Current Affairs 8 August 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

India's first 'Kisan Rail' flagged off from Devlali Railway Station of Maharashtra

i.On August 7, 2020 **Piyush Goyal**, Union Minister of Railways and **Narendra Singh Tomar**, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare flagged off the India's **1st Kisan Rail**, a Special Parcel Train from Maharashtra's Devlali to Bihar's Danapur Railway station through video link.

ii. This is the **1st ever multi commodity train** of Indian Railways that carries fruits like Pomegranate, Banana, Grapes etc and vegetables like Capsicum, Cauliflower etc.

iii. The train will run on a **weekly basis**.

About Maharashtra:

Capital– Mumbai

Chief Minister– Uddhav Thackeray

PM Modi Addresses Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under NEP

i.On 7th August 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at the Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy**(NEP)** organised by the Ministry of Education in association with University Grants Commission**(UGC)** over a virtual platform and discussed various aspects of NEP 2020, which replaces the National Policy on Education framed in 1986 with academicians and scientists.

ii. The objective of this new policy is that the education system should ensure that the current and next generation are "future ready", which will establish a foundation for the 21st century India-New India.

About University Grants Commission (UGC):

Chairman– Prof. D. P. Singh

Location– New Delhi

About Ministry of Education:

Union Minister– Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'

Minister of State– Sanjay Dhotre

IBBI amended Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016

i.In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (t) of sub-section (1) of section 196 read with section 240 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (31 of 2016), the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) amended the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016 by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2020.

ii. The IBBI has amended regulations for the liquidation process to provide more clarity on fee payable to liquidators.

About IBBI:

It is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.

Chairperson– MS Sahoo

Headquarter– New Delhi

NHAI signs MoU with IIT Delhi to set up CoE for Advance Data Management System for Highways

- On 6th August, 2020 National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed an agreement with IIT Delhi to set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in data driven decision making and **Advance Data Management System for Highways (ADMS Highways)**.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Chairman NHAI and Director of IIT Delhi Dr V Ram Gopal Rao.

UNESCO Recognises Venkatraipur & Noliasahi of Odisha as 'Tsunami Ready'; India Becomes 1st Country in Indian Ocean Region to Receive the Honour

i.United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recognises the two coastal villages of **Odisha** as **"Tsunami Ready"** for their overall preparedness to face the

tsunami.

ii. The two villages are **Venkatraipur** and **Noliasahi**.

iii. Odisha became the **first state** in India and India became the **first country** in the Indian Ocean Region to achieve this status of "Tsunami ready" from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission **(IOC)** of UNESCO.

About Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC):

Executive Secretary & Assistant Director General of UNESCO for IOC– Vladimir Ryabinin

Head Office– Paris, France

About Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA):

Managing Director– Pradeep Kumar Jena

Head Office– Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Simplilearn and NSDC Announce Collaboration to Upskill Professionals in Digital Skills

i.In order to support the continuity of digital skilling of the Indian workforce, Simplilearn, a global provider of digital skills training joined hands with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

ii. Under this collaboration, Simplilearn will host more than 1,000 hours of free learning in digital skills and technologies for learners across India under the categories of AI and Machine Learning, Big Data, Data Science & Business Intelligence, Cyber Security, Software Development, Project management, and Digital marketing.

iii. This partnership is aligned to the **Skill India Mission**.

About National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC):

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)– Dr. Manish Kumar

Parent Ministry– Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

About Simplilearn:

Executive Officer (CEO)– Krishna Kumar

Headquarter– San Francisco, United states (US)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa registers landslide victory in Sri Lankan Parliamentary elections

i.Parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka were held on 5 August 2020 to elect 225 members to Sri Lanka's 16th Parliament.

ii.Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) headed by Prime Minister **Mahinda Rajapaksa** has won 145 (plus five more seats from allies) in the elections, securing two-thirds majority in the parliament

- The **two-thirds supermajority** will give them powers to change the constitution.
- Samagi Jana balawega (SJB) led by Sajith Premadasa has emerged as the main opposition party with 54 seats.
- Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremsinghe's United National Party (UNP) has got only a single seat.
- Predominant Tamil National Alliance (TNA) which represents north and east tamil speaking regions has won only ten seats.
- The new parliament is set to meet for the first time on August 20.

iii. Sri Lanka is a democratic republic and unitary state, which is governed by a semi-presidential system, a mixture of parliamentary and presidential system.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Damordas Modi congratulated Mahinda Rajapaksa on the imminent victory of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP).

About Sri Lanka:

Capital – Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative), Colombo (executive & judicial)

President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Prime Minister – Mahinda Rajapaksa

FAO Introduce New Platform to Reduce Global Food Loss and Waste

On 29th July 2020, The Food and Agriculture Organisation**(FAO)** unveiled a new Platform, **"Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste"** to support the global reduction of food loss and waste.

The official launch of the platform will be on the first International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste**(IDAFLW)** which will be observed on 29th September 2020.

Platform:

The platform will have information on measurement, reduction policies, alliance, actions and examples of models that were successful in reducing the food loss and wastages in the period of global pandemic.

The related portals from the development patterns will also be provided in this platform.

Importance of reduction of food loss and wastage:

The reduction of food loss and wastages will support in improving the food safety, security and nutrition.

This will result in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, reduction in pressure on natural resources and increase the global productivity and economic growth.

Platform to reduce food waste and loss: http://www.fao.org/platform-food-loss-waste/en/

About Food and Agriculture Organisation(FAO:

Director-General- QU Dongyu

Headquarters– Rome, Italy

BANKING & FINANCE

Highlights of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on August 4-6, 2020

i.To state **"2020-21 Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)"** a three day meeting of Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) six-member MPC, headed by Shaktikanta Das was held from August 4-6, 2020 where it was forecasted that India's real gross domestic product (GDP) will contract in the first half (H1) of FY21 as well as full FY 2020-21.

ii. The central bank kept the repo rate unchanged at 4%, reverse repo rate at 3.35%, and marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 4.25%. Following key decisions taken during the meet:

- Resolution Framework for COVID-19-related Stress: RBI sets up panel under KV Kamath for one-time restructuring of loans
- RBI announces additional special liquidity facility of Rs 5000 cr each for NHB & NABARD
- RBI introduced ASISO facility to help banks manage liquidity in COVID-19 scenario
- RBI enhanced loan to value ratio to 90% of value of gold pledged
- RBI extended provisions of restructuring of MSME loans for borrowers with loan outstanding upto Rs 25 cr
- RBI to bring start-ups under priority sector lending category
- RBI to set up 'Innovation Hub' to promote financial inclusion, efficient banking
- Positive Pay mechanism for all cheques above Rs 50,000

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Formation– 1 April 1935

Governor– Shaktikanta Das

Deputy Governors– 4 (Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, one is yet to be appointed).

Exim Bank extends USD 250 million line of credit to Mozambique to improve the power supply quality

On August 3rd, 2020 Export-Import (EXIM) Bank on behalf of Indian Government, extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 250 million (about Rs. 1,870 Crores) to Mozambique to improve the power supply quality of the country.

Agreement

The Agreement was signed through exchange between **Saroj Khuntia**, General Manager of EXIM Bank and **Adriano Isaias Ubisse**, National Directorate of Treasury, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mozambique.

About Mozambique:

Capital – Maputo

Currency – Mozambican metical

President – Filipe Nyusi

Prime Minister – Carlos Agostinho do Rosário

ADB signed USD 200 mn financing deal with Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited for 718 mw power plant in Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank **(ADB)** has signed a **USD 200 million** financing deal with the Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited **(RBLPL**) to build and operate a 718 megawatt (mw) combined-cycle gas-fired power plant in Bangladesh.

- The project will reduce the current energy deficit and lead to more private sector investment in the country's electricity sector.

Location of the Plant

The plant is proposed to be set up on land allotted by Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), in Meghnaghat, Narayanganj District near Dhaka.

Financing Deal

The financing deal has two components of dollar 100 million each.

- ADB will provide USD 100 million and will also manage the other part worth USD 100 million from the Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund (LEAP).

Pros of the Project

i.The power plant will minimise the dependence of Bangladesh on electricity imports.

ii. It will also reduce the share of environmentally harmful and expensive fuels like coal and oil in the energy mix of the country.

About LEAP

It was established in 2016 with USD 1.5 billion capital commitment for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

About ADB Bank

Headquarters– Mandaluyong, Philippines

President– Masatsugu Asakawa

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Former J&K Governor GC Murmu appointed as 14th CAG; Replaces Rajiv Mehrishi

Ram Nath Kovind, President of India as per the powers conferred on him by Section 1 of Article 148 of the Constitution of India has appointed Girish Chandra**(GC) Murmu** as 14th Comptroller and Auditor General**(CAG)** of India, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office. He succeeds **Rajiv Mehrishi** who completes his term on August 8,2020 as he attains the age of 65.

