 crores as the dividend to the Central government for the accounting year 2019-20 while maintaining the contingency risk buffer at 5.5 per cent.
- The meeting, chaired by the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, focused on reviewing the current economic situation.
- The central bank also discussed setting up an Innovation Hub.
- The annual report of the bank was also approved during the meeting.

RBI tightens norms for core investment companies

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightened the norms for core investment companies (CICs), based on the recommendations received from the working group which was formed to review the framework.
- The new guidelines were based on the recommendations of the Working Group to Review Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for CICs, headed by Tapan Ray, former secretary of the corporate affairs ministry.
- The report was published by RBI on 6 November 2019.
- According to the revised guidelines, the GRMC will have to analyze material risks to which the group, its businesses and subsidiaries are exposed.
- CICs with assets of over Rs 5,000 crore will have to appoint a chief risk officer (CRO).
- While computing Adjusted Net Worth (ANW), the amount representing any direct or indirect capital contribution made by one CIC in another CIC, which exceeds 10% of owned funds of the investing CIC, shall be deducted.
- CIC in the group, or the CIC with the largest asset size, will have to form a group risk management committee (GRMC), comprising of at least five members, with two independent directors.

RBI releases framework for authorisation of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments

- Reserve Bank of India has released the 'framework for authorization of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments' in India.



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- This means that RBI has allowed companies/entities to apply to RBI to set-up pan-India umbrella entity/entities focussing on retail payment systems in India.
- After receiving approval from RBI, the entity may start functioning as an Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments in India just like NPCI.

Here are some major points about this framework:

- Paid-up capital: The umbrella entity shall have a minimum paid-up capital of Rs 500 crore.
- Promoters Share: No single Promoter / Promoter Group shall have more than 40% investment in the capital of the umbrella entity.
- The Promoters / Promoter Groups shall upfront demonstrate the capital contribution of not less than 10% i.e., ₹50 crores at the time of making an application for setting up of the umbrella entity. The balance capital shall be secured at the time of commencement of business/operations.
- The Promoter / Promoter Group shareholding can be diluted to a minimum of 25% after 5 years of the commencement of the business of the umbrella entity.
- The umbrella entity shall commence business/operations within a time of 6 months, extendable to a maximum of one year, if required, from the date of 'in-principle approval'.
- A minimum net-worth of Rs 300 crore shall be maintained at all times.
- The entity shall be a Company incorporated in India under the Companies Act, 2013.
- The umbrella entity shall be a Company authorized by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under Section 4 of the PSS Act, 2007.

RBI Releases NSFE 2020-25, Suggests Action Plan to Promote Financial Education

- The 'National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025' (NSFE), released by the RBI, has suggested a multi-stakeholder-led approach for creating a financially aware and empowered India.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) came out with a '5-Core Actions' approach for promoting financial education, which among other things include development of relevant content for school children and adults, community participation and collaboration among various stakeholders.
- The five Cs, outlined by the strategy paper, are: Content, Capacity, Community, Communication and Collaboration.
- Strengthening financial inclusion in the country has been one of the important developmental agendas of both the Government of India and the four financial sector regulators (RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA).

RBI announces OMO of govt securities worth ₹20,000 crore

- The Reserve Bank of India today announced that it will conduct open market operations or OMO of government securities worth ₹20,000 crore in two tranches.
- The Reserve Bank has decided to conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operation (OMO) for an aggregate amount of ₹20,000 crores in two tranches of ₹10,000 crores each.
- The auctions would be conducted on August 27, 2020 and September 03, 2020.



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- The RBI will be buying longer-dated government securities maturing between 2024 to 2032 while it will be selling securities that mature between October and November this year.

RBI to dissolve Banking Codes and Standards Board of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to dissolve the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI).
- BCSBI was set up by the Reserve Bank in February 2006 as an independent and autonomous body, assigned to formulate codes of conduct to be adopted by banks voluntarily for ensuring fair treatment of customers.
- BCSBI, in collaboration with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), has evolved two codes – Code of Bank's Commitment to Customers and the Code of Bank's Commitment to Micro and Small Enterprises – which set minimum standards of banking practices for member banks to follow when they are dealing with individual customers and micro and small enterprises.

RBI projects country's growth rate at (-) 4.5 per cent for 2020-21

The Reserve Bank has projected India's growth rate at (-) 4.5 percent for 2020-21.

- In its annual report, RBI projected global growth rate between (-) 6.0 percent and (-) 7.6 per cent.
- It stressed that the pandemic will inflict deep disfigurements on the world economy adding that the future is heavily contingent upon the evolving intensity, spread and duration of COVID-19 and the discovery of the elusive vaccine.
- RBI has asked for wide-ranging reforms to regain losses due to COVID-19 crisis adding that it will take quite some time to mend and regain the pre-COVID-19 momentum.

SBI in News

- Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar
- MD: Ashwani Bhatia
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1 July 1955

SBI introduces pilot doorstep ATM service

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced a new doorstep ATM service which will allow its customers to withdraw cash without having to leave their homes.
- All customers need to do is send a WhatsApp message or make a call to the designated SBI number, and a mobile ATM will reach their location.
- The service is currently a pilot project offered to SBI customers in Lucknow.
- If the project receives good feedback, it will be implemented in other cities too.
- These doorstep banking service include cash pickup, cash delivery, cheque pickup, cheque requisition slip pickup, form 15H pickup, delivery of drafts and KYC documents pickup, among others.

SBI partners with AddaCorner to boost real estate deals in Bengaluru

- State Bank of India (SBI) unveiled an online home carnival in partnership with real-time group negotiation e-platform AddaCorner.



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- The carnival will invite prospective home-buyers to virtually come together as a group and directly negotiate with empaneled real estate sellers on real-time basis.

SBI rolls out YONO Krishi review to empower farmers

- State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced “KCC (Kisan Credit Card) Review option” on its digital agricultural solution platform, YONO Krishi.
- The objective behind this is to enable farmers to access their KCC limit in four clicks.
- With this added feature, farmers will no longer need to visit the bank branch to apply for a revision in their KCC limit.

SBI General Insurance launches “Shagun – Gift an insurance” policy

- SBI General Insurance has launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product called ‘Shagun – Gift an Insurance’, which is a unique gift of Personal Accident policy.
- The unique feature of this policy is that it can be gifted to anyone, which means it is not necessary for the policy buyer to be related to the insured.
- A Gift giver (policy buyer) can gift this product to anyone like family, friends, extended family and even domestic helpers, chauffeurs, drivers, cook, etc.
- Gift Receiver (insured) should be in the age group of 18 years to 65 years. It can be availed for up to 1 Year.

SBI waives off SMS charges for all savings accounts

State Bank of India has waived off SMS charges in addition to its penalty waiver on non-maintenance of minimum balance for all its Savings Accounts.

- SBI has over 44 crore savings accounts. The public sector bank informed that the waiver of such charges is applicable for all kinds of savings accounts including those with cheque or Internet Banking facilities.
- Earlier, SBI customers had to maintain an average monthly balance of 3000, 2000 and 1000 rupees in metro, semi urban and rural areas respectively.
- The bank used to levy a penalty of 5 to 15 rupees plus taxes on non-maintenance of average monthly balance.
- The Bank had announced in the month of March this year that the minimum balance charges will be waived off for all its Savings Account customers.

SBI gets global recognition for HR initiative 'Nayi Disha'

- State Bank of India (SBI) has got global recognition for its HR initiative "Nayi Disha" which over the course of 1.5 years has touched more than 2.40 lakh employees.
- The bank has won three Brandon Hall Excellence Awards, also known as the Academy Awards of Learning & Development.
- It recognizes the best organizations that have successfully deployed programs, strategies, modalities, processes, systems, and tools to achieve measurable results.
- SBI has won these awards in three categories viz. Best Learning Program supporting a Change Transformation Business Strategy, Best Use of Blended Learning and Best Unique or Innovative Learning and Development Program



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Extra Shots:

SBI

- Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar Trending
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1 July 1955

Other Banks in News

Wibmo launches video-based customer identification process for banks

- Wibmo Inc., a leading provider of payer authentication services in the world and India's largest provider of card payment security solutions today announced the launch of Wibmo Video-KYC, its video-based KYC solution to enable banks to digitally onboard their customers.
- Wibmo's Video-KYC platform has been designed keeping in mind the emerging need of financial service providers and their customers world-wide to establish a trust relationship in a digital world.
- This solution will not only help banks and financial service providers bring on new customers, but also opens up more ways for reaching their customers online.

Extra Shots:

Wibmo:

- Founded: 1999
- Chief business officer: Suresh Rajagopalan
- Headquarters location: Cupertino, California, United States
- Subsidiary: Mypoolin

Banks sanctions about Rs 90,000 crore concessional credit to 1.1 crore KCC holders

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said banks have sanctioned Rs 89,810 crore to about 11 million Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders to help farmers meet finances for kharif sowing and allied activities.
- As part of the Rs 20.97 trillion stimulus package, the government had announced Rs 2 trillion of concessional credit through KCC to 25 million farmers, including fishermen and those involved in animal husbandry.
- This marks an increase of Rs 26,940 crore over Rs 62,870 crore sanctioned to 70.32 lakh KCC holders as on June 30.

Axis Bank launches AI-powered conversational voice BOT for IVR

- Private sector lender Axis Bank unveiled as Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA', which is an artificial intelligence-powered conversational voice BOT.
- AXAA operates like a humanoid and has power to change the paradigm of customer experience from conventional Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to a new era of call steering and precise response with very high degree of accuracy and consistency.
- It can converse in English, Hindi and Hinglish and is capable of handling one lakh customer queries and requests per day

Extra Shots:



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Axis Bank

- CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 3 December 1993, Ahmedabad

Canara Bank ties up with three insurers to provide Corona Kavach policies

- Canara Bank it has tied-up with three insurance companies namely, New India Assurance Company Ltd, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co Ltd and HDFC ERGO Health Insurance to sell short-term Corona Kavach policy to cover COVID-19 related health expenses.
- The Corona Kavach Policies will be available at a very competitive premium structure, starting with as low as Rs 300.
- The policy is - purchase on individual and family floater basis, minimum sum insured of Rs 50,000 to a maximum of Rs 5 lakh, no capping on room rent, and home care treatment up to 15 days.
- The policy which will be available for a maximum period of 9 and half months (or 285 days), will also cover Ayush treatment up to 100 per cent of sum assured and coverage of co-morbid conditions.

Extra Shots:

Canara Bank

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- CEO: Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Founder: Ammembal Subba Rao Pai
- Founded: 1 July 1906

Kotak Mahindra Bank launches 'Kona Kona Umeed' Campaign

- The private sector lender, Kotak Mahindra Bank, has announced the launch of a two-month long campaign called 'Kona Kona Umeed' with huge offers and discounts to lift up hope and optimism among its customers in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Under this Kona Kona Umeed campaign, the bank will provide a range of offers and deals on its products including loans, savings accounts, current accounts, corporate salary accounts as well as Kotak debit cards, credit cards and digital payments.
- Kotak has tied up with over 100 brands to provide exclusive deals to its customers in categories such as shopping, essentials, personal care, education, fitness, health & wellness, kids & parenting, entertainment, cyber care & security, among others.

Extra Shots:

Kotak Mahindra Bank

- CEO: Uday Kotak
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: Uday Kotak
- Founded: February 2003



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Over 40 crore bank accounts opened under Jan Dhan Yojana

- More than 40 crore bank accounts have been opened under the government's flagship financial inclusion drive Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched about six years ago by the Modi-government.
- As per the latest figure, there are 40.05 crore beneficiaries of this scheme and deposits in Jan Dhan bank accounts are in excess of Rs 1.30 lakh crore.
- The achievement comes just ahead of the sixth anniversary of PMJDY launch.
- The scheme was launched on August 28, 2014 with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people in the country.
- Accounts opened under PMJDY are Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts with additional features of RuPay debit card and overdraft.
- There is no requirement of maintaining minimum balance in BSBD accounts.

ICICI Prudential MF launches ICICI Prudential Alpha Low Vol 30 ETF

- ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has announced the launch of ICICI Prudential Alpha Low Vol 30 ETF, an open-ended index exchange traded fund tracking Nifty Alpha Low Volatility 30 Index.
- The ETF will track Nifty Alpha Low-Volatility 30 Index. The New Fund Offer opens on August 3 and closes on August 10.

Extra Shots:

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund

- CEO: Nimesh Shah
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1993

SEBI to set up virtual museum of securities market

- Indian Market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is planning to set up a virtual museum of the securities market to highlight achievements and milestones in the Indian capital market.
- SEBI has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from agencies to develop the virtual museum.
- The museum is intended to be a visual online organised collection of history of evolution, achievements and milestones in the Indian securities market over the decades in terms of market infrastructure, regulation and enforcement, among others.
- The achievements will be told through photos, videos, articles, media clippings, an interactive display like quiz, paintings, drawings, diagrams, graphs, newspaper articles, transcripts of interviews and numerical databases, among others.
- The virtual museum will engage the audience with creative content through various means like video, audio, chatbot, voice assistants, virtual reality, analytics, interactive and animated elements.

Extra Shots:

SEBI

- Founded: 12 April 1992
- Sector: Securities market



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Type: Statutory corporation
- Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi

15 Proposals of Stressed NBFCs, HFCs Worth Rs 6,400 Crore Sanctioned Under Special Liquidity Scheme

- The Finance Ministry said 15 proposals worth Rs 6,400 crore of stressed NBFCs and HFCs have been sanctioned under the special liquidity scheme announced as part of the Rs 20.97 lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' package.
- 37 more applications seeking financing of up to Rs 11,037 crore are under process.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided funds for the scheme by subscribing to government-guaranteed special securities issued by a trust set up by SBI Capital Markets Ltd (SBICAP).

Extra Shots:

SBI Capital Markets

- CEO: Varsha Purandare
- Parent organization: State Bank of India
- Founded: August 1986
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Subsidiaries: SBICAP (Singapore) Limited, Sbi Cap (UK) Ltd., SBICAP Securities Ltd., SBICAP Trustee Company Ltd.

HDFC Bank launches Shaurya KGC Card

- The largest private sector bank in the country, HDFC Bank, launched 'Shaurya KGC (Kisan Gold Credit) Card, a loan product for the armed forces.
- This is the first-of-its-kind scheme meant for the army personnel in the country and is based on the Kisan Credit Card guidelines of the government.

Some of the salient features of this card are:

- This credit card comes with a life cover of Rs 10 lakhs.
- It will provide finance for the agricultural requirements such as the production of crops, post-harvest maintenance and consumption needs, purchase of farm machinery, irrigation equipment, etc.
- The loan facility can be availed by visiting HDFC Bank branch or through the e-Kisan Dhan app of the bank.
- The card is tri-coloured implying the Army, the Navy and the Air Forces of the country.

Extra Shots:

HDFC Bank

- CEO: Aditya Puri
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: August 1994, India
- Parent organization: Housing Development Finance Corporation



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Punjab National Bank launches campaign named 'DIGITAL APNAYEN'

- Punjab National Bank has launched a campaign named 'DIGITAL APNAYEN' to encourage customers to use digital banking channels.
- PNB will contribute Rs 5 towards the PM CARES Fund on behalf of each customer conducting the first financial transaction to activate their RuPay Debit card either on point of sale (PoS) or e-commerce platform, under the campaign 'DIGITAL APNAYEN'.

Extra Shots:

Punjab National Bank

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CEO: S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao
- Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan
- Founders: Lala Lajpat Rai, Dyal Singh Majithia

Federal Bank, Fiserv partner to launch their First Independent Credit Card

- Federal Bank, private sector bank in India, has teamed-up with Fiserv, Inc., global provider of payments and financial services technology solutions, in a bid to support the launch of the Federal Bank credit card.
- This initiative is also taken to enable the digitisation of the bank's end-to-end card issuance and processing cycle.
- The bank will also be outsourcing associated operational processes to Fiserv.

Extra Shots:

Federal Bank

- Headquarters: Aluva
- CEO: Shyam Srinivasan
- Founder: K.P Hormis
- Founded: 23 April 1931, Nedumpuram

SEBI imposes Rs 10 lakh fine on Bank of Baroda

- SEBI has imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on the Bank of Baroda for violating mutual fund regulations for non-compliance of Regulation 7B of SEBI (Mutual Fund Regulations), 1996 with the directions issued by SEBI in the case of holding, more than prescribed limit, equity shares of UTI Asset Management Company Ltd and UTI Trustee Pvt Ltd.

Extra Shots:

SEBI

- Founded: 12 April 1992
- Sector: Securities market
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Type: Statutory corporation
- Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Fino Payments Bank launches Jan BachatKhata

- Fino Payments Bank has launched Jan BachatKhata (JBK), which is an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account that brings neo-banking experience to consumers.
- Neo bank means– A bank without any branches. A bank that is entirely online rather than being physical. Neo banking provides complete digital banking experience through mobile applications.
- Under the JBK, customers can transact at a Fino branch or merchant point with fingerprint and OTP combination, while at non-Fino points they need Aadhaar authentication.
- Earlier, Fino Payments Bank had introduced Shubh and Bhavishya, subscription-based savings accounts targeted at specific customer segments.

Extra Shots:

Fino Payments Bank

- Head Office: Mumbai
- Chairman: Mahendra Kumar Chouhan

NPCI launches its subsidiary firm – NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched its wholly-owned subsidiary firm named NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL).
- Ritesh Shukla has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NIPL.
- NIPL will venture into newer international markets and co-create payment systems with participating nations.
- The primary focus of NIPL would be the internationalization of RuPay and UPI, along with a few more offerings of NPCI.

Extra Shots:

NPCI

- Headquarters location: Mumbai
- Founded: 2008
- Number of employees: 1,000
- Type of business: Section 8 Company
- Founders: Reserve Bank of India, Indian Banks' Association

Lakshmi Vilas Bank launches Lakshmi DigiGo instant savings account opening facility

- Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB), one of Tamil Nadu's oldest private banks, has launched Lakshmi DigiGo, a digital initiative to enable opening of savings account instantly.
- Lakshmi DigiGo is a savings account with select features, including internet and mobile Banking.
- This initiative will help people to avail the most required banking services instantly through the website.

Extra Shots:

Lakshmi Vilas Bank

- Headquarters: Chennai
- Founded: 1926



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YES Bank rolls instant digital disbursement for loan against securities

- YES Bank has launched a unique digital solution called 'Loan against Securities' under the bank's loan in seconds platform that enables online lien marking of mutual funds and avail quick and hassle-free loan.
- The new digital solution allows instant disbursements of loans with no documentation.
- Customers can avail loan of up to Rs 1 crore against debt mutual funds and can set an instant credit limit against the securities held.
- An interest is charged only for the loan amount which is utilized for the number of days of utilization.

Extra Shots:

YES Bank

- CEO: Prashant Kumar
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: Rana Kapoor
- Founded: 2004

Axis Bank launches hiring initiative named 'Gig-a-Opportunities'

- Axis Bank has launched an initiative named 'Gig-a-Opportunities'.
- The initiative aims to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country.
- This hiring model comprises two working patterns.
- One is the full-time permanent job and the second is based on the duration of a project and is temporary in nature.
- Axis Bank aims to employ 800-1000 people over the next under this initiative.

Extra Shots:

Axis Bank

- CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1993, Ahmedabad

NABARD launches credit guarantee programme for NBFC-MFIs

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has launched dedicated debt and credit guarantee product named Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Programme to NBFC-MFIs to ensure the unhindered flow of credit in rural areas hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It will provide partial guarantee on pooled loans extended to small and mid-sized microfinance institutions (MFIs).
- Nabard has signed a pact with Vivriti Capital and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank for this.
- It will help facilitate Rs 2,500 crore funding in the initial phase and is expected to be scaled up.
- The programme is expected to cover over 1 million households across 28 states and 650 districts.

Extra Shots:

NABARD



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- Founded: 12 July 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chairperson: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
- Purpose: Development assistance; Poverty Reduction
- Formation: July 12, 1982; 38 years ago
- Subsidiaries: Nabcons, NABVENTURES Ltd., Nabkisan Finance Ltd., NABSAMRUDDHI Finance Limited

ICICI Bank uses satellite data to assess creditworthiness of farmers

- ICICI Bank uses satellite data to assess the creditworthiness of farmers.
- ICICI Bank has become the 1st bank in India to use such a technique to measure an array of parameters related to the land, irrigation and crop patterns and use it in combination with demographic and financial parameters to make quick lending decisions for farmers.
- The satellite data with demographic and financial details provides strong information on the land asset of the farmers.

Extra Shots:

ICICI Bank

- CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India
- Founded: June 1994, Vadodara

Paytm Payments Bank enables banking services through Aadhaar cards

- Paytm Payments Bank has integrated Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) on its platform.
- The integration will allow customers to access basic banking services like cash withdrawal, balance enquiry and draw mini statement using their Aadhaar card.
- Features like cash deposit and interbank fund transfer will also be made live soon that will benefit people in rural and semi-urban areas who have limited access to the physical bank branch and ATM.

Extra Shots:

Paytm Payments Bank

- Headquarters: Noida
- Owner: One97 Communications Ltd.
- Founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

RBI approves Sashidhar Jagdishan as next CEO of HDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Sashidhar Jagdishan as the next chief executive officer of HDFC Bank.

- Jagdishan is currently additional director and head of finance, human resources, at the bank.
- He will take over from Aditya Puri who will step down as the bank's longest serving CEO ever since he took charge 26 years ago.



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- In November, the bank had constituted a six-member search committee to find a replacement for Puri and had hired Egon Zehnder for assistance. Puri was an advisor to the search committee.
- In 2018, private sector lender Axis Bank had a similar series of high-level exits after the retirement of Shikha Sharma, who was succeeded by Amitabh Chaudhary as managing director and chief executive officer.

NABARD launched Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Programme

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has unveiled a Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Programme to Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs).
- It is a dedicated debt and credit guarantee product. The programme aims to ensure the undisturbed flow of credit in COVID-19-affected rural areas.
- To launch the programme, NABARD has signed agreements with Vivriti Capital and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Programme:

- Under the Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Programme, NABARD will provide partial guarantee on pooled loans extended to small and mid-sized Microfinance Institutions (MFIs).
- It will help facilitate Rs.2,500 crore funding in the initial phase and is expected to be scaled up in the future.
- The program will cover over 1 million households across 28 states and 650 districts.
- It is expected that the partially guaranteed loan facility will catalyze financing to millions of households, agricultural, and business markets to sustain in the post-COVID-19 situation.
- With NABARD as a guarantor and a convincing product construct in place, the programme has attracted many banks and small finance banks to participate.

Extra Shots:

NABARD

- Founded: 12 July 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chairperson: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
- Purpose: Development assistance; Poverty Reduction
- Formation: July 12, 1982; 38 years ago
- Subsidiaries: Nabcons, NABVENTURES Ltd., Nabkisan Finance Ltd., NABSAMRUDDHI Finance Limited

Axis Bank introduced 'Liberty Savings Account' for the Indian Youth

- Axis Bank has introduced 'Liberty Savings Account' for the Indian Youth, to address the ever-changing lifestyle needs of young and digitally interested Indians.
- It offers a complimentary hospital cash insurance cover of up to Rs 20,000 per year, which covers hospital expenses incurred under COVID -19, which makes this a 1st of its kind savings account to cover the pandemic.
- This account targets to meet the lifestyle requirements of the working class that falls under 35 years of age.

Extra Shots:



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Axis Bank:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD and CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Tagline: Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

HSBC India Launched Omni Collect, a One Stop Solution to Businesses

- HSBC India has launched Omni Collect, a one-stop solution in India.
- It supports businesses to offer multiple payment options on a single platform.
- It is designed for businesses to easily collect payments through various digital methods, thereby allowing them to easily adapt to the changes in consumer spending.
- HSBC India will enable businesses to offer different digital payment modes to their clients and also provide them with a comprehensive view of their collections.

Extra Shots:

HSBC India:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Surendra Rosha

Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance & Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank Entered into a Strategic Partnership

- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) Life Insurance Company Limited (Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance) and Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank (APGB) have entered into a strategic tie up virtually.
- The distribution tie up is to sell life insurance, health and pension products at all the branches of APGB.
- It is the 1st virtual launch of Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance tie up with APGB.

Extra Shots:

Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance Company Limited

- MD & CEO: Anuj Mathur
- Head Office: Gurugram, Haryana

Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank

- Head Office: Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh
- Chairman: Sri A Venkata Reddy



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Business & Economy

3 lakh new jobs expected as Samsung, Apple apply for Made-in-India mobiles boost

- Three contract manufacturers for Apple iPhones and South Korea's Samsung have applied for large-scale electronics manufacturing rights in India under a \$6.5 billion incentive scheme.
- This announcement is made by the Electronics and Information Technology and Communications minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The scheme will extend cash incentives of 4-6% for five years on incremental sales of goods manufactured in India with 2019-2020 as the base year.
- Nearly two dozen Indian and international companies in the cellphone segment have applied for the scheme, which is expected to generate 300,000 direct jobs in the country.
- Around nine lakh indirect jobs are also expected to be created.

India contributes USD 15.46 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund

- India has contributed the next tranche of \$15.46 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund on 4 August 2020, under its commitment to supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals.
- This tranche of \$15.46 million including \$6 million for the overall fund, in which all developing countries are eligible for partnership, and \$9.46 million is dedicated to Commonwealth countries.
- The cheque was handed over by India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Director Jorge Chediek.

India-UN Development Partnership Fund

- The India-UN Development Partnership Fund was established in 2017, to promote multilateralism and shared prosperity to support developing countries towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The fund is supported and led by the Government of the Republic of India, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system.
- Till date 55 projects and proposals have been approved with a total contribution of \$41.8 million towards a \$150 million multi-year pledge to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

Extra Shots:

UN

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States
- Official languages: Arabic; Chinese; English; French; Russian; Spanish

Tech Mahindra launches Mhealthy to enable workforce and community safety against COVID-19

- Tech Mahindra, has launched Mhealthy, a solution to enable workforce and community safety against COVID-19.



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- Mhealthy is a solution that uses technologies including artificial intelligence and machine learning to enable data driven digital diagnostics.
- Tech Mahindra has rolled-out phase-wise screening starting with third-party vendors across its India offices and plans to extend the benefits to its employees, customers, and partner ecosystem.

Extra Shots:

Tech Mahindra

- CEO: C. P. Gurnani
- Parent organization: Mahindra Group
- Headquarters: Pune
- Founder: Anand Mahindra

NPCI launches loyalty platform 'nth Rewards'

- National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a business intelligence and analytics enabled omni-channel multi-branded loyalty platform, nth Rewards.
- It will allow users to earn points through various bank transactions and redeem them on various products, such as e-vouchers, donations, hotel and flight bookings.
- NPCI has created a comprehensive platform for the banks, which will enable them to retain and grow their customer base.
- This integration with the banking system will be secured with PCI-DSS compliance and APIs, with an onboarding time of 4 to 6 weeks.

Extra Shots:

NPCI

- Headquarters location: Mumbai
- Founded: 2008
- Type of business: Section 8 Company
- Founders: Reserve Bank of India, Indian Banks' Association

Flipkart unveils Startup promotion programme

- The e-commerce major in India, Flipkart, has launched its own startup accelerator program in the country in order nurture and fund the startups in the country.
- The platform, named as 'Flipkart Leap', will open for opportunities for startups in the country.
- This is a 16-week long program will prepare the startups to prepare something market-ready and innovative to some problem statement.
- The venture will provide an equity-free grant of \$25000.
- The main objective of the company is to promote scalable startups in the country.

Extra Shots:

Flipkart

- Founded: October 2007, Bengaluru
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy



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- Founders: Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal
- Parent organization: Walmart

Amazon India launches 'Itna Aasan Hai' campaign

- The E-Commerce Firm Amazon India has launched its seller-driven campaign known as 'Itna Aasan Hai' in order to highlight how the sellers are thriving on the Amazon ecosystem with ease.
- This campaign is meant to communicate to existing and prospective sellers who are on the platform, how easy and simple it is to sell on the e-commerce platform.
- The company wants to communicate this idea to the sellers in a way that is easily understandable making it that much more memorable.

Extra Shots:

Amazon:

- CEO: Jeff Bezos
- Founder: Jeff Bezos
- Founded: 5 July 1994, Bellevue, Washington, United States

'Transparent Taxation – Honouring the Honest' by the Prime Minister

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the platform for "Transparent Taxation - Honoring the Honest" via video conferencing.
- The platform, named as 'Transparent Taxation – Honouring the Honest' by the Prime Minister will carry forward the journey of the direct tax reforms in the country.
- This platform has big reforms such as faceless assessment, faceless appeal, and taxpayers charter. Faceless assessment & taxpayers charter come in force from today, whereas faceless appeal service will be available from September 25.
- The initiatives reflect our vision towards 'minimum government, maximum governance'.
- The virtual launch is being attended by various industrialists including, Ratan Tata, Anand Mahindra and Uday Kotak.
- PM's vision is to empower the taxpayer, to provide a transparent system & to honour honest taxpayers.
- To realise this vision, CBDT has given a framework & put in place this system.

Reliance Foundation to launch W-GDP WomenConnect Challenge

- Reliance Foundation has stated that it has partnered US Agency for International Development (USAID) to launch the W-GDP Women Connect Challenge across India this year with an aim to bridge the gender digital divide in the country.
- The Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) challenge supports private sector-led approaches that close the gender digital divide, expand business opportunities and empower women.
- W-GDP was established by the US Government in February 2019 as the first whole-of-government approach to women's economic empowerment.
- It seeks to reach 50 million women in the developing world by 2025 by focusing on three pillars – Women Prospering in the Workforce, Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs and Women Enabled in the Economy.



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- This program reached 12 million women across the globe in the very first year of its inception.

Extra Shots:

Reliance Foundation

- Founded: 2010
- Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Type: Private foundation
- Headquarters location: Mumbai
- Owners: Mukesh Ambani, Nita Ambani
- Founder: Nita Ambani, Mukesh Ambani

US Agency for International Development (USAID)

- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- Agency executives: John Barsa, Acting Administrator; Bonnie Glick, Deputy Administrator;
- Founder: John F. Kennedy
- Founded: 3 November 1961
- Subsidiaries: Office of Transition Initiatives, Food for Peace, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development

LIC starts 'Special Revival Campaign' to revive lapsed policies

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced a special scheme to revive lapsed policies named 'Special Revival Campaign'.
- This campaign is open from 10 August to 9 October during which customers can revive their individual lapsed policies.
- Those policies that have lapsed during the premium- paying term and not completed policy term as on the date of revival, are eligible to be revived during the campaign.
- The campaign is launched to benefit those policyholders who were not able to pay the premium due to unavoidable circumstances and their policy lapsed.
- It always makes better sense to revive an old policy to restore cover.
- The policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from the date of the first unpaid premium subject to certain terms and conditions.

Extra Shots:

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- Chairperson: M R Kumar
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1 September 1956

Mahindra Manulife MF launches arbitrage fund NFO



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- Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund has launched a new open-ended arbitrage opportunities fund that will invest in equity, derivatives and debt markets.
- The new fund offer of Mahindra Manulife Arbitrage Yojana will be open for investment between August 12 and 19.
- The scheme will reopen for continuous sale and repurchase from August 25.
- The fund is suitable for investors who are looking for short-term investment options with relatively low risk, tax efficient returns, and looking to park money in a scheme relatively less impacted by market volatility.

Razorpay launches payment gateway 'Button' to digitise freelancers, NGOs

- Payment gateway startup Razorpay has introduced a feature that allows micro-entrepreneurs and freelancers to instantaneously accept digital payments online.
- The feature called the 'Payment Button' will enable businesses and freelancers to add a single line of code on a website or blog and go live with a payment gateway "within a few minutes.

Extra Shots:

Razorpay Software Private Limited

- Founded: 2013
- CEO: Harshil Mathur
- Headquarters location: Bengaluru
- Subsidiaries: Thirdwatch, Opfin Software Private Limited

E-commerce Giant Amazon launches online pharmacy in India

- The e-commerce giant Amazon has launched the first Indian online pharma delivery service.
- Amazon offers the facility to the customers in Bengaluru to order prescription and over-the-counter medicines and basic health devices from the certified sellers.
- This facility will be extended to the other cities also very soon.
- Amazon already offers online pharmacy sales in the US and other European countries and now it has started in India as well.

Extra Shots:

Amazon

- CEO: Jeff Bezos
- Founder: Jeff Bezos
- Founded: 5 July 1994, Bellevue, Washington, United States
- Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States

Barclays Slashes India's GDP growth to -6 percent in FY21

- Investment bank Barclays has revised downward the growth projection for India in FY21 (2020-21) to a contraction of 6%. Earlier it had estimated a contraction of 3.2%.
- The reason for downward revision continues to be India's rising coronavirus infection curve.
- For FY22 also, Barclays has revised its growth projection to 7% from 7.4% estimated earlier.

Extra Shots:



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Barclays

- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- CEO: Jes Staley

MCX to launch India's first bullion index, Bulldex

- Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) will launch India's first bullion index named Bulldex, on August 24, 2020.
- The Bulldex will have a market lot size of 50 and gold and silver will be underlying. It will be a cash-settled futures contract.
- Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd is an independent commodity exchange based in India.

Extra Shots:

MCX

- CEO: P.S. Reddy
- Chairperson: Mr. Saurabh Chandra
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 10 November 2003

India's GDP to contract 16.5 per cent in April-June quarter

- State Bank of India's research report Ecwrap expects the country's GDP to contract by 16.5 per cent during the first quarter of the current fiscal.
- Earlier in May, Ecwrap had estimated Q1 FY21 GDP contraction at over 20 per cent and now pegs it at much lower contraction of 16.5 per cent for the quarter,

ADB approves USD 1 billion loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday said it has approved a USD 1 billion loan to support construction of modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System.
- The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through the densely populated sections of the NCR, connecting Delhi to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.
- The 82-kilometer Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) network is the first of three priority rail corridors in the country's integrated transport network under the NCR Regional Plan 2021.

Extra Shots:

Uttar Pradesh:

- Statehood Day: 24th January 1950
- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- State formed in: 24 January 1950



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- Literacy Rate: 67.68%

Apple Becomes First U.S. Company to reach \$2 Trillion Market Cap

- Apple Inc. has become the first publicly traded U.S. company to reach a market capitalization of over \$2 trillion, after its share price climbed above \$467.77 on 19 August 2020.
- Apple is also the world's only second company to hit \$2 trillion in market cap.
- Before this, Oil Major Saudi Aramco was the world's first and only publicly listed company to reach a \$2 trillion market value in December 2019.

Extra Shots:

Apple Inc.

- Founded: 1 April 1976, Cupertino, California, United States
- CEO: Tim Cook
- Headquarters: Cupertino, California, United States
- Founders: Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, Ronald Wayne

India's GDP to Contract by 20% in First Quarter of FY21, Says Care Ratings

- India's GDP is likely to contract by 20 per cent during the first quarter of the current fiscal on account of the COVID-19 pandemic-induced disruptions.
- The Central Statistics Office (CSO) will release the gross domestic product (GDP) data for the first quarter of FY21 on August 31, which is expected to statistically mirror the adverse impact of the pandemic led lockdown on economic growth.

World Bank sees higher GDP fall in India than 3.2% it projected for FY21

- The World Bank said it was likely to project a steeper contraction in India's economy than the 3.2 per cent it had forecast for the current financial year, given the rising number of Covid-19 cases and the resultant regional lockdowns.
- In its report on India Development Update, 2020, the Bank also warned that credit risks play out as firms and households find it more difficult to service their interest and repayment obligations in a slowing economy.

Extra Shots:

World Bank

- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- Parent organization: World Bank Group
- Membership: 189 countries (IBRD); 173 countries (IDA)
- Founded: July 1944
- Founders: John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White

HSBC India launches "Green Deposit Programme"

- A "Green Deposit Programme" has been launched by the HSBC India.
- The "green deposit programme" has been launched exclusively for corporate clients.
- Under this programme, the bank will use the deposits to finance green initiatives and environment friendly projects.



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- With this, the deposit scheme launched by the HSBC India will provide its corporate clients stable and pre-agreed returns along with the same protection as a normal bank deposit does.
- The deposit under the “Green Deposit Programme” will come in the form of a term deposit with higher interests as compared to savings deposits.
- The scheme will finance eligible businesses and projects that encourage the transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient, and sustainable economy.

Extra Shots:

HSBC

- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- CEO: Noel Quinn
- Founder: Thomas Sutherland
- Founded: 3 March 1865, Hong Kong

Paytm launches ‘India’s first’ Android PoS device for easy, contactless payments

Paytm has launched its first pocket Android PoS device for contactless ordering and making payments, for SMEs.

- This comes at an introductory price of ₹499 per month on a rental basis and is designed like a phone.
- The firm says its PoS machine comes bundled with Paytm's 'Scan to Order' service, which is slowly said to be gaining traction in places like restaurants and takeaway joints.
- This product is also expected to make payments easier for logistic players, Kirana stores, and small shopkeepers.

National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025 released

- The second edition of National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE): 2020-2025 has been released.
- The first edition of NSFE was for the period 2013-2018.
- NSFE: 2020-2025 has been prepared by National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) in consultation with the four Financial Sector Regulators- RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA and other relevant stakeholders.
- It has been prepared under the aegis of the Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy under the Chairmanship of Shri M. K. Jain, Deputy Governor, RBI.
- The NSFE document intends to support the Vision of the Government of India and Financial Sector Regulators by empowering various sections of the population to develop adequate knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour which are needed to manage their money better and plan for their future.
- The Strategy has recommended a ‘5 C’ approach for dissemination of financial education in the country. The ‘5 C’ approach of the strategy includes:
 - **Content:** emphasis on the development of relevant Content in the curriculum in schools, colleges and training establishments,
 - **Capacity:** developing Capacity among intermediaries involved in providing financial services,
 - **Community, Communication, and Collaboration:** leveraging the positive effect of Community-led model for financial literacy through appropriate Communication strategy, and, enhancing Collaboration among various stakeholders.



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₹8,594 cr to be disbursed to stressed NBFCs and HFCs

- The Finance Ministry said 24 proposals by stressed non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) worth ₹8,594 crore have been sanctioned under the special liquidity scheme.
- The scheme was announced in July, as part of the ₹20.97 lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' package.

Extra Shots:

NBFC

A non-banking financial institution or non-bank financial company is a financial institution that does not have a full banking license or is not supervised by a national or international banking regulatory agency.

Digit Launches SME Buddy to Simplify Insurance for SMEs and Startups

- On world's entrepreneur day, technology-driven general insurance company Digit Insurance has launched an exclusive do-it-yourself (DIY) advisory tool for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and startups, SME Buddy.
- The online tool helps entrepreneurs calculate the insurance coverage for their business in just a few simple steps.
- The business owner has to key in details about the nature of his business, its industry, assets linked to the enterprise and the businesses resources.
- Based on these details, SME Buddy will give suggestions on the kind of insurance coverage that the entrepreneur can buy for his business.

Businesses, with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh are exempted from GST

- The Finance Ministry of the Government of India has declared in a series of statements that Businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh will enjoy GST exemption. Previously the threshold limit was Rs 20 lakh.

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance launches 'Smart Assist', a real-time assistance service

- Private life insurer Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has launched a new technology service called 'Smart Assist' that provides real-time assistance to customers.
- Using a screen sharing feature, the agent will be able to assist customers live to fill up the proposal form and also help them in the policy purchase journey.
- Even if there is an error in the form that has to be corrected in the proposal form, this can be done through the screen-sharing process.

Extra Shots:

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance

- CEO: Tarun Chugh
- Headquarters: Pune
- Founded: 2001
- Parent organizations: Bajaj Finserv Ltd., Allianz SE



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Amazon to explore health tracking industry

- World's most customer-centric company Amazon.com Inc. founded by Zeff Bezos recently launched a wearable fitness gadget called the Halo Band.
- The company is entering the health wearable market for health monitoring devices which is already dominated by Apple Inc. and Fitbit Inc.

Extra Shots:

Amazon

- CEO: Jeff Bezos
- Founder: Jeff Bezos
- Founded: 5 July 1994, Bellevue, Washington, United States
- Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States

India's fiscal deficit to touch 7 per cent in FY21: Brickwork Ratings

- India's fiscal deficit is expected to touch 7 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 fiscal as against budget estimate of 3.5 per cent, according to Brickwork Ratings.
- The impact of the lockdown on economic activity shows up starkly in the trends in the central government revenue collection during the first three months of fiscal 2020-21.

Government Schemes

Atal Innovation Mission launches 'AIM-iCREST' program in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation

- AIM-iCREST- an incubator capabilities enhancement program for an ecosystem which will be focused on creating high performing startups recently launched by Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- Atal Innovation Mission has joined hands with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation.
- the effort will focus on supporting the start-up entrepreneurs in dissemination and knowledge creation as well as in developing a robust and active network.

Loans sanctioned under PM SVANIDHI scheme crosses 1 lakh

- The micro-credit scheme of the government, PM Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANIDHI) to support the street vendors to meet their working capital requirements to tide over financial woes during the pandemic, has become quite popular in the country.
- Within 41 days of the implementation of the scheme, the number of loan sanctions and the number of applications received under the PM SVANIDHI Scheme crossed the mark of 1 lakh and 5 lakhs respectively, from July 02, 2020.

PM-SVANIDHI



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- This scheme was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the ambit of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' and it aims at facilitating collateral-free working capital loans up to Rs 10000 of 1-year tenure, to about 50 lakh vendors in the urban areas. If the loans are being paid regularly, there will be interest subsidy of 7% per annum and also cash-back up to Rs 1200 per annum on undertaking prescribed digital transactions and eligibility for enhanced next tranche of loan have also been provided.

PM Narendra Modi launched National Digital Health Mission

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Digital Health Mission on the 74th Independence Day.
- It is expected that the mission would revolutionize India's health sector.

Highlights:

- Under the National Digital Health Mission, every Indian will receive a unique health identity card.
- The mission features Tele-consultation and E-Pharmacies.
- Every citizen who holds the cards shall allow one-time access to the doctors and health care providers during their visit to the hospitals.
- National Digital Health Mission allows patients to access health services remotely.
- The card will ensure permission to access confidential medical data which will be provided for every visit by the patient himself.
- It will assure the privacy and maintenance of the patient.

MasterCard, Goals101.ai team up to offer more personalised experience

- Mastercard has entered an alliance with Goals101.ai, a bank-tech and AI company connecting merchants and issuers using big data, artificial intelligence, and automation to create targeted and personalized offers for bank cardholders.
- With Goals 101.ai, Mastercard's customer banks will now benefit from the increased customer engagement with personalization.
- The platform identifies a consumer's purchase patterns to help banks offer a more targeted, relevant, and measurable service.

Extra Shots:

Mastercard:

- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Chief Executive Officer: Ajay Banga

Goals101.ai:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman & MD: Visham Sikand

Infosys launches AI-driven solution to automate helpdesk operations

- IT services major Infosys has launched its AI-driven 'Cognitive Email Workbench' solution that gives enterprises the ability to augment query management and scale their helpdesk operations.



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- Infosys leveraged its partnership with Blue Prism, a Robotic Process Automation (RPA) provider and a strategic partner to develop the solution that promises to significantly enhance productivity and customer satisfaction.
- Infosys and Blue Prism had joined hands in 2017 to help enterprises drive intelligent automation capabilities across multiple industries.

Extra Shots:

Infosys

- CEO: Salil Parekh
- Founded: 7 July 1981, Pune
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

National News

Centre to spend 11.85 crore to fund 112 agricultural start-ups

- Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar announced that the central government will fund 112 agricultural startups in the 1st phase with an amount of Rs. 11.85 crores in 2020-2021 under the Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship Development Programme and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- The funds will be given to the start-ups to promote agricultural firms.
- The startups for the funding will be selected by the different knowledge partners and agribusiness incubators in the area of food technology, agro-processing, and value-addition.
- In the first phase, 112 startups in the area of food technology, agro-processing, and value addition will be funded for a sum of Rs. 11.8 crore.
- The funds will be released in instalments and the selected start-ups will be trained for two months at 29 agribusiness centres spread across the country.

International commercial flights to remain suspended till August 31

- The International commercial passenger flights will remain suspended till August 31, 2020.
- The announcement comes as the fifth phase of Vande Bharat Mission is scheduled to begin from August 1st to repatriate stranded Indians from 23 countries.

Transport Bubble Agreements

- India signed 'Transport Bubble' agreements with the US, UK, Germany and France.
- The agreements came into being since mid-July.
- Under the bubble agreement, India and the destination country operate their respective carriers to and fro.
- The air bubbles started with the US's United Airlines announcing 18 flights between India and the US from July 17 to July 31st.



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- France's Air France also agreed to operate 28 flights between France and Delhi/Mumbai and Bangalore in India between July 18 to August 1st.
- The UAE also allowed India a small window to operate flights to and fro between July 12 and July 26.
- India has also reportedly signed a 'transport bubble' agreement with Kuwait to ferry passengers to and from India.

India Imposes Import Restrictions on Color TV Sets

- India Imposes Import Restrictions on Color TV Sets as majority of TV sets come from China.
- This move by the government is aimed to promote PM Modi's vision of "Vocal for Local" which will boost domestic manufacturing and balance the trade deficit the country is currently facing against China.
- The restriction announced recently by the DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) states that the import policy of the Color TV sets has been amended from free category to the restricted category.

Skill Ministry Observes Swachhta Pakhwada to Drive Awareness on Role of Hygiene

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and its administrative units observed Swachhta Pakhwada 2020 with a thematic campaign #SkillSeSwachhta from 15th – 31st July.
- The pakhwada aimed at raising awareness about the importance of cleanliness in our daily lives and, the role of good hygiene for healthy living.
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), in collaboration with Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC) organized a webinar 'Role of Hygiene in Fighting Covid-19 Epidemic' and 'Review of Preparations for Reopening of Training Centres'.

Extra Shots:

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 9 November 2014, India
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: New Delhi

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge over river Ganga in Bihar

- Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge over river Ganga in Bihar through video conference.
- Over 5.5 kilometres long, the four-lane bridge lies on NH-19 between Patna and Hajipur.
- It is being constructed at a cost of one thousand 742 crore rupees.

Extra Shots:

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 9 November 2014, India
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: New Delhi

'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme extended to 4 more states, taking total states to 24



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- Four additional states, namely Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland and Uttarakhand have been to the One Nation One Ration Card scheme have been integrated with the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' plan of the Central government.
- With this, now a total of 24 States/UTs are connected under One Nation One Ration Card effective from 01 August 2020.
- These 24 States/UTs includes: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
- Now the beneficiaries will be eligible to receive foodgrains anywhere in these States/UTs through national portability of their ration cards.
- The remaining States/UTs are targeted to be integrated into national portability by March 2021.

Dr Harsh Vardhan launches 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21'

- Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan, 2020-21.
- This initiative is a national programme for popularizing science among school students of Class 6th to 11th.
- It was designed to identify the bright minds with a scientific aptitude among the student community.
- While launching the Vidhyarthi Vigyan Manthan, 2020-21, the Minister said, this is a platform to indentify the talent in the field of science and to promote the scientific acumen among the students.
- He said, students will help in creating the New India and this initiative will play leading role in it.

Shri Sanjay Dhotre inaugurated Bharat Airfiber High-speed Broadband Service at Akola, Maharashtra

- Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Electronics, Communication, and IT Sanjay Dhotre inaugurated "Bharat Air Fibre Services" at Akola, Maharashtra.
- The service will give Wireless Internet Connections on demand to the residents of Akola & Washim district.
- BSNL provides the Bharat Air Fibre Services through local business partners of BSNL from Akola & Washim District.

Bharat Air Fibre services:

- BSNL has introduced the Bharat Air Fibre services as a part of Digital India initiatives by the Government of India.
- The move aims to provide Wireless Connectivity in the range of 20 Kms from the BSNL locations. This will connect the customers in remote places so that it will benefit as BSNL comes with the cheapest services with the support of Telecom Infrastructure Partners (TIPs).
- These services will give the fastest internet connectivity in a quick time.
- The services are different from other operators as BSNL is providing unlimited free voice calling.

GoI launched a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of Agarbatti under Gramodyog Vikas Yojana



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- Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) approved a programme to benefit the artisans involved in the manufacturing of Agarbatti under 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana' on 30th July 2020. The aim is to develop the village industry.

Highlights:

- As per the programme, four Pilot Projects will be started initially.
- Each targeted cluster of artisans get support with about 50 Automatic Agarbatti making machines and 10 Mixing machines.
- Over 200 Automatic Agarbatti making machines and 40 Mixing machines will be provided to the artisans.
- This will also start the process of mitigating the gap between the indigenous 'production and demand' and will reduce the import of 'Agarbatti' in the country
- The programme aims to enhance the production of 'Agarbatti' in the country and create sustainable employment for the traditional Artisans, by providing them regular employment and an increase in their wages.
- The programme will give a boost to the domestic Agarbatti Industry in India.
- It will also reduce imports of Agarbatti.

MSME Minister launches Khadi's Gift Box of Silk Mask

- Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Shri Nitin Gadkari has launched the Khadi's Gift Box of Silk Mask.
- The Gift Box has been developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- The KVIC developed gift box comprises of four handcrafted silk masks in different colors and prints.
- These triple-layered silk masks are skin-friendly, washable, reusable as well as bio-degradable.
- The Khadi's Gift Box has been launch to tap the foreign market and a large Indian population looking for reasonably priced gift items.

Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport gets UNICEF-funded mass fever scanner

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in coordination with Asian Development Bank (ADB), has provided a state-of-the-art Thermal Scanner, to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad, to simplify operations and minimize handling.
- The Mass Fever Screening System, has been funded by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and will enhance the efficacy of the screening process at the airport.
- The new thermal scanner is a ceiling-mounted Mass Fever Screening System, capable of scanning, detecting and tracking persons with elevated skin temperature or fever.
- The system automatically adjusts and adapts to the surrounding ambient temperature without any human intervention, using its Intuitive User Interface and Dual-Displays (Day Camera + Infra-Red), and provides easy identification of passengers with elevated temperature.

Extra Shots:

ADB

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines



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- President: Masatsugu Asakawa
- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Membership: 68 countries
- Purpose: Economic development

UNICEF

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Head: Henrietta H. Fore
- Founded: 11 December 1946, New York, New York, United States
- Subsidiaries: UNICEF Ireland, Girls' Education Movement, MORE
- Founders: United Nations General Assembly, Ludwik Rajchman
- Parent organizations: United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council

Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) moves towards 2nd phase, ODF-Plus

The Swachh Bharat mission has focused on rural and urban areas separately and played a crucial role in ensuring sanitation in the country.

- Since the launch of the mission in 2014, more than 10 crore individual toilets have been constructed across the country and as a result, rural areas in all the States have declared themselves Open Defecation Free ODF on 2nd October, 2019.
- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) has moved towards its second phase which is also called ODF-Plus.
- This phase will continue till 2024-25.
- More than 66 lakh individual household toilets and over 6 lakh community and public toilets have also been constructed or are under construction.

PM Modi performs Bhoomi Pujan and lays foundation stone of Ram Temple in Ayodhya

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today performed Bhoomi Poojan and laid the foundation stone of Grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya.
- With this ceremony, the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya starts today.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Prime Minister to have Darshan at Ram janmbhumi and Hanumangarh temple of Ayodhya and after planting a sapling of Parijat Tree he took part in the Bhumi Poojan ceremony.
- Mr Modi released postage stamps on the model of Ram Temple on this occasion.
- A wooden Kodand Ram Statue was presented as a souvenir to Prime Minister from CM Yogi Adityanath.

Union Agriculture Minister launches Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel, a new initiative by National Cooperative Development Corporation.
- The Minister also launched guidance videos produced by NCDC on 'Formation and Registration of A Cooperative' for eighteen different states in Hindi and regional languages.
- The Union Government under Atma Nirbhar Bharat has recently announced a series of transformative measures and sector specific financial packages to help agriculture.



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- The initiatives are steps towards One Nation One Market with the objective for India to become food factory of the world.

HRD Minister lays foundation stone of IIM at Dhaula Kuan in Sirmour district

- In Himachal Pradesh, Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Dhaula Kuan in Sirmour district.
- The first phase of this Institute would be completed by spending an amount of 392.51 crore rupees.
- In 2014, the Union Government had taken decision to establish seven new IIMs including IIM Sirmaur.

Extra Shots:

MHRD

- Officeholder: Ramesh Pokhriyal (Union Minister)
- Ministry executives: R. Subrahmanyam, (IAS Officer); Rina Ray, (IAS Officer)
- Founded: 26 September 1985
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India
- Departments: Department of Higher Education, Department of School Education and Literacy

Western Railway loads onion in goods train for its transportation to Bangladesh

In Gujarat, the Bhavnagar division of Western Railway successfully loaded onions in a goods train for its transportation to Bangladesh.

- This is the first time that agriculture goods have been sent to neighbouring country through the train route.
- The first rake of such goods train has been loaded with onions at Dhoraji Railway Station of Bhavnagar division.
- The first such goods train loaded with onions was sent to Darshna Railway Station in Bangladesh from Dhoraji Railway station of Saurashtra.

Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission approved by Govt. to generate employment and make India self-reliant in agarbatti production

MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved a unique employment generation program proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission, KVIC to make India Atma Nirbhar in Agarbatti production.

- The program named as Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country.
- Under the scheme, KVIC will provide Automatic Agarbatti making machines and powder mixing machines to the artisans through the successful private Agarbatti manufacturers who will sign the agreement as business partners.
- KVIC will provide a 25 per cent subsidy on the cost of the machines and will recover the remaining 75 per cent of the cost from the artisans in easy installments every month.

Govt to launch National Clinical Registry for COVID-19

- The Government is set to launch a National Clinical Registry for COVID-19.



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- The main objective of this registry is to collect real time clinical data which will help in evidence based clinical practice, research, formulation of guidelines and policy making.
- This study is aimed at collecting data regarding clinical and laboratory features, treatments and outcomes of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in India.

I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar launches DD Assam 24x7 channel through video conferencing

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar launched DD Assam 24x7 channel through video conferencing.
- Mr. Javadekar said Doordarshan free Dish offers 104 channels free of cost for lifetime and people need to just get a set top box and enjoy the channels without paying any subscription fee.

PM Modi inaugurates Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra' near Raj Ghat in New Delhi.

- It is an interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- A tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK) was first announced by the prime minister on April 10 2017 on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of Gandhiji's Champaran 'satyagraha'.
- The visitors will experience a unique 360 degree audio visual immersive show, which will narrate India's Swachhata Story.
- The installations at Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra will introduce future generations to the successful journey of the world's largest behavioural change campaign, the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- A balanced mix of digital and outdoor installations in Kendra will impart information, awareness and education on Swachhata and related aspects

PM to inaugurate submarine Optical Fibre Cable connecting Chennai and Port Blair

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and dedicate the submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connecting Chennai and Port Blair to the nation through video conferencing.

- The submarine cable will also connect Port Blair to Swaraj Dweep, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar, Long Island and Rangat.
- This connectivity will enable delivery of faster and more reliable mobile and landline telecom services to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, at par with other parts of India.
- At present Andaman and Nicobar Islands have very weak telecom systems that hamper communications with the mainland and within the islands.

COVID Prevention Kiosk 'UV Baggage Bath' Inaugurated At Bengaluru Railway Station

- A unique COVID prevention kiosk named 'UV Baggage Bath' has been inaugurated at Bengaluru Railway Station.
- It has been set up at the second entry of the station where most of the scheduled special trains arrive and depart to ensure passenger luggage is completely sanitized before the passengers' board trains.

Mumbai Central Railway designs robot 'Rakshak' for health assistant



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- In the fight against the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, the Mumbai Division of Central Railway (CR) has designed a health assistant robot 'Rakshak' who can remotely communicate between doctor and patient.
- This medical aid robot is able to measure health parameters such as temperature, pulse, oxygen percentage and dispenser sanitizer automatic, infrared sensors.
- It can also provide medicines, food to the patients and make a two-way video communication between the doctor and the patient.

Jal Shakti Ministry launched new version of India Water Resources Information System

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a new version of the India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS).
- The new system provides with new functionalities and features.
- The advanced version is to address the requirement of a strong data base and a reliable information system.

Highlights:

- The new version of India-WRIS is open to the public, and accessible through the web portal www.indiawris.gov.in.
- The portal contains information related to Water Resources for rainfall, water levels & discharge of rivers, water bodies, groundwater levels, reservoir storages, evapotranspiration and soil moisture, and modules on water resources projects, water bodies, hydro-met data availability and tools for GIS layer editing.
- Through a secured login, Central and State Water Agencies can enter, analyze, validate and manage data for water level of both Surface Water & Ground Water, water quality, flow, sediment, and many climate parameters.
- The new system includes time-series data obtained through manual readings and telemetry data received by means of GPRS or satellite.
- With this, any stakeholder can visualize the information in a user friendly manner, as well download the information in the form of excel reports and graphs.

Extra Shots:

Ministry of Jal Shakti

- Superseding agency: Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Headquarters: Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi
- Founded: September 1985
- Officeholders: Sanjeev Balyan (Minister of State), Vijay Goel (Minister of State), Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Minister)

India's first 'Kisan Rail', to transport perishable commodities begins service

- Indian Railways' first Kisan Rail, exclusively meant to transport farm produce, was flagged off by Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal via videoconferencing on 7 August 2020.
- The train will run on weekly basis, between Deolali in Maharashtra to Danapur in Bihar, covering a distance of 1,519 kilometres in 32 hours.



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- This train will help in bringing perishable agricultural products like vegetables, fruits to the market in a short period of time.
- The train will have frozen containers, which is expected to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishable goods, like fish, meat and milk.
- Kisan Rail is a step towards realizing the goal of doubling farmers' incomes by 2022.

More than 10 lakh houses have been approved under PM Awas Yojana (Urban)

- More than ten lakh houses have been approved under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).
- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said, these houses have been approved in the 51st Meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee held in New Delhi.
- With this, the total number of sanctioned houses under the scheme are now one crore six lakh as against the validated demand of one crore 12 lakh. The total investment under the Mission is six lakh 31 thousand Crore rupees.

Govt launches Letter of Recommendation module for street vendors to avail PM SVANidhi Scheme benefits

- Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra today launched Letter of Recommendation module for PM SVANidhi Scheme.
- The module is designed to give access to street vendors who do not have Identity Card and Certificate of Vending and are not in the surveyed list for availing benefits under the scheme.
- The module provides for an end to end, digitally enabled process wherein an eligible vendor can request for a Letter of Recommendation from the Urban Local Body and on receipt of the same he can apply for loan under PM SVANidhi.

Government to reconsider minimum age of marriage for girls

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the Centre will decide on the recommendations of a committee set up to reconsider the minimum age of marriage for women.

- The minimum age of marriage, especially for women, has been a contentious issue.
- The law evolved in the face of much resistance from religious and social conservatives. Currently, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 21 years and 18 years for men and women respectively.
- On June 2, the Union Ministry for Women and Child Development set up a task force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio and the improvement of nutritional levels among women.
- The task force will examine the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with health, medical well-being, and nutritional status of the mother and neonate, infant or child, during pregnancy, birth and thereafter.
- It will also look at key parameters like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) and Child Sex Ratio (CSR), and will examine the possibility of increasing the age of marriage for women from the present 18 years to 21 years.

CBIC directs Customs to check within 48 hours safety of explosives in warehouses, ports



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The CBIC has urgently directed Customs and field formations to immediately verify and confirm within 48 hours that any hazardous or explosive material lying in warehouses and ports across the country meets all safety and fire standards and presents no danger to life and property.

- The precautionary step has been taken in view of the recent incident of explosion at Beirut in Lebanon caused by such material.
- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is the nodal national agency responsible for administering Customs, GST, Central Excise, Service Tax & Narcotics in India.
- CBIC Chairperson: M. Ajit Kumar.

PM Modi to inaugurate Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra on Aug 8

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra, (RSK).
- The Kendra is an interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission, which was first announced by Mr Modi on the occasion of centenary celebrations of Gandhiji's Champaran Satyagraha in 2017.
- The Swachh Bharat Mission has transformed rural sanitation in India and has changed the behaviour of over 55 crore people from open defecation to using a toilet.
- Installations at the centre will introduce future generations to the successful journey of the world's largest behaviour change campaign - the Swachh Bharat Mission.

TRIFED launched Virtual Office Network to Spearhead Tribal Socio-Economic Development

- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has launched its own Virtual Office Network to Spearhead Tribal Socio-Economic Development on the occasion of its 33rd Foundation Day on August 6, 2020.
- TRIFED has doubled its efforts to offer its help and support the tribal people in employment and livelihood generation.

Highlights:

- The TRIFED Virtual office network has 81 online workstations and 100 additional converging State and agency workstations that will help the team of TRIFED warriors work with their partners across India on Mission-mode with an aim to bring the tribal people closer to mainstream development.
- It aims to gauge the level of employee engagement and streamline their efforts, an Employee Engagement and Work Distribution Matrix with Dashboard Links has also been launched.
- TRIFED has also launched other digital software with an aim to enable the States and regions to work seamlessly.
- The move is to promote tribal commerce and map and link its village-based tribal producers and artisans to national and international markets by setting up state of art e-platforms benchmarked to international standards.

NFDC organises first ever online patriotic film festival from August 7

- The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) will be organizing a first of its kind, online patriotic film festival from August 7 to August 21, 2020.



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- The virtual film festival will be a part of Independence Day Celebrations 2020 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The festival will be showcasing Indian History that marks the bravery of the country's freedom fighters and will aim at creating a festive and patriotic mood in the present times among the Indians across the world.

Extra Shots:

NFDC:

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Key person: Anupama Chopra
- Founded: 1975, Mumbai

NITI Aayog selects Oracle Cloud to transform Aspirational Districts

Niti Aayog announced it has selected Oracle to help it modernise vital IT infrastructure in 112 most backward districts as part of its Aspirational Districts Programme.

- These 112 districts constitute 28 percent of population (nearly 1.4 billion) and the new cloud solution aims to aid district magistrates to improve overall performance and transform the quality of life of citizens.
- The programme uses data to identify top performing districts.
- The data driven decisions are essential to identify strengths and weaknesses of the Aspirational Districts.
- NITI Aayog is to receive help from Oracle cloud Services to fast track the transformation of Aspirational Districts.

Agri-Infra Fund for providing Farm Credit launched by PM

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to launch a financing facility of Rs 1 lakh crore under Agriculture Infrastructural Fund on August 8.
- This is part of the Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus package announced by the government during the COVID 19 Pandemic in the country.
- Under this program, Rs 1 lakh crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to primary Agri credit societies, farmer groups, farmer producer organizations, agri-entrepreneurs, startups and agri-tech players.
- Loans will be disbursed in four years under this scheme starting with Rs 10000 crore in the current year and Rs 30000 crore each in the next three years.
- All loans will have interest subvention facility of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs 2 crores.

Piyush Goyal, Pralhad Joshi dedicate Railway Museum at Hubballi in Karnataka

- Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi today dedicated a Railway Museum at Hubballi in Karnataka through video conferencing.
- At Hubballi Museum, the artefacts are broadly arranged in three sections, at two cottages named Malaprabha and Ghataprabha and the outdoor section.
- Other highlights of the Museum are Galaxy of Rolling Stock, Theatre Coach, Suruchi Cafeteria, Toy Train, Memorabilia Shop, Ticket Printing Machine, Model train run and Children's Activity Room.



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- This Rail Museum is first of its kind in North Karnataka and second in South Western Railway after the historic Rail Museum at Mysuru.

Extra Shots:

Karnataka:

- Statehood Day: 1st November 1956
- Capital: Bengaluru
- Chief Minister: B. S. Yediyurappa
- Governor: Vajubhai Vala
- National Park: Anshi NP, Bandipur NP, Bannerghatta NP, Kudremukh NP, Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) NP.

PM Modi inaugurates submarine Optical Fibre Cable connecting Chennai, Port Blair

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 2300-kilometre submarine optical fibre cable network between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This project is Union government's commitment for Ease of living. Saying this project will boost tourism in the Islands.
- This cable project is running 2313 kilometre under-sea between Chennai and Portblair at the cost of rupees 1,224 Crore.
- Seven islands of Andaman and Nicobar islands other than Portblair are connected namely Swaraj Dweep, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar, Long Island, and Rangat.
- This will boost digital services like tele-education, tele-health, e-governance services and tourism on the island.

Indian Railways to observe 'Cleanliness Week' from August 10

- Indian Railways has decided to observe 'Cleanliness Week' starting from August 10 till August 15 in order to give the message of the importance and significance of cleanliness for the national transporter.
- The Indian Railways has decided to launch a special cleanliness drive and also special focus will be provided to clean the tracks, station offices, colonies, worksites, the edge of stations and other areas near the premises of the railway stations, across the country.

Centre Releases Rs 553 Crore to States for Agricultural Mechanization

- The Centre has released Rs 553 crore to states under a scheme to promote mechanization in the agriculture sector.
- The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) was launched in April 2014 with an aim to have inclusive growth of farm mechanization to boost productivity.
- In the year 2020-21, budget of Rs 1,033 crore has been provided for the scheme, out of which Rs 553 crore has been released to state governments

Govt proposes to launch National Clinical Registry for data collection

- The Government is set to launch a National Clinical Registry for COVID-19.



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- The main objective of this registry is to collect real time clinical data which will help in evidence based clinical practice, research, formulation of guidelines and policy making.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences have proposed to establish a COVID-19 clinical registry for data collection from 100 hospitals across the country.
- The duration of the study will be one year and any COVID-19 lab confirmed and hospitalized patient will be enrolled.

Extra Shots:

ICMR:

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Secretary & Director General: Dr. Shriram Bhargava
- Leader: Balram Bhargava
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1911
- Subsidiary: RMRIMS Agamkuan, Patna, Bihar

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Krishi Megh

- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar virtually launched the Krishi Megh (National Agricultural Research & Education System -Cloud Infrastructure and Services).
- Krishi Megh is in line with the digital agriculture of New India.
- Also, he launched KVC ALUNET (Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Chhatr Alumni Network) and Online Accreditation System for Higher Agricultural Educational Institutions (HEI).

'Gandagi Bharat Chorho': PM Modi Launches Week-Long Cleanliness Campaign For Garbage-Free India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a week-long campaign 'Gandagi Bharat Chorho' to free India of garbage and waste.
- The campaign will continue till August 15. The rural and urban areas of the country will witness special 'swachhta' initiatives during the week.
- Punjab Cricket Association's new international stadium to be named after Patiala's last ruler
- The Punjab Cricket Association has decided to name its new stadium in Mullanpur after the last ruler of erstwhile Patiala state, late Maharaja Yadavindra Singh, who played a Test match for India in 1934.
- He was the father of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh
- The PCA has also started the process of renovating the existing IS Bindra Stadium to turn it into an international cricket academy.

"Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums" being developed by Tribal Affairs Ministry

- The Tribal Affairs Ministry has stated that all the nine museums dedicated to tribal freedom fighters will be completed by 2022.
- Out of the nine proposed museums sanctioned for tribal freedom fighters, two are nearing completion and the rest are at different stages of progress.



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Education Minister launches Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations

- The Human Resources Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', has launched the 'Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020.'
- The regulations have been prepared by the experts of the Council of Architecture.
- These will be able to address the major concerns and challenges lying in the area of human habitat and built environment in the country.

AIM & NITI Aayog with Dell Technologies launched Student Entrepreneurship 2.0 Programme

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies has launched Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).
- The programme was launched following the success of SEP 1.0.

Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0:

- SEP 2.0 will allow student innovators to work closely with Dell volunteers.
- The students will receive mentor support, end-user feedback, prototyping and testing support, intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products, manufacturing support, and the launch support of the product in the market.
- The main objective of the programme aims to create over a million neoteric innovators and potential job creators of the country.
- The Student Entrepreneurship Programme will encourage young aspiring school students, and create a value-adding recognition platform for innovative talent across the country.

Extra Shots:

NITI Aayog

- Website: niti.gov.in
- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Objectives: Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
- Jurisdiction: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Dell Technologies

- CEO: Michael S. Dell
- Founder: Michael S. Dell

India's first upper-stage rocket engine test-fired by Skyroot Aerospace

- Aerospace startup venture Skyroot Aerospace has successfully test-fired an upper-stage rocket engine, thus becoming the first private company in India to demonstrate the capability to build a homegrown rocket engine.
- The engine is 3-D printed and named as Raman, after the Nobel Laureate CV Raman.
- It has fewer moving parts and weighs less than half of conventional rocket engines with similar capacity.



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PM Modi to release sixth instalment of PM-KISAN scheme to 8.5 crore farmers, to launch Rs 1 Lakh crore financing facility

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the financing facility of one lakh crore rupees under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

- He also released the sixth instalment of funds of 17 thousand crore rupees to 8.5 crore farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna (PM-KISAN) scheme.
- The financing facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund will catalyze the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets like cold storage, collection centres and processing units.
- These assets will enable farmers to get greater value for their produce, as they will be able to store and sell at higher prices, reduce wastage, and increase processing and value addition.
- One lakh crore rupees will be sanctioned under the financing facility in partnership with multiple lending institutions.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Addresses 'India@75 Summit: Mission 2022' for upliftment of MSME

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari addressed the 'India@75 Summit: Mission 2022' on 8 August in New Delhi, via video-conferencing.
- The event was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) to look towards improving presence of MSME industry in the 115 identified aspirational districts of the country.

Mumbai becomes first Indian city to get female symbol on traffic signage

- Mumbai has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage, as a symbolic gesture towards gender equality in public spaces.
- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed female traffic signals, that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.
- The symbols have been changed in 240 signals on 120 posts situated in 12 different road crossings near Mumbai's Dadar area.

Extra Shots:

BMC

- Founded: 1888, Mumbai
- Municipal Commissioner: Iqbal Singh Chahal IAS
- Last election: 2017
- Next election: 2022
- Seats: 227
- Subsidiary: Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport

Jal Shakti Minister launches Swachh Bharat Mission Academy

- The Swachh Bharat Mission Academy has been launched by the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.



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- The SBM academy was launched during the current week-long behaviour change campaign 'GandagiMukt Bharat'.
- The launch of SBM academy is a crucial part of the phase 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
- It will ensure behaviour change and promote the capacity building of the key stakeholders such as Swachhagrahis, PRIs members, community-based organizations, NGOs, SHGs etc.

Lok Sabha officials to start beginner-level course in French

- Lok Sabha has started a beginner-level course in French for the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat at the Parliament House.
- More than 57 officials have registered for the course.

Highlights:

- The course was launched as it is considered to interconnect the world and is a necessary skill for success in different fields.
- The move comes as the language brings people together and helps improve their efficiency and skill as languages enrich and bring people together.
- The initiative is launched under the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE).
- The initiative of PRIDE is committed to learning and research posture.
- It is also expected that courses in German, Spanish, Russian, and other important world languages will also be organized.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched Empowering Tribals, Transforming India

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) unveiled the Online Performance Dashboard "Empowering Tribals, Transforming India".
- The platform was launched by Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and Shri Ramesh Chand, Member NITI Aayog.

Empowering Tribals, Transforming India Dashboard:

- Empowering Tribals, Transforming India Performance Dashboard is an interactive and dynamic online platform.
- The platform showcases updated & real-time details of 11 schemes and initiatives of the MoTA for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The performance Dashboard will capture the performance of 5 Scholarship Schemes of Ministry wherein every year about 30 lakh underprivileged Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries are benefitted to the tune of Rs.2500 crores.
- The dynamic Dashboard captures details of tribal students from one State to different States and to different countries.

Extra Shots:

NITI Aayog

- Formed: 1 January 2015



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Objectives: Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
- Jurisdiction: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

India-Japan-Australia supply chain in the works to counter China

India, Japan and Australia have begun discussions on launching a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) to reduce dependency on China, necessitated by Beijing's aggressive political and military behaviour.

- The initiative, first proposed by Japan, is now taking shape.
- Japan through its Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry approached India recently and pressed on the urgency to take the initiative forward.
- The government is moving on the proposal quite seriously, especially in the light of China's aggressive moves on the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh

BCG vaccine stimulates immune responses against Covid-19: Study

A study published in Cell Reports Medicine stated that BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guerin), a vaccine for tuberculosis (TB) disease, is effective to contain multiple infectious diseases including Covid-19 by evoking immune responses.

- The study was conducted on people who have received a BCG vaccine in the past five years (before the coronavirus pandemic). It showed that the vaccine is safe and induces immune responses.
- The study found that those who received the BCG vaccine did not fall ill more often or become critical during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Netherlands.
- However, researchers warned that the study has its own limitations and should not be used to draw conclusions regarding the effectiveness of the BCG vaccine against the SARS-CoV-2.
- Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccine is a vaccine primarily used against tuberculosis (TB).
- In countries where TB or leprosy is common, one dose is recommended in healthy babies as close to the time of birth as possible.

Health Minister inaugurates Mega Blood Donation Camp dedicated to Corona Warriors at AIIMS, New Delhi

- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan today inaugurated a Mega Blood Donation Camp dedicated to Corona Warriors at All India Institute Of Medical Sciences, AIIMS in New Delhi.
- On the occasion, the Minister felicitated Corona Warriors.

India celebrated its 74th Independence Day on 15 August

- India celebrated its 74th Independence Day on 15 August 2020.
- On 15th August 1947, India gained its power and became an independent nation.
- The Day is celebrated by colours and many events across the country.
- On this special day, President Ram Nath Kovind and the Prime Minister delivered the address to the nation on the Independence Day event.
- PM of India Narendra Modi hoisted the tricolour flag on the special occasion.

Ministry of AYUSH launched AYUSH for Immunity Campaign



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- The Ministry of AYUSH launched “Ayush for Immunity” on 14th August through webinar.
- Ayush for Immunity is a three-month campaign. More than 50,000 people participated in the Webinar.
- The Webinar was staged on Ayush Virtual Convention Centre (AVCC), the new digital communication platform of the AYUSH Ministry.

Immunity Campaign:

- The campaign aims to enhance immunity and the requirement of lifestyle change amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The campaign emphasizes the need for behavioural change in people towards immunity enhancing steps, and highlights the positive role of traditional medicines and practices in enhancing immunity.
- Various initiatives are planned to be launched under the umbrella of Ayush for Immunity campaign.
- The main focus of the event is to acquaint the people with valuable information about strengths of various Ayush-based solutions for enhancing immunity and preventing diseases.

Extra Shots:

Ministry of AYUSH

- Founded: 9 November 2014, India
- Officeholder: Shripad Naik (MOS independent charge)
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India

GoM approves e-way bill for intra-state gold movement

- The Group of Finance Ministers has approved bringing the intra-state movement of gold within the ambit of the e-Way bill.

e-Way Bill

- This is kind of an electronic challan which shows that tax has been fully paid before goods are moved from one place to other, within the state (intra-state) or outside the state (inter-state).
- This is required for carrying any consignment of goods of value exceeding Rs 50000.
- The e-Way bill is generated from the GST Common Portal for this bill by the registered persons or transporters who cause movement of goods before the commencement of such movement.
- e-way bill, it has two parts – Part A and Part B.
- Part A has invoice details whereas Part B is about the vehicle details such as registration, number, etc. Such details might create a security issue and that is why gold and precious stones were kept outside the ambit of the e-Way bill.

GoI launched National Portal “SURAKHSYA” on Human Elephant conflict

The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched National Portal on Human Elephant conflict called “SURAKHSYA”.

- The portal aims to collect real time information and will also manage conflicts on real time basis.
- The portal will help to set data collection protocols, data visualization tools and data transmission pipelines.
- The National Portal was launched during the celebration of international annual event World Elephant Day.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- The World Elephant Day is celebrated every year on August 12 to create elephant conservation and share knowledge for better protection of wild captive elephants.

Drone based surveillance system introduced for Railway Security

Indian Railways have introduced a Drone based surveillance system for Railway security.

- Railway Protection Force, RPF has planned extensive use of drones for the purpose of Railway security.
- Nine drones have been procured by RPF so far at a cost of around 32 lakh at South Eastern Railway, Central Railway, Modern Coaching Factory, Raebareli and South Western Railway.
- Mumbai Division of Central Railway has recently procured two Ninja UAVs for better security and surveillance in Railway areas like station premises, Railway track sections, yards and workshops.
- A team of four staff members of RPF Mumbai has been trained for drone flying, surveillance and maintenance.
- These drones are capable of Real Time Tracking, Video Streaming.

India exported 23 lakh PPE to 5 countries in July 2020

- India has exported 23 lakh Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to five countries including the UK, the US, and UAE in July 2020, after the Indian government had relaxed the export norms.
- The increased export of PPE has substantially helped India to position itself in the global market of these kits.

NTPC develops infrastructure at Rihand project for increased use of fly ash

- National Thermal Power Corporation, NTPC has developed an infrastructure at Rihand project in Uttar Pradesh to transport fly ash in bulk to cement plants at a cheaper cost.
- The development is in line with NTPC's commitment towards 100 percent utilization of fly ash from power plants.
- The effort marks the beginning of a new era for the transportation of fly ash from a remote location to a consumption centre, enabling power plants for upgrading the utilization of fly ash.

Extra Shots:

NTPC

- Founded: 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Owner: Government of India
- Organization type: State-owned enterprise
- Purpose: Electricity generation and distribution natural gas exploration, production, transportation and distribution

New Education Policy aims at ensuring 100% gross enrolment in schools by 2030

- In Tamil Nadu, the webinar on New Education Policy organized by the Rural Outreach Bureau, Government of India in Thanjavur, emphasized the fact that the policy primarily aims at ensuring 100 per cent gross enrolment in schools by 2030.



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- The webinar, held as part of Independence Day celebrations, was one element in a series of online communication exchange campaigns being organized by the Rural Outreach Bureau.

India aims to have zero road fatalities by 2030: Nitin Gadkari

- India is working to achieve zero road accident fatalities by 2030, said Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.
- Under the Indian Road Safety Assessment Programme 21,000 km roads have been assessed and about 3,000 km road length is under technological upgradation.
- World Bank and ADB have committed ₹7,000 crore each for this campaign.

PM Modi Announces One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative

- The Government of India has come up with its ambitious plan of trans-national electricity grid, for supplying solar power across the globe.

Highlights:

- The mega plan is called “One Sun, One World, One Grid” (OSOWOG). It was announced by PM Modi in his Independence Day address on 15 August 2020.
- This idea of OSOWOG was first floated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018 during the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- As per the draft plan prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the OSOWOG will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power.
- “The vision behind the OSOWOG mantra is “the Sun never sets” and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.”
- The OSOWOG plan will be executed in three phases to share solar and other renewable energy resources
- Phase I: Indian grid will be connected with the Middle East, South Asia and South-East Asian grids
- Phase II: Connect the first phase nations with the African Region countries rich in solar and other renewable energy resources.
- Phase III: Global interconnection

Indian Railways set to meet all its energy needs of over 33 billion units by 2030

Indian Railways is set to meet all its energy needs of more than 33 billion units by 2030.

- The current annual requirement is about 21 billion units.
- Railways have developed a mega plan for installing solar plants of 20 Gigawatt capacity by utilizing its vacant land by 2030.
- The use of solar power will accelerate the mission to achieve conversion of Indian Railways to Net Zero Carbon Emission Railway.
- Railway is committed to utilize solar energy for meeting its traction power requirement and become a complete Green mode of transportation

All villages to be connected with optical fibre in next 1,000 days: PM Modi

- The project to connect all the villages of India with optical fibre network will be completed in the next 1,000 days.



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- This was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the nation on Independence Day on 15 August 2020.
- He said that India's over six lakh villages will be connected with optical fibre network in the coming 1,000 days.
- Apart from this, a high speed internet connectivity via submarine optical fibre cable will be extended to Lakshadweep in the next 1,000 days to provide high speed internet services in the region.

Central government to launch projects for lion, dolphin conservation

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2020, announced that the centre has been planning to launch Project Lion and Project Dolphin to replicate the success of Project Tiger.
- The projects will be launched by the central government for the biodiversity conservation of these species.
- PM Modi informed about these projects in his Independence Day Speech 2020.
- It was also informed that Project dolphin will focus on both the sea and river dolphins which will also give a boost to biodiversity and will create employment opportunities.
- This will also become a centre of attraction for tourism.

President Ram Nath Kovind virtually unveils a portrait of Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee at ICCR

Headquarters

- The President of India Ram Nath Kovind unveiled the portrait of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India virtually on his second death anniversary, at the headquarters of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- From March 1977 to August 1979, the former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee served as the ex-officio President of ICCR, when he was Foreign Minister.

Extra Shots:

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

- President: Vinay Sahasrabuddhe
- Founder: Abul Kalam Azad
- Founded: 9 April 1950, New Delhi
- Director General: Shri Dineshk Patnaik
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Parent organisation: Government of India

HRD ministry officially renamed as Ministry of Education

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to the change in name of the Ministry of Human Resource Development as Ministry of Education.
- The name change was among the key recommendations of the draft new National Education Policy, NEP which was cleared by the Union Cabinet last month.

Gwalior-Chambal Expressway to be named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- The proposed Gwalior-Chambal Expressway will be named Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chambal Progressway.



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- This was announced by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while paying tribute to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his second death anniversary on 16 August 2020.
- CM Chouhan also announced that a grand statue of Shri Atal Ji will be set up in Bhopal.

Gwalior-Chambal Expressway

- It is a proposed Six-lane expressway to connect the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.
- The expressway will connect the historic town of Kota in Rajasthan to Etawah in Uttar Pradesh alongside the Chambal River while covering the towns of Sheopur Morena, Shampur, Ater and Gohad in Madhya Pradesh.
- The proposed expressway will cost Rs. 8,250 crore and will measure 404 km.

Extra Shots:

Madhya Pradesh:

- Statehood Day: 1st November 1956
- Capital: Bhopal
- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- National Park: Bandhavgarh NP, Fossil NP, Kanha NP, Madhav NP, Panna NP, Pench NP, Sanjay NP, Satpura NP

BRO constructed Bailey bridge in Uttarakhand

- Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed a 180-foot bailey bridge in the Jauljibi sector of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand.
- The construction was done amid frequent landslides and heavy rains.

Bailey bridge:

- The Bailey bridge is of the 50-metre span.
- The concrete bridge was washed out completely on July 27, 2020, due to the flood. The BRO mobilized the bridging resources and set up to construct the bridge.
- The bridge will meet the biggest challenge to transport parts to the site from Pithoragarh amidst frequent landslides and heavy rains.
- The construction of the bridge was successfully completed on August 16, 2020.
- The connectivity is expected to bring relief to about 15,000 people in 20 villages.
- The constructed bridge allows the road communication of 66 km road starting from Jauljibi to Munsiyari.

Extra Shots:

Uttarkhand

- Statehood Day: 9th November 2000
- Capital: Dehradun
- Governor: Baby Rani maurya
- Chief Minister: Trivendra Singh Rawat
- National Park :Jim Corbett NP, Gangotri NP, Nanda Devi NP, Rajaji NP



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India Post Issued Stamps on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India

- India Post has released a set of five commemorative postage stamps and a miniature sheet on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India on the occasion of 74th Independence Day.
- The stamps depict following five cultural sites of India-Historic City of Ahmedabad, Churches and Convents of Goa, Group of Monuments at Pattadakal, Khajuraho Group of Monuments and Qutub Minar.
- There are 38 World Heritage Sites located in India.
- These include 30 cultural sites, 7 natural sites and 1 mixed-criteria site.
- India has the sixth largest number of sites in the world.

Extra Shots:

UNESCO

- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Head: Audrey Azoulay
- Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom
- Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- Formation: 4 November 1945

FSSAI restricted the sale of junk food within 50 metres of school campus

With the aim to ensure safe and wholesome food for school children, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has restricted the sale of junk and unhealthy food in canteens of schools and other educational institutions.

- Besides this, the food regulator has prohibited the sale and advertisement of unhealthy food within 50 metres of the school premises.
- The idea is to provide safe food and a balanced diet for children in schools.
- Foods which are referred to as foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) cannot be sold to schoolchildren in school canteens or mess premises or hostel kitchens or within 50 metres of the school campus.

Cabinet approved setting up of National Recruitment Agency

- The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the setting up of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA).
- The aim is to pave the way for a transformational reform in the recruitment process for central government jobs.

National Recruitment Agency (NRA):

- NRA will conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for Group B and C which is for non-technical posts.
- NRA will have representatives of Ministry of Railways, Department of Financial Services of the Ministry of Finance, the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and the Institute of Banking Service Personnel (IBPS).
- It is expected that the NRA would be a specialist body bringing state-of-the-art technology and best practices to the field of Central Government recruitment.

Ravi Shankar Prasad launched Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge to boost Start-up



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Union Minister of Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad launched “Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solution for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat” on 18 August 2020.

Highlights:

- The aim is to provide further impetus to the strong ecosystem of Start-up, innovation, and research in the country.
- Under the aegis of Microprocessor Development Programme of Ministry of Electronics and IT, IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture.
- Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge - Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat aims to invite startups, innovators, and students to use these microprocessors.
- The aim is to develop various technology products. Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge is part of the measures taken by the Ministry of Electronics and IT to spur the technology-led innovation ecosystem in the country.
- The challenge is open to the students at all levels and startups, the Challenge demands contestants to tinker with these Swadeshi Processor IPs and facilitate them with innovating the frugal solutions for societal needs.
- The participants can register at innovate.mygov.in. It is open from 18th August 2020 and culminates in June 2021.

Tribal Affairs Minister launches “Trifood Project” of TRIFED

- The tertiary processing centres of “Trifood Project” of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been virtually launched by the Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.
- The Trifood project has been launched in Raigad, Maharashtra and Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.
- This project is expected to help in encouraging the tribal entrepreneurship.
- “Trifood Project” is being implemented by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with Ministry of Food Processing (MoFPI).

Shri Arjun Munda e-inaugurated Tribes India Showroom in Mumbai

- Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs e-inaugurated ‘Tribes India Showroom’ in Mumbai.

Highlights:

- The move is in line with the Prime Minister’s message “Be Vocal for Local”.
- The move aims to promote the livelihood of the tribal people marketing, TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has initiated these path-breaking initiatives that have a wide-ranging impact.
- The move aims to boost sales and enhance tribal income in these challenging times, Tribes India on Wheels, mobile vans stacked fully with Van Dhan natural produce, immunity boosters and other tribal products.
- It will take these products directly to the customer’s doorstep in 150 cities across the country.

Santosh Gangwar launches Logo of Labour Bureau

- Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment launched the official logo of Labour Bureau on 20 August 2020.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Key Features of the Logo

- The newly launched logo represents the three goals of Labour Bureau to produce quality data which are Accuracy, Validity and Reliability, thus signifying that Labour Bureau is a data-based organization dealing in data related to workers and work.
- Blue wheel: It is a cog wheel representing work. Blue colour signifies that we deal with blue collar workers.
- Graph: It is not going upwards alone as in real world data has ups & downs because it captures ground reality.
- Tricolored Graph: The graph matches with the colors of the National flag, along with wheat ears, signifying the fruit of rural agricultural labour.

Tribal Affairs ministry launches tertiary processing centres in Chhattisgarh & Maharashtra

- The Tribal Affairs Ministry launched two tertiary processing centres in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra to enhance the income of tribal forest gatherers by adding value to non-timber forest products collected by them.
- Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda e-launched the centres under the "TRIFOOD" project being implemented by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in association with the Ministry of Food Processing.
- One of the minor forest produce (MFP) processing units will be set up in Raigad, Maharashtra, to add value to tradition tribal drink "mahua", amla, custard apple and jamun and produce mahua drink, amla juice, candy, jamun juice and custard apple pulp.
- Another multi-commodity processing centre in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, will be used for the processing of commodities like mahua, amla, honey, cashew, tamarind, ginger, garlic and other fruits and vegetables.

Government Forms National Council for Transgenders to Formulate Policies Aimed at Equality & Participation

- Central Government has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons to formulate policies, programmes, legislation and projects for the benefits of the transgender community and help them in achieving equality and have full participation by them.
- Union Minister of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will be the ex-officio Chairperson of the council. Presently, this post is held by Thaawar Chand Gehlot.
- The council was established by the Centre in exercise of the powers conferred by the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

Validity of Motor Vehicle documents extended till December 31, 2020

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to extend the validity of Fitness, Permits, Licenses, Registration or other documents under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 till the 31st of December 2020.
- The validity of all of the above-referred documents whose extension of validity could not or not likely be granted due to lock-down and which had expired since 1st of Feb, 2020 or would expire by 31st Dec 2020, the same may be treated to be valid till 31st of December 2020.
- Earlier this extension was provided till 30th of September 2020.

Santosh Gangwar launches official Logo of "Labour Bureau"



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, Santosh Gangwar has launched the official Logo of “Labour Bureau”.
- It displays the three goals that Labour Bureau aspires to achieve in producing quality data i.e. Accuracy, Validity and Reliability.
- It also indicates that the Labour Bureau is a data based organization which deals in data pertaining to workers and work.

Harsh Vardhan launches game on COVID-19 “The Corona Fighters”

- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched a game on COVID-19 titled as “The Corona Fighters”.
- The game has been launched with a target to influence the players’ actions in the real world, reminding them to take the right precautions and escape infection.
- So, this game is a new and extremely creative method to teach people the right tools as well as behaviours to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

KVIC creates self-employment for migrant workers through its flagship Honey Mission Programme

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken a big major leap towards ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ by creating the local and self-employment for the migrant workers through its Honey Mission Programme.
- To provide the livelihood opportunity under the mission, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State for MSME distributed 700 bee boxes to the 70 migrant workers of Bulandshahr and Saharanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh on August 25, 2020.

Extra Shots:

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- Founded: 1956
- Purpose: To plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chairperson: Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Parent agency: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

President Ram Nath Kovind celebrates Van Mahotsav

- President Ram Nath Kovind celebrated Van Mahotsav today with planting a Neem sapling in the President's Estate.
- Van Mahotsav is an annual one-week tree planting festival which is celebrated in the country.
- The unique festival was started in the year 1950 by Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi by planting a tree at Rajghat in Delhi.