- GC Murmu will take oath on August 8, 2020 at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- He will have a tenure up to November 20, 2024.

About GC Murmu

i.He is the 1985-batch Gujarat cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer

ii. He was appointed as the 1st Lt Governor of the UT on October 31, 2019 after its formation under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

iii. He resigned from the post on August 5, 2020.

iv. He has held many important post including: Expenditure secretary in the Union finance ministry

About Rajiv Mehrishi

i.He is a retired IAS officer of the 1978 batch belonging to the Rajasthan cadre.

ii. He assumed office as CAG of India on 25 September 2017.

iii. Prior to his appointment as CAG he was serving as a Home Secretary in the Government of India.

iv. Earlier to this he held key positions as the Finance Secretary, Secretary (Fertilizers) and Secretary (Overseas Indian Affairs) of the Government of India among others.

v.He has authored a book titled "India 2017 Yearbook" on current affairs in India.

About CAG Of India:

The CAG of India is an authority established by Article 148 of the Constitution of India which audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the State Governments, including bodies and officials substantially funded by the Government.CAG is appointed for a term of six year or till the person attains 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.

Prof. Pradeep Kumar Joshi appointed as UPSC chairman; Succeeds Arvind Saxena

On 6th August, 2020, the Union Public Service Commission (**UPSC**) appointed Professor Pradeep Kumar Joshi as its new Chairman. His tenure as the chairman of the UPSC will be till April 4, 2022. He succeeds **Arvind Saxena** who retires as the UPSC chairman on 6th August 2020.

About Pradeep Kumar Joshi

i.He joined as the UPSC member in May 12, 2015 and was the chairman of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commissions

ii. He also served as Director of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (**NIEPA**).

iii. Prof.(Dr.) Joshi taught more than 28 years at postgraduate level and held many important positions in various policy making, academic and administrative bodies.

iv. He is a specialist in the field of Financial Management.

v.Prof.(Dr.) Joshi has published and presented research papers in several national and international conferences and seminars.

About Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

The commission conducts the civil services examination annually in three stages preliminary, mains and interview to select officers of Indian Administrative Service (**IAS**), Indian Police Service (**IPS**) and Indian Foreign Service (**IFS**) among others.

Members:

The other members of UPSC are: Bhim Sain Bassi, Air Marshal A S Bhonsle (retired), Sujata Mehta,

Manoj Soni, Smita Nagaraj, M Sathiyavathy Bharat Bhushan Vyas, T C A Anant and Rajiv Nayan Choubey.

Headquarters: New Delhi

PNB Housing Finance appoints Hardayal Prasad, Former SBI Card Head as New MD and CEO

On 6th August 2020, **PNB Housing Finance**, promoted by Punjab National Bank**(PNB)**announced the appointment of Former State Bank of India(SBI) Card Head, **Hardayal Prasad** as its new Managing Director**(MD)** and Chief Executive Officer**(CEO).**

- Prasad will take over from Neeraj Vyas, the current interim CEO of PNB housing finance on 10th August 2020.

Hardayal Prasad:

i.Prasad is experienced in banking, international operations at SBI and SBI Cards and Payment Services **(SBI Card).**

ii. He resigned from the post of MD and CEO of SBI Card pursuant to voluntary retirement from SBI, the promoter of SBI Card on 15th July 2020 which came to effect on 31st July 2020.

About PNB Housing Finance:

Head Office– New Delhi

Tag Line– Ghar Ki Baat

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

LIC acquired 4.23% Stake of YES Bank

Life Insurance Corporation of India**(LIC)** has acquired **4.23%** Stake(105.98 crore shares) of **YES Bank** by purchasing from the open market. With this acquisition, the hold of LIC in YES Bank has increased from 0.75%(19 crore shares) to 4.98%(125 crore shares).

- Period of acquisition is between September 21, 2017, and July 31, 2020.

Moody's Upgraded Yes Bank's long-term foreign currency issuer rating

i.Recently, Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the long-term foreign currency issuer rating of YES Bank by a notch to "B3" from "Caa1" after a Rs 15,000-crore capital raising.

ii. The bank still remains under non-investment grade.

B rating– It is considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk,

CAA rating– It is considered to be speculative of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk

About YES Bank:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO)– Prashant Kumar

Tagline– Experience our Expertise

About LIC:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman– M.R.Kumar

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a New Version of the India Water Resources Information System

i.The Ministry of Jal Shakti**(MoJS)** has launched a **new version** of the India Water Resources Information System **(India-WRIS)** with new functions and features. It is open to the public, and accessible through the web portal

ii. The MoJS has established a dedicated organization, National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) to maintain and update India-WRIS.

iii. The system includes time series data obtained through manual readings and telemetry data received by means of GPRS or satellite.

About MoJS

Union Minister– Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Minister of State– Rattan Lal Kataria

SAI with CISCE and CBSE launches Khelo India mobile app Online Training Programme for PE Teachers & Principals

On 6th August 2020, the Sports Authority of India(SAI) in association with Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations(CISCE) and Central Board of Secondary Education(CBSE) will host

an online training programme through the **Khelo India Mobile App (KIMA)** to train the Physical Education (PE) teachers and head of the institutions from CISCE schools on **"Khelo India Fitness Assessment of School Going Children".**

About Sports Authority of India(SAI):

Director General– Sandip Pradhan

Executive Director– Anjan Kumar Mishra

Head Office– Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi

OBITUARY

Writer and activist Sadia Dehlvi dies aged 63

On August 5, 2020 the writer and activist **Sadia Dehlvi** died of cancer at the age of 63 at Delhi. She was born in 1957, came from the royal 'Shama' family, edited the Urudu women's journal **Bano.**

Dehlvi, writing focuses on women, minorities, Islamic spirituality, and Delhi's heritage and culture. Her grandfather, **Hafiz Yusuf Dehlvi**, founded **Shama**, an iconic Urdu film in 1938 and literary monthly.

About Sadia Dehlvi

Career

i.Her popular books include '**The Sufi Courtyard: Dargahs of Delhi**' 2012 and '**Sufism: The Heart of Islam'** (2009) published by HarperCollins that narrates the Islam's Sufi traditions and importance of Sufi.

ii. Her book, '**Dilli ka Dastarkhwan**' – chapter in City Improbable: An Anthology of Writings on Delhi" was later edited by **Khushwant Singh.**

iii. She wrote a book in 2017, titled '**Jasmine & Jinns: Memories and Recipes of My Delhi'** that opens the Delhi's culinary history.

Her works

i.Dehlvi also produced and scripted documentaries and television programmes, including "**Amma and Family**" (1995), with veteran actor Zohra Sehgal as the lead.

ii. Khushwant Singh dedicated his book **'Not a Nice Man to Know'** to her which was later produced as a TV series in 1998.

iii. Singh's book "**Men and Women in my Life**", which has a chapter dedicated to her, has her photo on its cover.

Veteran CPM leader and former West Bengal Transport Minister Shyamal Chakraborty passed away at 76

On 6th August, 2020 the former Communist Party of India – Marxist (**CPM**) and former West Bengal Transport Minister Shyamal Chakraborty passed away at the age 76 in Calcutta.
He served as the three-time transport minister of West Bengal from 1982 to 1996.

About Shyamal Chakraborty

Career

i.He became a member of the undivided Communist party in 1959. He was elected as Member of Legislative Assembly in the 1981 bypoll and in 1982, 1987 and 1991.
ii.Chakraborty served as the president of the CITU (Centre of Indian Trade Unions), West Bengal unit, from 2003 to 2017.
iii. Baptized into politics in the early '60s, his organisational and oratory skills were first spotted by Communist stalwart Promode Dasgupta.
iv.He had served as a member of the Rajya Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) from 2008 to 2014.
v.At present he was the state unit president of the CPM's trade union wing, CITU

About Communist Party of India – Marxist (CPM)

Headquarters – New Delhi
General Secretary – Sitaram Yechury

Padma Shri awardee and prominent cultural historian and exponent of Mewati gharana Mukund Lath passes away at 82

A prominent culture historian and exponent of **Mewati Gharana**, Mukund Lath passed away at the age of **82** on **6th August, 2020** in Jaipur. He was born on 9th October 1937 in Kolkata. He was awarded India's fourth highest civilian honour, **the Padma Shri, in 2010** for his contributions to the field of arts and cultural history.