Centre constitutes National Council for Transgender Persons

- The Centre has constituted a National Council for Transgender Persons through a notification.
- Thawar Chand Gehlot, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister will be the ex-officio Chairperson and Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment will be ex-officio Vice-Chairperson.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- The National Council will advise the Centre on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons.
- It will monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons.

eVIN ensures essential immunization services during COVID pandemic

The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) has ensured essential immunization services during the COVID pandemic.

- eVIN is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country.
- This is being implemented under the National Health Mission by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country.
- eVIN has reached 32 States and Union Territories and will soon be rolled-out in the remaining States and UTs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Ladakh and Sikkim.
- eVIN India is helping the State and UT governments monitor the supply chain of COVID response material

Tribal Affairs Ministry develops nine 'Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums

The Tribal Affairs Ministry is developing "Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums dedicated to the contributions of the tribal people in India to the freedom struggle.

- Out of nine sanctioned museums, two museums are near completion and the remaining seven are at different stages of progress.
- By the end of 2022 all the museums will come into existence.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced setting up of these tribal freedom fighters' museums during his Independence Day Speech on 15th August 2016.
- All the museums will have strong usage of technologies like Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and 3D/7D holographic projections.
- These museums will demonstrate the way tribals struggle to protect their custodial concerns for the biological and cultural diversity of the country.

NITI Aayog panel recommended linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates

- A NITI Aayog task force, headed by Niti Aayog Member (Agriculture) Ramesh Chand, recommended the linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates.
- The move is to keep the industry in sound financial health.
- The task force also suggested for a one-time increase in minimum sugar price to Rs.33 per kilo to help sugar mills cover the cost of production.
- The report of the panel on the 'Sugarcane and Sugar Industry' was finalized in March 2020.

Extra Shots:

NITI Aayog

- Formed: 1 January 2015



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Objectives: Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
- Jurisdiction: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Centre to identify illegal beneficiaries of PM-KISAN

- Government of India is planning to identify the farmers who are illegally receiving benefits of the PM-KISAN scheme by concealing facts that make them ineligible.
- The illegal beneficiaries include serving and retired government employees who are barred from getting benefits of the scheme.
- Under this move, the Ministry of Agriculture will obtain the data of central and state government employees from the Ministry of Finance.
- The data from the Finance Ministry must match with the data with the PM-KISAN list of beneficiaries.
- The Ministry will check if there are any income-tax payers among the beneficiaries of the PM-KISAN scheme.

Extra Shots:

PM-KISAN Scheme:

- Narendra Modi launched the Rs.75,000 crore PM KISAN scheme from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh on 24th February 2019. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme was announced in Piyush Goyal's interim budget 2019-20 and is completely funded by the central government. Under the PM-KISAN scheme, Rs.6,000 will be given to 12 crore farmers, who are eligible to claim the benefits with less than 2 hectares of land, per year in three installments.

DoPPW to integrate e- Pension Payment Order with Digi Locker

- The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, DoPPW has decided to integrate the electronic Pension Payment Order, e-PPO generated through PFMS application of Controller General of Accounts, with Digi Locker, to enhance Ease of Living of Central Government Civil Pensioners.
- This initiative will create a permanent record of their PPO in their Digi Locker and at the same time eliminate delays in reaching the PPO to new Pensioners, as well as the necessity of handing over a physical copy.
- This system will enable any Pensioner to obtain an instant print-out of the latest copy of their PPO, from their Digi Locker account.

Vande Bharat Mission Phase 6 to begin on Sept. 1

- Phase Six of the Vande Bharat Mission is scheduled to begin on 1st of September.
- Phase Five of the Mission will be over on 31st August.
- External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said flights are being rescheduled by Air India group and private carriers based on an assessment of demand by Indian missions abroad.

Govt approves 78 new routes under Regional Connectivity Scheme



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- The Government has approved 78 new routes under the 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik, (UDAN) to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country.
- The Civil Aviation Ministry said, North East Region, Hilly States and Islands have been given priority in the approval process for the new routes.
- Overall, 766 routes have been sanctioned so far under the UDAN scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completes six years

- Central government's flagship financial inclusion programme Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has completed six years today.
- The scheme was launched on 28th of August in 2014 with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people in the country.
- Over 40 crore 35 lakh bank accounts have been opened under the scheme since its inception and One lakh 31 thousand crore rupees have been deposited in these accounts.
- About eight crore PMJDY accountholders are receiving Direct Benefit Transfer from the Government under various schemes.

Ministry of Culture announces seven new circles of ASI

- The Ministry of Culture has announced 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- The new circles have been created in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Trichy (Tamil Nadu), Jhansi and Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Raiganj (West Bengal) and Rajkot (Gujarat) have been created.
- The Hampi mini circle has been upgraded to a circle, and the Delhi mini circle has been merged with the Delhi circle.

Extra Shots:

Archaeological Survey of India

- Founder: Alexander Cunningham
- Founded: 1861
- Parent organisation: Ministry of Culture, Government of India

NITI Aayog virtually launches India component of NDC- TIA

- NITI Aayog virtually launched the India Component of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) – Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA).
- The event informs the transport, energy, and climate stakeholders in India about planned project activities for the upcoming year.
- It will also offer the opportunity to provide input about India's transport challenges and how they relate to CO2 reduction ambitions.

Extra Shots:

NITI Aayog

- Website: niti.gov.in
- Formed: 1 January 2015



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- Objectives: Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
- Jurisdiction: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Ministry of Social Justice launches Mental Health Rehabilitation helpline 'KIRAN'

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 24×7 Mental Health Rehabilitation helpline number under the name 'Kiran' to assist people to cope with mental health issues, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The toll-free HELPLINE number 1800-599-0019 will operate through 25 Institutions in 13 languages.
- The helpline will provide callers support for early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental well-being, preventing deviant behaviours, psychological crisis management among other things.

Centre to set up a National e-Assessment Centre to implement Faceless Assessment

- Centre is planning to set up the National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC) and a network of Regional e-Assessment Centres to implement the Faceless Assessment Scheme of the Income Tax Department.
- It was launched nation-wide by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13th August 2020.
- The system will allow dynamic jurisdiction, team-based working, and functional specialization and does away with human interface altogether.
- The regional assessment network will comprise assessment units, verification units, technical units, and review units.
- It will replace the physical meetings between taxpayers and officers.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches National GIS-enabled Land Bank system

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal e-launched the National GIS (Geographic Information System)-enabled Land Bank system (<https://iis.ncog.gov.in/parks>) for six states.
- The platform will provide a database of industrial areas/clusters across the country and will serve as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information.

Govt sets up expert panel to redefine DRDO for futuristic battles

- The central government has set up an expert committee to redefine the role of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the current and futuristic defence and battlefield scenarios.
- To be led by Prof P Ramagopal Rao, Director IIT Delhi, the select panel will delve deep into the nature of work being carried out by each lab under the organisation.
- The committee will present a report to redefine the charter of work being carried out and minimize technology overlaps.

Extra Shots:

DRDO



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- Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi
- Founded: 1958
- Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy

NHAI develops Vendor Performance Evaluation System

- To establish a transparent and comprehensive 'Performance Rating' System for its Consultants, Contractors and Concessionaires, NHAI has developed a 'Vendor Performance Evaluation System'.
- The Portal is available on the NHAI website.
- The portal based objective assessment of vendors' has been initiated to track the performance of the vendors for various NHAI projects.
- Under this portal, the vendors are required to conduct a self-assessment and upload the documents related to the project activities being executed by them, on the portal.
- The submissions are reviewed at multiple levels by NHAI, based on which a vendor's rating is generated.

Extra Shots:

NHAI

- Founded: 1988
- Sector: Indian National Highway System
- Purpose: Development and maintenance of national highways
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Sanjeev Ranjan

Indian Railway to become energy self-reliant by 2030

- Contributing towards National Solar Mission, Indian Railway under the chairmanship of Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal is all set to become self-reliant and self-sufficient in terms of energy for all its operational work by 2030.

IT minister launches 'Chunauti' a programme to further boost startups, software product

- Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad today launched "Chunauti"- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of the country.
- The government has earmarked a budget of over 95 crore rupees over a period of three years .
- It aims at identifying around three hundred startups working in identified areas and provide them seed fund of upto 25 lakh rupees and other facilities.

BPR&D celebrates its Golden Jubilee Anniversary

- The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Anniversary on 29th August.
- A function was organised today in virtual mode to mark the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of BPR&D. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy attended the function as the Chief Guest.
- The Bureau of Police Research and Development was raised on 28th August, 1970, through a resolution of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with a mandate to promote excellence in policing, promote



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speedy and systematic study of police problems, apply science and technology in the method and techniques by the Police.

Extra Shots:

Bureau of Police Research and Development

- Founded: 28 August 1970
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- General nature: Federal law enforcement
- Governing body: Government of India
- Federal agency: India
- Agency executive: Mr. V.S.K.Kaumudi, Indian Police Service (IPS) Andhra Pradesh 1986 batch, Director General

PM Modi to inaugurate new building of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University in Jhansi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the College and Administration Buildings of the Rani Lakshmi Bai (RLB) Central Agricultural University through video conference today.
- The RLB Central Agricultural University is located in Jhansi and is a prominent institute of the Bundelkhand region.
- The University has started its first academic session in 2014-15 and is offering Under Graduate and Post Graduate courses in Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry.
- It is currently operating from the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi as the main buildings are getting ready.

Centre to develop three Bamboo Clusters in Jammu, Katra and Samba areas of J&K

- Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh has said that three Bamboo Clusters will be developed in Jammu, Katra and Samba areas for making of Bamboo basketry, Agarbatti and Bamboo Charcol.
- It will provide direct employment to nearly 25 thousand people.
- Apart from this a Mega Bamboo Industrial Park at Ghati near Jammu and Bamboo Technology Training Centre will also come up in the region.

Extra Shots:

Jammu & Kashmir:

- Capitals- Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer)
- Lt Governor- Manoj Sinha
- National Parks: City Forest (Salim Ali) National Park, Dachigam National Park, Hemis National Park, Kishtwar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Baltal-Thajwas WLS, Changthang Cold Desert WLS, Gulmarg WLS, Jasrota WLS, Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) WLS etc



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NITI Aayog Launches Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)–Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA) India Component

- NITI Aayog virtually launched the India Component of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)–Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA) on 27 August 2020.
- The NDC–TIA is a joint programme supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonize transport in India, Vietnam, and China.
- The programme has a duration of 4 years and is implemented by a consortium of seven organisations.

Extra Shots:

NITI Aayog

- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Objectives: Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
- Jurisdiction: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Narendra Singh Tomar launches Integration of “ICAR-IIHR Seed Portal with YONO Krishi Web Application of State Bank of India”

- Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare launched the integration of ICAR-IIHR Seed Portal with the YONO Krishi Web Application of State Bank of India at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Emphasizing on the horticulture production’s contribution of more than 32% of the agriculture production, and there is need to further increase this.
- For achieving this, technologies for digitizing agriculture has important role to play in boosting production and productivity, availability of quality inputs and increasing the farmers income.

BJP to celebrate PM Modi's birthday as ‘Seva Saptah’ from Sep 14-20

- The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17 by observing Seva Saptah from 14th to 20th September. Prime minister will turn 70 this year.
- To observe the Seva Saptah which is a way to extend help, the party will be distributing masks, sanitizers and medicines.
- Supporters would also be encouraged to hold blood donation camps.

Extra Shots:

BJP

- President: Jagat Prakash Nadda
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Newspaper: Kamal Sandesh
- Alliance: National Democratic Alliance



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- Founders: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

Government announces PSUs to pay Customs duty later within 14 days

Government has announced a major initiative to allow the Public Sector Undertakings to first clear the goods imported by them through Customs and then pay Customs duty later, within 14 days.

- This measure is expected to result in speedier clearance of the good imported by the PSUs.
- The scheme of deferred payment of Customs duties was first introduced in November, 2016 for importers recognized by the CBIC as Authorized Economic Operators.
- These importers are approved by the Customs on the basis of certain compliance parameters such as proper maintenance of records, secure internal controls and a good track record of legal compliance.
- The objective is to enhance the ease of doing business and bring in more efficiency.

State News

Jammu and Kashmir

- Capitals- Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer)
- Lt Governor- Girish Chandra Murmu
- National Parks: City Forest (Salim Ali) National Park, Dachigam National Park, Hemis National Park, Kishtwar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Baltal-Thajwas WLS, Changthang Cold Desert WLS, Gulmarg WLS, Jasrota WLS, Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) WLS etc

Former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti's preventive detention extended by another 3 months

- Former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's preventive detention was extended for another three months on July 31, 2020 under Public Safety Act.
- Her detention order was scheduled to expire on August 5.

J&K Legal Services Authority to organise E-Lok Adalat on August 22

- The Jammu & Kashmir State Legal Services Authority, under the guidance of Chief Justice J&K High Court, Gita Mittal, would be organising E-Lok Adalat to be conducted exclusively through different digital modes, on Saturday 22nd of August 2020.
- E-Lok Adalat have been requested to contact the Office of District Legal Services Authority appointed by the concerned DLSA on or before 10.08.2020 of the particular district for identification and assignment of their cases to the appropriate Bench of the E-Lok Adalat.

Jammu and Kashmir: 23 Kendriya Vidyalayas to be set-up soon

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, 23 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) would be set-up in an effort to augment the school education infrastructure.



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- Principal Secretary of School Education, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon said that J&K has 36 functional KVs and setting-up of 23 KVs are being pursued with Govt of India for augmentation of education infrastructure in the Union Territory.

IMPACT training programme commences in Srinagar under Samagra Shiksha

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, a massive online Integrated Multidisciplinary Professional Advancement Course for Teachers (IMPACT) training programme commenced in Srinagar under Samagra Shiksha.
- Based on need assessment, the short course entitled-IMPACT has been designed with comprehensive features to be conducted in three phases like Face to Face mode for five days, Field Work for twenty-one days and Reflection and Assessment for three days.
- The course module is developed by faculty members of NCERT, New Delhi and 16 experts from the Union Territory of J&K.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launches 'Nasha-Mukt Bharat' campaign in J&K

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Directorate of Social Welfare launched 'Nasha-Mukt Bharat'- Drug free India campaign of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India today with an aim to curb the menace of Drug Addiction in the society.
- The campaign is being run in 272 most vulnerable districts of India and 10 districts of J&K including Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar, Doda, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian, Badgam and Bandipora has been identified by Narcotics Control Bureau of India as most vulnerable in terms of substance/drug abuse.

E-auction portal launched to promote trading of GI-tagged 'Kashmir Saffron'

- Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture department has created an e-auction portal to promote trading of GI-tagged 'Kashmir Saffron'.
- The Department, under the aegis of India International Kashmir Saffron Trading Centre (IHKSTC), has created the portal in collaboration with NSE-IT, with the sole motive to assure buyers to have 'Kashmir Saffron'.

Puducherry

Puducherry celebrates its 'De-Jure' day

- The Union Territory of Puducherry celebrated its 59th anniversary of the "De-Jure" day on 16th August.
- Puducherry became independent by virtue of a referendum on October 18, 1954.
- But the treaty of cession signed between the French and Indian governments was ratified by the French Parliament only on August 16, 1962. So on that day the "De-Jure" (The Legal Merger of the UT with the Indian Union) was effected.
- The Puducherry administration organized a function at the Keezhoor memorial where the referendum was signed to mark the occasion.
- Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy hoisted the national flag at the Keezhoor memorial.

Ladakh

Leh, Kargil to be developed as smart cities in the newly-formed union territory of Ladakh

- The Centre will develop Leh and Kargil as smart cities in the newly-formed union territory of Ladakh.



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- Working on a home ministry proposal to improve infrastructure and generate job opportunities in Ladakh, the housing and urban affairs ministry has formed a five-member team under Smart Cities director Rahul Kapoor to guide the union territory in formulating detailed projects reports for both the cities.

Lieutenant Governor inaugurates motorable bridge in Ladakh

- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R. K. Mathur inaugurated a 60- metre span double lane motorable bridge over river Indus at Choglamsar.
- The bridge has been completed at an estimated cost of 8.21 crore rupees Daily Current Affairs 1 August 2020 under Central Road Fund.
- The bridge connects over five major villages with Leh town.

Security of Kushak Bakula Rinpoche Airport in Leh to handed over to CISF

Security responsibilities of Kushak Bakula Rinpoche Airport in Leh will be handed over to Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) from 5th August.

- Keeping Covid-19 SOPs in view, after flight operations are completed, the induction of CISF will take place at Leh airport.
- Due to Covid-19 at present daily 3 -4 flights, with 400-500 passengers, are operating in Leh-Delhi sector, in comparison to 13 flights during the non Pandemic times.
- Along with the Ladakh police, CRPF was performing Security of the airport as the runway is under the control of the Indian Air Force in Leh.
- 130 CISF personnel specially trained in Aviation security will guard the Leh airport.

Gujarat

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- State formed on: 1 May 1960
- Literacy Rate: 79.31%
- National Park: Vansda NP, Blackbuck NP, Gir Forest NP, Marine NP, Gulf of Kutch

Gujarat became second state after Andhra Pradesh to come up with a latest police manual

- Gujarat has become the second state after Andhra Pradesh to come up with a latest manual for the police in recent times.
- The new manual has been drafted for the Gujarat police force after a gap of 45 years.
- The new manual will be uploaded on the "Pocket Cop" mobile application in the form of an e-book to maximise its reach among the police fraternity.
- Some of the new points included in it are tools to detect cyber-crimes, forensic science, social media monitoring tools, multi-level marketing frauds, fake currency, human trafficking and organised crimes.

Gujarat launches Industrial Policy 2020

- Gujarat Industrial Policy 2020 has been unveiled by the state that aims to provide an estimated Rs 40000 crores as subsidies to the industries within the next five years.



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- The aim of this policy is to lease out government land to industrialists, provide incentives to private industrial parks and also provide relocation incentives to units intending to relocate in wake of COVID 19 Pandemic.

'Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana' launched in Gujarat

- The Gujarat government has launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana' as a temporary replacement of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for a year.
- The main reason has been cited as the high premiums quoted by insurance firms in the state.
- The scheme is different from the PMFBY in the sense that it will cover all the 56 lakh farmers in the state, unlike the PMFBY in which, on an average, 15-17 lakh farmers who applied for crop insurance, used to be covered.
- The new scheme will be restricted to crop losses taking place during the ongoing Kharif season.
- It will cover only drought, flooding and unseasonal rainfall and the insurance coverage will be up to a maximum of four hectares.
- Farmers who suffer crop loss of less than 33% will not get any compensation whereas the farmers suffering damage of 33-60% will get an assistance of Rs 20000 per hectare. For crop loss above 60 per cent, the compensation amount will be Rs 25000 per hectare.
- A portal will be created in order to link the land records and manage the scheme properly.
- The farmers will have to visit the village level e-gram centre in order to apply online on the designated portal. This centre will be paid Rs 8 per successful application.

Gujarat High Court launches e-filing of cases

- Gujarat high court has launched e-filing of cases and an online facility to check the status of cases.
- Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court Justice Vikram Nath launched these two new services on the occasion of 74th Independence Day.
- The e-filing software developed by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court has been implemented for the Gujarat high court.
- This service will be available on the portal, <http://efiling.ecourts.gov.in/>. Advocates registered with the IT cell of the High Court will require registering themselves on the e- filing portal.
- The court also launched the 'Email My Case Status' service, which is activated after online registration.

MPEDA launches Quality Control Lab in Porbandar

- Quality Control Lab has been set up by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in Porbandar, Gujarat.
- The Quality Control Lab will offer tests for seafood processors as well as exporters to confirm to product safety as per international regulatory requirements.
- Quality Control Lab is empowered with advanced testing instruments to evaluate antibiotic residues, heavy-metals, namely cadmium, lead, mercury and arsenic in seafood samples and histamine in fish such as tuna and mackerel.

Ahmedabad Railway Division launches Baggage Sanitization & Wrapping machine



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- Baggage Sanitization & Wrapping machine has been launched by the Ahmedabad Railway Division at Ahmedabad Railway Station, Gujarat.
- The machine is a first of its kind across the Indian Railways.
- The recently launched machine aims to ensure safe travel amid the pandemic.
- It uses ultraviolet radiation for 360-degree sanitization of the luggage.

Gujarat inaugurates FABEXA 2020, nation's first and longest virtual exhibition

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated FABEXA 2020- India's First and Longest Virtual Exhibition organized by one of the oldest cloth markets in the country, Maskati Mahajan.
- A 90-day long virtual exhibition is showcasing the thousands of textile products online.
- The exhibition is organized every year in a large exhibition centre, but this year, due to Covid19 pandemic, it is being organized in virtual mode.
- More than 100 exhibitors have participated in this exhibition.

Gujarat govt to come up with 'Gujarat Land Grabbing Prohibition Act' bill in monsoon session

Gujarat Government will come up with a bill called 'Gujarat Land Grabbing Prohibition Act' in the upcoming monsoon session of the state assembly.

- The proposed act will have provision of setting up special courts that shall clear the cases pertaining to land grabbing crimes in maximum six months.
- The proposed act will have provision of 10 to 14 years imprisonment, in addition to fine equal to Jantri value of the land.
- The Government will appoint one public prosecutor in each such special court that shall take legal actions against land grabbers in suo moto manner.
- Police officers not below the level of Deputy SP will probe land grabbing related crimes.

Madhya Pradesh

- Statehood Day: November 1, 1956
- Capital: Bhopal
- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chauhan
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- National Park: Bandhavgarh NP, Fossil NP, Kanha NP, Madhav NP, Panna NP, Pench NP, Sanjay NP, Satpura NP

Madhya Pradesh to begin 'Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi' public awareness campaign

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also appealed to the people to wear masks and follow physical distance. Following the Prime Minister's appeal, a public awareness campaign called 'Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi' means one mask-many lives will be conducted from today till August 15 in many districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- During this campaign, people will be informed about measures to prevent COVID-19 infection.
- The Municipal Corporation will also run a public awareness chariot in the city on the same theme.
- The Mask Bank will also be established under the Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi Campaign.
- In this mask bank, masks will be collected from donors and distributed free of cost to the poor people.



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MP emerges as leading state in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma-Nirbhar Scheme

- Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the leading state in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma-Nirbhar Scheme-PM Swa-Nidhi.
- PM Swa-Nidhi is a Central Sector Scheme to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan for resuming their livelihoods activities.
- Interest free loan of Rs 10 thousand has been sanctioned so far to 58 thousand 476 street vendors in Madhya Pradesh.
- This is more than 47 percent of the total sanctioned cases of the country.

Madhya Pradesh gov't announces ration at minimum price for people with no ration card

- The state government has decided to distribute ration at minimum price to the non-ration holders in the state from September 1 amid the pandemic.
- In a virtual conference, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh informed that every member of a family who is poor but does not have a ration card will get salt, wheat, and rice for Rs. 1 and Rs. 1.5 per litre of Kerosene per family, from September 1, 2020.

Madhya Pradesh becomes the first state to offer jobs based on CET

- Madhya Pradesh Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that the state will offer government jobs to youths on the basis of their score in the Common Eligibility Test (CET) conducted by the proposed National Recruitment Agency (NRA).
- It is the first state in the country to implement this scheme.

“Ek Sankalp-Bujurgo ke naam” campaign in Madhya Pradesh

- The Chhatarpur Police of Madhya Pradesh has been running a campaign “Ek Sankalp-Bujurgo ke naam” in the midst of corona infection in the state.
- “Ek Sankalp-Bujurgo ke naam” i.e. ‘a commitment for elders’ is proving to be a boon for the elderly and helpless people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.
- Under this campaign, the police personnels are taking care of the elderly people from the food to their health.
- This campaign is in line of the motto of Madhya Pradesh Police i.e. “Desh Bhakti-Jansewa”.

Nitin Gadkari to inaugurate, lay foundation stones for 45 Highway projects in Madhya Pradesh

- Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for 45 Highway projects in Madhya Pradesh.
- The projects for inauguration and foundation laying include one thousand 361 kilometres of Road, two over bridges and six bridges involving construction value of 11 thousand 427 crore rupees.
- Paving the way for development of Madhya Pradesh, these roads will enhance better connectivity, convenience and economic growth in and around the state.
- Movement of people and goods to and from the state will also improve substantially especially with the neighbouring states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

MP CM announces Rs. One crore financial assistance to family of martyred Army soldier Manish Carpenter



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- In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced Rs. One crore financial assistance to the family of martyred Army soldier Manish Carpenter.
- He was martyred in Jammu and Kashmir last week.
- The chief minister also announced a government job to a family member of the martyred soldier.

MP CM announces free travel arrangements for students appearing NEET & JEE exams

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced free travel arrangements for students appearing in the NEET and JEE examinations.
- The students will be provided free travel arrangements from the block or district headquarters to the examination centre by the government.
- Students interested in availing this facility will have to register themselves by calling on 181, or through the portal mapit.gov.in/covid-19

Women entrepreneurs make 10 lakh masks under Jeevan Shakti Yojana in Madhya Pradesh

In Madhya Pradesh more than 10 lakh masks have been made so far by the women entrepreneurs of the state under the Jeevan Shakti Yojana.

- The scheme has been started with an aim to provide low cost masks to the citizens and employment to women entrepreneurs.
- The Jeevan Shakti Yojana has facilitated women of urban and rural areas to become self-reliant in the corona crisis.
- In order to provide employment to women at local level and to protect the general public from the corona infection, the task of making masks in large quantities at low cost has been accomplished in the state by this scheme.
- Previously the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched the MP Jeevan Shakti Yojana under which the Female candidates can make and sell masks.

Tamilnadu

- Capital: Chennai
- Chief Minister: Edappadi K.Palanisamy
- Governor: Banwarilal Purohit
- Chief Justice of Madras High Court: Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani
- National Park: Guindy NP, Gulf of Mannar Marine NP, Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) NP, Mudumalai NP, Mukurthi NP.

Tamil Nadu women top the list of MUDRA loan scheme beneficiaries

- Women of Tamil Nadu have topped the list of women borrowers under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) since its inception.
- More than 15 crore loans amounting to ₹4.78-lakh-crore have been disbursed to women borrowers under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).



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- As on March 31, 2020 women in Tamil Nadu had availed Rs. 58,227 crore loan from the scheme followed by West Bengal Rs. 55,232 crore, Karnataka Rs. 47,714 crore, Bihar Rs. 44,879 crore and Maharashtra Rs. 42,000 crore loan.

First unit of Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant in Tirunelveli district resumes power production

The first unit of the Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant in Tirunelveli district Tamil Nadu resumed power production.

- Initially, 400 MW power is being produced, which is expected to be increased to 1,000 MW in a phased manner.
- The first phase had been closed down for routine maintenance work last May and Indian and Russian scientists had taken part in the exercise.
- In the meantime, it is notable that the second 1,000 MW unit of the plant, which had developed some technical slag last July, has been repaired and has already started production.
- The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, owned and operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India, was constructed with Russian cooperation and was commissioned in October 2013.

Karnataka

First Mobile RT-PCR lab of India developed by IISc launched in Karnataka

- The State Government of Karnataka launched India's first mobile RT-PCR lab in Bengaluru. The lab was developed by Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- The lab has been named Mobile Infection Testing and Reporting (MITR) lab.
- It is capable of conducting 9000 tests per month. Apart from testing COVID-19, the lab can also be utilised to test HCV, H1N1, TB, HIV, HPV, etc.
- The main advantage of the lab is that it can be used for molecular diagnostic testing in COVID-19 hotspots quickly.

Karnataka Deputy CM launches products to mitigate Covid-19 pandemic

- Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C N Ashwathnarayan has launched eight new products that will help mitigate Covid 19 pandemic.
- The products are developed by the Bengaluru based Bio-innovation Centre initiated start-ups.
- The new products launched today include a centralised monitoring system for ECG, respiration, body temperature and other vitals.
- Other products include an immunity booster chapatti having mixture of herbs, tea prepared from medicinal mushroom and a herbal drop all recommended by AYUSH ministry.
- Another start-up has developed a chewable tablet containing curcumin and Vitamin B12 to fight inflammation and infection.
- A fruit and vegetable sanitizer is developed using edible ingredients which are choline and alcohol free and help remove pesticides and microbes.
- Another product launched today is the anti-microbial HVAC module that sanitises air circulation in an AC.

Price Monitoring and Resource Unit set up in Karnataka



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- Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri DV Sadananda Gowda has announced the establishment of a Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU) in Karnataka.
- The PMRU has been established by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, in association with Karnataka State Drug Control Department. PMRU will assist NPPA in monitoring the prices of drugs, ensuring availability of drugs as well as raising consumer awareness.

Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU) set up in Karnataka

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, in collaboration with the Karnataka State Drug Control Department, has launched the Price Monitoring and Resource Unit in the state.
- The PMRU will be mainly responsible for making access to medicine convenient for all the citizens of the state.
- The main objective of the PMRU is to help the NPPA in monitoring the prices of drugs and also the availability of such drugs in the state.
- This is set up under the Central Sector Scheme, Consumer Awareness Publicity and Price Monitoring.
- The PMRU will have the first-ever governing body meeting by the end of August 2020 in order to discuss the programs, measures in creating consumer awareness as well as ensuring affordability and accessibility of medicines in the state.

Karnataka govt announces commencement of online classes of all colleges from Sep 1

- Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C N Ashwathnarayan has announced opening of degree colleges from first of September.
- all the degree colleges will commence online classes from 1st of next month and offline classes from the 1st of October.
- Health Minister Harsh Vardhan virtually inaugurates two new Medical Colleges & three Super-Speciality Blocks in Rajasthan
- Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated two medical colleges and three super specialty blocks in Rajasthan through video conference.
- Five projects and health facilities of the Health Education Department with a cost of Rupees 828 crores have been inaugurated today.
- These include Medical College buildings in Bharatpur and Bhilwara and super-specialty centers in Bikaner, Udaipur, and Kota.

Himachal Pradesh

- State formed on: 25 January 1971
- Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur
- Official language: Hindi
- Literacy Rate: 83.78%



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HP government to start a program in lines with Mann ki Baat

- Himachal Government has decided to start a program in lines with Mann ki Baat for the people of the state.
- The program would be broadcast once in every month through social media, radio, and television.
- It will be organized along the lines of "Mann Ki Baat". People of the state can share their suggestions regarding the events, inspirational works, and schemes of the Himachal government.
- Through this interface, the common citizen of the state can also convey their personal views to the Chief Minister as well.
- The state government has asked suggestions from the people, for this Digital program.

HP govt launches Nutritional Immunity Boosting 'Him Haldi Dudh'

- Himachal Pradesh state government launched Nutritional Immunity Boosting 'Him Haldi Dudh(Turmeric Latte)' manufactured by MILKFED.
- Him Haldi Dudh has been developed by the Bio Technology Department of Punjabi University Patiala and has been patented.
- This drink is a Detox drink which has anti-hangover, anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory and immunity booster contents in it.

Goa

- Capital: Panaji
- Lt. Governor: Satya Pal Malik
- Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant

Goa launches online ITI admissions, student data management system

- Goa Skill Development Minister Vishwajit P Rane on Monday announced the launch of online ITI admission process and student data management system.
- The new online admission process will allow pre-filing of trade preferences, instead of waiting on the day of the rounds, as done earlier.
- The Goa government aims to bring the state one step closer to the Prime Minister's vision of Digital India and Skill India.

Goa's 'Khaje', 'Harmal Chilli' and 'Moira banana' get GI tag

- Goa's traditional festive sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy Harmal Chilli and Myndoli Banana (Moira Banana) has obtained Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry.
- A GI tag protects the produce from being illegally used, and ensures benefits to the local growers community.

Goa Government signs pact for German Vocational Training in ITIs

- The Goa government has signed a tri-partite agreement to carry out world-class German dual vocational education and training in the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) of the state.
- This will ensure optimal up-skilling of ITI graduates, including green skilling at par with the latest technological developments in the industry, thereby remarkably enhancing the employability of graduates from these ITIs.



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- The MoU will facilitate in-plant training of the students so that they can get practical hands on experience in their respective trades.

Bangladesh navy ship 'Sangram' visits Goa

- Bangladesh Navy Ship BNS Sangram, a guided missile stealth corvette, made a port call at Mormugao Port, Goa.
- The ship was received by officers from Headquarters Goa Naval Area and the Officiating Defence Advisor at the Bangladesh High Commission in India.
- BNS Sangram is en route to participate as a member of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

51st IFFI to be held in Goa from Nov 20

- Fifty first International Film Festival of India IFFI will be held in Goa, from November 20th to 28th.
- This film festival being a hybrid film festival due to Covid 19, would screen films on official digital platform along with the theatrical screenings.

West Bengal

- Established on: 26 January 1950
- Capital: Kolkata
- Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar
- Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

West Bengal plans to provide 100% tap connections to all households by 2024 under Jal Jeevan Mission

- West Bengal has planned to provide 100 per cent tap connections to all the households in the State by 2024 under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Out of 1.63 Crore rural households in West Bengal, 2.19 lakh households have already got tap connections.
- The State is planning to provide tap connections to 55.60 lakh households in 2020-21.

West Bengal launches Karma Sathi Prakalpa Scheme

- The West Bengal government has launched a new scheme known as 'Karma Sathi Prakalpa' under which one lakh unemployed youth of the state would be provided soft loans and subsidies to make them self-reliant.
- A budget of Rs 500 crore has been earmarked for the successful implementation of this scheme.
- The state government would provide loans to 1 lakh youth every year to help them start their own business.

West Bengal govt launches COVID Patient Management System

- The West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee launched COVID Patient Management System.
- The Chief Minister, inaugurated the system in three COVID Hospitals of Kolkata.
- Under the system the family members of patients will be able to know the status of their patient under treatment at Government Hospitals.

West Bengal to observe Sept 1 as Police Day

The West Bengal government will observe September 1 as Police Day in recognition of the work done by the men in uniform.



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- At least 18 police officials of different ranks have lost their lives to Covid-19, while more than 4000 personnel across the state including both Kolkata Police and Bengal Police have been infected by the virus while on duty.
- West Bengal chief Minister also announced several new projects for the Kolkata Police and West Bengal Police.
- These include setting up of 20 new barracks and scope for more promotion for women in the force.
- Mamata Banerjee also announced that the state will reconstruct the Police Welfare Department, make it more effective to manage service deployment as per their convenience, assure better benefits and ensure their families too are well taken care of.

Odisha

- Statehood Day: 1st April 1936
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Governor :Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

CM Naveen Patnaik launches 'Odisha Agni-Shama Seva' online portal

- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has launched 'Odisha Agni-Shama Seva' online portal.
- The portal will provide assistance in issuing fire safety certificates to different categories of buildings through online mode.
- As many as eight services online will be provided through the portal.
- Patnaik has directed Fire Services department to add other services before October 2, 2020.

Odisha topped in implementing AMRUT scheme

- Odisha has topped in the implementation of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.
- As per the data provided by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Odisha has secured a score of 85.67%. Also, Chandigarh and Telangana have secured the second and third positions followed by Gujarat and Karnataka.

AMRUT scheme:

- AMRUT scheme was launched by PM Narendra Modi in June 2015.
- The scheme aims to establish an infrastructure that will ensure robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation.
- Under the mission, efforts have been made towards universal coverage of water supply, construction of sewage treatment plants, and improving green spaces in the 9 AMRUT cities of Odisha.
- The nine cities are Balasore, Bhubaneswar, Baripada, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Bhadrak, Berhampur, and Puri. These cities are covered under the AMRUT scheme in Odisha.
- Under the scheme, the Universal coverage of piped water supply has been completed by laying or replacing 400 km of pipeline to date, and all the nine AMRUT cities will have 100 percent network coverage by December 2020.



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Centre plans to make Odisha the epicenter of India's overall steel industry

- The Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has informed that Odisha will become the epicenter of India's overall steel industry, to accelerate the development of the domestic steel sector of the country.

Highlights:

- Government has proposed to set up an integrated steel hub in Odisha, to make the state, the nerve Centre of Mission Purvodaya, which aims at accelerated development of eastern India through establishment of integrated steel hub.
- It is envisioned that the Odisha steel hub will produce 100 million tonnes of steel from out of the total 300 million tonnes national steel production target.
- The Centre has allocated capital investment of Rs 5 lakh crore for this project.
- The proposed steel hub, accompanied by Make in India and Local for Vocal programmes will create more than 25 lakh jobs in the region, as well as contribute towards making of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Odisha emerges as number 1 investment destination in the country

Odisha has emerged as the number one investment destination in the country.

- During the last 6 months the State has received an investment proposal worth Rs 12,000 crore.
- The agricultural growth rate in the State has clocked 7.61 per cent which is far ahead of the national average of 2.80 per cent.

Odisha CM approves ₹200 cr package due to COVID-19

- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik approved an assistance package of ₹200 crore to help families affected due to COVID-19.
- Members of the Women Self Help Groups can revive their family enterprises through this package
- Loans up to ₹1 lakh for skilled and semi-skilled migrants, who have returned to the state, will be given under this package.

Mizoram

Prahlad Singh Patel Virtually Inaugurates "Thenzawl Golf Resort" In Mizoram

- The "Thenzawl Golf Resort" Project has been virtually inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (I/C) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel at Thenzawl & South Zote, District Serchhip and Reiek, Mizoram.
- The project has been implemented under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- The Thenzawl Golf Course will offer quality golfing experience and international facilities at a fair price to the Indian population

All 23 urban towns of Mizoram take initiatives to achieve ODF plus

In Mizoram, all 23 urban towns have taken initiatives to achieve ODF plus.

- These 23 urban towns were declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs in 2017.



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- Presently, to become ODF-Plus, all 23 urban authorities are executing initiatives through refurbishment and renovation of the already existing toilets and improved construction of new toilets.
- ODF-Plus status is given if at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained.

Andhra Pradesh

- Capital: Amravati
- Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Literacy rate: 67.4%
- National Park: Sri Venkateswara National Park, Sri Venkateswara National Park, Papikonda National Park

E-Raksha Bandhan launched in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on the eve of Raksha Bandhan launched 'E-Raksha Bandhan', an online training programme on cybersecurity.
- The programme is aimed at creating awareness among the public on cybercrimes across the State.
- The Andhra Pradesh Police, Cyber Peace Foundation, Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC), and other organisations for organizing, advertising and creating mass awareness about the month-long online awareness programme.
- Through 'E-Raksha Bandhan' as many as 1 lakh women, girls and the general public would be trained.
- The participants will be trained through Essay writing, debates, quiz, webinars, workshops, and slogan writing competitions which will be held every day on different topics from 11 a.m. to 12 noon daily, until 31st August.

Andhra Pradesh Gov't to launch YSR Chevutha

- The Andhra Pradesh government is all set to launch 'YSR Chevutha' on August 12, 2020, to benefit the rural economy of the state amid hardships resulting due to Coronavirus pandemic.
- Andhra Pradesh state government, the initiative is intended to guide the state in an era of self-reliance by promoting the idea of entrepreneurship among women.
- Andhra Pradesh state government has already allocated Rs. 4,500 crore for the scheme.

Andhra Pradesh announced its new Industrial Policy 2020-23

- The Andhra Pradesh government has announced its new industrial policy that has a focus on the MSME sector.
- The policy explicitly supports the MSME sector in the state for its development and growth in the state. This policy will be effective till the year 2023.
- The state will set up 30 skill development centres and two skill development universities in order to make skilled labour available in the state.

Dadra and Nagar Haveli

DNHDD launches E-Gyan Mitra mobile app for online education



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Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu bordering Gujarat has launched E-Gyan Mitra mobile app for online education.

- The E-Gyan Mitra app launched by the Education Department of Daman Administration is becoming popular among the students and parents.
- DNHDD was created through the merger of the former union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- Plans for the proposed merger were announced by the Government of India in July 2019 and came into effect on 26 January 2020.

Chhattisgarh

- Statehood Day: November 1, 2000
- Capital: Raipur
- Chief Minister: Bhupesh Baghel
- Governor: Anusuiya Uikey
- Literacy Rate: 60.21%
- National Park: Indravati (Kutru) National Park, Kanger Valley National Park, Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) National Park

Chhattisgarh govt launches scheme for tendu leaves collectors

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched a social security scheme for tendu leaves collectors in the state, which will benefit over 12 lakh families, mostly tribals and forest dwellers engaged in its collection.
- The scheme, named after slain Congress leader Mahendra Karma, was inaugurated on the occasion of his birth anniversary from the official residence of Baghel.
- Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangraha Samajik Suraksha Yojana, introduced in the memory of the leader, will benefit around 12.50 lakh families involved in tendu leaves collection.

Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel launches Indira Van Mitan scheme to make forest-dwellers self-reliant

- The Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched "Indira Van Mitan Yojana" on 9 August 2020, on the occasion of the World Tribal Day, to bring prosperity to forest dwellers (especially tribal) by opening up self-employment opportunities.
- Under the 'Indira Van Mitan scheme, a dedicated groups of youth will be constituted in around 10,000 villages in tribal-dominated areas to manage forest-based economic activities.
- Each group will consist of 10 to 15 members.
- Each of the youth groups will look after procurement, processing and marketing of forest produce in scheduled areas.
- The state government will set up forest produce processing units in every development block of the scheduled areas, at an estimated cost of Rs 10 lakh for each unit.
- An amount of Rs 8.50 crore will be spent for forest produce processing units in 85 development blocks.

Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur becomes country's first Municipal Corporation to provide forestland right certificates to people of urban area



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- Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur has become the first municipal corporation of the country, where people of urban area have been provided forest land right certificates.
- Jagdalpur is among the few municipal corporations, jurisdiction areas of which includes forestlands.
- Nearly 1777 applications have been received for forestland right certificates, which will be resolved as per the rules.

Chhattisgarh CM launch Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme for School Students

- The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel has announced the launch of the Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme (Education up to your locality), a new scheme on 15th August, Independence Day.
- Under the scheme, the students will be able to study in their own neighbourhoods as classes were suspended due to the outbreak of covid-19.

Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme:

- Padhai Tunhar Para scheme aims to teach children with the help of the community in the villages.
- The scheme was launched to take the Padhai Tunhar Duar scheme, an online education platform further.
- The state government launched the scheme to benefit around 2.2 million children are getting its benefit.
- Also, the CM has launched a Bluetooth-based programme called Bultu ke Bol with an aim to introduce to provide study materials to students in remote areas with no access to the Internet.

Haryana

- Capital: Chandigarh
- Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
- Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya
- National Park: Sultanpur National Park, Kalesar National Park

Haryana CM Khattar launches" Parivar Pehchan Patra"

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched" Parivar Pehchan Patras" to enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes.
- At present, four schemes — Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana (MMPSY), Old Age Samman Allowance Scheme, Divyang Jan Pension Scheme, and Widow and Destitute Women Pension scheme — have been integrated with" Parivar Pehchan Patra" (PPP).

Haryana CM launches anti-bullying campaign of Faridabad Police

- Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the anti-bullying campaign of Faridabad police by unveiling its Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages to flag the problem of bullying at home, in neighbourhood, schools, colleges and workplace.
- The district police aims to implement targeted programmes to counter the menace of bullying.
- The campaign will particularly target teenagers, the segment worst-affected by the problem.
- Bullying destroys a victim's confidence, impairs their personality development, stunts their social intelligence and drives them to depression and a host of other diseases.



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Haryana to launch Sero Survey to determine Covid-19 exposure

- Haryana's Health Minister Anil Vij said the government will soon launch a sero survey in the state to gauge the penetration of COVID-19 in the population and monitor its transmission trend.
- In collaboration with PGIMER, Chandigarh, the survey will be conducted in all 22 districts till August 20.
- A serosurvey involves testing the blood serum of a group of individuals for the presence of antibodies against the infection to know who has been infected in the past and has now recovered.

Studds to set up Asia's Largest Helmet Manufacturing Plant in Haryana

- Leading helmet manufacturing company Studds Accessories said it has commissioned two new facilities at Faridabad in Haryana entailing a total investment of Rs 200 crore.
- Spread across an area of over 5.5 acres, the company has made an initial investment of over Rs 160 crore to set up the largest helmet manufacturing facility in Asia.

Rajasthan

- Statehood Day: 30 March 1949
- Capital: Jaipur
- Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Rajasthan starts Indira Rasoi Yojana

- Rajasthan's Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot recently directed his officials to commence Indira Rasoi Yojana from 20th August 2020.
- Under this scheme, the needy and poor will get healthy and nutritious food at 8 Rs per plate.
- The state government will spend 100 Crores per year on the scheme.
- The Indira Rasoi Yojana named after former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, will run in 358 kitchens in 213 urban local bodies of the state.

Rajasthan to provide free food grains till November

- The Rajasthan government has announced that it is going to provide free foodgrains to the beneficiaries under the National Food Security Mission till November 2020.
- The beneficiaries will be provided five kg of wheat per person and one kg of gram per family under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana as well as the National Food Security Act.

Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot launches 'Indira Rasoi Yojana'

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on August 20, 2020, launched the 'Indira Rasoi Yojana' in order to provide quality nutritious food to poor people at just Rs. 8.
- The newly launched scheme will be rolled in 213 urban local bodies of the state which will include 10 locations each in the state capital's greater and heritage area.



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- Under Indira Rasoī Yojana, fresh and nutritious food will be provided at Rs. 8 per plate.
- The meal will have 100 gms of pulses, 250 gms chapatti, 100 gms of vegetables, and pickles.
- The food will be made available from 8.30 am in the morning till 1 pm and 5 pm to 8 pm.
- The state government of Rajasthan has also decided to give a grant of Rs. 12 per plate for which Rs. 100 crores annually have been proposed in the state budget.

Uttarakhand

- Statehood Day: 9th November 2000
- Capital: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
- Chief Minister: Trivendra Singh Rawat
- Governor: Baby Rani Maurya
- National Park: Jim Corbett NP, Gangotri NP, Nanda Devi NP, Rajaji NP

Uttarakhand to set up snow leopard conservation centre

- Uttarakhand will soon have a snow leopard conservation centre.
- The conservation centre will be set up in Uttarkashi forest division area.
- The snow leopard conservation centre will be set up to promote winter tourism in the state.
- The conservation of snow leopards and other wildlife will help promote winter tourism in the state.

BRO constructed Bailey bridge in Uttarakhand

- Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed a 180-foot bailey bridge in the Jauljibi sector of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand.
- The construction was done amid frequent landslides and heavy rains.

Bailey bridge:

- The Bailey bridge is of the 50-metre span.
- The concrete bridge was washed out completely on July 27, 2020, due to the flood. The BRO mobilized the bridging resources and set up to construct the bridge.
- The bridge will meet the biggest challenge to transport parts to the site from Pithoragarh amidst frequent landslides and heavy rains.
- The construction of the bridge was successfully completed on August 16, 2020.
- The connectivity is expected to bring relief to about 15,000 people in 20 villages.
- The constructed bridge allows the road communication of 66 km road starting from Jauljibi to Munsiyari.

Uttar Pradesh

- Statehood Day: 24th January 1950
- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath



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- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- State formed in: 24 January 1950
- Literacy Rate: 67.68%

After Mughalsarai Junction, Varanasi's Railway Station Gets a New Name

- The Union Home Ministry has approved the renaming of Manduadih railway station in Uttar Pradesh as 'Banaras'.
- The Uttar Pradesh government had sent a request for renaming the railway station in Varanasi district.
- The name Banaras means 'bana rahe ras'. This word reflects the real culture of the city.

UP Gov't announces New Electronic Manufacturing Policy 2020

- Uttar Pradesh state government has announced Electronic Manufacturing Policy 2020 in order to invite investment of Rs. 40,000 crores in the next five years as well as to generate four lakh direct employment in the state.
- The newly launched policy will support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of achieving Zero import of electronic goods.
- The policy will help in making UP a global electronics hub and will also attract international investors to shift their base to India post-COVID-19.

UP govt orders complete ban on any cultural and religious meeting till Sept 30

- Uttar Pradesh government has ordered complete ban on organising any cultural and religious meeting in the state till 30th September. this prohibition has been imposed in the state because it is feared that anti-social elements may try to disturb law and order and communal harmony.

UP govt opens 16 new cyber crime Police stations in different cities

In view of the growing cyber crimes in the state, Uttar Pradesh government has opened 16 new cyber crime Police stations in different cities of the state.

- Earlier there were only two police Stations in Lucknow and Gautam Budh Nagar.
- Two days back the Government had decided to publicise the phone numbers of these 18 cyber police stations so that the victims of cyber crimes can approach police easily.
- New cyber police stations have been opened in Agra, Aligarh, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Bareilly, Moradabad, Basti, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Ayodhya, Saharanpur, Azamgarh, Mirzapur and Varanasi districts.

UP becomes number one in conducting covid tests in country

Uttar Pradesh has become number one in conducting covid tests in the country.

- Cumulative covid testing figures reached 36 lakh samples on 14 August. State is conducting around one lakh covid tests daily.
- With at least 9 districts in the state recording more than 100 new cases of Covid infection in the past 24 hours, the number of active cases in the state crossed 50,000.
- The state now has 50426 active cases and the list is topped by Lucknow, which has 7,188 active cases.
- Kanpur is in second place with more than 4 thousand active cases.

Uttar Pradesh CM inaugurates 300-bed COVID Hospital in Gonda district



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- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated 300-bed COVID Hospital in Gonda district.
- This is second such dedicated COVID hospital in state after 400 bedded hospital in Noida which has state of the art facilities.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launches NRI unified portal

- The State Government of Uttar Pradesh under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched an ambitious 'NRI unified portal' to provide assistance to overseas Indians and NRIs of the state during any emergency.
- The website can be assessed at nri.up.gov.in
- The website will also provide a platform for NRIs keen to know about their roots or those seeking help from the UP Government to help their families in the state resolve the problems related to their house and issues with local administration.

UP govt launches 'Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana' to Build Roads to 19 International Player's houses

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya launched 'Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana' scheme under which 19 International Players will get road connectivity to their homes.
- The initial list includes 19 International Players from the state, and later on more players are expected to be added to the list.
- The list includes Indian Cricketers Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Piyush Chawla and Mohammad Kaif.
- A road will be named after Late Cricketer and Former Cabinet Minister Chetan Chauhan.

Manipur

- Statehood Day: 21 January, 1972
- Capital: Imphal
- Governor: Najma Heptulla
- Chief Minister: N. Biren Singh

Manipur Govt inks agreement with nine hospitals in state to implement PMJAY & CM's Health Scheme

- In Manipur, government signed an Agreement with nine hospitals based in the State with an aim to implement Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Aayushman Bharat) and Chief Minister's Health Scheme (known as Chief Ministergi Hakshel gi Tengbang) fully.
- The agreement was signed between State Health Minister L. Jayentakumar and representatives of 7 public and 2 private hospitals of Manipur.
- The State Health Minister said that the initiative will give benefits to the beneficiaries of these two schemes.

Manipur observes Patriots' Day, commemorates heroes of Anglo-Manipuri war

- In Manipur, the Patriots' Day is being observed today commemorating the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri war during which many Manipuris sacrificed their lives to safeguard the independence of the State.
- The day is observed every year on the 13th August to pay homage to the great martyrs.



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- It was on this day in 1891, brave Manipuris including the then Prince of Manipur Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General were hanged before the general public in the present Imphal area.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari lays foundation stone of Rs 3,000 crore highway projects in Manipur

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stones of Rs 3,000-crore highway projects in Manipur and said the government will soon take up additional projects worth Rs 16,023 crore in the state.
- Laid the foundation stone of the 13 highway projects and inaugurated a road safety project in a virtual ceremony.

Indian Railways constructing world's tallest pier bridge across river Ijai in Manipur

Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge in Manipur.

- The bridge which is being constructed across river Ijai near Noney is an engineering marvel because the tallest pier height will be 141 meter.
- It will surpass the existing record of 139 meter of Mala - Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.
- The total estimated cost of the bridge is 280 crore rupees, and it will be completed by March 2022.
- The bridge is a part of Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new BG line project.
- The total length of the bridge will be 703 meter.

Manipur Health Minister launches Teleconsultation using eSanjeevaniOPD platform in Imphal

- Manipur State Health and Family Welfare Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh launched Teleconsultation using eSanjeevaniOPD platform in Imphal.
- This is the first kind of such platform in the state.
- The State government has engaged 30 doctors to perform the newly launched service at initial stage.
- The government has also been working to target 220 health centres at different locations of the State to cover under the service in near future.
- People of Manipur can register their names to esanjeevaniopd.in and get the benefit of Teleconsultation OPD .

Manipur CM lays foundation stone for projects worth Rs 647 cr

- Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has laid the foundation stones for 375 Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes, 550 Ground Water Irrigation schemes and 151 infrastructure projects to be taken up in different districts through video conference in a mega function held at City Convention Centre.
- These projects are to be taken up with the financial assistance from the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs at a total estimated cost of Rs. 647 crores.

Telangana

- Statehood day: 2 June 2014
- Capital: Hyderabad
- Chief Minister: Kalvakuntla Chandrashekhar Rao
- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Literacy Rate: 66.46%

Telangana launches iMASQ mobile covid-19 testing centers



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- The Telangana government has rolled out mobile covid-19 testing centers in containment zones and low income group residential areas across the state.
- In the first set, 20 mobile testing facilities were pressed into service.
- Equipped with advanced technology, each bus has 10 sample collection counters and antigen test results will be notified to the individuals within a few minutes.
- The buses are built with 'Intelligent Monitoring Analysis Services Quarantine' (iMASQ) technology by Hyderabad-based Vera Smart Healthcare.

Telangana launches GRID Policy for IT industry development

- Telangana Cabinet has sanctioned approval for the Growth in Dispersion (GRID) Policy to give incentives to IT companies that will set up their units.
- With a view to encouraging distributed development of the industry in all parts of the city, the Telangana Government has decided to incentivise the firms that set up their facilities in areas other than the Western part.

Telangana launches artificial intelligence for agricultural innovation program

- The Telangana government launched the Artificial intelligence for Agricultural Innovation (AI4AI) programme to boost agricultural developments.
- It was launched in association with Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, India (C4IR), World Economic Forum.
- Telangana has announced the year 2020 to be the Year of AI to accelerate the adoption in various fields.

Hyderabad 16th among 20 cities globally in CCTV Surveillance, tops in India

Hyderabad has been ranked 16 th among the "Top 20 Most Surveilled Cities globally" according to a report published by a UK-based firm.

- Hyderabad with its 3 lakh CCTV cameras being used to keep tab on a city that has a population of a little over 1 crore, figured 16th in the most surveilled cities.
- Taiyuan in China was ranked first with 4,65,255 CCTV cameras
- Hyderabad was ranked first in India.

Delhi

- Lt. Governor: Anil Bajjal
- Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Delhi government has launched a new electric vehicle policy

- Delhi government has launched a new electric vehicle policy that aims to boost the economy, creating jobs and reduce air pollution in the national capital.
- The government is aiming for registration of 5 lakh new EVs in the state in the next five years.
- There will be incentive up to Rs 30000 for two-wheelers, autos and e-rickshaws.
- Also, an incentive of Rs 1.5 lakhs will be provided under this new policy for cars.

State-of-art Katra-Delhi Express Road Corridor to be functional by 2023

- The Government of India has started the work on the first-of-its-kind Katra (Jammu and Kashmir) – Delhi Express Road Corridor project.



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- The project is estimated to be completed in three years and become functional by 2023.
- Once functional, the travel time from Katra to Delhi will get reduced to around six and half hours, and from Jammu to Delhi to just about six hours.
- It will connect Delhi with Amritsar in Punjab and Katra in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Katra- Delhi Express Road Corridor project is estimated to cost over Rs. 35,000 crores.
- The 687-kilometre-long expressway is being constructed as part of the Bharatmala project.
- The important cities through which this Expressway Corridor will pass include Jammu and Kathua in J&K, and Jalandhar, Amritsar, Kapurthala, and Ludhiana in Punjab.

Dhanwantari Rath to bring Ayurveda at doorsteps of Delhi Police families

- All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Delhi Police to extend the Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health services in the residential colonies of Delhi Police.
- The MoU was exchanged between Commissioner of Delhi Police S N Shrivastava and Pramod Kumar Pathak, Additional Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH.
- The Dhanvantri Rath was flagged off on 18th August 2020.

Dhanwantari Rath:

- Under the MoU, the services will be provided through a mobile unit named Dhanwantari Rath.
- Dhanwantari Rath is a Mobile unit of Ayurveda health care services.
- It consists of a team of Doctors who would be visiting Delhi Police colonies regularly.
- diseases and also reduce the number of referrals to hospitals thereby reducing the cost to the healthcare system as well as patients.
- Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health care has been planned to be extended to the families of Delhi Police personnel.

Delhi Government Launched 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' Fitness Campaign for Students

- Delhi Government launched the Fitness Campaign – “Healthy Body, Healthy Mind”, for the students who are confined in their homes because of the lockdown imposed on Schools and colleges due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- As a part of the “Healthy Body, Healthy Mind” campaign, a YouTube channel has been started which uploads a video on every wednesday, by which the students can practice for a week to maintain fitness and make up for the loss of physical activities amid pandemic.

Arunachal Pradesh

KVIC to set up Silk Training cum Production Center in A.P.

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will open the Silk Training cum Production Center in the tribal village of Chullyu in Arunachal Pradesh.
- This would be the first Silk Training cum Production Center in the state. Machinery like handlooms, Charkha, Silk reeling machines and warping drums would be installed in the training cum production Center.



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Extra Shots:

KVIC

- Founded: 1956
- Purpose: To plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Agency executive: Vinai Kumar Saxena (Chairperson)
- Parent agency: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Type: Statutory corporation

CM Pema Khandu launches Arunachal Pradesh Challenge Entrepreneurship Programme on Independence Day

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has launched Arunachal Pradesh Entrepreneurship Development Programme to support and encourage local youths to become job creators than job seekers.
- The initiative envisions a self-reliant society and a sustainable economy for Arunachal Pradesh by encouraging aspiring entrepreneurs and strengthening their business.
- IIM Calcutta Innovation Park has been given the mandate to run the Programme as a knowledge partner.
- The Programme will be rolled out in four stages--Arunachal Pradesh Entrepreneurship Challenge, Pre-Incubation, Incubation, and Livelihood Accelerator.

Arunachal Pradesh assembly passes resolution to bring state under Sixth Schedule

The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly has passed a resolution to bring the state under the ambit of Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

- The resolution which was passed by voice vote following a marathon discussion in the house.
- The Sixth Schedule deals with provisions for administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- It seeks to safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils.
- Arunachal Pradesh bordering Bhutan, China and Myanmar comes under the Fifth Schedule, which deals with provisions related to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.
- Article 371(H) has special provisions in respect of the governor and the total seats in its assembly.

Bihar

Arjun Munda flags off "Medicine Van" for Bihar flood victims

- Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda flagged off "Medicine Van" for flood victims of Bihar.
- The medicine support of 15 Lakh rupees has been provided by the Thakurdwara Trust, of Jorbhag Delhi.
- Around two thousand volunteers are working on ground to serve the flood victims.

Punjab

Punjab to launch scheme to distribute smartphones

- The Punjab government has decided to start distribution of smartphones to students free of cost, on August 12.



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- In order to avert any kind of large gatherings, the government has decided to launch the scheme at 26 different locations in Chandigarh and Punjab.
- All the district headquarters and also some major towns will be covered under this scheme.
- The government has received the first consignment of 50000 smartphones and the remaining will be sent to the state very soon.
- In the first phase of the scheme, 1.75 lakh phones would be distributed by the state government.

Punjab gets 1st rank in Health, Welfare Centre Operationalisation

- The Punjab Government announced that the state achieved first rank in operationalisation of Health and Welfare Centres (HWCs) as per the latest rankings released by the Centre.
- The despite restrictions on the movement of people due to COVID-19-induced lockdown, HWCs across Punjab recorded 28.1 lakh footfalls in the last five months.
- Punjab would soon become the leading State in the Health sector as the state government has taken the pro-people initiative to further strengthen the health infrastructure.

Assam

- Capital: Dispur
- Chief Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal
- Governor: Jagdish Mukhi
- National Park: Dibru-Saikhowa NP, Kaziranga NP, Manas NP, Nameri NP, Rajiv Gandhi Orang NP, Dehing Patkai

Assam launched Orunodoi scheme for women's financial empowerment

- Assam State Government launched "Orunodoi scheme", a mega scheme for women's financial empowerment. Under the mega scheme, a district-wise selection of beneficiaries will begin from August 17.
- The beneficiaries will receive the amount in the bank account of a female family member on the first day of every month.
- The scheme will begin from the month of October 2020.

Orunodoi scheme:

- The scheme will provide Rs.830 per month each to 17 lakh poor families under the ambitious "Orunodoi" scheme.
- The Assam state government has allocated a sum of Rs.280 crore for the new scheme.
- The scheme aims to help the poor households to meet their medical, nutritional, and academic needs besides to meet the additional spending during various festivals.
- Under the Orunodoi scheme, priority will be given to households with widows, divorced, unmarried or separated women, and disabled persons.



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Handicraft production centre inaugurated in Guwahati

- To give a boost to the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission, a handicraft production centre is inaugurated in Guwahati today by Assam Apex Weavers and Artisans Cooperative Federation Limited- ARTFED.
- There are 1 thousand societies with around 1 lakh members under the ARTFED.
- The Assam government has already set up yarn banks across the state so that weavers could get yarn at subsidised rate. ARTFED has recently sent a proposal to the state government to establish a cloth bank at Sualkuchi.

Assam Cabinet approves 'Assam Skill Development University Bill'

- The Assam Cabinet has approved the Assam Skill Development University Bill which provides for setting up of Skill University at Mangaldoi at the cost of 900 crore rupees.
- The Orunodoi Scheme was also given approval to provide financial assistance of 830 rupees per month to families with annual income of less than 2 lakh rupees.

Assam Cabinet Approves 'Assam Skill Development University Bill'

- The Government of Assam approved the 'Assam Skill Development University Bill', which provides for setting up of World Class Skill University at Mangaldoi, Darrang District at a cost of 900 crore rupees.
- Assam Industry and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary made the announcement about the setting up of the university, after a cabinet meeting.

Handicraft production centre inaugurated in Guwahati, Assam

- In a bid to give a boost to the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission, a handicraft production centre is inaugurated in Guwahati by Assam Apex Weavers and Artisans Cooperative Federation Limited- ARTFED.
- The bamboo and cane based local items to be produced in the centre. During the lockdown period, the weavers under the ARTFED produced 13 thousand pieces of bedsheets and pillow covers for the National Health Mission.

Assam Government to set up Skill University worth Rs 900 Crore at Darrang district

- The Assam Cabinet has approved the Assam Skill Development University Bill which allows for setting up a state-of-the-art skill University at Mangaldoi in Darrang district of Assam.
- The University at Mangaldoi will be the Centre of Excellence and first ever Skill University in north eastern states of the country.
- The total cost of setting up the University is estimated at Rs 900 crore with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank.
- It will be spread over 100-bigha plot.
- Assam government has also inked a memorandum of understanding recently with the ITE Education Service, Singapore, for training resource persons of the university.

Barak Valley in Assam put under strict lockdown

In Assam, Barak Valley has been put under strict lockdown due to the alarming situation of COVID-19.

- In a bid to contain the outbreak of COVID 19, all the three district disaster management authorities in Barak Valley have issued separate orders to restrict activities.



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- This lockdown will continue till midnight of 04th September.
- Only pharmacies will be allowed to function in urban areas, stand alone shops are being permitted to run in rural areas during lockdown.
- The valley has witnessed around 10 thousand COVID positive cases with almost 50% recovery.

Kaziranga National Park in Assam plans various measures for safety of wildlife

In Assam, the Kaziranga National park is planning various measures for the safety of the wildlife.

- The flood water damaged infrastructure this year to the tune of 5 crore rupees.
- A 32 kilometer long highway cum highland to be constructed. The construction and the work will be started in the winter period.
- Animal sensor to be installed at 6 more locations along the national highway between Kaliabor - Bokakhat for the safety of the animals.
- It would help in detecting high speed vehicles and would also provide access to animal movements.

Tripura

- Capital: Agartala
- Chief Minister: Biplab Kumar Deb
- Governor: Ramesh Bais

Tripura University scientist designs WARBOT to protect doctors

- To extend a big help to the doctors, attending the infected patients, a scientist at Tripura University has designed a robot which can prevent the doctors, nurses and health staff from getting infected while they come in contact with patients infected with the virus. The robot is named as Covid-19 WARBOT.
- The “COVID 19 Warbot” stands upon a box-shaped structure that has been attached to four wheels that ensures the free movement of it.
- The electronic transmission system has been used in it so that it can be operated from 20-meter distance at the most and it has the ability to bear a weight of 30 Kgs.

Nagaland

- Statehood Day: December 1, 1963
- Capital: Kohima
- Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio
- Governor: N Ravi
- State formed in: December 1, 1963
- Literacy Rate: 80.11%

Nagaland and Manipur celebrate Naga Independence Day

- The north-eastern states of the country, Nagaland and Manipur observed the 74th Naga Independence Day on August 14, as per their custom and historical significance.
- They hoisted the Naga National Flag.
- Nagaland became a free state in the year 1963 though there are still certain factions within the Naga people who want sovereignty for the people of the state.



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Meghalaya

- Capital: Shillong
- Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma
- Governor: Tathagata Roy

Meghalaya CM launches 'Restart Meghalaya Mission' to revive State's economy

- On the occasion of the 74th Independence Day, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said that a "Task Force" on the economy has been formed to suggest reforms for rejuvenating the economy in the short, medium and long-term.
- Based on the recommendations, the state government will launch the "Restart Meghalaya Mission".
- Over Rs14,515 crores would be spent for implementation of the mission during the next three years.
- This mission comprises a series of programs to support our farmers, and entrepreneurs and to build growth promoting basic infrastructure and services.

Meghalaya govt constitutes task force to study in detail National Education Policy 2020

- In Meghalaya, Education Minister Lakhmen Rymbui said that the State Government has constituted a task force to study in detail the National Education Policy which was recently adopted by the Centre.
- He said that the task force will carry out in-depth details on the policy adding that it will look at the challenges in the implementation of the policy.

Kerala

- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Governor: Arif Mohammed Khan
- Festivals: Onam, Vishu, Thrissur Pooram, Nehru Trophy Boat Race
- National Parks: Anamudi Shola National Park, Eravikulam National Park, Mathikettan Shola National Park, Pambadum Shola National Park, Periyar National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Aralam WLS, Chimmony WLS, Idukki WLS, Periyar WLS, Wayanad WLS, Peppara WLS, Neyyar WLS, Kurinjimala WLS, Malabar WLS etc

Kerala's 1st-ever Dragonfly Festival

- WWF-India Kerala State Office is joining hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuranam for the first-ever state "Dragonfly Festival" in Kerala, christened 'Thumbimahotsavam 2020'.
- This is part of the National Dragonfly Festival organised by WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society and Indian Dragonfly Society in association with National Biodiversity Board, UN Environmental Programme, UN Development Programme and IUCN-CEC.

First marine ambulance boat 'PRATHEEKSHA' commissioned in Kerala

- The Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the first ever marine ambulance named 'PRATHEEKSHA' on 27 August 2020 via videoconferencing.



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- Pratheeksha is first in the series of 3 fully equipped marine ambulance boat built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), for the Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala.
- The other two other boats namely 'Prathyasha' and 'Karunya' were also launched on the same day.
- These marine ambulances will be deployed at Vizhinjam village of Thiruvananthapuram district in Kerala.
- They have been built at a cost of Rs. 6.08 crore, to save the lives of fishermen during accidents at sea.
- The boat has been designed by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology as per the specifications of Indian Registry of Shipping.

Kerala to build country's first International Women Trade Centre

- In association with United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs), Kerala will set up India's first international women's trade centre (WTC), at Angamaly (a city in Kochi, Kerala).
- The recent move aims to accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity while providing women with a safe place away from home to start new businesses.
- It will also help set up or expand current business holdings.

Daman & Diu

- Capital: Daman
- Lt. Governor: Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)

Health Dept of Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu organize meeting to implement NDHM

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) during his Independence Day speech earlier this month.
- NDHM aims to bring a new revolution in India's health sector and all Indians will get Health IDs.
- The initiative is being implemented in six Union Territories including Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Maharashtra

Mumbai becomes first city in India to have female icons on traffic signals

Mumbai has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.

- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed traffic signals that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.
- Aditya Thackery, Minister for Tourism and Environment termed that the signage is "ensuring gender equality with a simple idea."
- While a first in India, countries like Germany and Australia started marking female icons in traffic signage in 2014 and 2017, respectively.

Mumbai municipal corporation to start pilot project to use voice analysis to detect Covid -19

The Municipal corporation of Greater Mumbai will start using a voice sampling method to diagnose Covid-19 at one of its jumbo facilities in Mumbai.



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- Although, this will be on pilot basis but the app based tool will soon be introduced in other hospitals as well..
- The audio based app can find a person's Covid 19 status from the voice's timbre.
- Such voice based apps or tools have been tested across the world.
- A suspected patient will be asked to speak into a cell phone or computer, where the voice analysis app has been uploaded.
- The patient's vital parameters will also be taken. The sample will be compared with the voice of a person not suffering from Covid 19 to provide an analysis.

Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari lays foundation stone, inaugurates National highway projects

- In Maharashtra, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone and inaugurated National highway projects worth Rs. 777 Cr. in Gadchiroli district.
- The inauguration took place via video conferencing in which Minister for State for Road Transport General V.K.Singh, State PWD Minister Ashok Chavan also participated.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone of 4 Major Bridges on Perimilli, Bandiya ,Pearlkota and Waingagana River in Gadchroli district.
- He also inaugurated Major Bridge of 4.30 km on Pranhita River, 20 km long Major Bridge across Indravati River near Lankachen State Highway.

International News

PM Modi inaugurates Supreme Court building of Mauritius

- Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Mauritian Prime Minister Pravin Kumar Jugnauth on Thursday virtually inaugurated the new Supreme Court building at Port Louis.
- The building has been constructed with Indian assistance as India's sign of cooperation with countries in the Indian Ocean Region.
- It has been completed with the grant assistance of \$28.12 million from India.

Extra Shots:

Mauritius (Capital/Currency): Port Louis/ Mauritian rupee

- Prime Minister: Pravind Jugnauth

Australia to force US tech giant Facebook and Google to pay news publishers

- Australia will force US tech giant Facebook Inc. and Alphabet Inc's Google to pay Australian media publishers for news content.
- Thus, Australia will become first such country which will help its native media company to gain royalty under the royalty-style system.

Extra Shots:

Australia (Capital/Currency): Canberra/ Australian dollar



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- President: Scott Morrison

Hamed Bakayoko appointed as Prime Minister of Ivory Coast

- Defence Minister of Ivory Coast, Hamed Bakayoko has been named as the Prime Minister of the country.
- He was presently serving as the as interim PM of the country since the sudden death of former Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly.
- He was a founding member of the Rally of the Republicans (RDR) party.

Extra Shots:

Ivory Coast (Capital/Currency): Yamoussoukro/ West African CFA franc

- President: Alassane Ouattara

UAE becomes first Arab country to produce nuclear energy

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has made a remarkable achievement by becoming the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy, when the Unit 1 of the Barakah Nuclear Plant in Abu Dhabi, got operational on 31 July 2020.
- The plant is powered by South Korean technology and is situated in the Al Dhafrah region of Abu Dhabi.
- It will produce 5.6 gigawatts of electricity and meet up to 25% of the UAE's electricity needs.
- The new plant is part of the UAE's effort to become less reliant on oil and gas, which is the current source of the vast majority of its energy, and move towards sustainable energy sources.

Extra Shots:

UAE (Capital/Currency): Abu Dhabi/ United Arab Emirates dirham

- President: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

India-UK collaborates for new 8 million pounds joint medicinal research

- Enhancing their science and research collaboration, India and the United Kingdom have partnered to undertake five new research projects to tackle anti-microbial resistance that can be helpful in the global fight against antibiotic-resistant bacteria and genes.
- The overall cost of the five projects is 8 million pounds.
- They are planned to be executed in September 2020.
- The UK will contribute 4 million pounds from the UK Research and Innovation Fund for International Collaboration, while India will also contribute 4 million pounds.

Extra Shots:

UK (Capital/Currency): London/ Pound sterling

- Prime Minister: Boris Johnson

Mohamed Irfaan Ali named as President of Guyana

- Former Guyanese housing minister, Mohamed Irfaan Ali has been named as the President of the country.
- He is a member of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP). He succeeds David Arthur (A.) Granger.
- David A. Granger is a member of A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change (ANPU-AFC).



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- The PPP won 33 of the 65 seats in the National Assembly with 233,336 votes, while the APNU-AFC earned 31 seats with 217,920 votes.

Extra Shots:

Guyana (Capital/Currency): Georgetown/ Guyanese dollar

- President: Irfaan Ali

Bangladesh to construct modern food storage system with USD 202 million World Bank financial support

- Bangladesh will be constructing five more modern food storage systems in the country in addition to the three already under construction with financing support from the World Bank to enhance the storage capacity and improve the efficiency of grain storage.
- The World Bank has approved a dollar 202 million additional financing for the modern food storage facilities project in Bangladesh.
- The project will support construction of eight modern grain storage steel silo complexes for rice and wheat in eight districts.
- It is in addition to the current construction work taking place in three districts of Bangladesh Ashuganj, Madhupur and Mymensingh.
- The additional financing will support the construction of rice silos in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Barisal, and wheat silos in Chattogram and Maheshwar Pasha.

Extra Shots:

Bangladesh (Capital/Currency): Dhaka/Taka

- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina
- Official Language: Bengali

Bangladesh to construct memorial for Indian soldiers martyred in 1971 liberation war

Bangladesh will construct a memorial for the Indian soldiers martyred during the country's liberation war in 1971.

- The memorial will be constructed coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh.
- Liberation War in Bangladesh, was a revolution and armed conflict sparked by the rise of the Bengali nationalist and self-determination movement in what was then East Pakistan during the 1971 Bangladesh genocide.
- It resulted in the independence of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- The war began after the Pakistani military junta based in West Pakistan launched Operation Searchlight against the people of East Pakistan on the night of 25 March 1971.

Hiroshima marks 75th anniversary of world's first atomic bombing

Japan on 06 August marks 75 years since the world's first atomic bomb attack.

- The atomic bomb, nicknamed "Little Boy", exploded on August 6, 1945, obliterating Hiroshima and killing 140,000 of an estimated population of 350,000.
- Thousands more died later of injuries and radiation-related illnesses.
- This bomb attack was done in the motive to end the Second World War in 1945.



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- Hiroshima was one of the army headquarters of Japan. Also, it was the largest military supply depot for troops and supplies.

US Impose restrictions on H1B Visa

- US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order that bans federal agencies from hiring foreign workers especially those on H-1B visa on contracting or subcontracting.
- This new restriction took effect from June 24.
- Also, they announced the company will outsource 20 per cent of its technology jobs to companies based in foreign countries.
- Through this new announcement, the US was going to witness another 200 American workers losing their jobs over the next five year.

National Bank of Bahrain selects Infosys to transform them digitally

- National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has selected Infosys Finacle to digitally transform its transaction banking business.
- NBB will be implementing the Finacle Liquidity Management Platform, and upgrading its existing Finacle Corporate Online Banking platform to a full-fledged Digital Engagement Suite – with the latest versions of the Finacle Corporate Online and Mobile Banking solutions, along with the Finacle Digital Engagement Hub.

Extra Shots:

Bahrain (Capital/Currency): Manama/ Bahraini Dinar

- King of Bahrain: Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa;

Infosys

- CEO: Salil Parekh
- Founded: 7 July 1981, Pune
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

India extends Line of Credit worth 18 million dollars to Maldives

India has extended Line of Credit worth 18 million US dollars to the Government of Maldives for the expansion of fishing facilities at Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO).

- The project envisages investment in fish collection and storage facilities and the setting up of a tuna cooked plant and fishmeal plant.
- It is part of the 800 million US dollars line of credit offered by India with repayment tenor of 20 years and a 5-year moratorium.
- Maldives Capital: Malé
- Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa

US Senate approves TikTok ban on government devices

- The United States Senate has unanimously passed a bill banning the Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok on government devices.



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- The bill will now go to President Donald Trump to be signed into a law, which will prohibit federal employees from downloading or using TikTok.

PM Narendra Modi and PM Mahinda Rajapaksa held discussion

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a conversation with the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa on 6 August 2020.
- The leaders discussed the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated the strong democratic values shared by both countries.
- Prime Minister Modi conveyed his wishes to H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa for his impressive electoral performance.
- Both the leaders reiterated the shared commitment to strengthen the multi-dimensional India-Sri Lanka relationship.
- The leaders stressed the significance of early progress in all spheres of bilateral cooperation.
- The leaders discussed the establishment of an international airport in the Buddhist pilgrimage city of Kushinagar in India.
- Both the leaders agreed to stay in close touch as both countries address the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic, and resolved to take bilateral relations to newer heights in the coming days.

Extra Shots:

Sri Lanka (Capital/Currency): Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte/ Sri Lankan rupee

- Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa

U.K. to issue coin in honour of Mahatma Gandhi

- The U.K. government has decided to issue a commemorative coin to mark the 150th birthday anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, said Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Sajid Javid.
- He asked the Royal Mint of the UK to propose a new commemorative coin in Gandhi's honour.

Extra Shots:

UK (Capital/Currency): London/ Pound sterling

- Prime Minister: Boris Johnson

Mahinda Rajapaksa takes oath as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister for 4th Time

- Sri Lanka's former President Mahinda Rajapaksa took oath as the country's Prime Minister on 9 August 2020, after his party secured a landslide victory in the parliamentary elections on 5 August, 2020.
- This is the fourth time that the 74-year-old Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) leader has been appointed as the PM of Sri Lanka.
- Prior to this, Mahinda Rajapaksa was first elected prime minister in 2004 and again appointed for brief periods in 2018 and 2019.

Extra Shots:

Sri Lanka (Capital/Currency): Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte/Sri Lankan Rupee



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- President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa

India says it would like Sri Lanka to send first flight to newly upgraded Kushinagar airport

India has said it would like Sri Lanka to send the first international flight to the newly upgraded Kushinagar airport in Uttar Pradesh.

- Indian Government has decided to declare the Kushinagar airport an international airport in June.
- This is particularly significant to Sri Lanka's Buddhist pilgrims since the airport is located near a number of sites sacred to Buddhists.
- Kushinagar is regarded as a sacred Buddhist pilgrimage centre and is dotted with several other Buddhist sites in the surrounding areas such as Sravasti (238 km), Kapilvastu (190 km) and Lumbini (195 km).

Exim Bank extends USD 250 million line of credit to Mozambique

- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) said it has extended a USD 250-million (about Rs 1,870 crore) line of credit (LOC) to Mozambique for improving power supply quality in the country.
- Exim Bank has now in place 264 LOCs, covering 62 countries across regions including Africa, Asia, and Latin America, with credit commitments of around USD 25.98 billion, available for financing exports from India.

Extra Shots:

Mozambique (Capital/Currency): Maputo/ Mozambican metical

- President: Filipe Nyusi

Democratic Party formally nominates Joe Biden as presidential candidate

In the United States, Democratic Party has formally nominated Joe Biden as its presidential nominee for the 2020 elections.

- He will take on President Donald Trump in the November polls for the White House.
- The nomination was a formality, as Senator Bernard Sanders withdrew from the contest in April.
- Biden has nominated Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate for Vice President's post.

"State of environmental emergency" declared by Mauritius

- A "state of environmental emergency" has been declared by the island nation of Mauritius.
- The environmental emergency has been declared as a Japanese bulk carrier "MV Wakashio" ran aground on a reef in Mauritius and began leaking oil into the ocean.
- The ship stranded two weeks ago is leaking tons of fuel into the surrounding waters.

Extra Shots:

Mauritius (Capital/Currency): Louis/ Mauritian rupee

- Prime Minister: Pravind Jugnauth

Bangladesh to construct War Memorial for Indian soldiers



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- Bangladesh has taken a decision to construct a monument for the Indian soldiers. The country will establish a monument for the Indian soldiers who died in 1971 during the Bangladesh's struggle for independence from Pakistan.
- The announcement was made by the Bangladesh War Liberation Minister Mozammel Haque.
- The government of Bangladesh has selected 3.5 acres in Ashuganj of Brahmanbaria district, bordering Tripura.

Extra Shots:

Bangladesh (Capital/Currency): Dhaka/Taka

- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina
- Official Language: Bengali

Prime Minister of Lebanon resigns after outrage over blast

- The Prime Minister of Lebanon, Hassan Diab announced his resignation from the top post of the country following outrage over the catastrophic blast in the capital of the country, Beirut, on August 4.
- The Prime Minister has announced his resignation at the cabinet meeting and has also intimidated the President.
- The President of the country Michel Aoun will now determine the next steps.
- The PM along with his council of ministers will be interim head till the new government is installed in the country.

Extra Shots:

Lebanon (Capital/Currency): Beirut/ Lebanese pound

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko wins sixth term

- President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko has won his sixth consecutive term with 80.23 per cent of the vote at the country's presidential election.
- A former English teacher Svetlana Tikhanouskaya, who emerged as Lukashenko's main rival at the elections gets 9.9 per cent of the vote.

Extra Shots:

Belarus (Capital/Currency): Minsk/Belarusian Rouble

- President: Alexander Lukashenko

Mohamed Ould Bilal becomes new Prime Minister of Mauritania

- Mohamed Ould Bilal has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Mauritania.
- The appointment was made by the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.
- Mohamed Ould Bilal is a veteran public administrator and has served as the head of the country's national water agency, a presidential aide and a cabinet minister.

Extra Shots:

Mauritania (Capital/Currency): Nouakchott/Mauritanian ouguiya.

- President: Mohamed Ould Bilal

Russia announces world's first Covid-19 vaccine



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a coronavirus vaccine, touted as the world's first such vaccine too.
- The registration of the vaccine lays ground for mass inoculation even as the final stages of clinical trials to test safety and efficacy continue.
- Russia's first coronavirus vaccine is developed jointly by Gamaleya Research Institute and the Russian Defence Ministry.
- The vaccine is based on adenovirus and contains dead COVID-19 particles which cannot multiply.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/ Russian Rouble

- President: Vladimir Putin

Russia is planning to conduct Russia-India-China summit in November

- Russia has proposed to host the first meeting of Russia-India-China (RIC) Defence Ministers in Moscow, Russia in September.
- The meeting will provide an opportunity for India and China to keep their communication channels open amid the Line of Actual Control (LAC) standoff.
- Russia will organize a RIC summit on the sidelines of the G20 meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Riyadh in November 2020 amid the rising tension between India and China.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/ Russian Rouble

- President: Vladimir Putin

Walter Roger Martos Ruiz becomes new PM of Peru

- The former defence minister and retired army general, Walter Roger Martos Ruiz becomes new Prime Minister of the country.
- His appointment was confirmed by President of Peru, Martin Vizcarra. Ruiz will succeed Pedro Álvaro Cateriano Bellido.
- The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Government Palace in Lima.

Extra Shots:

Peru (Capital/Currency): Lima/ Nuevo Sol

- Prime Minister: Walter Roger Martos Ruiz

Russia names its new Covid-19 vaccine as 'Sputnik V'

- Russia has decided to name its first COVID 19 vaccine as 'Sputnik V' for the foreign markets since this name is a reference to the first satellite of the world.
- This is a big success for the Russian government since Russia is the first country to register a vaccine for the COVID 19 disease.
- WHO is also not sure of the effectiveness and safety of this vaccine.
- Russia has also stated that around 20 countries have already pre-booked one billion doses of COVID 19 vaccine for the patients in their countries.

Sputnik V



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Sputnik V was the first-ever artificial satellite launched by Russia. Now, Russia has compared the development of COVID 19 vaccine with that space race and in order to showcase its victory in this race, that space reference is being used in this case also.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/ Russian Rouble

- President: Vladimir Putin

China's Sinovac launches phase 3 trial of COVID-19 vaccine in Indonesia

- Sinovac Biotech Ltd. of China has launched a phase 3 human trial of COVID-19 vaccine candidate on August 11, 2020, which will involve as many as 1,620 patients in Indonesia.
- Sinovac has been developing the vaccine with Indonesian state-owned peer Bio-Farma.

China (Capital/Currency): Beijing/Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping
- Official Language: Mandarin

EU announces €1.65 million humanitarian aid to support flood victims in India, Nepal and Bangladesh

- The European Union has announced €1.65 million humanitarian aid to support those affected by severe flooding in South Asia, most notably India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Extra Shots:

EU:

- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Government: Sui generis Intergovernmental and supranational
- Founders: Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

Israel provides AI-based technology and equipment to AIIMS

- Israel has shared the 'state-of-the-art artificial intelligence-based technologies and high-end equipment' with AIIMS, New Delhi, as part of the cooperative efforts between India and Israel to combat the deadly COVID 19 Pandemic in the world.
- The Ambassador of Israel to India has handed over the equipment and high-end technology to the AIIMS Director.
- This will help in bringing more effectiveness and efficiency in the overall functioning of the COVID 19 related monitoring in the hospitals and healthcare centres.
- This also includes innovative products designed to provide clinicians constant contact-free access to the vitals of the patients such as the heart rate and the respiratory rate. etc.
- The technologies also include a 12-hour disinfection product called CPD that stays active to protect the surface against new attacks of contamination.

Extra Shots:

Israel (Capital/Currency): Jerusalem/ Israeli Shekel

- President: Reuven Rivlin



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Bangladesh observes 'National Mourning Day' to mark assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Bangladesh is observing the National Mourning Day marking the 45th anniversary of the brutal assassination of its founder President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 15th August 1975.

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with 16 members of his family was brutally assassinated on this day in 1975 by a group of people from the armed forces at his Dhanmondi residence in Dhaka.
- Among the close family members, only his daughter and current Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina and her sister survived as they were not in the country when the incident took place.

Turkish and Greek warships collide in eastern Mediterranean

Greek and a Turkish warship were involved in a mini-collision during a standoff in the eastern Mediterranean sea.

- Tensions have risen this week after Turkey sent a survey vessel to the region, escorted by warships, to map out sea territory for possible oil and gas drilling.
- Greece and Turkey are allies in NATO but their relations have long been fraught with tension.
- Disputes have ranged from boundaries of offshore continental shelves and airspace to the ethnically split island of Cyprus.
- In 1996 they almost went to war over ownership of uninhabited islets in the Aegean Sea.

US partners with Moderna for 100 million doses of Covid19 vaccine

- Moderna Inc has announced that the US government has secured 100 million doses of a novel coronavirus vaccine, mRNA-1273, developed by this biotechnology company.
- This is part of the US Government's goal of security early access to the safe and effective COVID 19 vaccines for the American people.
- The Department of Health and Human Services has declared that the US Government has awarded Moderna \$1.5 billion for 100 million doses of its experimental COVID 19 vaccine current undergoing the Phase III clinical trial.
- Moderna will manufacture the vaccine doses whereas the clinical trials are underway since it will reduce the overall time required to launch the same.

After dry chillies Indian Railways to transport denim and dyes to Bangladesh from Gujarat

Indian Railways' Western Railway Zone has achieved a unique record after deciding to run a parcel train from Ahmedabad division in Gujarat to neighbouring country Bangladesh.

- The train is to carry denim cloth, dyes and colours. This is to generate a revenue of Rs 31 lakhs.
- The train is to traverse 2,110 km to reach Benapole in Bangladesh.
- Earlier, the Indian Railways operated the first ever special parcel train to Bangladesh transporting dry chillies from Andhra Pradesh.

Bangladesh to get largest ever dollar 3.1 billion loan package from Japan

- Japan has signed its largest ever loan package worth dollar 3.1 billion for Bangladesh.
- Announcing this in Dhaka. the loan under its Official Development Assistance (ODA) will be given for seven projects of Bangladesh under concessional terms.



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- The loan will cover the construction of Jamuna railway bridge in parallel to the existing Bangabandhu Bridge, expansion of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Projects and Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway improvement project among the seven projects.

Extra Shots:

Bangladesh (Capital/Currency): Dhaka/Taka

- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina
- Official Language: Bengali

Israel-based irrigation firm, Netafim secures USD 85 million deal to execute three new projects in Karnataka

- Israel-headquartered irrigation equipment maker, Netafim has clinched an \$85 million deal which will involve three new community irrigation projects in Karnataka.
- These three projects will cover 66 villages and 35,000 farmers on 50,000 hectares area (123,500 acres) in the state of Karnataka (Nandwadgi and Singatalur regions).
- Projects will be deployed over a period of two years and will include technical and agronomic support for a further five years.
- A wide range of crops are planned for the area including onion, chili pepper, corn, peanuts, beans, sunflowers and various others.
- These projects are an extension of the successful Ramthal community irrigation project in the state of Karnataka which was completed in 2017, and additional four projects in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh which were secured by Netafim in 2018 and which are now under implementation.

Extra Shots:

Israel (Capital/Currency): Jerusalem/ Israeli Shekel

- President: Reuven Rivlin

Saudi Arabia ends loan, oil supply to Pakistan

- Saudi Arabia has ended its loan and oil supply to Pakistan, ending the decades-long friendship between the two countries.
- This was reported by a leading media organisation.
- Pakistan has also been asked to pay back USD 1 billion to Saudi Arabia, which was given as a part of a \$6.2 billion package announced by Saudi Arabia in November 2018.
- The deals were signed during the visit of Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Muhammed Bin Salman to Pakistan in February 2019.

Extra Shots:

Saudi Arabia (Capital/Currency): Riyadh/ Saudi riyal

- Crown Prince: Muhammed Bin Salman

Pakistan (Capital/Currency): Islamabad/Pakistani Rupee

- Prime Minister: Imran Khan
- President: Arif Alvi

Israel successfully tests advanced missile defense system Arrow-2 interceptor



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- Israel successfully conducted a flight test of the Arrow-2 interceptor on 13 August 2020.
- Israel's multi-layered aerial defense systems have been designed to stand a war if the country is targeted with massive missile fire.

Arrow-2 interceptor:

- Arrow-2 system is a part of the multi-layered system Israel.
- The System is developed to defend against both short- and mid-range rockets.
- Arrow-2 system is capable to defend against threats from outside the atmosphere.
- Israel and the United States (US) jointly tested Arrow-3 successfully in 2019 in Alaska.
- The system was developed by Israel Aerospace Industries and Boeing and became operational in January 2017.
- The Arrow-2 has been in use even longer and deployed in recent years to counter Syrian missiles.

Extra Shots:

Israel (Capital/Currency): Jerusalem/ Israeli Shekel

- President: Reuven Rivlin

India grants USD 500 million assistance for connectivity project in Maldives

- India has announced that it will fund the implementation of the major connectivity project in the Maldives with \$400 million line of credit and \$100 million grant.
- India will fund the 6.7 km Greater Male Connectivity Project and it will be the largest civilian infra project in the country.
- This project, once completed, will connect the three neighbouring islands with Male – Gulhifahu, Villingili, Thilafushi.
- This project will include the construction of a bridge and causeway link spanning 6.7 km.
- There will also be an air travel bubble with the country to promote and sustain dynamic people-to-people ties between India and Maldives.

Extra Shots:

Maldives (Capital/Currency): Male/ Maldivian rufiyaa

- President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

India extends assistance of USD 1 million to Antigua, Barbuda to combat COVID-19 pandemic

- The Indian government has extended an assistance of USD 1 million to Antigua and Barbuda to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The provided assistance is aimed at improving health capacities and infrastructure in the Caribbean country.
- The same kind of assistance, i.e. USD 1 million, has also been offered to each Caribbean (CARICOM) country. CARICOM is a group of twenty developing countries in the Caribbean region.

Extra Shots:

Antigua & Barbuda (Capital/Currency): Saint John's/ Eastern Caribbean dollar

- Prime Minister: Gaston Browne

Russia and Brazil to partner in production & marketing of Sputnik V vaccine



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- BRICS partners Russia and Brazil have decided to enter into an agreement to cooperate in the production and marketing of the world's first registered Coronavirus vaccine Sputnik V by Russia.
- Russian Direct Investment Fund has stated that the agreement has been signed with the Brazilian State of Parana.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/Russian Rouble

- Prime Minister: Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin
- President: Vladimir Putin

UAE became the first Gulf country to establish diplomatic relations with Israel

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become the first-ever Gulf country and the third in the Arab world to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.
- Under the deal, UAE and Israel will also expand cooperation on the treatment of and the development of a vaccine for the Coronavirus.

Extra Shots:

UAE (Capital/Currency): Abu Dhabi/ United Arab Emirates dirham

- President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

India sends Humanitarian aid to Lebanon

- In a humanitarian gesture, India has sent 58 tonnes of emergency humanitarian aid to Lebanon in an air force plane to assist the people affected by the explosions in Beirut on August 4.
- The government has sent a separate consignment of personal protective equipment, including surgical gloves and surgical gowns.

Extra Shots:

Lebanon (Capital/Currency): Beirut/ Lebanese pound

EU enters into deal with AstraZeneca, for first Covid-19 vaccine

- The European Union has entered into an agreement to buy at least 300 million doses of AstraZeneca's potential COVID 19 vaccine in the first-ever such deal in advance by the group.
- The deal is aimed at financing part of the upfront costs to develop vaccines.

Extra Shots:

EU

- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Government: Sui generis Intergovernmental and supranational
- Founders: Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

Indonesia's Sinabung volcano erupts

Mount Sinabung on Indonesia's Sumatra island erupted, sending a column of volcanic materials as high as 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) into the sky.



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- The volcano, one of two currently erupting in Indonesia, was dormant for four centuries before exploding in 2010, killing two people.
- Another eruption in 2014 killed 16 people, while seven died in a 2016 eruption.
- Sinabung is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia, which is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific “Ring of Fire”.

Abu Dhabi’s Crown Prince commits USD 25mn to expand Unified Champion Schools to 6 countries including India

- Special Olympics Bharat announced that Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has committed USD 25 million to expand Unified Champion Schools (UCS) to six countries – India, Argentina, Egypt, Pakistan, Romania and Rwanda.
- The four-year project will play a critical role in making the Indian education system more inclusive by creating 120 Unified Champion Schools across 12 states.
- The initiative that encourages activation and empowerment of the youth resonated with the theme of the International Youth Day 2020, “Youth Engagement for Global Action” by empowering young people with and without intellectual disabilities to create lasting social change through inclusion in education.

Extra Shots:

UAE (Capital/Currency): Abu Dhabi/ United Arab Emirates dirham

- President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

New Zealand delays elections in Auckland by four weeks after COVID-19 outbreak

- New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern has decided to delay New Zealand’s national elections by four weeks due to the latest coronavirus outbreak in Auckland.
- The announcement was made on August 17, 2020.

Extra Shots:

New Zealand (Capital/Currency): Wellington/ New Zealand dollar

- Prime Minister: Jacinda Ardern

President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita resigns amid military coup

- The President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has announced his resignation on 19 August 2020, three years before his final term was due to end.
- The officers of the Malian Armed Forces began a military coup and arrested several government officials including President Keita,
- The next day, President announced his resignation, saying he wanted “no blood to be spilled” to keep him in power.
- Keita was first elected as the President in 2013 and again reelected after 5 years in 2018. His term was to end in 2023.

Extra Shots:

Mali (Capital/Currency): Bamako/ West African CFA franc

United States hands over second shipment of 100 ventilators to India



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- The United States has handed over the second shipment of 100 new and state-of-the-art ventilators to India on August 19, 2020, in its fight against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ventilators donated have been manufactured in the United States and are compact, easy to deploy, and will provide India with the flexibility in treating virus affected patients.
- In addition to the ventilators, USAID has also been funding a package of support that includes warranties and the additional supplies that will be required to operate these machines such as filters, tubes, and other necessary components.

Extra Shots:

USAID

- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- Employees: 3,893 career U.S. employees (FY 2016)
- Agency executives: John Barsa, Acting Administrator; Bonnie Glick, Deputy Administrator;
- Founder: John F. Kennedy
- Founded: 3 November 1961
- Subsidiaries: Office of Transition Initiatives, Food for Peace, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development

India names Bangladesh to be a priority recipient for COVID-19 vaccine

- India will supply the COVID-19 vaccine to neighbouring country Bangladesh on a priority basis once it gets the nod and mass production starts.
- Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla on his visit to Dhaka confirmed that Bangladesh will be a priority recipient once India gets the nod and starts the mass production of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Extra Shots:

Bangladesh (Capital/Currency): Dhaka/Taka

- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina
- Official Language: Bengali

Luis Abinader becomes new President of Dominican Republic

- Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona has been sworn in as the 54th President of Dominican Republic.
- He succeeds Danilo Medina of Liberation Party. Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections with 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo who was the candidate of the ruling PLD got 37.7%.

Extra Shots:

Dominican Republic (Capital/Currency): Santo Domingo/Dominican Peso

India, Japan and Australia to launch Supply Chain Resilience Initiative to counter China

- India, Australia, and Japan have started the discussions for the launch of a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in order to reduce the dependency on China.
- The initiative which was first proposed by Japan might be executed.
- The objective of the countries will be to work out a plan to build on the existential supply chain network.

Keith Rowley becomes PM of Trinidad and Tobago for 2nd consecutive term



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Keith Rowley sworn in as Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term. He is from the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).
- As per the preliminary result, PNM won 22 of the 41 electoral seats, while the opposition United National Congress (UNC) led by former prime minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar won 19 seats.

Extra Shots:

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (Capital/Currency): Port of Spain/Trinidad and Tobago dollar.

- President: Paula-Mae Weekes
- Prime Minister: Keith Rowley

Francisco Asue reappointed as PM of Equatorial Guinea

- Francisco Pascual Eyegue Obama Asue was reappointed as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for 3rd consecutive term.
- On 14th August The Asue government tendered the resignation to President Teodoro Obiang, following the criticism of the president.
- The government was dissolved to resolve the economic situation. Francisco Asue was first appointed as the Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea on 23rd June 2016.

Extra Shots:

Republic of Equatorial Guinea (Capital/Currency): Malabo/ Central African CFA franc

- Prime Minister: Francisco Pascual Eyegue Obama Asue

UAE connects first Arab nuclear plant to power grid

- The oil-rich United Arab Emirates announced that it has connected its Barakah nuclear power plant to the national grid in a first for the Arab world.
- The milestone follows the successful start-up of the plant's first reactor at the end of last month and launches the UAE on the road to meeting 25% of its electricity needs from nuclear power.

Extra Shots:

UAE (Capital/Currency): Abu Dhabi/ United Arab Emirates dirham

- President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Iran announces locally made ballistic and cruise missiles

- Iran displayed a surface-to-surface ballistic missile named martyr Qassem Soleimani, that Defence Minister Amir Hatami said had a range of 1,400 kilometres and a new cruise missile, ignoring U.S. demands that Tehran halt its missile programme.
- The missile has a range of 1,400 km and the cruise missile, called martyr Abu Mahdi, has a range of over 1,000 km.
- Soleimani, head of Iran's elite Quds Force, and Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis were killed in January in a U.S. strike on their convoy in Baghdad airport.

Extra Shots:

Iran (Capital/Currency): Tehran/ Iranian rial

- President: Hassan Rouhani



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

China launches optical remote-sensing satellite Gaofen-9 05

- China has successfully launched a new optical remote-sensing satellite named “Gaofen-9 05” from its Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre.
- The satellite was sent into orbit by a Long March-2D carrier rocket.
- Along with it, another satellite named Tiantuo-5 and one multifunctional test satellite was also launched by the rocket.

Extra Shots:

China (Capital/Currency): Beijing/ Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping

Turkey discovers biggest-ever natural gas reserve in Black Sea

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on August 21, 2020 that Turkey has discovered 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas, the biggest-ever natural gas reserve in the Black Sea.
- The announcement was made during a televised address at Istanbul's Dolmabahce Palace.
- Turkey's drilling ship Fatih made the discovery in Tuna-1 field and the exploration is continuing in other fields.
- Erdogan said that Turkey plans to extract the natural gas and begin its production by 2023, on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic.

Extra Shots:

Turkey (Capital/Currency): Ankara/ Turkish lira

- President: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

WHO urges nations to join its global COVID-19 vaccine plan

- The World Health Organisation has urged wealthier member states to join its Covid-19 vaccine facility by the end of the month, amid fears it may not raise enough money to fund the global inoculation programme.
- The mechanism, known as Covax, aims to ensure the equitable global distribution of 2bn doses of effective vaccines by the end of 2021 but the initiative has so far failed to build momentum.
- Under the current plan, high-income countries pay to buy vaccines from the facility, while 92 so-called “funded” countries receive financial assistance.

Extra Shots:

WHO

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founded: 7 April 1948
- Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- Heads: Tedros Adhanom, Soumya Swaminathan, Jane Ellison

Vietnam health ministry to buy Russian COVID-19 vaccine

Vietnam's health ministry has registered to buy a Russian COVID-19 vaccine.

- The Southeast Asian country fights a new outbreak of the coronavirus following months of no local cases.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Vietnam has reported a total of 911 infections, with 21 deaths.
- Vietnam has signed up for 50-150 million doses of the vaccine
- Russia said the first batch of the world's first Covid-19 vaccine would be rolled out within two weeks, rejecting as "groundless" the safety concerns aired by some experts over Moscow's rapid approval of the drug.

Extra Shots

- Vietnam Capital: Hanoi
- Currency: Vietnamese dong

4th Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group

Russia chaired the 4th Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group.

- The session which was held over video conference, featured the participation of delegates from Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa and India.
- Rakesh Asthana, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau led the Indian delegation that participated in the meeting.
- In 2010, South Africa began efforts to join the BRIC grouping, and the process for its formal admission began in August of that year.
- South Africa officially became a member nation on 24 December 2010, after being formally invited by China to join and subsequently accepted by other BRIC countries.
- Brazil hosted the most recent 11th BRICS summit on 13–14 November 2019.

WHO declared Africa free of Wild Polio

- The Africa Regional Certification Commission, the independent body, has declared Africa free from wild polio.
- The announcement was made by the African Regional Certification Commission for Polio Eradication during a World Health Organization (WHO) event.
- The Africa Regional Certification Commission confirmed that all 47 countries in the WHO's Africa region have eradicated Polio.

Extra Shots:

WHO

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founded: 7 April 1948
- Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- Heads: Tedros Adhanom, Soumya Swaminathan, Jane Ellison

Bangladesh remembers its national poet Nazrul on his death anniversary

- Bangladesh observed the 44th death anniversary of the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.
- Various social and cultural organisations organised programmes observing health guidelines to commemorate the death anniversary of Nazrul. TV Channels aired special programmes to mark the day.
- Dhaka University held a virtual discussion Chaired by the Vice Chancellor Professor Md Akhtaruzzaman.
- It was addressed by the national professor Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Extra Shots:

Bangladesh (Capital/Currency): Dhaka/Taka

- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina
- Official Language: Bengali

Japan's longest-serving PM Shinzo Abe resigns due to ill-health

- The Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe has announced to step down from the post on 28 August 2020, because of the poor health conditions.
- The 65-year-old had held record seven years and eight months as leader of the world's third-biggest economy, becoming the longest-serving Prime Minister in Japanese history.
- He had been serving as the PM of Japan since 26 December 2012.
- Prior to this, he had also served as the PM for a short period between July 2006 to September 2007, becoming the youngest PM of the country, elected at the age of 52.

India co-sponsors UN security council resolution on women peacekeepers

- India has co-sponsored a security council resolution that calls for full, effective and meaningful participation of women personnel in peacekeeping operations.
- India has set for itself during its tenure in the Security Council beginning 2021 that India will continue to push for greater involvement of women in all areas.
- India is the fifth largest contributor of uniformed personnel to the UN Peacekeeping Forces.

New Zealand's stock exchange (NZX) resumes trading after cyberattacks

- New Zealand's Exchange (NZX) which operates New Zealand capital, risk and commodity markets (stock market) was under cyber-attack for four days.
- It was a "distributed denial of service" (DDoS) attacks. However, the source of attack is not known yet.

Extra Shots:

New Zealand (Capital/Currency): Wellington/ New Zealand dollar

- Prime Minister: Jacinda Ardern

Maldives launches India backed infrastructure projects

- A ground-breaking ceremony for development of the Hulhumalé Central Park and renovation of the Arrival Jetty in Maldives financed by India was held marking yet another milestone in Delhi's growing partnership with Male.
- The project is being executed by the HDC through an approximate 10 million Maldivian Rupee grant assistance from India.
- It is included under the 18 grant projects being funded by India in the Maldives under a total grant assistance of USD 6.9 million (MVR 106 million) extended in 2019.

Extra Shots:

Maldives (Capital/Currency): Male/ Maldivian rufiyaa

- President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

India granted 4th Tranche of US\$5mn to Myanmar for India-Myanmar Border Area Development



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- India granted 4th tranche of \$5 million to Myanmar for the development of the India-Myanmar Border Area.
- The Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Saurabh Kumar handed over the ceremonial cheque to Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Minister for Border Affairs, Myanmar.
- This funding is on the lines of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by ex-Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2012 according to which India would grant a total of \$25 million to Myanmar, divided into five tranches of \$5 million each annually, starting 2017, for projects on India-Myanmar border.

Extra Shots:

Myanmar (Capital/Currency): Naypyitaw/Burmese kyat

- President: Win Myint

World Health Organization declares Africa free of polio

The World Health Organization has declared Africa free of polio, a landmark in a decades-long campaign to eradicate the notorious disease around the world.

- This was announced by WHO Regional Director of Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti.
- A commission has certified that no cases had occurred on the continent for the past four years, the threshold for eradication of poliovirus.
- The WHO said, poliovirus now joins smallpox in the list of viruses that have been wiped out in Africa.

First S-400 unit to be delivered by end of 2021

Russia has said that the first regiment of S-400 anti-air system will be delivered to India by the end of 2021.

- India has ordered five regiments of the cutting edge system that is designed to take down targets at a range of over 400 km.
- India and Russia had inked the \$5.2 billion defence contract for the S-400 Triumf air defence system in October 2018.
- The original date for India to start receiving delivery was reported to be in the October 2020-April 2023 timeline.
- However, in the wake of border tensions with China earlier this year, New Delhi had urged Moscow to deliver units early.
- Russia has said that there is an ongoing portfolio of defence orders worth \$15 billion with India and that plans to start producing AK203 rifles at a factory in Amethi in Uttar Pradesh are underway.

Summits & Conferences

6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting held virtually

- The Environment Ministers of the five BRICS countries participated in the 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting on July 30, 2020 through video conference.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar represented India at the meeting along with the Ministers of the other BRICS nations- Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa.

Highlights:

- The Environment Minister discussed the need to implement the various initiatives under the BRICS and for the speedy implementation of the BRICS agreement.
- He also elaborated on the efforts made by India in areas relating to sustainable urban management, tackling marine litter, air pollution and the cleaning of rivers.
- The Minister highlighted that India launched Air Quality monitoring index in 10 cities in 2015 to control air pollution.
- He also informed that India had launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019, the goal of which is to reduce particulate pollution by 20-30 percent relative to 2017 levels by 2024.

Extra Shots:

BRICS

- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Official language: Portuguese, Russian, Hindi, Chinese, English
- State Leaders: Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
- Founders: India, China, Brazil, Russia

Piyush Goyal Inaugurates National Digital Conference on “Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat”

- The National Digital Conference on ‘Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat’ was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the Department for Promotion of Investment and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on 30 July 2020.
- The event was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, who was the Chief Guest at the event and delivered the inaugural address.

The Conference deliberated on a range of issues like:

- Major regulatory reforms undertaken by the government across various indicators of doing business,
- Assess their on-ground implementation,
- Disseminate best practices from various states,
- Crucial policy issues requiring redressal and,
- Identify a sustainable action plan for improving the business environment across sectors and states.

Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurates world class “Thenzawl Golf Resort” project implemented in Mizoram under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- The Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (Independent charge) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has virtually inaugurated the world-class “Thenzawl Golf Resort” Project in Mizoram on 4 August 2020, for the development of Golf Tourism in the country and attract both International and domestic tourists.
- The project has been implemented under the Integrated Development of New Eco Tourism under Swadesh Darshan Scheme, sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India under the new scheme called Swadesh Darshan – North East Circuit, with the aim of developing theme-based tourism circuits in the country.
- The Thenzawl Golf Resort Project will have an international standard 18 holes Golf Course designed by Canadian based Golf Course Architect Firm Graham Cooke & Associates and 30 Eco Log Huts.
- The total outlay of the Project amounts to Rs.92.25 Crore.

Extra Shots:

Ministry of Tourism

- Officeholder: Prahlad Singh Patel (MOS independent charge)
- Founded: 1967
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India

PM addressed the Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy on 7 August through video-conferencing.
- The conclave was organized by the Ministry of Education along with the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- Also, the Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched UGC’s guidelines to offer internship-embedded degree programmes.

Highlights:

- The Prime Minister urged all to work towards the implementation of a new national education policy.
- National Education Policy was approved after 3-4 years of extensive deliberations.
- The new policy is expected to benefit the country’s education system.
- The policy aims to provide all the students an opportunity to achieve their goals.
- The policy was launched as the mapping of interest, ability, and demand was needed.
- The NEP has the potential to not only change the education system but to also transform the entire nation. It will be the foundation of the New India.
- Directors of Institutions, Vice-Chancellors of universities, Principals of colleges and other stakeholders participated in the programme.

Extra Shots:

UGC:

- Founded: 1956



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Objectives: Coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education. It provides recognition to universities in India, and disburses funds to such recognized universities and college
- Sector: Higher Education
- Jurisdiction: India
- First executive: Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar
- Headquarters: New Delhi

'India-Canada IC-IMPACTS Annual Research Conference'

- The India-Canada IC-IMPACTS Annual Research Conference was held on August 6-7, 2020 in order to discuss the ways for taking cooperation between the two countries to a new level.
- This conference is organized virtually by the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnership to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS).

Extra Shots:

Canada (Capital/Currency): Ottawa/ Canadian dollar

- Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau

Fourth Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group held

- The 4th Session of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group comprising of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa was held virtually.
- The Indian delegation was led by Shri Rakesh Asthana, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau.
- The session was held over the video conference on August 12, 2020. The 4th session was chaired by Russia.

Highlights:

- The countries adopted reaffirming the commitment of the five-member states to the International Anti-drug conventions.
- India recommended for nodal points to enable real-time information sharing among BRICS nations.
- The countries exchanged opinions concerning the drug situation in their countries, the international and regional trends of illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs.

Extra Shots:

BRICS

- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Official language: Portuguese, Russian, Hindi, Chinese, English
- State Leaders: Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
- Founders: India, China, Brazil, Russia

India's External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister of UAE Co-Chairs 13th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting

- The 13th Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) on Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation was held virtually on 17 August 2020 to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two strategic partners.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- The Meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister of External Affairs, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar from India's side and UAE's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- The next Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting will be held in Abu Dhabi in 2021.

5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held virtually

- 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) was held virtually.
- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, and the Parliament of Austria jointly organized the two-day Conference with the support of the United Nations (UN).
- The conference was held with the theme "Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism" to deliver peace and sustainable development for the people and planet.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla participated in the inaugural ceremony of the conference.

MoS V. Muraleedharan co-chairs first India-Uzbekistan National Coordination Committee meeting virtually

- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan co-chaired the first India-Uzbekistan National Coordination Committee meeting virtually with Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Foreign Economic Relations Sardor Umurzakov.

Extra Shots:

Uzbekistan (Capital/Currency): Tashkent/ Uzbekistani so'm

- President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev

MEA in partnership with Foreign Ministry of Thailand organize 6th Round Table of AINTT

- The Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of Thailand has organized the 6th Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) held virtually.
- The theme of the two day Round Table which was conducted through video conferencing was 'ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era'.
- The ASEAN-India Round Table comprising think tanks, policy makers, scholars, media and business representatives was established at the 7th ASEAN-India Summit in Thailand in 2009 to provide policy inputs to Governments on future direction of cooperation.

Extra Shots:

ASEAN

- Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia
- Founded: 8 August 1967, Thailand
- Members: Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Laos
- Founders: Abdul Razak Hussein, Narciso Ramos, Adam Malik, S. Rajaratnam, Thanat Khoman
- Subsidiary: ASEAN Regional Forum

International Conference on 'Aerosol Air Quality, Climate Change and Impact on Water Resources and Livelihoods in the Greater Himalayas'

- The International Conference on Aerosol Air Quality, Climate Change and Impact on Water Resources and Livelihoods in the Greater Himalayas is set to be held from September 14 to 16.



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- The three-day conference will be organised by the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital in association with Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University.
- The international conference will be held on online platform.
- The conference will deliberate on topics such as rapid increase in the air pollution associated with industrialisation, urbanisation and its resultant impact on regional and global air quality, visibility degradation, cloud formation, and atmospheric chemistry, radiation budget, ecosystem, Himalayan climate, and glaciology, cryosphere, monsoon patterns, water availability, and human health.

'Candid & In-Depth' exchange of views in 18th India-China WMCC meeting

- India and China had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the existing situation in the India-China border areas during the 18th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs last week.
- In the last meeting of the WMCC the two sides have agreed to resolve the outstanding issues in an expeditious manner and in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols.
- Both sides also agreed that full restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas would be essential for the overall development of bilateral relations.

Extra Shots:

China (Capital/Currency): Beijing/Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping
- Official Language: Mandarin

Som Parkash addresses 5th virtual BRICS Industry Minister's Meeting

- The Industry Ministers of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries held a meeting through video mode on 24 August 2020 to discuss ways to boost cooperation in areas including 5G and Artificial Intelligence.
- From India, the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash, participated in the 5th edition of the Industry Ministers' meeting.
- The meeting adopted a joint statement on cooperation in new industries, such as 5G, AI and the industrial Internet, among BRICS countries.
- It is also likely that BRICS foreign ministers' meeting will be organised in early September 2020, which will be arranged by Russia, the current Chair of BRICS.

Extra Shots:

BRICS

- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Official language: Portuguese, Russian, Hindi, Chinese, English



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- State Leaders: Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
- Founders: India, China, Brazil, Russia

14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) held with focus on maritime security cooperation

- The 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) was held virtually on 28 August 2020 to further boost the defence and security partnership between the two countries, with a special focus on the maritime sphere.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Mr Chan Heng Kee.
- The Implementing Arrangement on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) was signed between India and Singapore during the meeting.

Extra Shots:

Singapore (Capital/Currency): Singapore/ Dollar

- Prime Minister: Lee Hsien Loong

NCPUL organises “World Urdu Conference” in New Delhi

- National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) has organised the “World Urdu Conference” in New Delhi.
- The inaugural session of the two days long conference was virtually addressed by Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’.
- During the conference, the minister added that Government of India will honor Urdu writers and literators with awards and honours in the name of important personalities of Urdu in order to encourage Urdu writers for literary and creative services.
- NCPUL has organised the conference to celebrate the quintessential spirit of Urdu, its inclusive ethos and creative character.

Extra Shots:

NCPUL

- Parent organization: Government of India
- Founded: 1 April 1996
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Key people: Dr. M. Mangapati; Pallam Raju; Shri Jitin Prasada; Wasim Barelvi; Dr. Khwaja Mohd. Ekramuddin.

Piyush Goyal Attends 8th East Asia Summit (Economic Ministers’ Meeting)

- The 8th East Asia Summit (Economic Ministers’ Meeting) was held virtually on 28 August 2020, to strengthen the regional supply chains, become resilient during this challenging time of Covid-19 pandemic, and to spur economic growth.
- The meeting was attended by the Economic ministers from the 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members and eight other nations, including India, the US, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.



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- The East Asia Summit 2020 was chaired by Vietnam's Industry and Trade Minister Tran Tuan Anh.
- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal represented India in the Summit.
- The meeting concluded with a joint statement in which the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promote trade and investment, minimise disruptions to trade and global supply chains and facilitate supply chain connectivity, including for essential goods such as medical supplies, medicines, including vaccines, food, commodities and other essential supplies and services in the region.

Extra Shots:

Association of Southeast Asian Nations:

- Secretariat: Jakarta, Indonesia
- Chairman: Nguyen Xuan Phuc
- Secretary General: H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi

Rohingya relocation to Bhashan Char island may start after Monsoon

Bangladesh is planning to start the process of relocating Rohingya refugees from the crowded camps of Cox's Bazar to the newly built facility at Bhashan Char island after the monsoon session.

- The government is planning to take relatives of the 306 Rohingya refugees already settled there and other representatives to show the facilities available on the Bhashan Char for the people to be settled there.
- If they find the place better than the cramped Cox's Bazar, the initial transfer of Rohingyas may commence after the Monsoon season.
- Bhashan char is an uninhabited island where the government of Bangladesh has made shelter houses for one lakh Rohingya refugees at an estimated cost of Tk. 2,300 crore.
- The environmentalists say that the Bhashan Char falls in an ecologically fragile area prone to floods, erosion and cyclones.
- The issue of forced relocation and lack of mobility on the island has also been raised by organisations working among the Rohingyas.

Ranks & Indices

Microsoft India most attractive employer brand

- According to Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2020, Technology giant Microsoft India has emerged as the country's most attractive employer brand, followed by Samsung India and Amazon India in the second and third place, respectively, says a survey.
- Microsoft India scored high on financial health, strong reputation and utilisation of the latest technologies.
- The REBR revealed that in 2020, work-life balance emerged as the top Employee Value Proposition (EVP) driver for the Indian workforce while choosing an employer as it was cited by 43% respondents, followed by attractive salary and employee benefits (41%) and job security (40%).

Extra Shots:



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Microsoft India

- Headquarters: Hyderabad
- Chairman: Bhaskar Pramanik
- Parent organization: Microsoft Corporation
- Founded: 1988

Chhattisgarh's Bijapur tops Niti's aspirational districts ranking

- Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts in Overall Delta Ranking by government think-tank Niti Aayog for the February-June 2020 period.
- Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh) have been placed at the second and third positions.
- The delta rankings took into account incremental progress made by over 112 aspirational districts across six developmental areas during February-June this year.
- Health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure were the development areas that were taken into consideration for the ranking.

Apple becomes world's most valuable company

- Apple world's most valuable publicly listed company.
- The company has shown a great recovery from its low-point in March during the pandemic.
- Amid the current pandemic when everywhere there is a surge for electronic devices for working online, the company saw increased demand for its devices
- Its total revenue for Q3 hit \$59.7 billion, which is 11 per cent higher from the last financial year.

Extra Shots:

Apple

- Founded: 1 April 1976, Cupertino, California, United States
- CEO: Tim Cook
- Headquarters: Cupertino, California, United States
- Founders: Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, Ronald Wayne

Reliance Industries ranked No 2 globally after Apple: FutureBrand Index

- Reliance Industries has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the FutureBrand Index 2020.
- The FutureBrand Index is a global perception study that reorders PwC's Global Top 100 Companies by Market Cap on perception strength rather than financial strength.
- While the FutureBrand Index 2020 has uncovered a number of seismic shifts in the way companies work and how they present themselves to the outside world, one key theme has stood out: individuality.
- The 2020 list is topped by Apple, while Samsung is ranked third, followed by Nvidia, Moutai, Nike, Microsoft, ASML, PayPal and Netflix.
- Reliance ranks 91st on PWC 2020 list

Extra Shots:

FutureBrand Index



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- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- Founded: 1991
- Parent organization: The Interpublic Group of Companies
- Subsidiary: Future Brand New York

Mukesh Ambani now Fourth-Richest Person in the World

- According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Mukesh Ambani, the Chairman of Reliance Industries, has become the fourth wealthiest person in the world.
- Ambani is now worth \$ 80.6 billion after adding \$22 billion in 2020.

The list of Top 10 People are:

S No.	Person	Net Worth	Country
1	Jeff Bezos	\$187	US
2	Bill Gates	\$121	US
3	Mark Zuckerberg	\$102	US
4	Mukesh Ambani	\$80.6	India
5	Bernard Arnault	\$80.2	France
6	Warren Buffett	\$79.2	US
7	Steve Ballmer	\$76.4	US
8	Larry Page	\$71.3	US
9	Sergey Brin	\$69.1	US
10	Elon R Musk	\$68.7	US

Extra Shots:

Bloomberg

- CEO: Michael Bloomberg
- Founded: 1 October 1981, New York, New York, United States
- Founders: Michael Bloomberg, Thomas Secunda, Charles Zegar, Duncan MacMillan
- Parent organization: Bloomberg Inc.

Reliance Industries at 96th rank in Fortune Global 500 list

- Reliance Industries, headed by the Indian Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, has jumped 10 places to break into the world's top 100 companies on the Fortune Global 500 list.
- Reliance is ranked 96th in the 2020 ranking released by Fortune.
- This is the highest any Indian company has been ranked on the Fortune Global 500 list.
- The list has been topped by Walmart with revenue of \$524 billion, followed by three Chinese companies – Sinopec Group (\$407 billion), State Grid (\$384 billion) and China National Petroleum (\$379 billion).

Akshay Kumar only Bollywood star to feature in Forbes' highest-paid actors of 2020, Dwayne Johnson tops



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar, is the only Indian star to be listed among the top 10 world's highest paid actors of 2020, released by Forbes magazine on 11 August 2020.
- With total earnings of \$48.5 million, Akshay is placed at sixth place in the list. Most of his income came from product endorsements.
- The list takes in account the earnings between June 1, 2019 and June 1, 2020.
- The list has been topped by Wrestler-turned-movie star Dwayne Johnson, for a second straight year, with the total earning of \$87.5 million.
- Johnson is also known by his ring name The Rock.

Delhi, Chennai among cheapest cities to rent

- According to a new report published by Purely Diamonds, Delhi and Chennai are the cheapest cities in the country to rent a house.
- As per the report, Ho Chi Minh city has been found to be the cheapest in the world whereas New York has been found to be the most expensive city to rent, in the entire world.
- Mumbai comes at the 5th position in the list of the cheapest cities in the world. Bangkok in Thailand, Athens in Greece, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia contribute to the remaining positions in the list.
- Coming to the expensive cities in the world, four cities are from the US only – New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Miami that form the top five along with Venice in Italy. Dubai, Amsterdam, etc. are also there in the list of top 10 cities which are very expensive in the world.

IIT Madras Tops Atal Rankings (ARIIA) 2020 for second straight year

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained the top position in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,' (ARIIA) 2020 for being the best centrally funded institution in India.
- The premier institute has topped in the list of tops centrally funded innovative educational institutes in India for the second consecutive year.
- The 2020 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA),' was released by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, in presence of Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank,' in a virtual event on 18 August 2020.

Winners:

- IIT Madras topped the list under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities, and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes
- Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai got the top position under Government and Government Aided Universities
- College of Engineering, Pune under Government and Government Aided Colleges
- Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar under Private or Self-Financed Universities
- SR Engineering College, Warangal under Private or Self-Financed Colleges
- Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women emerged as the top performer under Women (only higher educational institutions).

India ranks first in number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming



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- India is home to 30% of the total organic producers and ranks first in the world in number of organic farmers and ranks ninth in terms of area under organic farming, 2.59% of the total organic cultivation area (57.8 million hectares).
- Sikkim became the first State in the world to become fully organic and other States including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets.
- North East India has traditionally been organic and the consumption of chemicals is far less than rest of the country.
- Similarly, the tribal and island territories are being nurtured to continue their organic story.

Bengaluru Ranks 26th, Delhi 27th Globally in Annual Price Rise of Luxury Homes; Manila Tops Chart

- According to Knight Frank report, Bengaluru and the national capital ranked 26th and 27th, respectively, globally in annual price appreciation of luxury residential properties.
- Mumbai is at 32nd position, the consultant said in its 'Prime Global Cities Index Q2 2020' report.
- While Bengaluru and Mumbai moved up by one place each, Delhi jumped five notches as compared with the previous report of Q1, 2020.
- The Philippines capital Manila leads the index with prime home prices rising by 14.4 per cent over the 12 months to June 2020, followed by Japan's Tokyo (8.60 per cent) and Sweden's Stockholm (4.40 per cent).
- Thailand's capital Bangkok was the weakest-performing global city in the year to June 2020, with luxury home prices falling by 5.8 per cent.

Indore Gets India's 'Cleanest City' tag fourth time in a row, Surat Comes Second Followed by Navi Mumbai

- Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the fourth straight year in the central government's cleanliness survey.
- The second and third positions went to Surat in Gujarat and Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai respectively.
- The Swachh Survekshan awards 2020 were announced by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at a ceremony.
- As many as 20 MP cities earned a place in the top 50 list of cleanest cities in India. MP has also become the third cleanest state in the country, according to the survey.
- State capital Bhopal ended up as the seventh cleanest city in the list and the cleanest capital in India.

41 lakh young Indians lost jobs due to COVID-19 crisis: ILO-ADB Report

- As many as 41 lakh youth in the country lost jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic while construction and farm sector workers account for the majority of job losses, according to a joint report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The report titled "Tackling COVID-19 Youth employment crisis in Asia and Pacific", for India estimates job loss for 4.1 million youth. Construction and agriculture have witnessed the major job losses among seven key sectors in India
- In 13 countries of the Asia and Pacific region, around 1-1.5 crores of youths might lose their jobs. Pakistan is to lead in youth losing jobs followed by India in the Asia and Pacific regions.
- The unemployment rate in India is to increase to 32.5%.



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- However, of all the countries in the region, Sri Lanka is to face the maximum unemployment at the rate of 37.8%

Extra Shots:

ADB

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa
- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Membership: 68 countries
- Purpose: Economic development

India ranked 57th in Digital Quality of Life Index 2020, Denmark tops

- India ranks among the lowest in the world in terms of Internet quality, according to a global research released by online privacy solutions provider SurfShark.
- In a global index on digital quality of life in 85 countries, India ranked 9th on the internet affordability indicator, and 15th on e-government.
- Overall, India ranked 57th on the Digital Quality of Life Index 2020.
- Scandinavian countries Denmark and Sweden topped the index, with Canada rounding up the top three.

CRISIL: Average income of MGNREGA workers doubled during Corona virus lockdown in April-July period

- Average income of MGNREGA workers doubled during coronavirus lockdown, as per the CRISIL report.
- The average income per month for unskilled workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) nearly doubled to around 1,000 rupees per month during the first four months of the current fiscal.

Extra Shots:

CRISIL

- CEO: Ashu Suyash
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Parent organization: S&P Global
- Founded: 1987

Karnataka CM addresses virtual Indo-Japan business forum from Bengaluru

- Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa addressed a virtual Indo-Japan business forum from Bengaluru today.
- In his speech the Chief Minister informed that the state has announced a 25 percent capital investment subsidy on land for industries.
- The state has set up a Japanese Industrial Township near Tumkuru on 519 acres and an agreement is signed to promote Indo-Japan start-ups in the state.

Extra Shots:

Karnataka:

- Statehood Day: 1st November 1956



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Capital: Bengaluru
- Chief Minister: B. S. Yediyurappa
- Governor: Vajubhai Vala
- National Park: Anshi NP, Bandipur NP, Bannerghatta NP, Kudremukh NP, Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) NP.

Japan (Capital/Currency): Tokyo/ Japanese yen

- President: Shinzo Abe

17th Meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Commission Held via Video Conference

- The 17th meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held virtually which was co-chaired by India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Binh Minh.
- India-Vietnam signed the following Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs):
- Cooperation between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), New Delhi and Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV), Hanoi.
- MoU between National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi and Scientific Research Institute of Sea and Islands, Hanoi.

Extra Shots:

Vietnam (Capital/Currency): Hanoi/Vietnamese dong

World Economic Forum postpones 2021 Davos summit due to COVID-19

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) on Wednesday said that the 2021 summit at Davos, Switzerland will be postponed from January to "early next summer" due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Extra Shots:

WEF

- Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland
- Founder: Klaus Schwab
- Founded: January 1971
- Leader: Klaus Schwab
- Motto: Committed to improving the state of the world

Gujarat topped NITI Aayogs report on 2020 Export Preparedness Index

- NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness has released the first edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 on 26 August 2020.
- The index aims to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states and union territories, identify challenges and opportunities; enhance the effectiveness of government policies; and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework to make these states and UTs active participants in the country's export efforts.
- The overall Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 has been topped by Gujarat.
- Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu ranked second and third respectively.
- Six of eight coastal states feature in the top ten rankings.



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- Across the Union Territories, Delhi has performed the best, followed by Goa and Chandigarh.
- Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand is top ranked, followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh.
- In the landlocked states, Rajasthan has performed the best, followed by Telangana and Haryana.

Extra Shots:

NITI Aayog

- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Objectives: Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
- Jurisdiction: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Jeff Bezos becomes first person to hit a net worth of \$200 million

- Jeff Bezos, Amazon CEO on August 26, 2020, became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 million.
- Earlier in August 2020, Jeff Bezos had sold shares worth \$3.1 billion in the e-commerce company.

Extra Shots:

Amazon

- CEO: Jeff Bezos
- Founder: Jeff Bezos
- Founded: 5 July 1994, Bellevue, Washington, United States

Just 24 Percent of Indian Households Have Internet Facility to Access E-education: UNICEF

- Just 24 per cent of Indian households have internet connections to access e-education, and there is a large rural-urban and gender divide that is likely to widen the learning gap across high, middle and low-income families, according to a new UNICEF report titled 'The Remote Learning Reachability'.
- The learning gap is likely to widen across high, middle and low-income families, as children from economically disadvantaged families cannot access remote learning.
- In India, over 1.5 million (15 lakh) schools have been closed due to the pandemic affecting 286 million (28.6 crore) children from pre-primary to secondary levels, (of which 49 per cent girls).
- This adds to the 6 million (60 lakh) girls and boys who were already out of school prior to the COVID-19.

Extra Shots:

UNICEF

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Head: Henrietta H. Fore
- Founded: 11 December 1946, New York, New York, United States
- Founders: United Nations General Assembly, Ludwik Rajchman
- Parent organizations: United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council



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Amul (16th) becomes first Indian dairy company to be in Rabobank's Global Top 20 list; Top- Nestle

- Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has been ranked 16th in the Rabobank's Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list.
- Amul has achieved an annual turnover of \$5.5 billion.
- Switzerland's Nestle topped the list with a turnover of US \$22.1 billion.
- Amul is the first Indian company to enter the top 20 ranking of Rabobank's Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list.

Extra Shots:

Rabobank

- Headquarters: Utrecht, Netherlands
- Motto: Growing a better world together

Global tourism lost USD 320 billion in 5 months from coronavirus: UN

- The tourism global industry has been devastated by the coronavirus pandemic, with USD 320 billion lost in exports in the first five months of the year and more than 120 million jobs at risk, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.
- The tourism is the third-largest export sector of the global economy, behind fuels and chemicals, and in 2019 it accounted for 7 per cent of global trade.
- It employs one in every 10 people on Earth and provides livelihoods to hundreds of millions more.
- The export revenues from tourism could fall by USD 910 billion to USD 1.2 trillion in 2020" and that "could reduce global GDP by 1.5 per cent to 2.8 per cent.

Extra Shots:

UN

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States
- Official languages: Arabic; Chinese; English; French; Russian; Spanish;
- Secretary general: António Guterres

India Placed 72nd on global list with average monthly wage of Rs 32,800: Report

- With an average monthly wage of Rs 32,800 (USD 437), India has been ranked a lowly 72nd among 106 countries in terms of the average wage per month, while Switzerland topped the chart, according to a global ranking of average wages prepared by Picodi.com, an international e-commerce platform which provides discount coupons.
- Switzerland, where the average wage converted into rupees amounts to Rs 4,49,000 (USD 5,989), topped the ranking, while in Cuba the average wage is the lowest at Rs 2,700 (USD 36).



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Agreements & MoUs Signed

Reliance Power partnered with JERA set to Build Power Plant in Bangladesh

- Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power a joint venture between India's Reliance Power and Japan's JERA are all set to develop a new gas-fired power generation project in Bangladesh through their project company. A total of \$642 million with a group of banks which includes the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has been allocated.
- The project company will be building and operating a 745 MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat, Naranganj, which is located approximately 40 km southeast of Dhaka the capital city of Bangladesh.
- The power plant will supply electricity to more than 8,50,000 homes in Bangladesh by utilising re-gasified liquified natural gas (LNG).

KVIC and ITBP sign MoU to supply Khadi Mustard Oil now

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) to supply mustard oil on 31st July 2020. The move is in line with "Aatmanirbhar."

Highlights:

- The MoU was signed by Shri VK Nagar, Director, KVIC and Shri Rama Kant Sharma, DIG, ITBP in presence of KVIC Chairman, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- The KVIC and ITBP have signed the MoU for a period of one year and it will be renewed further.
- The move By GoI is to encourage local products in a bid to support the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" initiated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- GoI also made it mandatory to sell only "Swadeshi" products through the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) canteens across India.
- ITBP is the nodal agency appointed by MHA for the procurement of provisions on behalf of all paramilitary forces.
- The ITBP is expected to place an order for a supply of 1200 quintals of high quality kacchi ghani mustard oil which will be supplied by KVIC through its Prime Ministers Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) units in a month's time.
- The MoU aims to provide the best quality oil to the jawans guarding our borders, that too, on time will be our top priority.

Extra Shots:

KVIC

- Founded: 1956
- Purpose: To plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chairperson: Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Parent agency: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Type: Statutory corporation

ITBP

- General nature: Federal law enforcement
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Motto: Shaurya – Dridhata – Karm Nishtha
- Operations jurisdiction: IN
- Governing body: Ministry of Home Affairs (India)
- Founder: Government of India

ICMR and AIIMS to keep track of hospitalized patients of COVID-19

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) with a joint effort of the health ministry and the AIIMS is planning to set up the National Clinical Registry (NCR) which will help country's researchers and policymakers understand the efficacy of investigational therapies, adverse effects taking place and generate evidence for improving the treatment of Covid-19 patients.
- The main idea behind this establishment is to generate and collect a piece of logical evidence for improving the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Extra Shots:

ICMR

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Secretary & Director General: Dr. Shriram Bhargava
- Leader: Balram Bhargava
- Founder: Government of India
- Founded: 1911
- Subsidiary: RMRIMS Agamkuan, Patna, Bihar

IIT Kanpur, DARPG, DoD signs tripartite MoU to conduct predictive analysis of public grievances

- Department of Defence (DoD) Ministry of Defence (MoD), Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 4th August 2020.
- The MoU aims to conduct predictive analysis of public grievances.
- The project is aimed to help the MoD to identify the cause and nature of grievances and bring about systemic changes and policy interventions wherever required.
- Under the MoU, IIT-Kanpur will develop Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Techniques to conduct exploratory and predictive analysis of Public Grievances received on the web-based Centralized Public Grievances Redress & Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) pertaining to the MoD.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Airtel inks strategic pact with Amazon Web Services to offer cloud solutions to businesses

- Telecom company Bharti Airtel announced a multi-year strategic collaboration with Amazon Web Services to offer a suite of cloud solutions to businesses in India.
- The collaboration brings the strength of Amazon Web Services (AWS), leading cloud platform, together with Airtel's reach and expertise in handling network, data centres, security, and cloud as an integrated solution.