About Mukund Lath

Career

i.Lath taught History at the University of Rajasthan at the Department of History and Indian Culture, and retired in the year 1997.
ii. Some of his works on performing arts are: `**A Study of Dattilam: A Treatise on the Sacred**

Music of Ancient India' (1978), '**Sangita evam Chintan**' (1992), and '**Transformation as Creation**' (1998).

iii. Lath studied under the tutelage of Pandit Maniram, Ramesh Chakravarti, and under Pandit Jasraj, whom he also accompanied on several tours and concerts.

iv. The efforts of Pandit Jasraj's and Mukund Lath, made Mewati gharana as the recognisable genre of Hindustani classical music.

About Mewati gharana

i.The Mewati gharana also known as the Jaipur-Mewati gharana is a musical apprenticeship tribe of Hindustani classical music.

ii. Brothers Ghagge Nazir Khan and Wahid Khan founded the Mewati Gharana, named after the region in Delhi, Mewat.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

"Amazing Ayodhya" – A new book to tell the history of Ayodhya

Neena Rai Authored the book titled **"Amazing Ayodhya"** will shed light on the history of Ayodhya.The book is set to give "authentic information" about the city of Ayodhya and will help in understanding the life and times of ancient Hindus.

Key Points:

i.The book aims to gain knowledge of the architecture in Ayodhya, houses in Ayodhya, establishment of the city and animals which lived in Ayodhya.

ii. According to the publishing house Bloomsbury, the book is well-researched and is replete with descriptions and draws out comparisons of earlier eras with our current life and culture.

iii. The book will hit the stands in November.

IMPORTANT DAYS

6th edition of National Handloom Day is observed on August 7, 2020

i.Every year the Government of India celebrates the National Handloom day on **August 7 ,** to generate awareness about the Handloom Industry amongst the public at large and its contribution to socio-economic development.

ii. The 6th edition of the Nation Handloom Day is celebrated on August 7, 2020.

iii. The Union Government had declared 7th August as th**e first National Handloom Day in July 2015**. The day chosen in order to commemorate the **Swadeshi Movement**, launched on August 7, 1905.

About Ministry of Textiles

Union Minister – Smriti Zubin Irani

STATE NEWS

Maharashtra Became the First State to Partner with Google India to Provide Learning Tools for Schools

i.On 6th August 2020, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray announced the partnership with Google which will blend google's learning programmes that integrate the classroom approach with online learning, over a virtual launch event.

ii. Maharashtra became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom.

About Maharashtra:

Chief Minister– Uddhav Thackeray

Governor– Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Capital– Mumbai

UNESCO Sites in Maharashtra:

Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Elephanta Caves, and Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai.

S.no	Current Affairs 8 August 2020
1	India's first 'Kisan Rail' flagged off from Devlali Railway Station of Maharashtra

2	PM Modi Addresses Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under NEP
3	IBBI amended Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016
4	NHAI signs MoU with IIT Delhi Strengthen data-driven decision making
5	First Time in Indian Ocean Region UNESCO Recognises Two Coastal Villages of Odisha as Tsunami Ready
6	Simplilearn and NSDC Announce Collaboration to Upskill Professionals in Digital Skills
7	FAO Introduce New Platform to Reduce Global Food Loss and Waste
8	Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa registers landslide victory in Sri Lankan Parliamentary elections
9	Highlights of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on August 4-6, 2020
10	Exim Bank extends USD 250 million line of credit to Mozambique
11	ADB signed USD 200 mn financing deal with Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited for 718 mw power plant in Bangladesh
12	Former J&K Governor GC Murmu appointed as 14th CAG; Replaces Rajiv Mehrishi
13	Prof. Pradeep Kumar Joshi appointed as UPSC chairman
14	PNB Housing Finance appoints Hardayal Prasad, Former SBI Card Head as New MD and CEO
15	LIC acquired 4.23% Stake of YES Bank
16	Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a New Version of the India Water Resources Information System
17	SAI with CISCE and CBSE launches Khelo India mobile app Online Training Programme for PE Teachers & Principals

18	Writer and activist Sadia Dehlvi dies aged 63
19	Veteran CPM leader and former West Bengal Transport Minister Shyamal Chakraborty passed away at 76
20	Padma Shri awardee and prominent cultural historian and exponent of Mewati gharana Mukund Lath passes away at 82
21	"Amazing Ayodhya" – A new book to tell the history of Ayodhya
22	6th edition of National Handloom Day is observed on August 7, 2020
23	Maharashtra Became the First State to Partner with Google India to Provide Learning Tools for Schools

Current Affairs 7 August 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

India extended US$18 mn Line of Credit to Maldives for expansion of fishing facilities at MIFCO

i.On August 5, 2020, India has extended the Line of Credit (LoC) worth US$18 million to the Government of Maldives for the expansion of fishing facilities at **Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO)** based in Felivaru, Lhaviyani Atoll, through the development of fish collection and storage facilities, and the setting up of a tuna cooked plant and fishmeal plant.

ii. The credit line agreement was signed by India's Export-Import Bank (EXIM)'s Chief General Manager **Sudhattaa Mandal** and Maldivian Minister of Finance Ibrahim Ameer.

iii. This extension is a part of **US$800 million** LoC offered by India through Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) carrying an interest rate of 1.75% with repayment tenor of 20 years and a 5-year moratorium.

About Maldives:

Capital– Male

Currency– Maldivian rufiyaa

President– Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

UN's Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond: Around 23.8 Million Children May Drop Out of School Due to the Impacts of COVID-19

i.On 4th August 2020, António Guterres Secretary-General of United Nations**(UN) launched the** report titled **"Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond"** states that around 23.8 million additional children and youths may drop out or not have access to education in 2021 due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.

ii. The Policy brief was built on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation**(UNESCO)**'s data and features recommendations on ways to avoid the emerging disaster.

iii. UNESCO led the drafting of the Policy Brief authored by António Guterres, Secretary-General, which contains the input of 15 organisations.

About United Nations:

Secretary General– António Guterres

Headquarters– New York, United States of America

About UNESCO:

Director General– Audrey Azoulay

Headquarters– Paris, France

BANKING & FINANCE

Airtel Payments Bank partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer "Smart Plan Shop Package Policy"

i.On August 6, 2020, Airtel Payments Bank has entered into a partnership with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer the latter's affordable and newly launched shop insurance product namely "Smart Plan Shop Package Policy" for financial protection of the bank's retailers and merchants.

ii. 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.

iii. The insurance policy has a flexible sum insured option, starting from **Rs 2 lakh up to Rs 25 lakh**.

About Airtel Payments Bank:

Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)– Anubrata Biswas

Headquarter– New Delhi, Delhi

About Bharti AXA General Insurance:

Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)– Sanjeev Srinivasan

Headquarter– Mumbai, Maharashtra

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Global remittances may lose $108.6 bn in 2020: ADB

i.In accordance with the report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) published on August 3, 2020, if the economic impact of Covid-19 persists throughout the year then global remittances may fall by $108.6 billion in 2020.

ii. Migrant workers are in extreme situations while many others are facing scant job security and limited access to social assistance.

iii. In the last three months of the outbreak, global remittances will fall by $108.6 billion in 2020. This is equivalent to an **18.3%** decline from what would have been expected without the impact of Covid-19.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB):

President– Masatsugu Asakawa

Headquarters– Mandaluyong, Philippines

Members– 68 Nations

FutureBrand Index 2020: Reliance Industries Ranked 2nd Biggest Brand;Apple Topped

On 4th August 2020, FutureBrand Index 2020 was released, Reliance Industries Limited **(RIL),** Oil and Gas Company ranked as the Second Biggest Brand for its recognition associated with its growth, innovative products and customer service after Apple which topped the index.

Reliance Industries Limited:

i.Reliance Industries Limited is owned by Mukesh Ambani is one of the companies of the future among Nextera Energy, ASML and other high tech, renewable and ethical organisations.

ii. It is the only Indian Company in the Top 10 and Second Indian organisation on the ranking.

FutureBrand Index 2020:

i.Future Brand Index, the global perception study based on the assessment of the company's performance, reordered the PwC's Global Top 100 Companies which was based on the Market Capitalisations.

ii. Future Brand Index examines the leading firms all over the world and evaluates their growth over the years.

iii. In the Future Brand Index 2020 Samsung is ranked 3rd followed by Nvidia, Moutai, Nike, Microsoft, ASML, PayPal and Netflix in the top 10.

iv. Tata is ranked **65** for its technology business.

Note:

RIL ranked 91st in the PricewaterhouseCoopers**(PwC)** Global Top 100 companies 2020.