Extra Shots:

Airtel

- CEO: Gopal Vittal
- Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Founded: 7 July 1995, India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Parent organizations: Bharti Enterprises (64%), Singapore Telecommunications Limited (36%)

Maharashtra govt announces partnership with Google for introducing digital education tools in schools across state

- The Maharashtra government has announced a partnership with Google for introducing digital education tools in schools across the state.
- It will enable 2.3 crore students and teachers to access the technology giant's blended learning programmes that combine classroom approach with online learning. Google will deploy free tools like G Suite for Education, Google Classroom and Google Meet to facilitate remote learning.

Extra Shots:

Google

- CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States
- Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.
- Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States
- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin

Maharashtra:

- Capital: Mumbai
- Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray
- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- National Parks: Chandoli National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Gugamal National Park, Pench National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park, Tadoba National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Amba Barwa WLS, Bor WLS, Great Indian Bustard WLS, Lonar WLS, Melghat WLS, Gangewadi New Great Indian Bustard WLS, etc.

ISB Hyderabad signs MoU with Andhra govt to work on post-COVID economic recovery



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- The Indian School of Business (ISB) and Andhra's Economic Development Board (EDB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a move to focus on growth monitoring and economic development in the state after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ISB will work with Andhra government's EDB and other departments of the state for economic recovery and job creation.
- The AP Economic Development Board said the MoU will nurture a think-tank by setting up 'GoAP-ISB Policy Lab', a public policy laboratory to drive evidence-based policy decisions.

Extra Shots:

EDB

- Parent agency: Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Founded: 1 August 1961
- Managing Director: Beh Swan Gin, Chairman; Chng Kai Fong

AP govt ties up with ITC, HUL and P&G for womens economic empowerment

- The Andhra Pradesh government signed a pact with three FMCG companies — Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL), ITC and Procter and Gamble (P&G) — for marketing and technology support for economic empowerment of women under two new schemes to be launched soon.
- The companies will give handholding to women under the YSR Cheyutha scheme, to be launched on August 12, that aims to provide annual financial assistance of Rs 18,750 for next four years to women of 45-60 years age group belonging to SC, ST, backward class and minorities communities.

Extra Shots:

Andhra Pradesh:

- Capital: Amravati
- Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Literacy rate: 67.4%
- National Park: Sri Venkateswara National Park, Sri Venkateswara National Park, Papikonda National Park

Serum Institute of India signs agreement with Novavax

- Serum Institute of India, Pune, and United States-based Novavax have signed an agreement for the development and commercialization of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine candidates in India and other low and middle- income countries.
- The agreement signed between both the firms is expected to support a minimum of 1 billion doses of NVX-CoV2373 for India and other low and middle- income countries.

Extra Shots:

Novavax

- CEO: Stanley C. Erck
- Headquarters: Gaithersburg, Maryland, United States
- Founded: 1987



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Serum Institute signs landmark deal to manufacture up to 100 million doses of COVID vaccine for India

- The Serum Institute of India (SII) has entered into a partnership with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the manufacture and delivery of COVID vaccine for India and the middle and low-income countries.
- Under the new partnership, the institute plans to get up to 100 million doses of the COVID vaccine ready for delivery.

NIDM in collaboration with IMD organises webinar series on “Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Risk Reduction”

National Institute of Disaster Management in collaboration with India Meteorological Department organised a webinar series on “Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Risk Reduction”.

- The webinar series include four webinars focusing on Thunderstorms and Lightning, Cloudburst and Floods, Cyclones and Storm Surges and Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events.
- Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai inaugurated the first webinar on “Thunderstorms and Lightning”.
- He highlighted the major interventions carried out by the Government departments and agencies for reducing the adverse risks of Hydro-Meteorological disasters.
- National Institute of Disaster Management is a premier institute for training and capacity development programs for managing natural disasters in India.
- NIDM works under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Flipkart partners with the U.P. Government

- Flipkart has signed an MoU with One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The MoU will bring the artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme into the scope of the “Flipkart Samarth” initiative.
- This will provide artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme a momentum to expand their business online as they face social and economic challenges.
- The Flipkart Samarth initiative will offer various services to artisans, weavers and craftsmen such as training, dedicated space in Flipkart’s fulfilment centres, constant seller support along with cataloguing guidance and visibility on the platform.
- With help of this, these under-served communities from UP will get a push to showcase their specialized products and crafts to millions of customers across the country.

Extra Shots:

Flipkart

- Founded: October 2007, Bengaluru
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Founders: Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal
- Parent organization: Walmart



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

IndusInd Bank acquires 7.82% stake in Eveready by invoking pledged shares

- Private sector lender IndusInd Bank has acquired 7.82 percent stake in battery maker Eveready Industries by invoking pledged shares following loan default.
- The bank invoked pledge on 56,83,320 shares which constituted 7.82 percent of paid-up equity share capital of Eveready Industries.

Extra Shots:

IndusInd Bank

- CEO: Sumant Kathpalia
- Headquarters: Pune
- Owner: Hinduja Group
- Founder: S. P. Hinduja
- Subsidiaries: IndusInd Fin

Bharti Airtel inks multi-year strategic pact with Amazon for AWS solutions

Bharti Airtel announced a multi-year strategic pact with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to deliver Cloud solutions to large as well as small and medium enterprise (SME) customers in India.

- The products linked to artificial intelligence and Edge among others will be offered to the SMBs.
- Bharti Airtel will act as a channel partner for AWS to tap startups and SMBs and sell the products of AWS and bundle them with its public cloud offerings.
- Airtel Cloud will build an AWS CloudPractice, supported by AWS Professional Services, as well as develop differentiated Cloud products and capabilities leveraging AWS services, Airtel's data centre capabilities and network and telecoms offerings.

CSIR, FSSAI sign MoU for collaborative research on food and nutrition

- An agreement was signed between CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) and FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) for collaborative research and information dissemination in the area of food and nutrition.
- The two organisations will collaborate towards strengthening the quality assurance of laboratory networks across the country aimed at development and validation of methods for reliable reporting on quality and safety of food products.

Extra Shots:

FSSAI:

- Founded: August 2011
- Sector: Food safety
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Rita Teotia
- Parent agency: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

IT Guwahati, in collaboration with Imperial College London, develops nanoparticle 'meta-grid'



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, India, and Imperial College London, UK, have developed a tailored ‘meta-grid’ of nanoparticles that could make light-emitting diodes (LEDs) brighter, energy-efficient and durable.
- Meta-grid’ or ‘metamaterial grid’ is a specifically patterned array (grid) of nanoparticles acting as metamaterials, capable of exhibiting extraordinary optical properties.

Bihar Pollution Control Board signs MoA with IIT Delhi for air quality management

- The Bihar State Pollution Control Board has signed a ‘Memorandum of Agreement’ (MoA) with IIT Delhi to set up geographical information system (GIS) based platform to check air quality management in the state.
- IIT Delhi will help the state to set up a comprehensive architecture for scientific analysis of air pollution and monitoring and provide know-how to develop in-house capacity for data analysis.
- The project will help in identifying sources and transport (local hot spot) of particulate matter PM 2.5 in the non-attainment cities like Patna, Gaya and Muzaffarpur and help the board to identify effective mitigation measures.
- The project will not only identify geographical areas with poor air quality based on statistical and spatial data, but will also enable to locate the source of air pollutants in those areas.

A.P. government signs MoU with US Based IT Firm “Boston Group”

- The Boston Group has signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government to set up an IT company in Visakhapatnam.
- The new IT company stated to be installed in the state according to the MoU is expected to create 250+ jobs in the IT sector.

Extra Shots:

Boston Consulting Group

- CEO: Rich Lesser
- Headquarters: Boston, Massachusetts, United States
- Founder: Bruce Henderson
- Founded: 1963, Boston, Massachusetts, United States

India, Maldives ink contract for development of five eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll of island nation

- India and Maldives signed a contract for development of five eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll of the island nation.
- These eco-tourism zones are part of grant projects being implemented under the High-Impact Community Development project (HICDP) scheme which involves a total grant assistance of 5.5 million US dollars to the Maldives.
- Currently, there are 9 such high-impact projects being implemented in the Maldives.

Extra Shots:

Maldives (Capital/Currency): Male/ Maldivian rufiyaa

- President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

Rajasthan government, SIDBI to ink MoU for cluster-based development of MSMEs



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- The Rajasthan government and the Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will soon ink an agreement to create newer avenues and growth opportunities for MSME units in the State.
- For upcoming and existing MSME units in the State, SIDBI will identify clusters and create a plan to reach out to small entrepreneurs and provide consultation, business solutions and guidance for availing benefits under current schemes.
- A project management unit (PMU) will be set up by SIDBI in Rajasthan to provide assistance to certain sectors which are cluster-based such as textiles in Bhilwara and handicrafts in Jodhpur.

Extra Shots:

SIDBI:

- Headquarters location: Lucknow
- Founded: 2 April 1990
- Formed: 2 April 1990
- Chairman and Managing Director: Mohammad Mustafa

BSE signs MoU with Akola-based bullion associations

- The Bombay Stock Exchange has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Akola, Maharashtra-based bullion trade and industry associations, Akola Sarafa Association and Akola Sarafa Va Suvarnakar Yuva Sangh.
- The associations represent members engaged in the retail sale and trade of bullion.
- The MoU aims to facilitate cooperation between the BSE and physical markets represented by the two trade bodies in areas such as knowledge sharing, education and training, events and explore areas of mutual interests.

Extra Shots:

BSE:

The BSE SENSEX is a free-float market-weighted stock market index of 30 well-established and financially sound companies listed on Bombay Stock Exchange.

BSE partners with Gujarat Govt

- Bombay Stock Exchange, has entered into an agreement with i-Hub, an incubation set up started by the Gujarat Government, in order to encourage and support the startup companies in raising capital.
- BSE will provide a favourable ecosystem for the startups in the state to get funding and succeed in the venture.

i-Hub

- This is vibrant incubation setup established under student startup innovation policy by the Gujarat Government Education Department and it is mainly focused on developing the startups as the catalyzers for economic growth in the state, thereby providing a conducive ecosystem for the promotion of their growth.
- This setup is meant to solve one of the major challenges of the startups – Finance.

Extra Shots:

Gujarat:



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- State formed on: 1 May 1960
- Literacy Rate: 79.31%
- National Park: Vansda NP, Blackbuck NP, Gir Forest NP, Marine NP, Gulf of Kutch

Google joins hands with Central Water Commission for flood forecasting initiative

- The search engine giant Google has joined hands with the Central Water Commission in order to make the flood forecasting in the country more advanced and more effective.
- The alerts provided by Google are timely and updated.
- They also provide critical information that can help users make informed decisions regarding their safety and that of their families and friends.
- Any user in the affected region with an android smartphone with location services will be able to access these alerts.
- The users can also enter a query in the search field regarding a flood-affected area to see key information on the current situation in the region.
- This has been very useful in areas affected by floods such as Assam and Bihar.

Extra Shots:

Google

- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin Trending
- Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States
- CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.
- Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States

NSE, IIM-Bangalore join hands to offer platform for investor education

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) announced the launch of a digital learning platform for investor education.
- The platform, an online investor education resource centre, has been developed jointly by NSE Investor Protection Fund Trust and IIM Bangalore.
- The platform has four learning modules each comprising number of videos, audios, podcasts, deep-dives and blog posts presenting the content using the latest animation and data visualization technology to actively engage different cohorts of potential investors.

Extra Shots:

NSE

- No. of listings: 1,952



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Location: Mumbai, India
- Owner: National Stock Exchange of India Limited
- Founded: 1992
- Indices: NIFTY 50; NIFTY Next 50; NIFTY 500

Delhi govt inked MoU with Bloomberg Philanthropies to enhance road safety

- The Delhi government, in a bid to enhance road safety in the national capital signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bloomberg Philanthropies, joining 30 world cities in the initiative for global road safety.
- Under this initiative the Delhi government will be supported by the world's leading experts in road safety and will receive technical assistance to conduct various periodic road user behaviour surveys and training for staff.

Extra Shots:

Bloomberg Philanthropies

- Location: New York City, United States of America
- Founder: Michael Bloomberg
- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

Niti Aayog partners Nasscom to launch AI-based module for school students

- Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with IT industry body Nasscom launched an artificial intelligence-based module for school students to empower youngest minds and drive innovations in the country to the next level.
- This module is the next step in bringing artificial intelligence (AI) to Indian classrooms and is a successor to the AI base module launched in February this year.
- The 'AI Step-up Module' provides a comprehensive set of 'learn it yourself' advanced modules to those who wish to expand their knowledge base after becoming familiar with the basics of the AI discipline through the AI base module.

Extra Shots:

NITI Aayog

- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Objectives: Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
- Jurisdiction: Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

NASSCOM

- Chairperson: Keshav R Murugesh
- Headquarters location: New Delhi



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Members: over 2,800 companies
- Founded: 1 March 1988
- Founders: Dewang Mehta, Nandan Nilekani
- Affiliations: NASSCOM Foundation, National Institute for Smart Government, Data Security Council of India

IHCL joins hands with Tata Power for supply of solar energy

- Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) has joined hands with Tata Power for supply of solar energy for its Mumbai hotels as part of strategy to focus on sustainable and cost-efficient business practices.
- The company has signed a solar energy power purchase agreement (PPA) with TP Kirnali Solar Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Company Ltd.
- IHCL hotels in Mumbai, namely The Taj Mahal Palace, Taj Lands End and Taj Wellington Mews, will get approximately 60 per cent energy from green source and will reduce nearly 22.9 million kg of carbon dioxide emissions on an annual basis.
- This agreement is valid for a period of 25 years.

Extra Shots:

Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL)

- Parent organization: Tata Group
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: Jamsetji Tata

India and Nepal to speed up implementation of projects in the Himalayan nation

- A virtual meeting was held between the Senior diplomats of India and Nepal to review the progress made on various India-aided developmental projects being implemented in the Himalayan nation.
- The meeting was held virtually due to the covid-19 pandemic.
- The meeting was the 8th round of talks under the aegis of the India-Nepal Oversight Mechanism.

Highlights:

- The Nepalese side was lead by the Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and the Indian side was led by the Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
- The delegations represented their respective countries during the oversight mechanism meeting.
- The officials assessed the progress made on various India aided development projects being implemented in Nepal.
- India and Nepal officials have reviewed the status of various development projects supported by New Delhi in the Himalayan nation.
- Both nations has decided to speed up their implementation against the backdrop of consistent efforts by China to draw Nepal into its sphere of influence with cheap loans and infrastructure projects.
- The meeting also included the ongoing projects including the cross-border railway connectivity, construction of roads in Nepa's Terai region, the Arun-III hydropower project, and petroleum product pipelines.

Extra Shots:



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Nepal (Capital/Currency): Kathmandu/ Nepalese rupee

- President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari

Standard Chartered bank partners Airtel Africa for financial services in Africa

- Standard Chartered Bank has partnered Airtel Africa to drive financial inclusion across key markets in Africa by providing customers with increased access to mobile financial services.
- The duo will work together to co-create new, innovative products aimed at enhancing the accessibility of financial services and, ultimately, better serve people across Africa.
- In line with this, Airtel Money's customers will be able to make real-time online deposits and withdrawals from Standard Chartered bank accounts, receive international money transfers directly to their wallets and access savings products amongst other services.

Extra Shots:

Standard Chartered Bank

- Headquarters location: London, United Kingdom
- CEO: Bill Winters
- Founded: 1969, London, United Kingdom
- Owner: Temasek Holdings
- Founders: Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Standard Bank

Bharti AXA Life, SBM Bank India enter into bancassurance partnership

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into bancassurance partnership with SBM Bank India for distribution of life insurance products through the latter's network.
- Under this agreement, Bharti AXA Life Insurance will offer its entire suite of life insurance products, including protection, health, savings and investment plans, to the customers of SBM Private Wealth, the retail banking arm of SBM Bank India.

Muthoot Finance, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance tie up to offer COVID-19 cover

- Muthoot Finance has tied up with Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to offer COVID-19 insurance cover of up to Rs 1 lakh against gold loan.
- Muthoot Finance Ayush Gold Loan is an exclusive initiative of Muthoot Group through which they will provide complimentary COVID-19 insurance cover to their eligible customers.
- This cover however will be available only for the customers availing gold loan under the Super Loan scheme.

Extra Shots:

Muthoot Finance

- Headquarters: Kochi
- Founder: M George Muthoot
- Founded: 1939, Kerala

Kotak Mahindra General Insurance



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 2015
- MD & CEO: Mahesh Balasubramanian
- Parent organization: Kotak Mahindra Bank

Reliance Retail acquires majority stake in online pharmacy Netmeds for Rs 620 crore

- Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the subsidiary company of Mukesh Ambani owned Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has acquired a majority equity stake in online pharmacy Vitalic Health Pvt Ltd and its subsidiaries (commonly known as Netmeds) for a cash consideration of around Rs 620 crore (\$83.08 million).
- This investment represents 60 percent holding in the equity share capital of Vitalic and 100 percent direct equity ownership of its subsidiaries namely Tresara Health Private Ltd, Netmeds Market Place Ltd and Dadha Pharma Distribution Pvt Ltd.

Extra Shots:

RIL

- CEO: Mukesh Ambani
- Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
- Founded: 8 May 1973, Maharashtra
- Owner: Mukesh Ambani (47.35%)

Airtel Payments Bank, Bharti AXA partner to offer 'shop insurance' for retailers

Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer "Smart Plan Shop Package Policy" for the financial protection of the bank's retailers and merchants.

- The policy will provide financial protection in case of damage to assets inside the shop due to fire and allied perils and burglary, among others, as covered in the product.
- This policy covers assets inside the shop against burglary, fire and allied perils such as flood, earthquake, landslide, rockslide, riots, strike and malicious damage, among others.
- It also covers the loss of money in safety because of an accident. The policy has a flexible sum insured option, starting from Rs 2 lakh up to Rs 25 lakh.

Andhra Pradesh teams up with NPCI for digital payments in hinterlands

- Andhra Pradesh government has announced teaming up with the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) and Canara Bank to empower over 15,000 village and ward secretariats with digital payments in the rural areas.
- The initiative, aimed at providing impetus to digital payments among last-mile customers towards financial inclusion was launched by the chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, introducing UPI QR code in 15,004 village and ward secretariats.
- The government has also designated a Digital Assistant, who will facilitate UPI payments for rural customers in the villages and transfer money to a common pool account where it is supposed to be credited.

Extra Shots:

NPCI



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Headquarters location: Mumbai
- Founded: 2008
- Number of employees: 1,000
- Type of business: Section 8 Company
- Founders: Reserve Bank of India, Indian Banks' Association

Edelweiss Tokio Life partners with Element AI for AI transformation journey

- Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has partnered with Element AI, a global developer of artificial intelligence-powered (AI) solutions and products, to develop a strategic AI roadmap for the new-age insurer and prioritise investments.
- The Element AI Advisory and Enablement team will work closely with Edelweiss Tokio Life to create an actionable roadmap for strategic AI deployment for the company, which will ultimately support a detailed AI transformation plan.
- This work will utilize unique learnings and insights from Element AI to establish technical feasibility and identify AI use cases.

Extra Shots:

Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance

- CEO: Sumit Rai
- Founded: 2009
- Parent organization: Edelweiss Financial Services Limited

AIFF signs MoU with IPSO to conduct online scouting workshops in India

- All India Football Federation (AIFF) has signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Professional Scouting Organisation (IPSO) to deliver a number of courses and webinars with regards to scouting in India.
- The first of these online workshops are set to take place from September 7 to 11, which will include a two-hour session each of the four days starting at 7 pm IST every day.
- Ministry of Skill Development, Ministry of Shipping ink MoU for skill development in port & maritime sector.
- A Memorandum of Understanding, MoU was signed between Ministry of Skill Development and Ministry of Shipping today for skill development in port and maritime sector.
- The MoU is aimed at skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling manpower for the growing maritime industry and development of coastal community.
- this MoU will reinforce the commitment of Coastal Community Development under Sagar Mala programme of Ministry of Shipping and nurture the skilled manpower for the development of ports and maritime sector of India and globally.

Extra Shots:

All India Football Federation

- President: Praful Patel



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Founded: 23 June 1937
- Headquarters: Dwarka, Delhi

India, Israel sign cultural agreement to further boost people-to-people ties

- India and Israel signed a cultural agreement that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations today. It aims to promote greater people-to-people exchanges.
- The agreement was signed by Israel's Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi and India's Ambassador to Israel, Sanjeev Singla, at the foreign ministry in Jerusalem.
- The programme of cooperation between the two countries for the years 2020-23 is based on the cultural agreement signed between them on May 18, 1993.
- The major areas of cooperation identified to promote cultural ties include the exchange of culture and art experts, encouraging cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage and archaeology.
- It also includes student exchanges through scholarships, encouraging the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals, devising youth exchange programmes and encouraging sports-related interaction among youth.

Extra Shots:

Israel (Capital/Currency): Jerusalem/ Israeli Shekel

- President: Reuven Rivlin

Ministry of Tourism signed MoU with TAAI and FLO to promote tourism as sustainable livelihood model

- The Union Minister of State for Tourism (IC), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was virtually signed today by the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with the Ministry of Tourism for women empowerment.

Highlights:

- The MoU gives us an opportunity to increase participation of women in the tourism sector.
- It will make them an integral part of the tourism workforce of the country.
- The MoU provision will create awareness, along with state tourism departments and state tourism corporations.

Uttar Pradesh Govt Inks Deal with Israel for Bundelkhand water crisis solution

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed a 'plan of cooperation' with the Government of Israel for the management of water resources in Bundelkhand region of the state, which faces potable water shortage in summers.
- The plan of cooperation for the 'India –Israel – Bundelkhand Water Project' was signed by the Israeli ambassador to India, Ron Malka, and UP's Agriculture Production Commissioner Alok Sinha on 20 August, the day on which 'India Day' is celebrated in Israel.
- The agreement has been signed for a period of two years and will be extended later.
- The Bundelkhand Water Project comprises of three key components – water conservation, water efficient transportation and advanced water practices for agriculture.
- Under this project 28 districts across the country, including two in Uttar Pradesh, have been selected.



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- In the first phase, 25 villages in Babina block of Jhansi district had been selected.
- The project will provide farmers of the Bundelkhand region with latest farming technologies, including drip irrigation.
- The water reservoir of Pahuj dam in Jhansi will be enabled with integrated drip irrigation.

Extra Shots:

Uttar Pradesh:

- Statehood Day: January 26, 1950
- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Literacy Rate: 67.68%
- Nation Park: Dudhwa National Park

IIT Roorkee signs MoU with BIS to work on standardisation and conformity assessment activities

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to carry out activities in the field of standardisation and conformity assessment.
- As part of the collaboration, both bodies will work on civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, earthquake engineering, development and management of water resources and renewable energy projects, infrastructure development, medical biotechnology and nanotechnology, and biomaterials, among others.

Atal Innovation Mission partners with India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre to expand startup ecosystem

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and Business Sweden on behalf of India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre are collaborating to promote the disruptive potential of Indian entrepreneurs, and boost the vibrant start-up ecosystem across the country.
- A virtual Statement of Intent (SoI) was signed between AIM and India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre in New Delhi.
- The Innovation Centre aims to create an ecosystem of open innovation and is built under strategic guidance from Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Government of Sweden's Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and Embassy of Sweden in India.

IIM Kozhikode signs MoU with Switzerland-based HELP Logistics

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) with the Switzerland-based HELP Logistics.
- The partnership between the two entities seeks to produce humanitarian logistics in India and the region by offering consulting services as well as logistics training for the humanitarian community such as United Nations bodies, government institutions and non-governmental organisations.



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Flipkart Enters Into 'Strategic Partnership' With Nepal's Sastodeal

- Walmart-owned Flipkart said it has entered into a strategic partnership with Nepal's Sastodeal, a move that will help lakhs of Flipkart sellers get access to the neighbouring country's e-commerce market.
- Under the partnership, Sastodeal will host over 5,000 products from Flipkart marketplace sellers operating across the categories of baby care and kids, audio devices, men's clothing, women's ethnic wear, and sports and fitness, among others, in turn opening access to Nepalese customers.

Extra Shots:

Flipkart

- Founded: October 2007, Bengaluru
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Founders: Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal
- Parent organization: Walmart

KVG Bank inks pact with SBI General Insurance

- The Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) and SBI General Insurance Co Ltd have signed an MoU to sell general insurance products through the branches of KVGB.
- The customers of KVGB will get access to bouquet of products that can cover their health, home, motor, property through the range of solutions that the company offers.
- The bank is committed to rural development and to bring an improvement of the social fabric of rural people, apart from undertaking its usual business.

Extra Shots:

Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank

- Headquarters: Dharwad
- Founded: 12 September 2005
- Sponsored by: Canara Bank

India and AIIB sign agreement for \$500 million for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has signed a loan agreement (with Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra and Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation) for a \$500 million Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III.
- The aim is to improve the network capacity, service quality and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.
- With a population of 22.8 million (2011), Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) is the most populous metropolitan region in India and is expected to reach 29.3 million by 2031 and 32.1 million by 2041.

Extra Shots:

AIIB

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Region served: Asia and Oceania
- Membership: 102 Members



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- Main organ: Board of Governors; Board of Directors
- Purpose: Crediting
- President: Jin Lique

RBL Bank partners Accenture to accelerate its Digital Journey

- Private lender, RBL Bank has selected Accenture to enhance its IT systems and processes to support its objective of becoming a truly digital bank.
- Accenture will provide managed services enabling RBL Bank to modernize and consolidate its large and disparate environment and help in streamlining and automate key business processes like finance and compliance, human resources and sales.

Extra Shots:

RBL

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: August 1943
- Subsidiaries: RBL FinServe Ltd., RBL Bank Ltd., Asset Management Arm

CCI approves Siemens' acquisition of C&S Electric

- Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it approved the proposed acquisition of C&S Electric by Siemens.
- As per a statement issued by Siemens in January, it had inked an agreement to acquire 99 per cent equity in New Delhi-based C&S Electric for around Rs 2,100 crore.

Extra Shots:

Competition Commission of India

- Website: cci.gov.in
- Founded: 14 October 2003
- Objectives: Enforce The Competition Act, 2002 throughout India, MORE
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- First executive: Dhanendra Kumar

TVS Automobile Solutions selects Google Cloud as technology partner

- TVS Automobile Solutions Ltd, part of the USD 8.5 billion TVS Group has selected Google Cloud as its technology partner to build its digital transformation strategy.
- Through this partnership, TVS Automobile Solutions Ltd would advance its goal of creating a 'digital ecosystem' empowering thousands of small entrepreneurs across automotive retailers and garages.

Extra Shots:

TVS Automobile Solutions Ltd

- Founded: 2009
- Parent organization: T V Sundram Iyengar & Sons Private Limited

CMIA partnered with UNDP to set up help desk for MSMEs



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- Chamber of Marathwada Industries and Agriculture (CMIA) partnered with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 24 August to set up help desk for MSMEs amid Covid-19.
- The partnership aims to establish Covid-19 help desk in order to facilitate Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The help desk will be active till January 2021.
- The Covid-19 help desk will provide various information on government safety guidelines, regulatory norms and government Covid-19 response schemes and support measures.
- It will provide support to MSMEs through in-person and phone consultation

Extra Shots:

UNDP

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Founded: 22 November 1965, United States
- Head: Achim Steiner
- Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- Awards: Shorty Social Good Award for Best in Live Events
- Nominations: Latin American Green Award: Human Development

APEDA signs MoUs with AFC India, NCUI to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors

- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has signed Memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with AFC India Limited, and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Delhi.
- The MoU aims to utilise their expertise by mutually working together to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors for bringing better value to the stakeholders.

Extra Shots:

APEDA

- Founded: 1986

Tech Mahindra partners with Niti Aayog to empower women entrepreneurs

- IT major Tech Mahindra announced collaboration with NITI Aayog to empower women entrepreneurs in the country.
- Tech Mahindra will provide mentorship, co-create solutions leveraging new age technologies and support in developing a go-to-market strategy.
- As part of the collaboration, Tech Mahindra has partnered with the winners of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards, an initiative of the Niti Aayog, to recognise women leaders in entrepreneurship across various sectors

Extra Shots:

TechMahindra

- CEO: C. P. Gurnani
- Parent organization: Mahindra Group



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- Headquarters: Pune
- Founder: Anand Mahindra

NeGD signs MoU with CSC E-Governance Services India Limited

- The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has partnered with CSC (Common Service Center) e Governance Services India Limited.
- The partnership aims to enable delivery of UMANG services to citizens through the network of 3.75 lakh CSCs.
- The CSC operators Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) will facilitate citizens to use e-Governance services of 140 Departments with the help of UMANG App.

Extra Shots:

CSC (Common Service Center)

- Founder: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- Founded: 16 July 2009
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Key person: Dinesh Tyagi
- Type of business: Publicly listed company

POWERGRID Signs MoU with ACTREC for Construction of Operation Theater Complex in Navi Mumbai

- The Power Grid Corporation (POWERGRID), an enterprise under the government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TATA Memorial Centre (TMC) – Advanced Centre for Treatment Research & Education in Cancer (ACTREC), under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) for the construction of “POWERGRID OT Complex” a modular operation theatre complex in Navi Mumbai.

Extra Shots:

ACTREC:

- Director: Sudeep Gupta
- Location: Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

Power Grid Corporation:

- CMD: K Sreekant
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana

Greenko Energies Signs MoU with NTPC for Renewable Energy Power Solutions

- Greenko Energies Private Limited, hyderabad based energy solution provider entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC limited to explore renewable energy power supply solution and energy storage.

Extra Shots:

Greenko Energies:

- Founder, CEO & MD: Anil Kumar Chalamalasetty
- Founder, President & Joint MD: Mahesh Kolli
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana



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NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam(NVVN):

- CEO: Mohit Bhargava
- Headquarters: New Delhi

ISRO Signs MoU with VSSUT

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla, Odisha, a technical institute, to set up the first of its kind innovation cum incubation centre, VSSUT Space Innovation Centre (VSSIC) in India to promote space research.

Extra Shots:

ISRO:

- Chairman: K.Sivan
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

VSSUT:

- Vice Chancellor: Atal Chaudhuri
- Location: Sambalpur, Odisha

Government to sell up to 15% stake in HAL to raise Rs 5,000

- The Centre will sell up to 15% stake in state-owned defence unit Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) which will help it mop up about Rs 5,000 crore.
- The government will sell 33.4 million shares, or 10% of its stakes to retail investors.

Extra Shots:

HAL

- Founder: Walchand Hirachand
- Founded: 23 December 1940, Bengaluru
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

Haryana Government inks MoU with M3M Foundation to facilitate students' online preparation for government jobs

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Haryana employment department and M3M Foundation to facilitate students for online preparation for government jobs.
- The objective of the MoU is to build and strengthen the partnership between both institutions to enable students to access quality preparation for entrance examinations of government jobs.
- Through this MoU, a program will be run to select 50,000 candidates for online training based on their past performance in government examinations in the state.

Extra Shots:

Haryana:

- Capital: Chandigarh
- Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
- Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya



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- National Park: Sultanpur National Park, Kalesar National Park

IIT Alumni Council partners with Russia to build world's largest & fastest hybrid quantum computer

- With the objective to achieve the mission of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the Indian Institute of Technology's (IITs) Alumni Council has signed an agreement with Russian state-owned companies, Lomonosov Moscow State University and Russoft, to build the world's largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India.
- The agreement aims to access and transfer key technologies from Russia to IIT Alumni Council such as critical modules in cryogenics, cryptography and modularised cloud management technology.
- These technologies will be used to support solutions for solving infrastructure challenges in areas such as healthcare, agriculture, transport and logistics, pollution and weather forecast.
- Quantum Computing is several million times faster than the largest supercomputer in India, and once operational it will make existing supercomputers obsolete.

Extra Shots:

IIT Alumni Council:

- President: Ravi Sharma
- Headquarter: New Delhi

Russoft:

- President: Valentin Makarov
- Headquarter: St.Petersburg, Russia

HDFC Bank & Adobe partners to enhance digital customer experiences

- HDFC Bank has announced a strategic partnership with Adobe to enhance the Digital Experiences of its Customers.
- The partnership is powered by Adobe Experience Cloud Solutions and will help HDFC Bank to deliver personalised digital experiences to existing as well as new customers, at anytime and anywhere.
- The Bank will use platforms like Data Management Platform in Adobe Audience Manager to develop a deep understanding of the customers.

Extra Shots:

HDFC Bank

- CEO: Aditya Puri
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: August 1994, India
- Parent organization: Housing Development Finance Corporation

Ericsson & UNICEF Partnered to Map School Internet Connectivity in 35 Countries

- Ericsson partnered with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to map internet connectivity landscape for schools in 35 countries by the end of 2023 to provide digital learning access to the children.



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- This joint initiative is a part of the Giga initiative launched by UNICEF and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in September 2019 to provide internet connection to every school and their surrounding communities.

Extra Shots:

Ericsson:

- President and CEO: Börje Ekholm
- Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden

UNICEF:

- Executive Director: Henrietta Holsman Fore
- Headquarter: New York, United States (US)

Greenko Energies signs MoU with NTPC for RE power solutions

- Energy solutions provider Greenko Energies has entered into an agreement with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam to explore energy storage and renewable energy power supply solutions.
- The objective of the partnership is to explore the possibility of development of renewable energy based round-the-clock, flexible and dispatchable power supply offering based on integration of RE sources and pumped storage projects.

Extra Shots:

NTPC

- Founded: 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Owner: Government of India
- Organization type: State-owned enterprise
- Purpose: Electricity generation and distribution natural gas exploration, production, transportation and distribution

Innoviti partners with Visa to develop installments platform for face-to-face transactions

- Innoviti announced that it had entered a partnership with Visa, the leader in payments technology to develop a platform that will enable issuers to extend credit to their cardholders at face-to-face point-of-sale (In India).
- It provides shoppers the ability to choose how they pay during the purchase with the introduction of a suite of platform capabilities leveraging Innoviti's uniPAYNEXT platform and Visa's APIs.
- Innoviti and Visa plan to collaborate and pilot a variety of installment use cases as part of this partnership going forward.

Mahindra inks pacts with Israeli firm to develop electric commercial vehicles

- Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) has inked a pact with Tel Aviv-based REE Automotive to explore production of electric commercial vehicles for global markets.
- The strategic collaboration will leverage REE's revolutionary electric vehicle corner module and platform technology of integrating powertrain, suspension and steering components in the arch of a vehicle wheel.

Extra Shots:



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Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M)

- Parent organization: Mahindra Group
- CEO: Anand Mahindra
- Founded: 2 October 1945, Ludhiana
- Founders: Malik Ghulam Muhammad, Jagdish Chandra Mahindra, Kailash Chandra Mahindra

Reliance buys Kishore Biyani's Future retail for Rs 24,713 crore

- Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited will buy Kishore Biyani's Future retail for Rs 24,713 crore.
- The first step in this acquisition will be the merger of five Future Group's listed entities including Future Retail, Future Lifestyle and Future Consumer – into Future Enterprises (FEL).
- FEL will then sell the retail, wholesale business, logistics and warehouse business as a slump sale to Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited (RRFLL). RRFLL is a subsidiary of RRVL which in turn is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited.
- This acquisition is subject to SEBI, CCI, NCLT, shareholders, creditors, and other requisite approvals.

Extra Shots:

RIL

- CEO: Mukesh Ambani
- Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
- Founded: 8 May 1973, Maharashtra
- Owner: Mukesh Ambani (47.35%)

ITC plans to merge three subsidiaries including Sunrise Foods with itself

- ITC on Friday said it is considering merger of its three wholly-owned subsidiaries - Sunrise Foods, Hobbits International Foods and Sunrise Sheetgrah - with itself.
- A board meeting of the company has been convened for this on September 4, 2020, ITC informed in a regulatory filing.
- The Board of Directors of the Company will consider a proposal for amalgamation of Sunrise Foods Private Limited, Hobbits International Foods Private Limited and Sunrise Sheetgrah Private Limited, wholly-owned subsidiaries, with the Company, at its meeting convened for Friday, September 4, 2020.

Extra Shots:

ITC

- CEO: Sanjiv Puri
- Founded: 24 August 1910, Kolkata
- Headquarters: Kolkata



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Committees in News

Sport committee formed for National Sports Awards 2020

- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports formed a selection committee for selecting awardees for various sports awards for the National Sports Awards 2020.
- The committee will be headed by Retired Justice of Supreme Court Justice Mukundakam Sharma along with Virendra Sehwag (Cricket), Sardar Singh (Hockey), Monalisa Baruah Mehta (Table Tennis), Deepa Malik (Para-athletics), Venkatesan Devarajan (Boxing) and Sports Commentator Manish Batavia and Sports Journalists Alok Sinha and Neeru Bhatia.

They will select the awardee for the following Awards:

- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna,
- Dronacharya Awards,
- Arjuna Awards,
- Dhyani Chand Awards
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Award
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy

IFSCA sets up a panel chaired by Pradip Shah to formulate plan to develop international retail business

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has constituted a seven-member committee of industry experts to suggest ways suggest plans to develop international retail business at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- The committee will be headed by Indasia Fund Advisors Pvt Ltd Chairman Pradip Shah.
- The expert committee will formulate strategies to make the IFSC attractive for international financial services and draw up a roadmap for the growth of international retail at the centre.

RBI constitutes committee for financial parameters to be factored in Resolution Framework for Covid19-related Stress

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced the constitution of an Expert Committee to make recommendations on the required financial parameters to be factored in the Resolution Framework for Covid19-related Stress'.
- The committee will be headed by Shri K.V. Kamath. (President of New Development Bank)
- There will be 4 other members in this committee as- Shri Diwakar Gupta, Shri T.N. Manoharan, Shri Ashvin Parekh and CEO, Indian Banks' Association. The Indian Banks' Association shall function as the Secretariat to the Committee.
- The Reserve Bank had announced a 'Resolution Framework for Covid19-related Stress', as a special window under the Prudential Framework on Resolution of Stressed Assets in its Monetary Policy Statement on August 6, 2020.

Extra Shots:

RBI:



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- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Interest on reserves: 3.35% (market determined)
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: British Raj
- Subsidiaries: Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran

Expert Committee on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 headed by Dr V K Paul

- The Government has constituted a National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19, to oversee all the aspects of its COVID-19 vaccination plan, including the identification of the effective vaccine, buying and financing of the purchase, as well as its distribution and administration.
- The expert committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of by Dr V K Paul, Member Niti Aayog.
- The Secretary (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) Rajesh Bhushan is the co-Chair of the committee.
- The committee met for the first time on 12 August 2020.

Highlights of the Meeting

- Conceptualization and implementation mechanisms for creation of a digital infrastructure for inventory management and delivery mechanism of the vaccine including tracking of vaccination process with particular focus on last mile delivery.
- Broad parameters guiding the selection of COVID-19 vaccine candidates for the country
- Financial resources required for procurement of COVID-19 vaccine
- Available options for delivery platforms, cold chain and associated infrastructure for roll out of COVID-19 vaccination
- Strategy and follow-up action on all possible scenarios to ensure equitable and transparent delivery of vaccine

Center forms search-cum-selection committee to name the new three government nominees on Monetary Policy Committee

- Central Government has formed a search-cum-selection committee to name the new three government nominees on the all-important Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The committee will be headed by Cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba.
- Urjit Patel is also a part of this committee.
- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has 6 members which include 3 members from the government side.
- These nominees from the Central government can hold office for 4 years.
- The present three Government nominees are- Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua and Ravindra H Dholakia who were appointed in September 2016 and will complete their term in September 2020. Hence there is a need to find three new government nominees on MPC.

Govt forms 5 members panel to probe into Kozhikode plane crash

- Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau has ordered probe into the Air India Express aircraft crash at Kozhikode airport.
- The Investigation of the aircraft crash will be done by a five-member team headed by Captain S S Chahar.



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- The team will investigate and determine the probable causes and contributory factors leading to the accident.
- It will also make recommendations to avoid such recurrences in the future. Investigator in-charge Captain S S Chahar will submit his report within 5 months.

Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha forms committee for economic revival of Jammu and Kashmir

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has announced the constitution of a committee to work out modalities for the economic revival of the union territory.
- The committee will be extending its support to the business community.
- The committee will be headed by the advisor to the Lt Governor, Kewal Kumar Sharma and will comprise the commissioner secretary of industries and commerce department, financial commissioner of the finance department, secretary of the tourism department and Chairman of J&K Bank as its members.

Extra Shots:

Jammu & Kashmir:

- Capitals- Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer)
- Lt Governor- Manoj Sinha
- National Parks: City Forest (Salim Ali) National Park, Dachigam National Park, Hemis National Park, Kishtwar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Baltal-Thajwas WLS, Changthang Cold Desert WLS, Gulmarg WLS, Jasrota WLS, Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) WLS etc

Centre Forms 5-member Panel under IIT Delhi Director V. Ramagopal Rao to redefine DRDO Charter

- Dr G. Satheesh Reddy, the Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has constituted the five-member expert committee to redefine the role of the DRDO for the current and futuristic defence and battlefield scenarios.
- Study and review the charter of duties of all 52 laboratories of DRDO and to redefine the same for both current and futuristic defence and battlefield scenarios.
- Reduce Indian military's dependence on imports, in line with Prime minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" in the defence sector.
- Minimise the overlap of technologies amongst the laboratories.
- The committee will be headed by professor V. Ramagopal Rao, Director of IIT, Delhi.

Extra Shots:

DRDO

- Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi
- Founded: 1958
- Jurisdiction: India
- Subsidiaries: Gas Turbine Research Establishment, Defence Scientific Information & Documentation centre



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Appointments

Name	Appointed as	Other Info
Sashidhar Jagdishan	Chief executive officer of HDFC Bank	He will take over from Aditya Puri
Urjit Patel	Additional and independent director of Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd	
Mr. Jaideep Bhatnagar	Director General, News Services Division of All India Radio	He replaces Ms. Ira Joshi
Ashwini Kumar Tewari	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Cards & Payment Services (SBI Card)	Tewari has replaced Hardayal Prasad
Manoj Sinha	Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir	
Girish Chandra Murmu	Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India	He will replace Rajiv Mehrishi
Pradeep Kumar Joshi	Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)	He succeeds Arvind Saxena
P S Ranipse	Inspector General (IG), in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).	
Navin Agarwal	MD and CEO of Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company	
S.N.Rajeswari	Managing Director of Oriental Insurance Company Ltd	
Hardayal Prasad	MD & CEO of PNB Housing Finance	Prasad will take over from Neeraj Vyas.
Harsh Kumar Bhanwala	Executive chairman of the Capital India Finance Limited.	Prior to this, Bhanwala was chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for over six years.
Kamala Devi Harris	Vice-Presidential candidate in the US Presidential Elections	
Soma Mondal	Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).	Succeeds Anil Chaudhary



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Subhash Sheoratan Mundra	Non-executive chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH)	
Dinesh K Tripathi	Director General Naval Operations (DGNO).	
Kaushik Khona	Chief executive officer (CEO) of Go Air	Khona will replace, industry veteran Vinay Dube who took charge as CEO in February.
Rakesh Asthana	Director-general of the Border Security Force (BSF).	
Ashwini Kumar Shukla	Chief Risk Officer of Central bank of India	
G P Garg	Executive director (ED) of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)	
Prashant Joshi	Managing Director and Head of National Distribution of DBS Bank	
Rajiv Kumar	Election Commissioner	Replacing Ashok Lavasa
Ashwani Bhatia	MD of State Bank of India	
Dinesh Kumar Khara	SBI chairman	Khara will replace SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar
Usha Padhee	first woman DG of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security	
Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina	President of the African Development Bank Group	

G. C. Murmu resigns as Lieutenant-Governor of J&K

- The Lieutenant-Governor of Jammu Kashmir, Girish Chandra Murmu has resigned from his post.
- Murmu's resignation on the first anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 which gave special status to the erstwhile state. Murmu sent his resignation letter to the Centre.
- Murmu officially took charge as the first L-G of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir on October 31, 2019, under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

Ajay Tyagi gets 18 Months extension as SEBI Chairman

- According to a Personnel Ministry, Ajay Tyagi has been given an 18-month extension, as the chairman of markets regulator SEBI.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension of Tyagi's term for 18 months, with effect from September 1, 2020 up to February 28, 2022.
- Mr Tyagi, a 1984 batch IAS (retired) officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, was appointed as the SEBI chairman in March 2017 for three years.
- He was in March this year given a six-month extension till August.



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Extra Shots:

SEBI

- Founded: 12 April 1992
- Sector: Securities market
- Jurisdiction: India
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Type: Statutory corporation
- Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi

Sameer Gehlaut Steps down as Chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance

- Sameer Gehlaut, the co-founder and Chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IBHFL) has stepped down as the Executive Chairman of the company, and taken up the role of Non-Executive, Non-Independent Director of IBHFL.
- Gehlaut has stepped down to take charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indiabulls Ventures Ltd, a subsidiary company of IBHFL.
- Meanwhile, Subhash Sheoratan Mundra, the former deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India, has taken over as the Non-Executive Chairman of IBHFL.