Top 3 Companies in FutureBrand Index 2020:

Rank	Company
1	Apple
2	Reliance Industries Limited
3	Samsung

About Reliance Industries Limited(RIL):

Founder Chairman– Dhirubhai Ambani
Chairman & Managing Director(CMD)- Mukesh Ambani
Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Indian Express Journalist Dipankar Ghose and PARI, a Non-Profit Journalism Website Bags Prem Bhatia award 2020

Prem Bhatia award 2020 is conferred upon Indian Express reporter **Dipankar Ghose**– **'Outstanding Political Reporting of The Year 2020'** and People's Archive of Rural India**(PARI)**, a non-profit journalism website – **'Outstanding Environmental Reporting of The Year 2020'**.

- Dipankar Ghose bagged the award for his political reporting on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the migrant labour crisis.
- PARI was awarded for its extensive field reports, including climate change effects and the impact of the pandemic on rural India. It is dedicated to reporting on rural India.

About Prem Bhatia awards

The Prem Bhatia Awards were instituted in 1995 by the Prem Bhatia Memorial Trust, in memory of eminent journalist Prem Bhatia (1911 – 1995).It is given annually.

Outstanding Political Reporting of The Year– Rs 2,00,000 will be given to a journalist who has reported the major political events of the year with objectivity.

Outstanding Environmental Reporting of The Year– Rs 1,50,000 is awarded for the journalist who has shown most promise in reporting on environmental, developmental or social affairs.

Earlier recipients of the award

Earlier recipients of the award include, Raj Chengappa, Neerja Chowdhury, Suhasini Haider, Praveen Swamy, Rajdeep Sardesai and P Sainath among others.

'Moothon' and 'Son Rise' wins awards at 20th edition of New York Indian Film Festival

i.On 2nd August 2020, Malayalam film **'Moothon'** and National Award winning documentary **'Son Rise'** won awards at the **20th edition** of New York Indian Film Festival**(NYIFF)** of Indo-American Arts Council **(IAAC)** which was conducted as a virtual event with the celebrities of the film industries and award winners participating from all across India and the United States.

ii. More than 45 feature length narratives, short and documentaries of India were showcased in the virtual edition of 20th NYIFF held from 24th July 2020 to 2nd August 2020.

About Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC):

Executive Director & President– Sunil Hali

Chairman– Dr. Nirmal K. Mattoo

Headquarters– New York, United States of America

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Manoj Sinha appointed as Lt Governor of J&K; Succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu

i.President of India, Ram Nath Kovind appointed **Manoj Sinha**(61 years old), former union minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader from Uttar Pradesh(UP) as Lieutenant(Lt) Governor of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K), effective from the date he assumes charge.

ii. He succeeds **Girish Chandra Murmu**, the 1st Lt governor of the Union Territory(UT) of J&K who resigned on August 5, 2020.

About J&K:

Capital– Srinagar (summer), Jammu (winter)

Ajay Tyagi, Chairman of SEBI gets Another 18 Months Extension

An order of Department of Personnel Training informed that the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet(ACC), Government of India (GoI), has approved another extension of **Ajay Tyagi**'s term as **Chairman** of Securities and Exchange Board of India**(SEBI)** for **18 months**, with effect from(w.e.f)01.09.2020 up to 28.02.2022 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

- The government had granted a **6-month extension** to him before the expiry of his three-year tenure on March 1, 2020.
- He took charge from his predecessor, U K Sinha, on March 1, 2017.

Note– UK Sinha, who was initially appointed for a three-year term, was also given multiple extensions. He remained in the post for six years from 2011 to 2017.

About Ajay Tyagi

i.He is a 1984 batch IAS officer from Himachal Pradesh cadre.

ii. Prior to his appointment as chairman of SEBI he served as an additional secretary (investment) in the Department of Economic Affairs under the Finance Ministry.

About SEBI:

Headquarter– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Win Trade Fantasy Sports(WTF) appoints Suresh Raina, Harmanpreet Kaur as global brand ambassadors

Indian middle-order batsman Suresh Raina & Indian women's team captain(T20I) Harmanpreet Kaur were appointed as Global brand ambassadors of **Win Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports** . In addition to this, Suresh Raina has also joined the brand as Strategic Partner.

- World Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports is a fantasy sports gaming platform, which was formally launched in India and other parts of the world on 6th August, 2020.
- Users can create their own team made up of real-life players from upcoming matches, score points based on their on-field performance and compete with other fans.
- The app at present hosts Fantasy Cricket, Football and Basketball. It lets users strategize and use their sports knowledge to get rewards.
- The announcement was made through a web conference by co-founders of WTF India and Global Vinit Bhatia, Manit Parikh and Yash Kadakia.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Oman India Joint Investment Fund II Acquired 1.63% stake in DCB Bank

Oman India Joint Investment Fund**(OIJIF) II** acquired 5.07 million (50,69,903) shares or **1.63% stake** in DCB Bank Limited**(DCB Bank)**through a block trade (bulk deal) on stock exchanges. The stake is valued at Rs 42 crore.

- The shares were purchased at an average price of Rs 81.90 valuing the transaction at Rs 41.52 crore.

About OIJIF

OIJIF is a growth capital private equity fund focused on investing in the mid-market segment in India. It receives support from its General Partners, State Bank of India (SBI) and State General Reserve Fund(SGRF) of Oman .

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chief Executive Officer– Srinath Srinivasan

About DCB Bank:

DCB bank, formerly Development Credit Bank is one of the emerging private sector banks in India

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman– Nasser Munjee

Managing Director & CEO– Murali M Natrajan

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian Railways introduces OHE Inspection app for real-time monitoring

Indian Railways has launched an **Overhead Equipment (OHE)** Inspection app which will help in minimizing the train delays and long waits due to technical snags. The app has been rolled out on a Pan India basis.

Features

i.The Overhead Equipment (OHE) app will monitor the overhead wire in real-time and if there are any defects in it, it will alert the Indian Railways.

ii. Global Positioning System (GPS) based tracking of the patrolman.

iii. Real time capturing of Overhead Equipment defects and provision of taking Photographs.

iv. Exception alerts to the Indian Railways.

Towards 100% Punctuality

On 1 July, 2020 for the first time in the history of Indian Railways, 100% punctuality of trains was achieved as 201 trains arrived at their destination at the right time. The previous best was 99.54% on 23rd May, 2020.

Indian Railways

Union Minister for Railways – Piyush Vedprakash Goyal

Railway Board Chairman – V K Yadav

OBITUARY

Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction novelist Shirley Ann Grau died at 91

On august 6, 2020 the famous fiction writer and **Pulitzer Prize-winner**, Shirley Ann Grau, died at the age of **91** due to stroke in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States. She was born on **July 8, 1929** in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States.

About Shirley Ann Grau

i.She wrote **six novels and four short stories** which are all set in the Deep South, from New Orleans to north Louisiana and Alabama.

ii. Her stories and novels express the issues of race and gender at the Deep South. Her first book, The Black Prince was published in 1954, when she was 26.

iii. She was often referred as "**Southern woman writer**" and her works were frequently compared to that of fellow **Southerner Flannery O'Connor.**

Awards

i.Shirley won **the Pulitzer Prize** for her fourth book, "**The Keepers of the House**" in 1965 which speaks about the romance between a wealthy white man and his black housekeeper in rural Alabama which drew critical praise and threatening phone calls.

ii. The Book, "The Black Prince and Other Stories" was nominated for the National Book Award in 1956**.**

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Yatish Yadav's new book 'RAW: A History of India's Covert Operations' offers a peek into the exploits of Indian spymasters

The famous Journalist and Author, **Yatish Yadav** wrote a new book titled, "**RAW** (Research and Analysis Wing): A **History of India's Covert Operations**", narrates the heroic operations carried out by the Indian external spy agency, RAW has been published by Westland Publications and is available in Amazon and other bookstores in India.

About the book:

i.The book narrates the operatives of the Spy agency, and its significant role on national security and long-term secret diplomacy.

ii. The book also gives details of the real spies and reveals the unknown aspects of their life, trauma and temptation, triumphs they faced during their mission.

About RAW

i.RAW was founded by the spymaster Rameshwar Nath Kao, which was established in 1968

ii. The main purpose of RAW is to satisfy the need for increased intelligence that was identified during the **Sino-Indian Border War in 1962** and during **the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965.**

IMPORTANT DAYS

Hiroshima Day 2020 – August 6

i.August 6th of every year is observed as **Hiroshima Day** to mark the world's first atomic bombing on Hiroshima, Japan during World War II which instantly killed more than 70,000 people. The day is to remember the victims of the bombing and to promote world peace and create awareness about the hazards of Nuclear Power and nuclear weapons.

ii.6th August 2020 marks the **75th Anniversary** of Hiroshima Day.