Extra Shots:

Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd

- Headquarters: Gurugram

Isher Judge Ahluwalia steps down as ICRIER chairperson

- Noted economist Isher Judge Ahluwalia has stepped down as Chairman of the economic think tank Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) on 8 August 2020, due to declining health.
- She was elected chairperson on August 8, 2005, and had held the position for 15 years
- Isher will continue as Chairperson Emeritus, a position specially created for her.
- Pramod Bhasin, has been appointed as the new Chairman of ICRIER, Prior to this, he was Vice Chair of the Board of Governors at ICRIER.

BharatPe appoints Suhail Sameer as group president

- Financial technology firm BharatPe announced appointment of Suhail Sameer as group president.
- Sameer, along with CEO and co-founder Ashneer Grover, will have responsibility for building the organisation, merchant network, business and revenue.

Ashok Lavasa resigns as Election Commissioner, to join as Vice President of ADB

- Ashok Lavasa has resigned from his position as Election Commissioner on August 18, 2020, to join as the Vice- President of the Phillippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Mr. Lavasa will be joining his new position in September 2020.

Extra Shots:

ADB



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa
- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Membership: 68 countries
- Purpose: Economic development

Indian Energy Exchange MD & CEO Rajiv Srivastava resigns

- Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Rajiv Srivastava has resigned from the post.
- The Board of Directors of Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) accepted his resignation.
- He was relieved from his position with immediate effect from 24th August 2020. Satyanarayan Goel, the current non-executive chairman of the board of IEX was given additional charges as the interim MD and CEO of the company.

Extra Shots:

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 27 June 2008
- MD & CEO: Satyanarayan Goel (intrim)

DRDO chief G Satheesh Reddy gets two-year extension

- Renowned Indian scientist, G Satheesh Reddy was given a two-year extension as the chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- He was appointed to the post in August 2018 for two years.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of Reddy's tenure as the DRDO chairman and as the Secretary of the Department of Defence Research & Development (DoDRD) for a period of two years beyond August 26.

Extra Shots:

DRDO

- Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi
- Founded: 1958
- Jurisdiction: India
- Subsidiaries: Gas Turbine Research Establishment, Defence Scientific Information & Documentation centre

TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer quits after just 3 months

- TikTok's CEO Kevin Mayer has resigned from the company after just three months. Mayer left his post as the head of Disney to join TikTok on June 1.
- His resignation comes after India banned the app and US President Donald Trump on August 14 ordered ByteDance to sell TikTok's US operations within 90 days.

Former IOC Chairman Sanjiv Singh joins Reliance as Group President

- Former Indian Oil Corp (IOC) chairman Sanjiv Singh has joined Reliance Industries Ltd as Group President.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Sanjiv will lead and drive the Group manufacturing services (GMS) organisation which is the backbone of our oil-to-chemicals business

Extra Shots:

RIL

- CEO: Mukesh Ambani
- Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
- Founded: 8 May 1973, Maharashtra
- Owner: Mukesh Ambani (47.35%)

Sports News

Babita Phogat, Kavita Devi appointed as Haryana sports deputy directors

- Commonwealth Games medalist Babita Phogat and Kabaddi player Kavita Devi have been appointed as deputy directors in the Sports and Youth Affairs Department of Haryana.
- Babita Phogat and Kavita Devi will have to join their department within a month. They had applied for these posts under the state government.
- The two sportspersons have been appointed as deputy director (Sports) under the Haryana Outstanding Sportspersons (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) rules, 2018.
- Babita Phogat and Kavita Devi will have to join their department within a month. They had applied for these posts under the state government.
- The two sportspersons have been appointed as deputy director (Sports) under the Haryana Outstanding Sportspersons (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) rules, 2018.

Divij Sharan-Vijay Sundar Prashanth win doubles title in Surrey

- Post the COVID-19 break, Divij Sharan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth won their first doubles title of the season at the Lawn Tennis Association's British Tour in Surrey.
- Vijay Sundar Prashanth & Divij Sharan defeated Ryan Peniston & David Stevenson in the final, the top-seeded Indian duo won 4-2, 4-1 at the National Tennis Centre.

Harikrishna ranked 2nd at Biel Chess Festival

- Indian Grandmaster, P Harikrishna has finished second in the rapid section of the 53rd Biel International Chess Festival in Switzerland.
- The World No. 26 scored 10 points, two less than Radoslaw Wojtaszek of Poland, who finished on top.
- Earlier, the Indian GM had finished on top in the ACCENTUS Chess960 tournament, with 5.5 points.

Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix 2020

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One British Grand Prix 2020 held on August 02, 2020. He came first, despite a puncture during the last lap.
- Max Verstappen ended up second in this F1 race while Charles Leclerc came third.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- This is the third win for Hamilton in this season of F1 races.

India withdraws from women's world team Squash championship

- India has withdrawn from the women's world team Squash championship scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15th to 20th December, due to lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of its players.
- Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has decided to withdraw from the championship.

Extra Shots:

Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI)

- President: Debendranath Sarangi
- Sport: Squash
- Regional affiliation: Asian Squash Federation
- Coach: Cyrus Poncha
- Secretary: K.Rajendiran
- Location: Chennai

Benedikt Howedes retires from soccer

- World Cup winner German footballer, Benedikt Howedes has retired from football.
- He was part of the 2014 world-cup winning Germany team.
- He was one of the 3 players who had played every minute for the team in the tournament.
- Benedikt Howedes has played 44 times for German National Team from 2011-17.
- In September 2007, German Football Association honoured him with the Fritz Walter Medal, under-19 Gold Medal which is given to the best youth players.

IPL Cricket - 2020 to begin from Sept 19 in UAE

- PL 2020 will be played from September 19 to November 10 in the UAE this year.
- The decision to this effect was taken at a virtual meeting of IPL Governing Council last night.
- The matches will be played in Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi subject to necessary clearances from the Government of India.
- The final will be played on 10th November this year.
- The 53-day tournament will witness 10-afternoon matches starting at 3:30 PM Indian time while the evening matches will start at 7:30 PM

Extra Shots:

UAE (Capital/Currency): Abu Dhabi/ United Arab Emirates dirham

- President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

India holds good chance of reaching QFs of Thomas Cup & Uber Cup in Badminton

India holds a good chance of reaching the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup and Uber Cup team Badminton championship scheduled at Aarhus, Denmark, from 3rd to 11th October.

- Following the draw for the premier team event made in Kuala Lumpur, India is in Group 'C' with host Denmark, Germany and Algeria in the Thomas Cup.
- In the Uber Cup, the Indian women are in Group 'D' in the company of China, France and Germany.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Former Real Madrid & Spain goalkeeper Casillas announces retirement at 39

- The legendary Spanish footballer Iker Casillas, who played as goalkeeper for Real Madrid, has announced his retirement from professional football.
- The 39-year-old Casillas made 725 appearances for Real Madrid, during which he won three Champions League titles and five La Liga titles.
- He also helped Spain to win the 2010 World Cup and two successive European Championships in 2008 and 2012.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju chaired 1st General Council meeting of Khelo India Scheme

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju chaired the first General Council meeting of the Khelo India Scheme on 4th July.
- The annual competitions like the Khelo India Youth Games and University Games, are being organized at the national level under the Khelo India Scheme.
- This has helped to identify sporting talent from all states.

Highlights:

- The meeting urged the states to organize State-level Khelo India Games annually with an effort to identify a larger number of grassroots-level talents.
- The States that already conduct annual sporting competitions are directed to align with the Khelo India Scheme.
- The Government of India reaffirmed to support them in conducting these events.
- It was decided to identify talent as young as 5 to 10 years old and groom them to be future champions as it takes at least eight years to groom an athlete for the Olympics.
- Also, the states have been directed to organize competitions at the district, block, and panchayat-level to identify young talent.
- The Sports Ministry announced its plan for the 5 zonal talent scouting committees for east, west, north, south, and northeast India.

Extra Shots:

Ministry of Sports:

- Officeholder: Kiren Rijiju (MOS independent charge)
- Founded: 27 May 2000
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: India
- Annual budget: 2,826.92 crores INR (US\$400 million, 2020–2021)
- Departments: Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Department of Youth and Sports Development

WTF Sports appoints Suresh Raina, Harmanpreet Kaur as brand ambassadors

- A sports gaming platform, WTF Sports has appointed cricketers Harmanpreet Kaur and Suresh Raina as its global brand ambassadors.
- Raina is also joining the brand as a Strategic Partner.
- The announcement was made through a web conference.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

India to host ICC Men's T-20 World Cup next year; Women's T-20 postponed till 2022

- International Cricket Council has confirmed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will be held in Australia in 2022.
- India will host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 as planned.
- Cricket's governing body has also decided to postpone the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 in New Zealand till February – March 2022 because of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on cricket globally.

Extra Shots:

ICC:

- CEO: Manu Sawhney
- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Chairman: Imran Khwaja (interim)
- Founded: 15 June 1909
- Membership: 104 members

Indian men's, women's hockey teams for Tokyo Olympics to join National camp in Bengaluru

- Members of the Indian men's and women's hockey teams bound for Tokyo Olympics will join the National Camp at National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Bengaluru t.
- The decision was taken by Sports Authority of India (SAI) after formal permission was received from the State Government to begin training in Bengaluru.
- The athletes, coaches and support staff, who were on a home break, will join the camp and undergo the mandatory 14-day quarantine inside the campus.

BCCI officially suspends title sponsorship deal with Vivo for IPL 2020

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has suspended the title sponsorship deal with Chinese mobile phone company Vivo for the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League.
- VIVO had won the IPL title sponsorship for five years from 2018 to 2022 for a reported sum of 2190 crore rupees.

Extra Shots:

BCCI:

- President: Sourav Ganguly
- Secretary: Jay Shah
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Vice president(s): vacant
- Founded: December 1928
- Sponsors: BYJU'S, Paytm, Nike, Dream11, Hyundai Motor Company, Ambuja Cements

VIVO

- Parent organization: BBK Electronics
- Founded: 2009, Dongguan, China



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Founders: Duan Yongping, Shen Wei

Equitas SFB appointed as official retail banking partner for Chennai Super Kings

- Equitas Small Finance Bank announced that it has been appointed as the official retail banking partner for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) IPL team with effect from August 1, 2020.
- The Chennai-based bank was the principal sponsor of CSK in 2018.
- Equitas then announced that it will be the banking partner of Team CSK for three years.

Extra Shots:

Equitas Small Finance Bank

- Headquarters location: Chennai
- Founded: 2007
- Key people: Shri Arun Ramanathan; (Part-time Chairman);
- MD & CEO: Mr. Vasudevan P N
- Parent organization: Equitas Holding

Max Verstappen wins 70th Anniversary Grand Prix

- The Red Bull racer, Max Verstappen has won the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix.
- Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton finished the race at second position while another Mercedes racer Valtteri Bottas finished third.
- This was Red Bull's first victory at Silverstone since 2012.

Indian umpire KN Ananthapadmanabhan included in ICC's panel

- India's KN Ananthapadmanabhan has been included in ICC's international panel of umpires following compatriot Nitin Menon's promotion to the elite panel.
- The former Kerala spinner joins fellow Indians C Shamshuddin, Anil Chaudhary and Virender Sharma in the international panel and is now eligible to officiate in the ODI and T20 internationals apart from umpiring in the junior World Cup.
- Ananthapadmanabhan, 50, has officiated in all major domestic events including the IPL.
- He also was the official in the Ranji Trophy final between Bengal.

Extra Shots:

ICC

- CEO: Manu Sawhney
- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Chairman: Imran Khwaja (interim)
- Founded: 15 June 1909
- Membership: 104 members

FIFA World Cup qualifiers in Asia rescheduled to 2021

- FIFA World Cup 2022 qualifiers in Asia have been rescheduled to 2021.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- FIFA and the Asian Confederation (AFC) jointly decided to reschedule the upcoming qualifying matches for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- The qualification matches were originally scheduled to take place during the international match windows in October and November 2020.
- The decision has been taken to protect the health and safety of all participants.
- The 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in Qatar in 2022.

Extra Shots:

FIFA

- President: Gianni Infantino
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland
- Founded at: Paris, France
- Founded: 21 May 1904, Rue Saint-Honoré, Paris, France
- Senior Vice-President: Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa (AFC)

Asian Confederation (AFC)

- Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- President: Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa
- General Secretary: Windsor John
- Membership: 47 member associations
- Subsidiary: ASEAN Football Federation

Sports Ministry to organise “Fit India Freedom Run”

- “Fit India Freedom Run” would be organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from 15th August to 02nd October 2020.
- The ministry is organising “Fit India Freedom Run” to mark the 74th Independence Day of India on August 15 to 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2.
- This would be the largest country-wide run, targeted to encourage fitness among the masses while following the COVID-19 protocols.
- The participants can track the total distance covered by using a Global Positioning System (GPS) watch or manually.

Cricketer M.S. Dhoni announces retirement from all forms of international cricket

- Indian Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has announced retirement from all forms of international cricket.
- Dhoni shared this information on Instagram on August 15, 2020 as- “Thanks. Thanks for ur love and support throughout. from 1929 hrs consider me as Retired”
- Dhoni is the only Captain to win all three major International Cricket Council (ICC) trophies — the World Cup, the World Twenty20 and the Champions Trophy.
- Since he has announced retirement from International cricket, he will continue to play for Indian Premier League (IPL).



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Cricketer Suresh Raina announces retirement

- After M.S. Dhoni, Indian cricketer Suresh Raina has also announced retirement from Cricket on August 15, 2020.
- He shared a photo on Instagram with other fellow cricketers including MS Dhoni with a caption, “It was nothing but lovely playing with you, @mahi7781 . With my heart full of pride, I choose to join you in this journey. Thank you India. Jai Hind!”.
- It must be noted that just before this, M.S.Dhoni had also announced retirement from International cricket on Instagram.

Kevin de Bruyne named Premier League Player of the Season 2019-20

- In Football, the Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne has been named as the Premier League Player of the Season 2019-20.
- He is the only third Belgian footballer to win the award for the league’s top performer, after Eden Hazard (2014-15) and Vincent Kompany (2011-12).
- The 29-year-old scored 20 goals in the 2019-20 season.

Other awards include:

- Young Player of the Season – Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool)
- Manager of the Season – Juergen Klopp (Liverpool)
- Goal of the Season – Son Heung-min (Tottenham Hotspur)
- Premier League 2 (PL2) Player of the Season – Curtis Jones (Liverpool)

Harbhajan Singh becomes new Brand Ambassador of eBikeGO

- Amritsar based e-mobility start-up, eBikeGO has appointed Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh as its brand ambassador.
- He will help the company to upgrade itself and will also have an active presence on the company’s website and campaigns across media.

Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Spanish Grand Prix 2020

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain.
- This was his 4th win of the season and the 88th win of his career.
- Max Verstappen (Red Bull–Netherlands) came second followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) at third.

England’s Laura Marsh announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- England off-spinner Laura Marsh has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket. Marsh had decided to retire from international cricket last December.
- Marsh had made her debut in 2006 in Tests as a fast bowler but switched to spin bowling later in her career.
- She was part of the England squad that won the Women’s World Cup in 2009 and in 2017.
- She was also part of the T20 World Cup title-winning side in 2009.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- The 33-year-old played nine Tests, 103 ODIs and 67 T20Is for England, picking up 217 wickets across formats.

Dream11 wins IPL 2020 title sponsorship rights for Rs 222 crore

- Dream11, a fantasy sports platform, has won the title sponsorship rights for Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020. Dream11 has signed a Rs 222-crore deal with BCCI for this.
- This comes after the previous sponsor, Vivo backed out of IPL 2020.
- The IPL will be held from September 19 to November 10, 2020.

Extra Shots:

BCCI

- President: Sourav Ganguly
- Secretary: Jay Shah
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: December 1928
- Sponsors: BYJU'S, Paytm, Nike, Dream11, Hyundai Motor Company, Ambuja Cements

AIFF, SAI launch E-Pathshala to encourage kids to play football

- The All India Football Federation and Sports Authority of India joined hands to launch E-Pathshala, a web platform to recognise the creativity and “develop interest in football.
- This platform of E-Pathshala will act to develop their interest in football through cognitive approaches like painting, skills, building blocks and many more.

Extra Shots:

All India Football Federation (AIFF)

- President: Praful Patel
- Founded: 23 June 1937
- Headquarters: Dwarka, Delhi

Sports Authority of India (SAI)

- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Founder: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- Founded: 1982
- Agency executive: Sandip Pradhan Indian Revenue Service, Sports Secretary-cum-Director General
- Parent agencies: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India

Hockey India Board to provide financial assistance to 61 unemployed athletes

- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the Hockey India executive board has announced immediate support to 61 athletes across the junior and senior men and women core who are not employed.
- The purpose behind providing financial assistance is to help them in resuming their sports activities.
- Athletes who are not holding any form of employment may face constraints that can impact their ability to be able to return to sports activities.



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

Extra Shots:

Hockey India

- President: Mushtaque Ahmad
- Founded: 20 May 2009
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Sport: Field hockey

Cricketer Rohit Sharma appointed new brand ambassador of sports eyewear brand Oakley in India

- Performance sports eyewear brand Oakley has appointed Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador in India for a period of two years.
- Under this partnership, Sharma will sport the brand's performance eyewear on and off the pitch.
- With this appointment, Sharma joins the likes of athletes such as Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and Milind Soman who have endorsed the brand before.

England's World Cup-winning off-spinner Laura Marsh retires from all forms of cricket

- Laura Marsh, England national women cricket team off-spinner, has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket.
- The 33-year-old had announced her retirement from international cricket in December 2019.
- Marsh had played in 103 one-day internationals, 67 T20 and 9 Test matches during her career
- She was also part of England teams that won the Women's Cricket World Cup in 2009 and 2017.

Recommendation for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award: Rohit Sharma, Vinesh Phogat, Manika Batra,

Mariappan Thangavelu

- The National Sports Awards Committee has recommended the names of cricketer Rohit Sharma, table tennis champion Manika Batra, Paralympian Mariappan Thangavelu and wrestler Vinesh Phogat for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

National Sports Awards 2020 announced

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2020.

RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD

- Shri Rohit Sharma - Cricket
- Shri Mariyappan T. - Para Athletics
- Ms. Manika Batra - Table Tennis
- Ms. Vinesh - Wrestling
- Ms. Rani – Hockey

DRONACHARYA AWARD

A) Life- Time Category

- Shri Dharmendra Tiwary - Archery
- Shri Purushotham Rai - Athletics
- Shri Shiv Singh - Boxing



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Shri Romesh Pathania - Hockey
- Shri Krishan Kumar Hooda - Kabaddi
- Shri Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar - Para Powerlifting
- Shri Naresh Kumar - Tennis
- Shri Om Parkash Dahiya - Wrestling

B) Regular Category

- Shri Jude Felix Sebastian - Hockey
- Shri Yogesh Malviya - Mallakhamb
- Shri Jaspal Rana - Shooting
- Shri Kuldeep Kumar Handoo - Wushu
- Shri Gaurav Khanna - Para Badminton

ARJUNA AWARD

- Shri Atanu Das - Archery
- Ms. Dutee Chand - Athletics
- Shri Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy - Badminton
- Shri Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty - Badminton
- Shri Vishesh Bhriguvanshi - Basketball
- Subedar Manish Kaushik - Boxing
- Ms. Lovlina Borgohain - Boxing
- Shri Ishant Sharma - Cricket
- Ms. Deepti Sharma - Cricket
- Shri Sawant Ajay Anant -Equestrian
- Shri Sandesh Jhingan - Football
- Ms. Aditi Ashok - Golf
- Shri Akashdeep Singh - Hockey
- Ms. Deepika - Hockey
- Shri Deepak - Kabaddi
- Shri Kale Sarika Sudhakar - Kho Kho
- Shri Dattu Baban Bhokanal - Rowing
- Ms. Manu Bhaker - Shooting
- Shri Saurabh Chaudhary - Shooting
- Ms. Madhurika Suhas Patkar - Table Tennis
- Shri Divij Sharan - Tennis
- Shri Shiva Keshavan - Winter Sports
- Ms. Divya Kakran - Wrestling
- Shri Rahul Aware - Wrestling



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Shri Suyash Narayan Jadhav - Para Swimming
- Shri Sandeep - Para Athletics
- Shri Manish Narwal - Para Shooting

DHYAN CHAND AWARD

- Shri Kuldip Singh Bhullar - Athletics
- Ms. Jincy Philips - Athletics
- Shri Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe - Badminton
- Ms. Trupti Murgunde - Badminton
- Ms. N. Usha - Boxing
- Shri Lakha Singh - Boxing
- Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu - Football
- Shri Ajit Singh - Hockey
- Shri Manpreet Singh -Kabaddi
- Shri J. Ranjith Kumar - Para Athletics
- Shri Satyaprakash Tiwari - Para Badminton
- Shri Manjeet Singh - Rowing
- Late Shri Sachin Nag -Swimming
- Shri Nandan P Bal - Tennis
- Shri Netarpal Hooda - Wrestling

TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARDS 2019

- Ms. Anita Devi - Land Adventure
- Col. Sarfraz Singh - Land Adventure
- Shri Taka Tamut - Land Adventure
- Shri Narender Singh - Land Adventure
- Shri Keval Hiren Kakka - Land Adventure
- Shri Satendra Singh - Water Adventure
- Shri Gajanand Yadava - Air Adventure
- Late Shri Magan Bissa - Life Time Achievement

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD (MAKA) TROPHY

- Panjab University, Chandigarh

RASHTRIYA KHEL PROTSAHAN PURUSKAR

- Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent - 1. Lakshya Institute, 2. Army Sports Institute
- Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility - Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd.
- Employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures - Air Force Sports Control Board
- Sports for Development - International Institute of Sports Management (IISM)



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

INOX Group to sponsor Indian team for Tokyo Olympics

The INOX group will be the official sponsor of the Indian team for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics.

- The Tokyo Olympics was rescheduled to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It will be held from July 23 to August 8 in 2021.
- As part of the partnership the Group will also support the team's promotions through its entertainment company INOX Leisure Limited, which owns a chain of multiplexes in the country.

Ronnie O'Sullivan wins World Snooker Championship 2020

- Ronnie O'Sullivan defeated Kyren Wilson with a score of 18-8 to win the World Snooker Championship 2020.
- He has claimed his sixth World Championship title at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre.
- With his victory, Ronnie O'Sullivan has also become the oldest winner of World Snooker Championship since Reardon, who was 45 in 1978.

5 Sportsperson to be awarded Khel Ratna 2020

- Five sportspersons will be awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020 this year.
- These are:
- Rohit Sharma– Cricketer (4th cricketer after Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni, and Virat Kohli to win this)
- Vinesh Phogat– Wrestler
- Manika Batra– Table Tennis player
- Mariyappan Thangavelu– Para Athlete
- Rani Rampal– Hockey Player
- They will receive the award on National Sports Day on August 29. This is for the first time that 5 players have been selected for this award.
- Apart from these 27 sportspersons have been selected for the ARJUNA AWARD 2020.

Ronnie O'Sullivan beat Kyren Wilson to win his sixth World Snooker Championship

- Five-time champion Ronnie O'Sullivan beat world No 8 Kyren Wilson to win the World Snooker Championship 2020 and his sixth overall World Championship title.
- Nicknamed as 'The Rocket', O'Sullivan claimed the Championship crown with an emphatic 18-8 victory in best-of-35-frame match against Wilson, a first-time finalist.
- This win has made him the oldest world champion at the age of 44, ever since Welsh legend Reardon lifted the trophy in 1978 at the age of 45 years and 203 days. best-of-35-frame match against Wilson, a first-time finalist.

Jacques Kallis, Zaheer Abbas & Lisa Sthalekar inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

- Legendary South African all-rounder Jaques Kallis, Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas and Pune-born former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame in a virtual ceremony.

First female golfer from Germany Sophia Popov wins Women's British Open



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- World number 304 Sophia Popov became the first female golfer from Germany to capture a major title after winning the Women's British Open by two strokes at Royal Troon in Scotland.

Australian all-rounder Cameron White announces retirement from all professional cricket

- Australian all-rounder Cameron White has announced his retirement from all forms of professional cricket.
- The 37-year-old Australian player will however, continue to play at the Premier Cricket level as the captain of the Melbourne Cricket Club.
- During his international career spanning nearly a decade, White played 91 ODIs scoring 2,072 runs.
- In T20 Internationals, he scored 984 runs from 47 matches, while he played four Tests for Australia, scoring 146 runs.

Extra Shots:

Australia (Capital/Currency): Canberra /Australian dollar

- Prime Minister: Scott Morrison

Bayern Munich beat Paris Saint-Germain to win UEFA Champions League 2019-20

- In Football, German team Bayern Munich defeated French side Paris Saint-Germain 1–0 to win the UEFA Champions League 2019-20.
- In doing so, Bayern Munich has become the first European Cup winners who won all their matches during the tournament.
- This is the sixth European Champions League title for Bayern Munich.
- The final was played in Lisbon, Portugal on 23 August 2020.

James Anderson becomes first fast bowler to reach 600 wickets in Test Cricket

- James Anderson from England has become the first-ever fast bowler to take 600 wickets in a Test Match Cricket.
- Overall, he is the 4th bowler to take 600 test wickets after 3 spinners Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, and Anil Kumble.
- He achieved this feat against Pakistan when he dismissed Azhar Ali.

Seven-time National Table Tennis Champion Poulomi Ghatak announces retirement, to focus on coaching

- Veteran Indian table tennis player from West Bengal, Poulomi Ghatak, has announced her retirement from the game to shift focus on coaching career.
- The Kolkata-born athlete is a seven-time national champion, winning between 1998 and 2016.
- The 37-year-old had represented India at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006 and the Commonwealth Championships between 2000 and 2008.
- She made her Olympic debut at the Olympic Games in Sydney when she was just 16.

India plans to host BRICS Games in 2021

- India is planning to host BRICS Games 2021, which will be aligned with the Khelo India Games scheduled for next year.
- This announcement came after Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju attended a meeting of Sports Ministers of the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- India will get the chairmanship of the five-nation independent international group in 2021.

Extra Shots:

BRICS

- Founded: June 2006
- Formation: 2009
- Official language: Portuguese, Russian, Hindi, Chinese, English
- State Leaders: Jair Bolsonaro; Vladimir Putin; Narendra Modi; Xi Jinping; Cyril Ramaphosa
- Founders: India, China, Brazil, Russia

Australian Cricketer Cameron White announces Retirement from Professional Cricket

- Australian All-Rounder Cameron Leon White announced his retirement from Cricket at the age of 37.
- He has captained the Australian Team Seven Times including One Day International (ODI) & Twenty20 Internationals(T20I).

Extra Shots:

Australia (Capital/Currency): Canberra/ Australian dollar

- Prime Minister: Scott Morrison

AIFC and Football Coaches Australia Sign MoU for Development of Game

- The Association of Indian Football Coaches (AIFC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Football Coaches Australia (FCA) to assist each other in development of football in the two countries.
- The two bodies will look to encourage the involvement of more female coaches and increase access to football for all participants.

Extra Shots:

AIFC

- Founded: 2018, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- Governor: Kairat Kelimbetov
- Headquarters: Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

Sri Lanka Cricketer Tharanga Paranavitana retires from International Cricket

- Sri Lankan Opening batsman Nishad Tharanga Paranavitana announced retirement from all forms of International Cricket at the age of 38.
- He has represented Sri Lanka in 32 Test Matches scoring 1792 runs including two hundreds and 11 fifties.

Extra Shots:

Sri Lanka (Capital/Currency): Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte/ Sri Lankan rupee

- Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa

Japan's Olympic badminton gold medalist Ayaka Takahashi announces retirement

- Japanese badminton player, Ayaka Takahashi, who is a doubles specialist has announced her retirement with effect from 31 August 2020.
- The 30-year-old player is known as the partner of Misaki Matsutomo.



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- The pair, commonly known as “Taka-Matsu,” claimed Japan’s first ever Olympic badminton gold medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics in the women’s doubles event.
- Takahashi also captained Japan to its first women’s World Team Championships, (Uber Cup), in 2018.

Government enhances prize money of Khel Ratna, Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyanchand Awards

- On the occasion of the National Sports Day on 29 August 2020, the Ministry of Sports has announced a hike in the award money for four of the seven categories of the National Sports and Adventure Awards.
- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju officially announced the new massive hike in the prize money.

Award	Enhanced Prize Money	Old Prize Money
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award	Rs 25 lakh	Rs 7.5 lakh
Arjuna Award	Rs 15 lakh	Rs 5 lakh
Dhronacharya (Lifetime)	Rs 15 lakh	Rs 5 lakh
Dhronacharya (Regular)	Rs 10 lakh	Rs 5 lakh
Dhyanchand Award	Rs 10 lakh	Rs 5 lakh

Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Belgian Grand Prix 2020

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Belgian Grand Prix 2020 held on August 30, 2020.
- This was his 5th win of the season.
- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) came second followed by Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) at third place.

India, Russia announced joint winners of FIDE Online Olympiad 2020 (Chess)

- India and Russia have been jointly announced the winner of first-ever FIDE Online Chess Olympiad 2020. This was the first time FIDE was holding the Olympiad in an online format.
- India were initially declared to have lost the final round against Russia. Two Indian players (Nihal Sarin and Divya Deshmukh) were declared to have lost on time in the final round after an apparent loss of internet connection for them.
- After this, FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich had made a decision to give gold medals of to both teams.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/Russian Rouble

- Prime Minister: Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin
- President: Vladimir Putin

FIDE

- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France
- President: Arkady Dvorkovich
- CEO: Geoffrey D. Borg



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Membership: 195 national associations
- Formation: July 20, 1924

Arsenal beat Liverpool on penalties to win 2020 FA Community Shield

- Arsenal beat Premier League champions Liverpool by 5–4 on penalties to claim the 2020 FA Community Shield after a 1–1 draw.
- The annual football match was played between the winners of the previous season's Premier League, Liverpool, and the previous season's FA Cup, Arsenal, on 29 August at the Wembley Stadium in London.
- Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored the goal for Arsenal while Takumi Minamino scored for Liverpool.
- This is the 16th time that Arsenal is winning the Community Shield title.

Dwayne Bravo becomes 1st bowler to scalp 500 wickets in T20 cricket

- West Indies All-Rounder, Dwayne John Bravo became the first bowler in cricket to scalp 500 wickets in Twenty20 matches.
- He achieved the feat in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2020 match between his team Trinbago Knight Riders and St Lucia Zouks.
- Bravo took the wicket of Rahkeem Cornwall (18) to register his 500th wicket. Dwayne Bravo achieved the feat in his 459th match in the shortest format.

Para swimmer Satyendra Singh first Divyang sportsperson of country to get prestigious Adventure Award

- Para-swimmer Satyendra Singh Lohia of Madhya Pradesh is the first Divyanga Indian sportsperson of the country, who has been awarded today with the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award.
- He is also the first Asian Divyang swimmer to cross the 42-kilometer Catalina Channel in the US in just 11 hours 34 minutes.
- Para-swimmer Satyendra Singh was also conferred with the Best Sportsperson National Award by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on World Divyanga Day.
- He has also been awarded the highest sports award of Madhya Pradesh as well as many other national and international honours.

Defence News

Air Marshal V R Chaudhari takes over as chief of IAF's Western Air Command

- News Air Marshal V. R. Chaudhari took over as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command of Indian Air Force today.
- The Air Marshal took over command from Air Marshal B Suresh.
- Air Marshal V. R. Chaudhari was commissioned into fighter stream of the IAF in 1982 as a Fighter Pilot.

Defence Ministry released draft 2020 Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Ministry of Defence (MoD) has prepared a draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020) to provide impetus to self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- The policy will be in line with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Package'.
- The implementation of the policy & framework will position India amongst the leading countries of the world in defence and aerospace sectors

Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020:

- The DPEPP 2020 aims to provide a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports.
- The main objective of the DPEPP policy is to achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 Crores (US\$ 25 billion). It includes export of Rs.35,000 Crore (US\$ 5 billion) in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.
- The policy will develop a robust, dynamic, and competitive Defence industry including the Aerospace & Naval Shipbuilding industry to provide service to the needs of Armed forces with quality products.
- The policy also aims to promote the export of defence products and become part of the global defence value chains.
- The main aim of the DPEPP policy is to create an environment that encourages Research & Development, creates Indian IP ownership, rewards innovation, and promotes a robust and self-reliant defence industry.

India to participate in Kavkaz 2020 exercise in Russia

- India will take part in the multilateral military "Russian Kavkaz 2020" strategic command-post exercise to be held in Astrakhan, Russia.
- The Indian contingent includes 150 Army personnel and a smaller number of personnel from the Navy and Air Force.
- The invitation for participation to Kavkaz 2020, also referred to as Caucasus-2020, has been extended to at least 18 countries including China, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey apart from other Central Asian Republics part of the SCO.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/ Russian Rouble

- President: Vladimir Putin

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announces import ban on 101 defence items

- The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has announced that the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Ministry of Defence (MoD) has prepared a list of 101 defence items for which there would be restriction on the import, beyond the timeline indicated against them.
- This step has been taken to boost indigenisation of defence production in India and push the country towards becoming Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- The embargo on imports is planned to be progressively implemented between 2020 and 2024.

Defence minister to launch 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Saptah'

- The Defence Minister of India will launch the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Saptah' on August 10 to focus more on the vision of the government to shift to local manufacturing and 'Make in India'.



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- The aim of this is to emphasize the importance of domestic defence production in the country.

DAC approved procurement proposals worth Rs.8,722.38 crore

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved procurement proposals worth Rs.8,722.38 crore to strengthen the Armed Forces by relying on indigenous capability to take forward the initiative on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- The approval was announced in a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for capital acquisitions of various equipment and platforms required by the Indian Armed Forces.
- DAC has approved the procurement of 106 Basic Trainer Aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Defence Minister launched modernization and up-gradation of facilities of Defence PSUs and OFB

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched a number of modernization and up-gradation of facilities and new infrastructure creation by Defence Public sector undertakings (PSUs) and Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), through the digital link here. It is a part of the Atma Nirbhar Week celebration of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- Modernization of facilities at Opo-Electronic Factory (OLF) Dehradun will serve the purpose of the manufacturing of high-end Optoelectronic products for T-90 Tanks.

Defence Minister laid foundation for a Missile-seeker facility and Warhead production unit

- The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has laid the foundation for a missile-seeker facility and a warhead production unit at Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) at Hyderabad, as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Saptah' being celebrated by the company.
- The foundation laying ceremony has been organized virtually from New Delhi.
- BDL is establishing a Seeker Facility Centre for manufacturing and testing of indigenously developed Seekers for missiles.

Extra Shots:

Bharat Dynamics Limited

- Headquarters: India
- Founder: India
- Founded: 1970, Hyderabad
- Parent organizations: Government of India, Ministry of Defence

Defence Minister inaugurated HAL-IISc skill development centre in Karnataka

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the HAL-IISc Skill Development Centre (SDC) established at the Indian Institute of Science's Challakere campus in Chitradurga district, Karnataka through a video conference on 13 August 2020.
- The SDC proves the synergistic collaboration between HAL and IISc.

HAL-IISc Skill Development Centre:

- The centre is aimed to impart skills to various beneficiaries ranging from local community members to high-end engineering professionals to usher true 'Make-in-India'.



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- SDC will create a large pool of trained personnel to address the vital skill development gaps in India, which is crucial for economic growth and self-sufficiency.

Defence minister launches NCC app for online training of cadets

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched a mobile application to assist in online training of NCC cadets in the country.

- Since schools and colleges are not likely to open in the near future, it was felt that training to NCC cadets should be imparted utilising the digital medium.
- The mobile app, called "DGNCC", aims at providing NCC cadets all training materials, including syllabus, training videos and frequently asked questions, on one platform.
- The app has been made interactive by including a query option.
- By using this option, a cadet can post questions related to the training syllabus, and the same will be answered by a panel of qualified instructors.

Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sarthak' launched

- An Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard has been launched and re-christened as Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarthak'.
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) has designed and developed the Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sarthak' which is the 4th in the series of five OPVs. 'Sarthak' has been built indigenously and is designed in such a way that it carries a twin-engine helicopter, four high speed boats along with one inflatable boat for swift boarding and Search & Rescue operations.
- It will be deployed extensively for EEZ surveillance, Coastal Security and other duties.

Rajnath Singh launches Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) through an online webinar.
- The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence.

Defence Minister unveils 15 products developed by Defence PSUs

- The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled four products each by the Ordnance Factory Board and Bharat Earth Movers Limited, two by BEL and one each by HAL, BDL, MDL, GRSE and GSL.
- All these products have been developed as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Week' launched by the Defence Ministry.
- The products that have been launched are the prototype of Nag Missile Carrier developed by Ordnance Factory Board, Medak in association with DRDL, Hyderabad.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approves proposal to expand NCC in 173 border and coastal districts

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the proposal for a major expansion of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) to cover 173 border and coastal districts, to meet the aspirations of youth in all the border and coastal districts.

Highlights:



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- With the expansion of NCC in border and coastal districts, these areas will get trained manpower for disaster management, and the youth will also get skill training for making their career in the armed forces.
- A total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted to the NCC.
- Of the total, one-third of the Cadets would be girl Cadets.
- More than 1000 schools and colleges have been identified in border and coastal districts where NCC will be introduced.
- As part of the expansion plan, a total of 83 NCC units will be upgraded (Army 53, Navy 20, Air Force 10) to impart NCC training to the cadets in the border and coastal areas.

Extra Shots:

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

- Director General: Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra, AVSM
- Motto: एकता और अनुशासन; Unity and discipline
- Founder: Government of the United Kingdom
- Founded: 16 April 1948
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Role: Student Uniformed Group

Defence Minister launches BDL's indigenised Konkurs missile test equipment

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched Konkurs Missile Test Equipment and Konkurs Launcher Test Equipment, which have been indigenously designed and developed by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- The two products have been launched as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' week being celebrated during August 7-14, 2020.
- The Konkurs Missile Test Equipment is designed for checking the serviceability of Konkurs-M anti-tank guided missiles.
- Konkurs Launcher Test Equipment is designed and developed for checking the serviceability of Konkurs-M missile launchers.

Extra Shots:

Bharat Dynamics Limited

- Headquarters: India
- Founder: India
- Founded: 1970, Hyderabad
- Parent organizations: Government of India, Ministry of Defence

India Pavilion Inaugurated at Army-2020 International Military and Technical Forum In Russia

- The ARMY 2020 International Military and Technical Forum has been organised in Moscow, Russia from August 23 to 29, 2020.
- The forum is being organised by the Russian Defence Ministry since 2015, at the Patriot Park near Moscow.



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- The India Pavilion at the 6th edition of the International Military-Technical Forum was inaugurated by Secretary (Defence Production) Raj Kumar and Indian Ambassador DB Venkatesh Verma.
- Delegations from at least 70 nations have confirmed their participation in the high-profile event.
- Over 730 pieces of Russian weapons and equipment, as well as 28,000 exhibits from industrial enterprises will be showcased for a free inspection.
- For the first time, a line of 23 tanks and armoured vehicles were deployed in an open area in Patriot Park.
- Discussions will also be held among global military officials, researchers and defence industry experts about the application of 3D technologies in designing, manufacturing and operating weapons and military equipment.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/ Russian Rouble

- President: Vladimir Putin

DRDO identifies 108 Systems and Subsystems for industry to design, develop, manufacture

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has identified 108 systems and subsystems for designing and development by the Indian Industry only.
- The move is in line with Prime Minister's Atmanirbhar Bharat. Apart from this, DRDO has taken several initiatives to strengthen the indigenous defence ecosystem.
- This initiative is aimed to pave the way for Indian Defence industry to develop many technologies towards building an AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

Extra Shots:

DRDO

- Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi
- Founded: 1958
- Jurisdiction: India
- Subsidiaries: Gas Turbine Research Establishment, Defence Scientific Information & Documentation centre

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched DGNCC Mobile Training App for NCC Training

- Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile Training App on 27 August.
- The mobile Application will assist in conducting countrywide online training of National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets.

DGNCC Mobile Training App:

- The DGNCC Mobile Training App will help the NCC cadets in digital learning and overcoming the difficulties posed by COVID-19 due to restrictions on direct physical interactions.
- The App has been designed in an interactive way by including a query option. With this option, a cadet can post his question related to the training syllabus and the same will be answered by a panel of qualified instructors.
- The app is expected to provide a positive step towards automation of NCC training.



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- The move is in line with Digital India vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- The mobile app will assist the NCC cadets by providing easier access to training material in these testing times of pandemic.

Extra Shots:

NCC

- Director General: Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra, AVSM
- Motto: एकता और अनुशासन; Unity and discipline
- Founder: Government of the United Kingdom
- Founded: 16 April 1948
- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Role: Student Uniformed Group

India withdraws from multilateral military exercise, Kavkaz 2020, in Russia

- India has withdrawn its participation from the multilateral Military Exercise Kavkaz 2020 to be held in Russia between 15th to 26th September 2020.
- The reason for this has been cited as the COVID-19 Pandemic and consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics.
- Kavkaz 2020 would be held in Astrakhan province of Southern Russia where member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.
- Other countries that would participate in this exercise are- China, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Belarus, Turkey, Armenia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/Russian Rouble

- Prime Minister: Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin
- President: Vladimir Putin

Awards & Recognitions

Name	Awarded as
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	SKOCH Gold Award for its “Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes”
Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, DIAT	1st prize in Smart India Hackathon, SIH, 2020
Indian Express Journalist Dipankar Ghose and website PARI	2020 Prem Bhatia journalism awards
IIT Kharagpur	‘Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awards



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	2020'
Soumya Swaminathan- Chief Scientist of World Health Organisation	Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's special award
Tirunagari Ramanujam	Dasaradhi Award for 2020
Ravi Solanki	UK's Royal Academy of Engineering President's Special Awards for Pandemic Service.
Abhijit Paul	first prize in Online Patriotic Short Film Contest
Anand Mahindra and Shantanu Narayen	2020 Leadership Awards in recognition of their exemplary vision towards promoting US-India bilateral ties
Reshma Mohandas	Tomyas Award
Government of India Navratna, NLC India Limited (NLCIL)	"Swachhta Hi Seva award" for transforming Neyveli Township
Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash	World's fastest human calculator
Marieke Lucas Rijneveld	International Booker prize
Ms. Sudha Painuli	National Award to Teachers 2020.
Punjab University	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy for the year 2019.

Union Home Minister's Medals for Excellence in Investigation awarded

- Union Home Minister's Medals for Excellence in Investigation for 2020 have been awarded to 121 police personnel, including 21 women police officers.
- Among these awardees, 15 are from the Central Bureau of Investigation, 10 each are from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Police, 8 are from Uttar Pradesh Police and seven each are from Kerala and West Bengal Police.
- The remaining are from the other states and UTs in the country.

The Union Home Minister has instituted five Police medals in order to recognize the contribution of the police personnel:

- Union Home Minister's Special Operation Model
- Police Antarik Suraksha Seva Padak
- Asadharan Assuchana Kushalata Padak
- Utkrisht and Ati Utkrisht Seva Medals
- Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation

MS Swaminathan award for environment protection conferred upon RS Paroda

- The Rotary Club of Madras East has conferred the MS Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2019 upon RS Paroda the Founder Chairman of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi



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- The award was presented for his outstanding contribution in the area of agricultural research, education and extension, especially in the field of conservation and management of agro biodiversity.

ACJ Journalism Awards 2019 announced

- Journalists Nitin Sethi and Shiv Sahay Singh were declared winners of the Asian College of Journalism's (ACJ) Award 2019 for Investigative Journalism and the K. P. Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for Social Impact Journalism, respectively.
- The awards were presented in a virtual ceremony by Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist of the World Health Organisation (WHO), at the inauguration of the Class of 2021.

Sudha Murthy, ITC's Sivakumar bags Gramodaya awards

- Chairperson of Infosys Foundation, Sudha Murthy and Group Head of Agri and IT Businesses of ITC Ltd, Sivakumar Surampudi are among the winners of the Gramodaya Bandhu Mitra Puraskaras.
- The other winners include Padma Bhushan Vijay Bhatkar, Padmasri SP Verma, Vilas Shinde (Director, Sahyadri Farms), Koosam Rajamouli, Former Sarpanch of Gangadevipalli in Telangana, Brig Pogula Ganesham, Founder of Palle Srujana, and Govinda Rajulu Chintala, Chairman of the Nabard.

Extra Shots:

ITC:

- CEO: Sanjiv Puri
- Founded: 24 August 1910, Kolkata
- Headquarters: Kolkata

84 Gallantry Awards to personnel of Armed and Paramilitary Forces announced

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, has approved 84 gallantry awards for the personnel in India's armed forces and also the members of the Paramilitary forces for their acts of bravery to protect the country's security and honour.
- These awards include one Kirti Chakra, nine Shaurya Chakras, five Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 60 Sena Medals (Gallantry), four Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and five Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and they are normally announced on the eve of the Independence Day of the country.