About Japan:

Prime Minister– Shinzō Abe

Capital– Tokyo

Currency– Japanese Yen

UNESCO World Heritage Site– **Genbaku Dome**, one of the few structures left standing in the city center after the bomb

STATE NEWS

Haryana Govt launched Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana & Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana for state's girls & women

i.In order to give a major boost to "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign, on August 5, 2020, state government of Haryana has launched two schemes, with a total outlay of **Rs 256 crore**, viz. launched "Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana" to provide free sanitary napkins to girls and women of below poverty line (BPL) families, and also initiated "Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana" to provide fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder to women and children.

ii. These schemes were launched by Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** through video conferencing.

About Haryana:

Capital– Chandigarh

Governor– Satyadeo Narain Arya

Chhattisgarh govt launched Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahak Samajik Suraksha Yojana for tendu leaves collectors

i.On the occasion of birth anniversary of slain Congress leader Mahendra Karma, i.e. on August 5, 2020, the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister (CM) Bhupesh Baghel launched a social security scheme namely "Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahak Samajik Suraksha Yojana" for tendu leaves collectors in the state covering over 12 lakh families, mostly tribals and forest dwellers.

ii.Tendu leaves: Used for making bidis (leaf-wrapped cigarettes), these are collected by forest dwellers and from them it is purchased by the state government.

iii.Mahendra Karma: He was popularly known as Bastar tiger for his tough stand against Naxals. He was among 29 people, including senior Congress leaders, who were killed in a Naxal attack in Jhiram valley of Bastar district on May 25, 2013.

About Chhattisgarh:

Chief Minister– Bhupesh Baghel

Governor– Anusuiya Uikey

Capital– Raipur

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh launches 'Pride of Punjab' partnership of State Govt, YuWaah for youth development

i.On 5th August 2020, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh launched the 'Pride of Punjab' programme through video conferencing.The programme is a partnership programme between the Department of Youth Services and Sports and YuWaah – a joint initiative of UNICEF, other UN agencies, civil society organisations and the private sector.

ii. The launch was attended by Minister for Department of Sports & Youth Services Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi, United Nations Children's Fund Special Representative for Young people Mr. Ravi Venkatesan, Mr. Abhishek Gupta, Chief Operating Officer YuWaah(Generation Unlimited India) and others.

About Punjab:

Capital – Chandigarh

Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

India's first mobile RT-PCR COVID lab was inaugurated by Karnataka's Medical Education Minister Dr. K Sudhakar in Karnataka

On August 5, 2020 Karnataka's Medical Education Minister **Dr. K Sudhakar** inaugurated India's first Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (**RT- PCR**) COVID-19 mobile Lab approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**). The mobile lab is called the Mobile Infection

Testing and Reporting lab (**MITR**) which was developed by the Indian Institute of Science (**IISC**) in Bengaluru and handed over to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (**RGUHS**) in Bengaluru.

About the lab

i.The lab is capable of producing 100% results within **4 hours** and it can conduct **9000 RT-PCR tests** per month.

ii. The mobile lab can also be used for molecular diagnostic-testing and will be deployed in coronavirus hot spots quickly.

iii. Apart from COVID-19 test, the lab can be used for testing **H1N1, HCV, TB, HPV and HIV** among others.

AC GAZE

Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel launched : Narendra Singh Tomar

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has launched "Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel", a new initiative by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and the guidance videos produced by NCDC on 'Formation and Registration of A Cooperative' also launched in Hindi and regional language of eighteen different states.The headquarters of NCDC is New Delhi.

Foundation Stone of Indian Institute of Management Sirmaur laid: Himachal Pradesh

Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sirmaur at Dhaula kuan in the Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh through Video conference ,along with Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Jai Ram Thakur;Minister of State for Finance Shri Anurag Singh Thakur and Minister of State for Education Shri Sanjay Dhotre.

S.no	Current Affairs 7 August 2020
1	India extended US$18 mn Line of Credit to Maldives for expansion of fishing facilities at MIFCO

2	UN’s Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond: Around 23.8 Million Children May Drop Out of School Due to the Impacts of COVID-19
3	Airtel Payments Bank partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer “Smart Plan Shop Package Policy”
4	Global remittances may lose $108.6 bn in 2020: ADB
5	FutureBrand Index 2020: Reliance Industries Ranked 2nd Biggest Brand after Apple on Top
6	Indian Express Journalist Dipankar Ghose and PARI, a Non-Profit Journalism Website Bags Prem Bhatia award 2020
7	‘Moothon’ and ‘Son Rise’ wins awards at 20th edition of New York Indian Film Festival
8	Manoj Sinha appointed as Lt Governor of J&K; Succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu
9	Ajay Tyagi, Chairman of SEBI gets Another 18 Months Extension
10	Win Trade Fantasy Sports(WTF) appoints Suresh Raina, Harmanpreet Kaur as global brand ambassadors
11	Oman India Joint Investment Fund II Acquired 1.63% stake in DCB Bank
12	Indian Railways introduces OHE Inspection app for real-time monitoring
13	Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction novelist Shirley Ann Grau died at 91
14	Yatish Yadav’s new book ‘RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations’ offers a peek into the exploits of Indian spymasters
15	Hiroshima Day 2020 – August 6
16	Haryana Govt launched Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana & Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana for state’s girls & women
17	Chhattisgarh govt launched Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahak Samajik Suraksha Yojana for tendu leaves collectors

18	Punjab CM Amarinder Singh launches 'Pride of Punjab' partnership of State Govt, YuWaah for youth development
19	India's first mobile RT-PCR COVID lab was inaugurated by Karnatka's Medical Education Minister Dr. K Sudhakar in Karnataka
20	Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel launched : Narendra Singh Tomar
21	Foundation Stone of Indian Institute of Management Sirmaur laid: Himachal Pradesh

Current Affairs 6 August 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated 1st golf course of Mizoram, "Thenzawl Golf Resort" under Swadesh Darshan Scheme

i.Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (Independent charge) Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated the first golf course of Mizoram i.e. "**Thenzawl Golf Resort"** Project, implemented under the **Swadesh Darshan** (SD) Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, from New Delhi.

ii. The Project was constructed by **Edufice Infraservices Private Limited** of New Delhi.

iii. It should be noted that the centre has sanctioned **Rs.92.25 Crore** for development of the North East Circuit at Thenzawl & South Zote, District Serchhip and Reiek, Mizoram out of which an amount of **Rs.64.48 Crore** was sanctioned for various components at Thenzawl including the Golf Course.

iv. The Golf Course at Thenzawl is designed by **Graham Cooke and Associates** of Canada.

About Mizoram:

Chief Minister (CM)– Zoramthanga

Governor– P.S Sreedharan Pillai

eVIN to Strengthen Immunisation Supply Chain, reached 32 States & UTs

i.The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN), which is used for efficient vaccine logistics management has reached 32 States and Union Territories (UTs) and will soon be rolled-out in the remaining State of Sikkim and Union Territories (UTs) of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh and Ladakh.

ii.eVIN provides real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country amid COVID-19.

iii.eVIN is being implemented under the **National Health Mission** (NHM) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

About Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW):

Union Minister– Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Minister of State (MoS)– Ashwini Kumar Choubey

Uttarakhand to develop India's first snow leopard conservation centre in Uttarkashi forests

On August 01, 2020 Chief minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat chaired a meeting along with State forest minister Harak Singh Rawat and other officials to look into the setting up of the conservation centre.

i.The conservation centre is set to come up at a place named **Lanka, near Bhaironghati bridge** in Uttarkashi district.

ii. It will be built by the Uttarakhand forest department along the United Nations Development Programme **(UNDP)** as part of its six-year long project Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems **(SECURE)** Himalayas.

iii. Dutch Conservation Architect Anne Feenstra shared the details of the conservation centre.

iv. The conservation centre is expected to create awareness of the Big Cat among the people.

Snow Leopard in Uttarkhand:-

i.According to several researches, Uttarakhand is home to 86 snow leopards at present.

ii. In Uttarakhand, snow leopards are found in Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, Gangotri National Park, Askot Wildlife Sanctuary and other places of altitude between 3000-4500 meters.

About Snow Leopard:

- According to the World Wild Fund for Nature India (WWF), India is home to 450-500 snow leopards.
- Snow Leopard is listed under Schedule – I of Wildlife Protection Act of India which gives the big cat absolute protection against hunting and poaching .
- It is listed as "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list.

About Uttarakhand:

Capital – Garsain (Summer), Dehradun (Winter)

Chief Minister – Trivendra Singh Rawat

Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

Northern Railway runs the first-ever Vyapar Mala express train for small traders

On August 1, 2020 the Northern Railway ran its first **Vyapar Mala Express train** from Kishanganj in Delhi bound for Jirania in Tripura. It will help small traders to move their cargo in short time, cost effective, convenient and environment-friendly mode of transportation.

The train has 46 wagons and It is an express service where piece-meal stock will reach its destination in a shorter time.

Other facts about the train:

i.The train departed at Kishanganj, Delhi to reach Jirania and It will cover **2673 Km** from Punjab to Tripura.

ii.Wheat was loaded in 34 wagons at Guniana station of Firozpur Division by Food Corporation of India and Rice and Pulses have been loaded in the remaining wagons.

iii.The Railway board has earned more than ₹ **94 lakh** from this Vyapar Mala Express train.

About Northern Railway

Headquarters – New Delhi railway station

Division – Ambala (Haryana), Delhi railway division, Firozpur (Punjab), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh).

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India contributed USD 15.46 mn to India-UN Development Partnership Fund of UNOSSC

i.On August 5, 2020, the Government of India (GoI) has contributed USD 15.46 million to the India-UN (United Nations) Development Partnership Fund as a support to fellow developing nations for their 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related projects.

ii. In this regard, a cheque of USD 15.46 million 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 at a ceremony held within social distancing guidelines at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN.

About United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC):

Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation– Jorge Chediek

Headquarter– New York, United States (US)

BANKING & FINANCE

Aditya Birla Health Insurance Launches New Services and Products for COVID-19

i.Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Limited **(ABHICL)**, the health insurance arm of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, has introduced new **services, product solutions & add-ons** to the existing products.

ii. This will enable customers to safeguard their health during **COVID-19** i.e., from the 1st stage of virus detection to post-recovery phase covering pre and post-hospitalization expenses.

iii.ABHICL to minimise the Initial waiting period from 30 to 15 days for all the policyholders for COVID-19 related Inpatient Hospitalization claims. This offering will be launched for policyholders soon.

About ABHICL

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO– Mayank Bathwal

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Airtel Announced the Multi Year Strategic Collaboration with Amazon to Tap Startups and SME

On 5th August 2020, **Bharti Airtel** announced the multi-year strategic collaboration with **Amazon Web Services(AWS)** to provide a comprehensive set of cloud solutions to the large enterprises and Small and Medium Enterprises**(SME)** customers in India.

About Bharti Airtel Limited:

MD & CEO– Gopal Vittal (India and South Asia)

Headquarters– New Delhi

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

US conducted test flight of unarmed Minuteman 3 missile

i.On August 4, 2020, the United States (US) Air Force conducted a scheduled test launch of an **LGM-30G Minuteman III**, an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) carrying a load of three unarmed reentry vehicles, from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, US to a target in the Pacific Ocean.

ii. Missile's three reentry vehicles traveled 4,200 miles (6,759 kilometers) to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands as part of a developmental test.

iii. Minuteman III, manufactured by Boeing is a long-range, solid-fuel, three-stage ICBM with the capability to carry single or multiple nuclear warheads.

About United States (US):

Capital– Washington, D.C.

Currency– United States Dollar

President– Donald John Trump

CPCB Developed COVID19BWM App to Track Biomedical Waste: Recommended by SC

i.The **Supreme Court (SC)** has made it **mandatory** for all municipal corporations and state pollution control boards to use the **'COVID19BWM App'** to track biomedical waste on a daily basis.

ii. This ensures that the waste is collected, transported and sent to a registered common biomedical waste treatment facility.

iii. The app was developed by the Central Pollution Control Board **(CPCB)** in May 2020 following the

directions from the National Green Tribunal(NGT).

About CPCB

CPCB functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Chairman- Shri Shiv Das Meena, IAS

ENVIRONMENT

New twighopper species named Cladonotus bhaskari after Kerala researcher Dhaneesh Bhaskar

i.After a span of 116 years, a first new species of twighopper, genus Cladonotus Saussure, was discovered from the Sinharaja rainforest of Sri Lanka by Croatian and German researchers.

ii. The interesting fact is that this **cockcomb-shaped** twighopper has been named as Cladonotus bhaskari after **Dhaneesh Bhaskar**, a young conservation biologist and grasshopper expert from Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI).

iii. Notably, this newly discovered species is also the first known female of the genus, and its photograph is the first photo of the member of this genus in the natural habitat.

Polar Bears in Arctic could become extinct by 2100: The Study published in Nature Climate Change

i.The new study of University of Toronto Scarborough published in the journal of Nature Climate Change titled **"Fasting season length sets temporal limits for global polar bear persistence"** on 20th July 2020, states that climate change is starving the polar bears into extinction and concluded that the Polar bears in the Arctic could become extinct by 2100.

ii. Polar bears are listed as vulnerable to extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature **(IUCN),** with climate change a key factor in their decline.

SPORTS

Spanish Footballer Iker Casillas announces retirement at 39

On 4th August, 2020 Spain's World Cup-winning Captain and Goalkeeper Iker Casillas announced his retirement. In 2014, Casillas became one of four players to represent Spain at four World Cups. Iker Casillas was born 20 May 1981 in Móstoles, Spain.

i.As Captain, he helped Spain lift the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and win two successive European Championships in 2008 and 2012.

ii. With 167 International Caps, Casillas has the second most International appearances for Spain.

iii. Casillas has played for Real Madrid for 16 years, winning three champions league titles and five la liga crowns.

iv. He joined Portugese club Porto in 2015 and made 156 appearances winning two Primeira Liga titles and one Portuguese Cup.

Iker Casillas hadn't played for Porto since May last year, after he had a heart attack during a practice session.

Honors:-

i.In 2008, Casillas finished fourth overall in the Ballon d'Or.He was named as the World's best Goalkeeper for a record 5 times by International Federation of Football History & Statistics(IFFHS).

ii.Casillas won the **Yashin Award** (FIFA World Cup Golden Glove) in 2010 World Cup after he kept a joint–record five clean sheets.

iii.He received the Gold Medal of Royal order of Sporting Merit in 2009 and Royal Order of Sports Merit Cross in 2015. The order is intended to recognize distinguished service in sports and physical education, it is awarded by his Majesty the King of Spain.

OBITUARY

Former Maharashtra CM, Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar passed away at 88 in Pune

On August 5, 2020, Senior Congressman and former Maharashtra Chief Minister(CM) **Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar** passed away at the age of 88 in Pune, Maharashtra. He Was born on 1 September 1931 in Nilanga, Hyderabad state (British India).

About Dr. Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar

i.He had served as the **10th Chief Minister of Maharashtra** for a year between 3rd June 1985 and 6th March 1986.

ii. He also served as the member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly several times in the constituency of Nilanga.

iii. He established the **Maharashtra Educational Trus**t in the year **1968.**

About Maharashtra:

Capital – Mumbai

Chief Minister – Uddhav Bal Thackeray

Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Father of Modern Indian theatre & Padma Awardee Ebrahim Alkazi Passed Away at 94

i.The Father of Modern Indian theatre, **Ebrahim Alkazi** passed away at the age of 94 in Escorts Hospital, New Delhi due to a massive heart attack. He was a **theatre director**, drama teacher, and the **longest-serving director** of the National School of Drama**(NSD)** i.e., from 1962 to 1977.

ii. He was credited for **revolutionising India theatre**. He was born on October 18, 1925 in Pune, Maharashtra.

iii. He won the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2010, **Padma Bhushan** in 1991, Padma Shri in 1966.

About Padma Awards

The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

3 categories of the Award: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).

William English, co-creator of computer mouse, passes away aged 91

On July 26, 2020 the co-creator of the mouse, **Mr. William English** died at the age of 91 in California due to respiratory failure. He was born in 1929, Kentucky and studied electrical engineering at university before joining the US Navy.

He built the first mouse in 1963, with the help of the sketches made by **Doug Engelbart** while they were working on early computing.

About his invention

i.The first prototype of the mouse was built at the **Stanford Research Institute** (SRI) which was a wooden block with a single button, two rolling wheels underneath at 90-degree angles that would record vertical and sideways movement.

ii. In 1968, at the San Francisco's Civic auditorium, the mouse was put out to public view with demonstration using a video, and a NASA-owned projector, the size of a car. The demo was later called as "**the mother of all demos.**"

iii. In 1971, English left the Stanford Research Institute and joined Xerox's **Palo Alto Research Centre** (PARC) where he replaced the wheels of the mouse to a **rolling ball.**

iv. English, also created the graphical desktop user interface system which is used by all modern computers.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Union Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat & Smriti Irani Launch the book 'Swachh Bharat Kranti'

On 4th August, 2020 Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat & Union Minister for Textiles and Women & Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani launched the book **'Swachh Bharat Kranti' (Hindi)** in New Delhi.

i.'Swachh Bharat Revolution' which was released in October 2019 has been translated into Hindi and published as "Swachh Bharat Kranti".

ii. It has been edited by Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

iii. The book captures the remarkable journey of Swachh Bharat Mission and looks into the process behind the social revolution.

iv. Swachh Bharat Kranti contains 35 Essays from various stakeholders and contributors of Swachh Bharat Mission who share their perspective of the cleanliness mission.

v.Union Minister Smriti Irani commended the role of women in making the Swachh Bharat Mission, a true Jan Andolan.