Extra Shots:

Gallantry Awards

- There are mainly six gallantry awards in India that can be divided into wartime awards and Peace Time Awards.
- The War-Time Awards are – Param Vir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra and Vir Chakra whereas the Peacetime Awards are Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.
- Apart from these, there are various Distinguished Service medals such as the Sena Medal, Nao Sena Medal and Vayu Sena Medal.

World War II Spy Becomes First Indian-origin Woman to Get Memorial Plaque in London

- Britain's World War II spy, Noor Inayat Khan, became the first Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a memorial Blue Plaque at her former family home in central London.



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- The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours notable people and organisations who were connected with particular buildings across London.

Science & Technology

ISRO to allow private sector to set up own launchpad at Sriharikota

- Indian Space of Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to allow the private sector to set up their own launchpad at the Sriharikota Launch Centre (SHAR) so that they can launch their own rocket or spacecraft.
- As per ISRO, if the private sectors are interested, they can proceed to apply, as the space agency doesn't want the industry to wait till it is completely set up.
- The private entities will also help in the development of space-based applications with the use of satellite data and rolling out of the commercial services.

Extra Shots:

Indian Space of Research Organisation (ISRO)

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan
- Subsidiary: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
- Parent organization: Department of Space

JNCASR scientists devise an adaptive model to estimate critical resources in pandemic

- Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), under Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), have developed a model to scale up the novel tests using an adaptive strategy and the early phase of COVID-19 as an example.

Highlights:

- The new model can be utilized to estimate the key aspects of medical inventory requirements which are required to scale up both the testing capabilities and the critical care facilities.
- The model is extremely relevant for COVID-19, as the disease character and the behavioral patterns of the people change.
- The model reduces errors by letting one understand the range of variation of the predicted infections.
- This new approach allows for planning of requirements for critical resources such as ICUs, Personal protective equipment (PPEs) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The new model is designed for simplicity of interpretation, and adaptability over time.

DCGI approved Phase II,III trials of Oxford University vaccine by Serum Institute, Pune



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- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved Phase II+III clinical trials of Oxford University-Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine, COVISHIELD, in India by the Serum Institute of India, Pune.
- The move is to hasten the development of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Highlights:

- DCGI approval comes as India continues to improve the Case Fatality Rate (CFR). It also aims to maintain its global position of having one of the lowest COVID fatalities rates.
- The management strategy of the COVID-19 pandemic also focuses on early detection and isolation of cases with seamless patient management.
- The move also aims to prioritize the care of the high-risk population using field health care workers that lead to an increase in recoveries across the country.

Extra Shots:

DCGI

- Headquarters location: New Delhi
- Director: Venugopal G Somani

Sun Pharma launches Favipiravir in India at Rs 35 per tablet

- Drug major Sun Pharmaceutical Industries announced it has launched antiviral drug Favipiravir under the brand name 'FluGuard' for the treatment of mild to moderate cases of COVID-19, at Rs 35 per tablet in India.
- The stocks of FluGuard will be available in the market from this week, Sun Pharma said in a regulatory filing.
- Favipiravir is the only oral anti-viral treatment approved in India for the potential treatment of patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 disease.

Extra Shots:

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries

- Founder: Dilip Shanghvi
- Founded: 1983
- Headquarters: Goregaon, Mumbai

Lupin launches COVID-19 drug Favipiravir in India at Rs 49 per tablet

- Drug major Lupin announced the launch of its Favipiravir drug under the brand name 'Covihalt' for the treatment patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms at Rs 49 per tablet in India.
- Favipiravir has received authorisation from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for emergency use.
- The drug is available as 200 mg tablets in the form of a strip of 10 tablets, and priced at Rs 49 per tablet.
- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries had launched Favipiravir under the brand name "FluGuard" for the treatment of mild to moderate cases of COVID-19, at Rs 35 per tablet in India.

Extra Shots:

Lupin

- CEO: Vinita D. Gupta
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: Desh Bandhu Gupta



Monthly Current Affairs- August 2020

- Founded: 1968

New grasshopper species discovered after 116 years, named after 28-year-old Indian biologist

- A new species of pygmy grasshopper, discovered after 116 years by a group of foreign researchers in Sri Lanka, has been named after a 28-year-old Indian orthopterist (one who studies grasshoppers) and conservation biologist Dhaneesh Bhaskar of Kerala.
- The new species, which was discovered by a group of Croatian and German researchers in Sinharaja rainforests of Sri Lanka, hails from Cladonotus genus and has been named as Cladonotus Bhaskari.

Bengaluru-based startup StepOne launches national COVID-19 Telemed helpline

- Step One, a Bengaluru-based Startup has announced a 24x7 national COVID Telemed Helpline.
- The helpline will provide services related to COVID, non-COVID and mental health issues.
- Citizens can call the helpline number 9745697456 anytime and get a call back from a healthcare expert in a few minutes to understand the needs of the caller.
- After the caller explains the symptoms, if required, a doctor would be put through to guide them further.

Microwave device 'Atulya' to disintegrate novel Coronavirus unveiled by Nitin Gadkari

- A microwave device named 'Atulya' that can disinfect any premises in just 30 seconds, disintegrating COVID-19 virus was unveiled by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari in Nagpur.
- The device is 100 per cent Made in India and has been manufactured under the aegis of the MSME.
- 'Atulya' microwave like device can be used to disinfect any premises up to five metres area, besides surface areas, home and office furniture, beds, new boxes and even the contents of the boxes.
- This equipment can be hand handled as its weight is mere three kilograms.

Zydus Cadila launches COVID-19 drug Remdesivir in India under brand name Remdac

- Zydus Cadila has launched Remdesivir under the brand name Remdac, used to treat patients suffering from severe symptoms of COVID-19, in the Indian market.
- Priced at Rs 2,800 per 100 mg vial, Remdac is the most economical Remdesivir brand in India, Zydus Cadila said in a regulatory filing.
- Zydus Cadila's vaccine candidate ZyCov-D is now in phase II of the clinical trials.

Extra Shots:

Zydus Cadila

- CEO: Pankaj Patel
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad
- Founder: Ramanbhai Patel
- Founded: 1952

IIT Kanpur develops indigenous seed balls BEEG for farmers

- In Uttar Pradesh, IIT Kanpur has developed indigenous seed balls named BEEG (Bio -compost Enriched Eco-friendly Globule) which will help people and farmers in plantation with safety in Corona times and will also provide employment to people.



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- The Seed Balls are comprised of indigenous variety of seeds, compost, and clay. There is no need for digging pits for planting saplings.
- These seed walls are to be thrown at aimed places and they will germinate when come into contact with water.
- The BEEG is developed in collaboration with Agnys Waste Management Private Limited.

Mi India pledges 2500 smartphones to children, to promote online education

- The Chinese smartphone major Xiaomi has stated that its Indian arm MI India will distribute 2500 handsets worth Rs 2 crores to support online education of children who were the worst affected by the COVID 19 pandemic in the country.
- This is also part of the Digital India initiative by the government and the company wants to support that, at any cost.
- The smartphones are worth Rs 2 crores.

Extra Shots:

Xiaomi

- Founded: 6 April 2010, Yingu Mansion, Beijing, China
- CEO: Lei Jun
- Headquarters: Haidian District, Beijing, China
- Founders: Lei Jun, Lin Bin, Li Wanqiang, Wang Chuan, Zhou Guangping, Hong Feng, Wong Jiangji, Liu De
- Parent organization: Xiaomi Corp

Indigenous AUM Photonic System developed for Real-Time Remote Monitoring of Air Quality

- Scientific and Industrial Research Centre (GVP-SIRC) and GVP College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam, has developed an indigenous photonic system for real-time remote monitoring of air quality parameters.
- The system titled Air Unique-quality Monitoring (AUM) was developed under the Clean Air Research Initiative of the Department of Science and Technology.

Air Unique-quality Monitoring System:

- The AUM system is an innovative application of the principles of statistical mechanics, laser backscattering, optoelectronics, artificial intelligence (AI), machine/deep learning, and Internet of Things.
- AUM can identify, classify, and quantify various pollutants simultaneously of orders of less than one part per billion and meteorological parameters, with sensitivity, very high precision, and accuracy.
- AUM was successfully evaluated during laboratory trials with gold standards in collaboration with EffecTech, UK.
- The system is operated by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board under the aegis of the Central Pollution Control Board of India.
- The system is capable of simultaneous detection and quantification of all air quality parameters.

Microsoft Research Lab develops Machine Translation tool for Gondi language

- Microsoft Research Lab, in collaboration with CGNet Swara, an Indian-voice based online portal, has launched an Interactive Neural Machine Translation tool, which translates sentences from Hindi and Gondi and vice-versa.



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- CGNet Swara is an Indian voice-based online portal that gives people in the forests of central tribal India a platform for expression by reporting local news and stories through a phone call.
- This project is an extension of the Microsoft Research Lab's work on natural language processing technology.

Extra Shots:

Microsoft

- CEO: Satya Nadella
- Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States
- Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States
- Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen

DIAT Pune develops biodegradable face mask and anti-microbial body suit

- The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed a Nanofibres of Ayurvedic based Biodegradable face mask which acts as a virus neutralizer to resist against the bacteria/ virus.
- The mask has been named as 'Pavitrapati'.
- Apart from this, an anti-microbial bodysuit has also been developed by the name of 'Aushada Tara'.

Google announces new Digital Education tool 'Assignments'

- The search engine giant Google has announced new education tools for teachers and students to facilitate learning in the virtual education space.
- This feature will be available with all the products of Google such as Meet, G Suite and Classroom.
- In order to ensure more privacy, blurred backgrounds will be introduced in Meet in October.
- The attendance tracking during virtual sessions and breakout rooms, so a class can be split into smaller groups for simultaneous discussions, will be available very soon, as part of G Suite Enterprise for Education.
- In order to help the students, ask questions, a hand-raising feature will be introduced in Meet, this year and also a new Q&A and polling feature to engage students will be coming to G Suite Enterprise for Education.
- All education customers will be able to use temporary recordings feature, coming later this year, to record a meeting and share that within their domain for up to 30 days.

Extra Shots:

Google

- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin Trending
- Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States
- CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Parent organization: Alphabet Inc.
- Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States

ISRO, IISc Bengaluru develop sustainable process to make space bricks on lunar surface

- a team of researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO and the Indian Institute of Science, IISc in Bengaluru has developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface.
- The process enables making load bearing bricks by using lunar soil, bacteria and guar beans.



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- Named as space bricks, it could be used to assemble structures for habitation on the moon surface in future.
- Sending bricks from Earth is not viable as it takes 7.5 lakh rupees to transport one pound of construction material.

Extra Shots:

ISRO

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan
- Subsidiary: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

New Test 'N1-STOP-LAMP' diagnoses SARS-CoV-2 virus in 20 minutes

- In order to combat the menace of COVID 19 pandemic in the country, the researchers have developed a tool that can test the results of samples collected in as early as 20 minutes.
- This has been published in the Journal of Medical Microbiology.
- The rapid molecular test, named as N1-STOP-LAMP, is 100 per cent accurate in diagnosing samples containing the SARS-CoV-2 at high loads.
- This new test uses only one tube and involves only a single step.
- It took 14 minutes on an average to give results for the samples in the testing phase. This test was developed by Kary Mullis, an American biochemist.

Phase-2 trials of Bharat Biotech vaccine to begin in September

- The phase I trial for the COVID 19 vaccine made by Bharat Biotech is complete and the Phase II of this trial is going to commence in September.
- In the first phase of the trial, the vaccine, known as Covaxin, is safe for human usage.
- The Phase I Trial for the vaccine was conducted in 12 centres and out of the 12 centres, 11 have reported positive results for the vaccine.

Extra Shots:

Bharat Biotech

- Executive director: Dr. V Krishna Mohan
- Founder: Dr. Krishna M. Ella
- Founded: 1996
- Headquarters location: Hyderabad
- Subsidiaries: Chiron Behring Vaccines
- Type of business: Private limited company

IIA discovered He-abundance in Omega Centauri

The scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have studied the stars of Omega Centauri cluster and found some Helium-enhanced cool bright stars that are present among the metal-rich sample of the cluster

IIT Ropar develops UVGI-based room disinfection device 'UVSAFE'



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- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, has developed a first-of-its-kind UVGI-based room disinfection device 'UVSAFE', which harnesses the germicidal effects of UV-C radiations to inactivate viruses and bacteria including corona viruses.
- The machine harnesses the germicidal results of UV-C radiations to inactivate viruses and micro-organism whereas the "State of the Artwork" design of UV Secure ensures Zero-shadow 360 degree2 disinfection via its Prismatic Physique and foldable wings.

Zydus Cadila Launches "Most Affordable" COVID-19 Drug Remdesivir In India

- Drug firm Zydus Cadila said it has launched Remdesivir under the brand name Remdac, used to treat patients suffering from severe symptoms of COVID-19, in the Indian market.
- Priced at ₹ 2,800 per 100 mg vial, Remdac is the most economical Remdesivir brand in India.
- The drug will be made available across India through the group's strong distribution chain reaching out to government and private hospitals treating COVID-19 patients.

Extra Shots:

Cadila Healthcare Limited

- CEO: Pankaj Patel
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad
- Founder: Ramanbhai Patel
- Founded: 1952

DRDO Successfully Test Fires First Pinaka Rockets Produced by Private Sector

- The Indian Army successfully test-fired the first ever privately manufactured Pinaka rockets recently from the firing range in Pokharan, which achieved the desired results by accurately hitting targets.
- The rockets have been manufactured by Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL) and are the first ammunition of its kind made by the private sector in India.
- Six Pinaka rockets were test fired as part of the final developmental trials.
- This development will enable Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to do away with its single source dependency on Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for the rockets and also boost Make in India initiative.

Extra Shots:

DRDO

- Motto: बलस्य मूलं विज्ञानम्; "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge" (Sanskrit)
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 1958
- Minister responsible: Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence
- Subsidiaries: Gas Turbine Research Establishment, Defence Scientific Information & Documentation centre

Scientists convert tamarind waste and cotton waste to supercapacitor

- Scientists at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), under Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, have developed a cost-effective



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electrode material for making affordable supercapacitor devices, from waste biomass like tamarind seeds and industrial cotton waste.

- With this discovery, tamarind seeds and cotton waste may soon be used to make low-cost supercapacitors for energy storage.
- The scientists have used waste biomass to develop materials for making cost-effective supercapacitor devices.

DIAT develops “Pavitrapati” ayurvedic biodegradable face mask and Anti-Microbial body suit named “Aushada Tara”

- Pune-based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed Ayurvedic biodegradable face mask and anti-microbial body suit.
- The company has launched the first-ever Ayurvedic biodegradable face mask named Pavitrapati for sale. Siddheshwar Techtessile has developed 10,000 masks and has received good response for the product.
- The anti-microbial body suit named Aushada Tara has superhydrophobic, breathing, anti-microbial, and comfort feeling properties.

Indian Satellite ‘AstroSat’ Detects UV Light From Galaxy 9 Billion Light Years Away

- India’s first multi-wavelength satellite, AstroSat, has detected an extreme ultraviolet (UV) light from a galaxy, called AUDFs01.
- This galaxy is 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth, in the Hubble Extreme Deep field..
- The discovery was made by an international team of astronomers led by Dr Kanak Saha, associate professor of astronomy at the Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA).
- This research was published on August 24, 2020, by Nature Astronomy.
- AstroSat is India’s first multi-wavelength satellite, which has five unique X-ray and ultraviolet telescopes working in tandem.

IIT Madras, Stuttgart University develop method to dispose pharma waste

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras along with German researchers have developed ‘co-composting’ methods that can be used to safely dispose of toxic pharmaceutical waste water and sludge.
- Their method converts the waste into compost of high quality and within just 20 days.
- The research team led by Ligy Philip, Department of Civil Engineering, comprised research scholar Anu Rachel Thomas from the Institute and Martin Kranert from the Germany-based Institute for Sanitary Engineering, Water Quality and Solid Waste Management, Stuttgart University.

IIT Hyderabad launches ‘world’s most affordable’ respirator mask

- In a bid to help people protect themselves against COVID-19, the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, has launched a novel respirator mask in the country.
- The protective gear is said to be far better than standard N95 respirators in terms of protection and, the best part is, it will cost you just Rs. 13 per day.
- Officially dubbed US9, the new silicon-based respirator mask has been developed and commercialized by USafe Healthcare, the latest entrepreneurial entity from the Center for Healthcare Entrepreneurship at IIT-H.



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Web Portals and Apps

Microsoft launches new app named 'Family Safety app' for iOS and Android

- Microsoft has launched its new mobile app named 'Family Safety app' for iOS and Android users.
- Now parents will be able to monitor the time spent by the kids on devices and limit hours of play.
- Microsoft Family Safety app prevents kids from swapping devices to get some extra hours to play Minecraft or Fortnite. Specific apps can also be fully blocked.
- Family Safety can also be used for location sharing between family members.
- Microsoft has added a new location-clustering feature during the beta phase, which lets people see when multiple family members are at the same location.

"MSMESaksham" portal launched by SIDBI & TransUnion CIBIL

- One-stop knowledge portal named as "MSMESaksham" for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) launched by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- MSMESaksham will provide MSMEs quick access to finance and empower them by making them financially aware and loan-ready so that timely and affordable financial support is realised. It will also guide them across their credit life cycle.
- It will also comprise a consolidated list of all the schemes launched by the Centre and state governments for MSMEs.

Extra Shots:

SIDBI:

- Headquarters location: Lucknow
- Founded: 2 April 1990
- CMD: Mohammad Mustafa

Housing Minister launched 'CREDAI Awaas App' and NAREDCO's online portal 'HousingforAll.com'

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched digital platforms named 'CREDAI Awaas App' and NAREDCO's online portal 'HousingforAll.com' for real estate bodies CREDAI and NAREDCO to market residential properties, besides releasing a guide book for affordable rental housing scheme for migrants.
- He released the knowledge pack of the government's 'Affordable Rental Housing Complexes' (ARHCs) programme, which has been recently launched to provide rental accommodations to migrant and urban poor.

DNHDD launches E-Gyan Mitra mobile app for online education

- Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu bordering Gujarat has launched E-Gyan Mitra mobile app for online education.
- the E-Gyan Mitra app launched by the Education Department of Daman Administration is becoming popular among the students and parents.

Extra Shots:



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Dadra and Nagar Haveli

- Capital: Silvassa
- Lt. Governor: Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)

Daman and Diu

- Capital: Daman
- Lt. Governor: Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)

Indian teen develops “Dodo Drop” app as an alternative to Chinese file-sharing apps

- Ashfaq Mehmood Choudhary, a 17-year-old boy from Chattyear of Jammu and Kashmir’s Rajouri district, has developed a file-sharing app ‘Dodo Drop’ which would enable users to share audios, videos, images, and texts between two devices without Internet access.
- ‘Dodo Drop’ application is an alternative to the Chinese ‘SHAREit’ app. The ‘Dodo Drop’ application has a transfer rate of up to 480 Mbps, which is faster than the SHAREit app and is “quite easy” to use.

Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri launches 'Awaz-e-Rajouri' mobile app

- In order to improve public Grievances redressal mechanism, Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri, Nazir Sheikh, has launched a mobile app “Awaz-e-Rajouri”.
- The launch of mobile app would improve public grievances mechanism.
- The use of the app by general public would make the officers and officials more accountable and instill confidence among the people in district administration.
- The free of cost app would help the citizens register their grievances online and also track the status of their complaints.
- DC Rajouri assured that the resolution of the complaint would be time bound.
- The app has been developed by a team of NIC, Rajouri.

Delhi Airport Launches Online Portal ‘AIR SUVIDHA’ for India-bound International Passengers

- The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), a GMR Group-led consortium, has developed a first-of-its-kind web portal named ‘AIR SUVIDHA’.
- This portal is meant for India-bound international arriving flyers, to enable them to fill the mandatory self-declaration form. Eligible passengers can also apply online for exemption from mandatory institution quarantine process.
- This facility is going to help hundreds of AP bound passengers.
- The AIR SUVIDHA portal will make traveling contactless as the passengers won’t have to fill physical copies of self declaration and quarantine exemption forms when they arrive in India.

Extra Shots:

Delhi International Airport Limited

- Founded: 2006
- Parent organization: GMR Airports Limited



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Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani launches Mobile App & Backend Website for Handloom Mark Scheme

- On the occasion of the 6th National Handloom Day, Smt Smriti Irani launched the Mobile App & Backend Website for Handloom Mark Scheme (HLM).
- She also inaugurated the 'My Handloom' portal for individual weavers and organisations for applying for various benefits under government schemes, handloom marketing assistance and awards.
- A two-week social media campaign was also launched for the handloom weaving community.
- Further, to promote handloom, a hashtag #Vocal4Handmade has been started.

National Infrastructure Pipeline Online Dashboard launched

- The Union Finance Minister has launched the dashboard of the National Infrastructure Pipeline in order to manage and integrate all the details regarding the projects at one place.
- The online portal is now showcasing 6800 live projects being implemented in the country.
- This portal will help in providing real-time status of the ongoing projects and also the investors are going to get updates regarding the progress of the projects.

'National portal of Project Elephant' launched

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched National Portal on Human-Elephant conflict situation so that it can resolve the dispute the human and the elephant.
- The portal is aimed at collecting information on a regular basis in order to manage the conflicts between humans and elephants.
- The National Portal has been launched on the occasion of the World Elephant Day on August 12.

Rajnath Singh launched portal for Opportunities for Make In India in Defence

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched a portal for 'Opportunities for Make In India in Defence' through video conferencing.
- The facility was launched as part of 'Atmanirbharta Saptah' (Atmanirbharta Week).

Highlight:

- The portal aims to promote the indigenization in defence sector.
- The Ordnance Factory Nalanda, Defence Production unit of Bihar, launched an indigenous portal which will attract vendors on the stop shop online market.
- This unique initiative will help in the manufacturing of defence items, components and spares.
- The portal will support Indian industries in the defence sector in bringing transparency. The move is to fulfill GoI's aim to self-reliant India.
- The initiative will help in the manufacturing of defence items, components and spares.

Defence Minister launches Indigenisation portal 'SRIJAN'

- The Defence Minister virtually launched the Department of Defence Production Portal 'SRIJAN' as a part of opportunities for Make in India initiatives in the defence sector.
- This portal provides information regarding the defence equipment and items which are being imported currently or to be imported by the Defence PSUs in the country.



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- The government will take proper measures regarding making these products indigenized.

Nagaland Government Rolls-Out Centralized e-commerce platform “YellowChain”

- On the occasion of Independence Day, the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio has launched “Yellow Chain”- a centralized e-commerce platform, to promote local business and entrepreneurship in the State.
- Yellow Chain will act as an integrated platform for the people of the state, where any Seller/Service Provider/Individual/Group can register themselves and upload their products, trades, skills, services etc. to enable the citizens/buyers to have access to their Service or Product.
- It may include Home service (Barber, Electrician, Plumber, Painter, Carpenter, Water Service etc.), Delivery service, IT Products & Services, Cab & Taxi Service, Health Care & Education, Fast food & Catering, Bakeries & Confectioneries, Grocery Stores, Local Product/Produces, Trainings, Pre-owned Products, Real Estate, Rentals etc.
- The site can be accessed at www.yellowchain.in

Ministry of Tribal Affairs launches Tribal Health & Nutrition Portal – ‘Swasthya’

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named ‘Swasthya’.
- It is a first of its kind e-portal, providing all health and nutrition-related information of the tribal population of India in a single platform.
- Apart from this, e-newsletter on health and nutrition ALEKH was also announced. It is a quarterly newsletter.
- Opening of National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal (for inviting online applications for academic year 2020-21) was another important announcement that was made.

Nitin Gadkari launches farm-to-fork service portal VedKrishi.com

- The Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Nitin Gadkari has launched an online farm-to-fork service platform called VedKrishi.com.
- The platform will connect farmers to the consumers.
- Using the portal VedKrishi.com, farmers would be able to sell their non-toxic farm produce directly to consumers.
- The platform will allow home deliver of grocery products including dairy goods, vegetables, grains, and pulses, apart from pickles, juices, sauces, etc.
- The platform has been set-up by Nagpur-based farmer producer organization VedKrishi Farmer Producer Company.

Govt launches e-portal on tribal health & nutrition

- Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named ‘Swasthya’.
- The portal provides all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India on a single platform.
- Swasthya will also curate innovative practices, case studies, and best practices collected from different parts of India to facilitate the exchange of evidence, expertise and experiences.



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IIT Kharagpur launches DEEKSHAK platform for Organizations to conduct Online Classes

- IIT Kharagpur has developed an e-classroom software called “DEEKSHAK” for organizations to conduct online classes.
- Researchers at IIT Kharagpur have come up with this software as users are frequently experiencing challenges and more importantly, the operational requirements of an electronic classroom.
- DEEKSHAK is a low bandwidth web-based software that can be accessed using any computer or even on mobile phones.

Chandigarh administration launches new website

- Environment Information System (ENVIS) of the Department of Environment of Chandigarh Administration has launched a new website.
- The URL of the website is <http://chandigarhenvi.gov.in>.
- Newly launched website has a fresh appearance & engaging features, and is developed on latest technologies.
- The website is accessible to all, especially to Divyangjan, under accessible India campaign.
- the website has the latest information about Environmental Notifications, Publications, Newsletters, Laws & Rules, Environment Education & Awareness and Activities Conducted by the Department.
- Additionally, the website is also linked with various services such as Parivesh Environment Clearance, Sameer, Solar Chandigarh.

Google launches Mobile app ‘Kormo’ in India to help people find entry-level jobs

- Google has launched its employment application named ‘Kormo Jobs’ in India. It would help millions of Indians to get entry-level jobs.
- Kormo Jobs will help to provide entry-level jobs to thousands of people, to help those who have lost their jobs during the coronavirus and young professionals who are looking for jobs.
- Google had first launched the employment application in Bangladesh in 2018 and further expanded it to Indonesia in 2019.
- In 2019, Google had also tested this app in India but under the brand ‘Spot’ on Google Pay app, which saw more than 2 million verified jobs posted on the platform, including from companies like Zomato and Dunzo.
- After receiving positive response, Google is now rebranding the Jobs Spot on Google Pay as Kormo Jobs in India and making it a standalone Android app.

Tata Steel launches FerroHaat App for Sourcing Steel Scrap

- Steel Recycling Business, a division of Tata Steel, has launched FerroHaat, a first-of-its-kind mobile application, to source steel scrap from the traders.
- The new app is a major step by the company to organise India’s scrap market while also providing a reliable source of scrap metal for the steel Industry.
- The FerroHaat App is a LIVE 24×7 market place to sell scrap.
- It is user friendly and hosts different sections like Bazaar for business transactions, Khaata for a snapshot of the supplier’s account, Samachar for vital market information and Abhaar for recognition and appreciation initiatives.



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Nitin Gadkari launches mobile app 'Harit Path' to monitor plantation along national highways

- The Union Minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari has launched a mobile app called 'Harit Path' on 21 August 2020, via video conference while chairing a meeting to review 'New Green Highways Policy (Plantation)' and discuss use of new technologies in road construction.
- The app 'Harit Path' has been developed by the National Highways authority of India (NHAI) to monitor the plantation and transplantation of trees along the highways, through geo-tagging and web-based GIS enabled monitoring tools.
- The app will allow to monitor the location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of its field units for each and every plant under all plantation projects.

Indian Air Force launches mobile app 'My IAF' to provide career-related information to aspirants

- Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria, the Chief of the Air Staff has launched a mobile application named 'MY IAF'.
- The app launched as a part of Digital India initiative has been developed in association with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to provide career related information and details to the aspirants who wish to join the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The app serves as a single digital platform where users can find the details of selection procedure, training curriculum, pay and perks etc for both officers and airmen in the IAF.

Extra Shots:

Indian Air Force

- Helicopter: Apache AH-64E, CH-47 Chinook, Dhruv, Chetak, Cheetah, Mi-8, Mi-17, Rudra, Mi-26, Mi-25/35
- Founded: 8 October 1932, India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Attack: Jaguar, Harpy
- Role: Aerial warfare
- Fighters: Sukhoi Su-30MKI, Dassault Rafale, Dassault Mirage 2000, Mikoyan MiG-29, HAL Tejas, Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21

Uttar Pradesh launches NRI unified portal

- UP has launched an ambitious NRI unified portal that will not only help in investment in the state, but also provide an opportunity for those who want to go abroad.
- The website - nri.up.gov.in - will also provide a platform for NRIs keen to know about their roots or those seeking help from the UP Government related to their homes or families in the state.
- The NRI department of state will use festivals to connect with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in other countries.
- The NRI department in the state will be live streaming the Deepotsav festival in Ayodhya during Diwali and then the Holi celebrations in Vrindavan too.
- Other Uttar Pradesh festivals and cultural events will also be a part of this initiative.

Extra Shots:



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Uttar Pradesh:

- Statehood Day: January 26, 1950
- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Literacy Rate: 67.68%
- Nation Park: Dudhwa National Park

Mumbai's CSMT to get Rs 1,642 cr makeover with world class facilities

- Mumbai's iconic Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus is set to get a makeover with world class facilities at a cost of 1,642 crore rupees. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC).
- Under the project, authorities have planned to demolish some existing buildings in the CSMT premises and shift some railway offices to Byculla and Wadi Bunder yards, to create more pedestrian area on the southern end of the station.

Tata Group to launch "Super App" for digital services

- Tata Group is launching a new app named "Super App" purported to bring together the country's disparate sales sector to offer a range of consumer goods.
- The app will put the conglomerate in competition with giants of the region like Reliance Industries and global titans like Amazon.
- The app will offer food and grocery ordering, fashion and lifestyle, consumer electronics and consumer durables, insurance and financial services, education, healthcare and bill payments.

Extra Shots:

Tata Group

- Founder: Jamsetji Tata
- Founded: 1868, Mumbai
- Parent organization: Tata Sons

E-auction portal launched to promote trading of GI-tagged 'Kashmir Saffron'

- Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture department has created an e-auction portal to promote trading of GI-tagged 'Kashmir Saffron'.
- The Department, under the aegis of India International Kashmir Saffron Trading Centre (IISKSTC), has created the portal in collaboration with NSE-IT, with the sole motive to assure buyers to have access to quality 'Kashmir Saffron'.
- The Saffron growers of Kashmir valley and buyers across India have been requested to register themselves as sellers and buyers for E- trading on www.saffroneauctionindia.com.

Extra Shots:

Jammu & Kashmir:

- Capitals- Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer)



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- Lt Governor- Manoj Sinha
- National Parks: City Forest (Salim Ali) National Park, Dachigam National Park, Hemis National Park, Kishtwar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Baltal-Thajwas WLS, Changthang Cold Desert WLS, Gulmarg WLS, Jasrota WLS, Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) WLS etc

Class 9 student from Manipur develops mobile game ‘Coroboi’ amid Covid-19 pandemic

- A 13-year old boy from Manipur, Baldeep Ningthoujam has developed a mobile game named Coroboi amid COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown which became a popular android based game worldwide.
- The game which was launched in google play store has become one of the most popular searches and download games.
- The game was launched on the 21st of this month and more than 20 thousand users had downloaded the game till now.

CISF launches mobile app ‘Pension Corner’ for its retired personnels’

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has launched a mobile application ‘Pension Corner’ to cater to the needs of all its retired personnels.
- The in-house built app has been developed as part of an e-office initiative introduced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The app is available on both web and Android platforms.
- Includes an SMS invitation system to keep pensioners connected to the CISF for any important events happening at their nearest CISF unit across the country
- Inbuilt grievance redressal mechanism
- All important circulars like job opportunities and benefits relating to pensioners will be available on the app

Extra Shots:

CISF:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Director General: Rajesh Ranjan

Books & Authors

A book titled “Siyasat Mein Sadasyata” authored by Vijay Kumar Choudhary

- Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar has released a book titled “Siyasat Mein Sadasyata” authored by Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary.
- The book is a compilation of the author’s views, three dozen articles on different important issues and his life journey.
- The book was published by Bihar Assembly Secretariat.



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- The book has described various other important activities of assembly like successful completion of 6th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region among others.

A book titled “Vishesh: Code To Win” authored by Nirupama Yadav

- The book, titled “Vishesh: Code To Win”, has been written by sportswoman-turned-author Nirupama Yadav and published by the publishing house Bluerose. The book is set to be released on August 29, the National Sports Day.
- The book narrates the inspirational story on the life of Vishesh Bhriuvanshi, India’s youngest basketball team captain.

Union Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Smriti Irani launch the book Swachh Bharat Kranti

- The book “The Swachh Bharat Kranti” was officially launched by Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development Smt. Smriti Irani in New Delhi on 4 August.
- The book was edited by Shri Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has been translated into Hindi and published as the Swachh Bharat Kranti.
- The translation of the book Swachh Bharat Kranti is “The Swachh Bharat Revolution”.

A book titled ‘RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations’ released

- The book, titled “RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations” has authored by investigative journalist and author Yatish Yadav.
- A new book gives a peep into the heroic covert operations carried by India’s external spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and thereby narrates a gripping account of what actually happens behind the grey walls of the secret society.

A book titled ‘Amazing Ayodhya’ authored by Neena Rai

- The book titled ‘Amazing Ayodhya’ has been authored by Neena Rai.
- The book offers “authentic information” about the city, which will not only help understand the life and times of ancient Hindus but also the revered figures of Rama and Sita.
- The book is publishing by house Bloomsbury.

Extra Shots:

Bloomsbury Publishing

- CEO: Nigel Newton
- Founder: Nigel Newton
- Founded: 30 January 1986
- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

Third series of book titled ‘Connecting, Communicating, Changing’ comprising collection of speeches by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released

- The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Prakash Javadekar unveiled an e-version of the book titled ‘Connecting, Communicating, Changing’.



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- Apart from this, the print coffee table version of the book was also released by Union Minister of Defense Shri Rajnath Singh.
- The book chronicles Shri M Venkaiah Naidu's three years in office as the Vice President of India.
- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has completed three years in office on 11 August 2020.

Three of 13 books penned by Mizoram governor during lockdown released

- Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga has released "Corona Kavithakal", a collection of poems, written by Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai during the lockdown.
- The governor has recently penned at least 13 books in English and Malayalam.
- Two more books, "Republic Day 2020" and "Thus Speaks the Governor", written by Pillai, were also released by Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Ajai Lamba through a video message.

A book titled "Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World" by Dalai Lama

- The Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama, will release a new book titled "Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World" on climate change with German environmental journalist, Franz Alt in November.
- It follows his 2019 publication dedicated to children, "The Seed of Compassion: Lessons from the Life and Teachings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama", his autobiography and a book on philosophy.
- In 2018, "Ecology, Ethics, and Interdependence: The Dalai Lama in Conversation with Leading Thinkers on Climate Change" was published.

A Bend in Time': Pandemic through the eyes of children authored by Bijal Vachharajani

- The book, titled "A Bend in Time: Writings by Children on the Covid-19 pandemic", written by award-winning children's author Bijal Vachharajani.
- The book is a collection of 12 engrossing stories and essays by children and young adults from across the country.

Former Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam pens book titled "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020"

- Retired Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam has written a book which throws light on comprehensive account of war and conflict in contemporary India over the past five decades next month.
- The book titled "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020" is a sequel to his previous book "India's Wars: A Military History, 1947-1971".
- The new book covers every major operation that the armed forces have participated in since 1972, including the Kargil conflict of 1999
- It has been published by HarperCollins India and will be released in September 2020.

Sudha Murty announces new collection of short stories 'Grandparents' Bag of Stories'

- On the 70th birthday of award-winning author Sudha Murty, publishing house Penguin Random House India announced her latest collection of short stories, Grandparents' Bag of Stories.

The book, scheduled to be released in November, is a sequel to Murty's last release Grandma's Bag of Stories and will feature 20 stories.

Book titled "Who painted my lust red?" authored by Sree Iyer launched

- A book titled "Who painted my lust red?" that has been authored by Sree Iyer has been launched.



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- The book is something about when Bollywood meets Cricket meets Politicians.
- This is the second book in this series of Sree Iyer's Money Trilogy series.
- The first book was "Who painted my money white?"

A book titled 'One Arranged Murder' authored by Chetan Bhagat

- A book titled 'One Arranged Murder' authored by Chetan Bhagat will be released globally on September 28, 2020.
- The fiction book portrays a murder mystery in the backdrop of an arranged marriage.
- The book will be published by Westland Publications Ltd. It is the author's 9th novel and 11th book overall.
- His last release was The Girl in Room 105.

Book titled 'India Tomorrow: Conversations with the Next Generation of Political Leaders', released

- The book titled "India Tomorrow: Conversations with the Next Generation of Political Leaders", has been released recently.
- It is written by academicians Pradeep Chhibber and Harsh Shah and published by Oxford University Press (OUP)
- The book, which includes interviews of politicians below 50 years likes of Rahul Gandhi, Smriti Zubin Irani, Varun Gandhi, Omar Abdullah and Akhilesh Yadav, among others.
- It is written by academicians Pradeep Chhibber and Harsh Shah.

A book titled "Gastric Cancer" released by Jitendra Singh

- Union Minister, Jitendra Singh has released a book on cancer named "Gastric Cancer" edited by Dr Ashok K. Vaid.
- The book was launched during a special session organized during the 3-day virtual conference on Oncology.
- The book is published by Springer Healthcare Education.
- Ashok K. Vaid is a Noted Oncologist and was awarded Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding work in the field of medicine.

Running Toward Mystery: The Adventure of an Unconventional Life' Book by Tenzin Priyadarshi and Zara Houshmand

- The book titled 'Running Toward Mystery: The Adventure of an Unconventional Life' is an account by Tenzin Priyadarshi, president and CEO of The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, of his lifelong journey as a seeker.
- Co-written with Iranian American author and literary translator Zara Houshmand.
- In "Running Toward Mystery, Priyadarshi shares his thoughts on science and technology, meditation and spiritual disillusionment, and the relationship between Buddhism and the modern world.

A book title 'Cricket Drona' on renowned coach Vasoo Paranjape

- A book title 'Cricket Drona' on renowned coach Vasudev Jagannath Paranjape or Vasoo Paranjape will be released on September 2, 2020.
- The book is written by Vasudev Jagannath Paranjape's son and current national selector Jatin Paranjape along with Cricket Journalist Anand Vasu and published by Penguin.



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Army Chief releases book on National Security

- Indian Army Chief, General Manoj Mukund Naravane has released a book titled “National Security Challenges: Young Scholars’ Perspective” penned by university students, ranging from the undergraduate level to doctoral candidates.
- The book published by the Army think-tank Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).

J&K LG Manoj Sinha releases 2 Coffee Table Books at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today released two Coffee Table Books, one for Labour & Employment Department and another for J&K Entrepreneurship Development (JKEDI) Institute at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar.

Indian Cricket Coach Gurcharan Singh Co-authored his Memoir “Pitching It Straight” with MS Unnikrishnan

- Indian Cricket Coach Gurcharan Singh (85 years old) penned his memoir titled “Pitching It Straight” which is co-authored by sports journalist MS Unnikrishnan and published by Vitasta
- The book portrays the personal and professional life of Gurcharan Singh, who trained numerous young talents.

Important Days & Themes

Day	Celebrated as	Aim/ Theme
August 1	Muslim Women’s Rights Day	
August 1	World Lung Cancer Day	To raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer and highlight the issues of lack of sufficient research funding for the ailment.
August 3	World Sanskrit Day, (also known as Sanskrit Diwas)	The day commemorates the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit and aims to promote its revival and maintenance.
August 1-7	World Breastfeeding Week	The theme of World Breastfeeding Week 2020 is “Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet”.
August 6	Hiroshima Day (Anti-Nuclear Day/ Nagasaki Day)	The Day is observed to advocate, pray and work for a ban on all nuclear weapons and an end to war



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		and violence through anti-war and anti-nuclear discussions and demonstrations around the world.
August 7	National Handloom Day	This day is celebrated to honour the handloom weavers in the country and also highlight the handloom industry.
August 8	Quit India Day (or August Kranti Day)	
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	The theme of 2020 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples "COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience".
August 9	World Tribal Day	2020 Theme: COVID-19 and indigenous people resilience.
August 10	International Biofuel Day (World Biofuel Day)	The theme for 2020 World Biofuel Day is 'Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat'
August 10	World Lion Day	
August 12	World Elephant Day	The main objective of World Elephant Day is to create awareness on elephant conservation, and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better protection and management of wild and captive elephants.
August 12	International Youth Day (IYD)	2020 Theme: Youth Engagement for Global Action
August 13	International Left Handers Day	
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	
August 19	World Humanitarian Day (WHD)	The theme for 2020 WHD is #RealLifeHeroes.
August 19	World Photography Day	To promote photography as a hobby and also inspire photographers around the globe to share a single photo with the rest of the world.
August 20	World Mosquito Day	To raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be



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		prevented.
August 20	Indian Akshay Urja Day or Renewable Energy Day	
August 20	Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day.	Every year this day is celebrated in the memory of the late Rajiv Gandhi who was the youngest Prime Minister of India at the age of 40 years.
August 21	World Senior Citizen Day	To raise awareness about issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and the abuse of the elderly and support, honor and show appreciation to seniors and to recognize their achievements.
August 21	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	The theme is 'Confronting Slavery's Legacy of Racism Together'
August 24-28	World Water Week	The theme for World Water Week 2020 at Home is 'Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action'.
August 26	Women's Equality Day	Women's Equality Day is now often observed across the world to encourage and spread awareness about women's empowerment.
August 29	International Day against Nuclear Tests	The day aims to increase awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world
August 29	National Sports Day, (Rashtriya Khel Divas)	To mark the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, who is regarded as nation's greatest hockey player of all time.



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August 30	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	To draw attention towards increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances of individuals in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction unknown to their relatives and/or legal representatives
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Obituary

Name	Field	Place
Sanjay Gupta	Sitting judge of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court	
Shaankar Sen	Businessman	
Raavi Kondal Rao	Actor, writer, director and producer	Andhra Pradesh
Kansai Yamamoto	Japanese fashion designer	Japan
Anil Murali	Malayalam actor	Kerala
Lee Teng-hui	Former Taiwanese President	Taiwan
Ram Pradhan	Former Union Home Secretary	
Kamal Rani Varun	Politician	Uttar Pradesh
Mathew McConaughey	Actor	United States
Amar Singh	Politician	Uttar Pradesh
Pydikondala Manikyala Rao	Former Andhra Pradesh Minister	Andhra Pradesh
Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar	Former Maharashtra Chief Minister	Maharashtra
Sameer Sharma	Television actor	Delhi
Shyamal Chakraborty	senior CPI(M) leader and former West Bengal transport minister	West Bengal
Shirley Ann Grau	Novelist	United States
Hasmukhbhai Joshi	Former Saurashtra coach and manager	Gujarat
Nandi Yellaiah	Politician	Telangana
Doris Buffett	Warren Buffet's philanthropist sister	United States
Manitombi Singh	Former India footballer	Manipur
James Harris	Legendry American WWE player	United States



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Rahat Indori	Urdu poet	Madhya Pradesh
PK Muthusamy	Veteran Tamil film songwriter	Tamil Nadu
Gopal Krishna Menon	sports journalist	
Simar Dugal	Famous Model and Fashion Designer	New Delhi
Rajiv Tyagi	Politician	Uttar Pradesh
Chunakkara Ramankutty	poet-lyricist	Kerala
Chetan Chauhan	Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister	Uttar Pradesh
Pandit Jasraj	classical vocalist	Haryana
Nishikant Kamat	Director-actor	Maharashtra
Dr B Siva Kumar	Carnatic musician and renowned veena vidwan	
Yadupati Singhania	Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) president	
Russell A. Kirsch	Computer scientist	United States
Angela Buxton	British tennis player	United Kingdom
Konrad Steffen	U.S.-Swiss climate scientist and glaciologist	United States
Bhaskar Maity	Former India goalkeeper	West Bengal
Gopaldaswamy Iyenger Kasturirangan	Former Cricketer, Administrator and Pitch Curator	Tamil Nadu
Janmejai Singh	Politician	Uttar Pradesh
A Rahman Khan	Former Tamil Nadu cabinet minister and senior DMK leader	Idukki, Kerala
Pascal Lissouba	Former President of the Republic of Congo	Republic of Congo
A Bhaskar Raj	Malayalam filmmaker	Kerala
Jagdish Chaudhary	Dom Raja of Kashi	
Gail Sheehy	Writer-journalist	
Sangeeta Srivastava	Television actress	
Arnold Meyer Spielberg	Computer Pioneer	
Gail Sheehy	journalist	
Archana Mahanta	singer	
H.Vasantha Kumar	Lok Sabha member	Tamilnadu
Purshottam Rai	athletics coach	
AR Lakshmanan	Former judge of the Supreme Court Justice	



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Joe Ruby	co-creator of the cartoon series Scooby-Doo	United States
Chadwick Boseman	American actor	United States

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