About Swachh Bharat Mission:

Swachh Bharat Mission was a country wide campaign to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management.

i.It was launched on 2nd October 2014 at Rajghat, New Delhi by Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi.

- Slogan – One step towards Cleanliness.

ii. The mission was split into two: rural and urban.

In rural areas "SBM – Gramin" financed and monitored through the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

"SBM – urban" is overseen by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Lung Cancer Day 2020: August 1

i.World Lung Cancer Day is observed annually on **August 1** to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer and its global impact, creating an educational movement to understand the risks of lung cancer and early treatment around the world.

ii. The World Lung Cancer Day campaign was initiated in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies**(FIRS)** in collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) and also including the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) in the U.S.

About FIRS

Headquarters– Lausanne, Switzerland

International Plastic Bag Free Day 2020 – July 3

The International Plastic Bag Free Day is a global initiative by the activists from activist associations like **Zero Waste Europe**'s Bag Free World and German Institute of Global and Area Studies **(GAIA)**, observed on **3rd July** every year to create a worldwide awareness about the Plastic pollution and the contribution of the single use plastics to the global catastrophe.

The **first** International Plastic Bag Free Day was observed on **3rd July 2009.**

Background:

The day is dedicated to highlight the critical issues caused by that disposable single use carry bags and to create awareness on the effects of these plastics on nature, marine life and animal life.

Events:

i.To celebrate the International Plastic Bag free Day, more than 2000 organisations from all over the world participates in the **#BreakFreeFromPlastic movement**, global movements to eliminate the use of single-use plastics.

ii. These organisations work on the need for alternative to the disposable plastic bags to reduce the plastic pollution.

Key Points:

i.The plastic bag takes more than 100 to 500 years to completely decompose.

ii. More than 100000 marine lives are affected by the plastic bags.

STATE NEWS

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launched Parivar Pehchan Patras

On 4th August 2020, Manohar Lal Khattar, the Chief Minister of Haryana launched the 'Parivar Pehchan Patras'**(PPP)**, an initiative of the state government developed by the team **CMO** (Chief Minister's Office) for effective and efficient delivery of central and state schemes to the people in a transparent way.

About Haryana:

Chief Minister– Manohar Lal Khattar

Governor– Satyadeo Narain Arya

Capital– Chandigarh

Haryana Minister Anil Vij Launches "Works Management System" Web Portal to its ULBs

On 4th August 2020, Haryana's Urban local bodies and Home Minister Anil Vij launched the first of its kind, **"Works Management System"**, a web-based, paperless and centralised web portal for the management and monitoring of the development works in the Urban Local Bodies**(ULB)** in Haryana.

Key Points:

i.This centralised web portal will bring in all the workings of ULB in Haryana under a single platform and any kind of delay in the completion of works will be displayed on the portal.

ii. The portal will enable transparency and reduce corruption in the state.

iii. The direction for the allotment of development projects in the municipal bodies and the completion of the entire process over online through this portal are provided.

iv. The training for the officers and employees are provided to ensure the seamless functioning of the system.

v.The portal will enable the Chief Minister, Additional Chief Secretary and the Director of the Department to access the progress of the development works on their dashboard and mobile phones.

Andhra Pradesh Government signed an MoU with ISB to drive economic growth of the state

i.On August 5, 2020 the Andhra Pradesh Government virtually signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) through the Economic Development Board, with the Hyderabad-based **Indian School of Business** (ISB) in order to work with various economic departments in the state.

ii. The MoU was signed by theChief Executive (**CEO**) of Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board, **J V N Subramanyam** and ISB Dean **Rajendra Srivastava signed** in the presence of Industries and Commerce Minister **Mekapati Goutham Reddy.**

iii.Objective: To recover the economy and to monitor the growth of the state during the COVID-19 phase.

iv. According to the MoU, a laboratory called "**GoAP-ISB Policy Lab**" would be set up to drive the evidence-based policy decisions.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Capital – Amaravati

Chief Minister – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

About Indian School of Business (ISB)

Chairman of the Board– Harish Manwani

Dean – Rajendra Srivastava

AC GAZE

A device named "AJO-Neo" developed : SNBNCBS

S.N. Bose National Centre For Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata, an autonomous research Institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India,has developed a No-touch & Painless device named **"AJO-Neo"** for non-invasive screening of bilirubin level in new-borns.

KVIC and ITBP sign MoU to supply mustard oil

In a bid to support the "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" initiative, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police(ITBP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to supply mustard oil

Note: ITBP became the first Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) to have supplies from the KVIC.

About KVIC:

Chairman– Vinai Kumar Saxena

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

S.no	Current Affairs 6 August 2020
1	Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated 1st golf course of Mizoram, "Thenzawl Golf Resort"
2	eVIN to Strengthen Immunisation Supply Chain, reached 32 States & UTs
3	Uttarakhand to develop India's first snow leopard conservation centre in Uttarkashi forests
4	Northern Railway runs the first-ever Vyapar Mala express train for small traders
5	India contributed USD 15.46 mn to India-UN Development Partnership Fund of UNOSSC
6	Aditya Birla Health Insurance Launches New Services and Products for COVID-19
7	Airtel Announced the Multi Year Strategic Collaboration with Amazon to Tap Startups and SMB
8	US conducted test flight of unarmed Minuteman 3 missile
9	CPCB Developed COVID19BWM App to Track Biomedical Waste: Recommended by SC
10	New twighopper species named Cladonotus bhaskari after Kerala researcher Dhaneesh Bhaskar
11	Polar Bears in Arctic will become extinct by 2100: The Study published in Nature Climate Change
12	Spanish Footballer Iker Casillas announces retirement at 39
13	Former Maharashtra CM, Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar passed away at 88 in Pune

14	Father of Modern Indian theatre & Padma Awardee Ebrahim Alkazi Passed Away at 94
15	William English, co-creator of computer mouse, passes away aged 91
16	Union Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat & Smriti Irani Launch the book 'Swachh Bharat Kranti'
17	World Lung Cancer Day 2020: August 1
18	International Plastic Bag Free Day 2020 – July 3
19	Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launched Parivar Pehchan Patras
20	Haryana Minister Anil Vij Launches "Works Management System" Web Portal to its ULBs
21	Andhra Pradesh Government signed an MoU with ISB to drive economic growth of the state
22	A device named "AJO-Neo" developed : SNBNCBS
23	KVIC and ITBP sign MoU to supply mustard oil

Current Affairs 5 August 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

MoD releases draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020; aimed at $5 bn export by 2025

i.On August 3, 2020, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) publicized a draft 'Defence Production & Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020 for public feedback by August 17, 2020 after which the policy would be promulgated by the MoD. The policy aims to achieve a manufacturing turnover of $25 bn or **Rs 1,75,000 crore**, including exports of $5 bn or Rs 35,000 Crore in aerospace and defence goods

and services by 2025.

ii. The DPEPP 2020 is MoD's **overarching guiding document** for providing significant thrust to defence production capabilities for self-reliance and exports.

iii. The **Department of Defence Production (DDP)** will be the nodal department for coordination on various components of the DPEPP 2020 and to achieve the objectives set in this Policy.

About Ministry of Defence (MoD):

Union Minister– Rajnath Singh

Minister of State (MoS)– Shripad Yesso Naik

IIT Kanpur and DARPG Sign Agreement With MoD For Using AI, ML to Address Public Grievances

i.On August 04, 2020, A Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between IIT Kanpur, Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public grievances (DAR & PG) to 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.

ii. The project will help the Ministry of Defence to take corrective measures in time, before a problem becomes large.The analysis will help the MoD to determine if more complaints are coming from any specific areas/regions/cities.

Static GK:

Defence Minister of India – Rajnath Singh

Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions – Dr. Jitendra Singh

IIT Kanpur Director – Abhay Karandikar.

Listed entities get 3 years to meet criteria of minimum 25% public shareholding

i.In order to provide more time to the listed entities to meet criteria of minimum public shareholding (MPS) of 25%, the Centre Government has made changes in the **Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957** in rule 19A, in sub-rule (1), where the words "two years" substituted by words **"three years"**.

ii.Eligibility for this relaxation: The rules were relaxed for listed entities for whom the deadline to comply with MPS requirements falls between the period from March 1, 2020 to August 31,

2020.

iii. Stock exchanges will not take any penal action against entities in case of non-compliance during the above mentioned period.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

Chairman– Ajay Tyagi

Headquarter– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Four more States/UTs linked with One Nation One Ration Card scheme; taking total to 24

i.With effect from August 1, 2020, 3 states of Manipur, Nagaland and Uttarakhand, and one Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) have joined the One Nation, One Ration Card (**ONORC**) platform, increasing the total number of states/UTs under this scheme to 24.

ii. This information has been provided by Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan while reviewing the progress of ONORC plan.

iii. The addition of above 4 states/UTs has ensured food security to 65 Crore (80%) of total **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** population for receiving food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in 24 States/UT, under the scheme.

iv. The scheme will be operational all over India by **31st March 2021**.

About Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution:

Ram Vilas Paswan Constituency- Bihar

Minister of State (MoS)– Raosaheb Patil Danve

For the 1st time in India Railways uses NTC machine for track construction

In a boost to the railways' efforts to use technology to ease infrastructure work, for the first time in India, Railway is using New Track Construction (NTC) machine for the entire track laying of the Dedicated Freight Corridors. The projects will be implemented by **Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL)**.

- Currently, there are **seven** NTC machines that have been deployed along the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) alignment. Four NTC machines are deployed in the Eastern DFC viz. Allahabad – New Bhaupur, Allahabad – Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya junction, Bhaupur – Bhadan, Khurja Dadri sections and in Western DFC, three NTC machines are

deployed at Palanpur-Makarpura, Gothangam-Baroda and Anchali-Sachin sections respectively.

- Notably, The Khurja-Dadri section is the connecting link between the Eastern and Western DFCs on which freight trains run at a speed of 100 kmph ensuring fast logistics movement. The project is expected to be completed by **2022**.

Key Features of NTC Machine:

-The NTC machine has the capability to lay **1.5 km** of track per day as compared to 150-200 metres of track.

-The machine helps in bringing efficiency in track construction with integrated logistic arrangements for mechanised handling, movement and laying of heavy track components.

Recent Related News:

In accordance with the initial timeline drawn by the railways, it has planned to roll out 151 private train services by 2027 on 109 pairs of routes across the country. In this regard, Indian Railways is ready to introduce 12 trains in 2022-23, 45 in 2023-2024, 50 in 2025-26 and 44 more in the next fiscal, taking the total number of trains to 151 by the end of FY 2026-2027. There would be **Rs 30,000 crore private sector investment** in this project.

About Indian Railways:

Headquarter– New Delhi

Operated by – Ministry of Railways

Railway Board Chairman– Vinod Kumar Yadav

BANKING & FINANCE

Canara Bank Partnered with 3 insurers to Provide Individual Short-Term Corona Kavach Policy

i.As part of a social commitment to compensate the unprecedented expenses of ordinary people, **Canara bank** has partnered with 3 insurers namely, **New India Assurance Company Ltd**, **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co Ltd** and **HDFC ERGO Health Insurance Co Ltd** to offer individual short-term **Corona Kavach policy** to cover their COVID-19 related health expenses.

ii.Availability- The policy will be available for a maximum period of 9 and half months (or 285 days).

iii.Minimum & Maximum sum Insured- The minimum sum insured is Rs 50,000 and maximum is Rs 5 lakh.

About Canara Bank

Headquarters– Bangalore, Karnataka

Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer(CEO)– L.V. Prabhakar

Tagline– Together We Can

National Bank of Bahrain Selects Infosys Finacle to Digitally Transform its Transaction Banking Business

National Bank of Bahrain**(NBB)** and **Infosys Finacle,** part of EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Infosys, announced that the bank has decided to adopt the **Finacle Cash Management Suite** to digitally transform its transaction banking business.

- This partnership is a part of NBB's digital transformation, with the upgrades provided by the suite to equip the bank with a modern system that will provide simple and seamless service to the clients.

Key Info

NBB will implement the Finacle Liquidity Management platform and upgrade 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.

Key Benefits of Cash Management Suite

i.The front-to-back integrated cash management solution will provide a world-class banking experience to the corporate and institutional customers, thereby driving the growth of our transaction banking business

ii. It will enable NBB manage their customer preferences and entitlements effectively across channels.

About NBB:

Chief executive officer– Jean-Christophe Durand

Headquarters– Manama, Bahrain

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Sunil ydv SS received the Karmaveer Chakra Award of United Nations and iCONGO at ReX ConcLIVE

The **Karmaveer Chakra Award** instituted by the United Nations**(UN)** and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO) was awarded to 23 years old **Sunil Ydv SS**, the founder and CEO

of SS motivation channel on Telegram for his contribution to the society through **"SS Motivation"**, at the ReX ConcLIVE hosted at Indian Institute of Technology- Delhi**(IIT-D)**.

Sunil Ydv SS:

i.Through the SS Motivation channel Sunil addressed various social issues and motivated numerous people.

ii. His channel achieved around 127 million views in 2019, the highest global record obtained by a telegram channel that provides solutions to social issues.

iii. He was enlisted in the Bravo International Book of World Records for having the most number of subscribers on his telegram channel.

Awards:

i.He received Rastra Prerna, Iconic Personality of India, Incredible Indian Icon and Humanitarian Excellence in 2019.

ii. He also received the India Book of Records award for the "Most Popular Motivational Channel."

Book:

He authored the book "The Secrets Behind Success", which emphasized the success mantra of a 23-year-old boy from a small Indian town.

Karmaveer Chakra Award:

i.Karmaveer Chakra is presented as a tribute to Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam, the 11th President of India and recognises nobel laureates.

ii. Karmaveer Chakra award is a global civilian honour presented to recognise the contribution of individuals who showcase their restless courage, initiating change and exploring the less travelled life paths.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

RBI Approved Sashidhar Jagdishan as Next MD & CEO of HDFC Bank; will Succeed Aditya Puri

i.The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has approved **Sashidhar Jagdishan** as the next Managing Director**(MD)** and Chief Executive Officer**(CEO)** of HDFC Bank for a period of 3 years, effective from October 27, 2020 under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

ii. He will succeed **Aditya Puri,** the bank's longest serving CEO(26 years- since September 1994).

iii. Aditya Puri will retire on October 26, 2020, on attaining the age of 70.

About HDFC Bank:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman– Deepak S. Parekh

Tagline– We understand your world

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IIT Madras with Helyxon Developed First of Its Kind Remote Patient Monitoring Solution for COVID-19

i.Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre**(HTIC)** of Indian Institute of Technology Madras **(IIT Madras)** in partnership with Helyxon Healthcare Solutions Private Limited, a healthcare startup in IIT Madras jointly developed a first of its kind remote patient monitoring device for COVID-19.

ii. The device was engineered based on the clinical input to provide a low cost, simple and easy to use device to monitor the patients from anywhere at the hospital or home.

About IIT Madras:

Director– Bhaskar Ramamurthi

Inaugurated– 1959

A health assistant robot "Rakshak" designed by the Mumbai Division of Central Railway

On July 31, 2020 the **Mumbai Division of Central Railway** (CR), designed a health assistant robot "**Rakshak**" that communicates between doctor and patient remotely.

The Robot was developed in-house at **EMU** (Electric Multiple Unit) car shed by **Sunil Bairwa**, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer and his team in Kurla, Mumbai section of the Central Railway.The robot was handed over to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial Hospital.

The main **objective** of building the robot is to avoid spreading of the COVID-19 virus among people.

The Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) **Shalab Goel**, CR Mumbai Division, handed over this robot to **Dr Meera Arora,** Chief Medical Director of the hospital at Byculla at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus.

Features of the "Rakshak"

i.The Robot can measure health parameters like temperature, pulse, oxygen percentage and dispenser sanitizer automatic, infrared sensors.

ii. It can also deliver medicines and food and can make 2-way video communication between the

doctors and the patients.

iii. The Robot can work upto **6 hours** and can carry upto **10 Kilogram** (Kg) of weight in its tray.

iv. It can move in all directions at all levels and has a remote range upto **150 meters** and operates on Wi-Fi and with Android mobile applications.

About Central Railway (CR)

Headquarters – Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Divisions– Mumbai, Bhusaval, Pune, Solapur, and Nagpur

A COVID prevention kiosk named "UV Baggage Bath" inaugurated at Bengaluru railway station

On August 3, 2020 a unique kiosk named "**UV Baggage Bath**" was inaugurated at the Bangalore railway station, South Western Railway, by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru Division, **AN Krishna Reddy** and Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Admin), Bengaluru Division, **Kalyani Sethuraman**.

Objective of the kiosk :- To disinfect the baggage to stop the indirect mode of COVID – 19 transmissions from the outer surfaces of travel bags to the human beings.

The proposal was implemented at KSR (**Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna**) Bengaluru and Yesvantpur Railway stations by **M/s Optimurz Bio and IT Solutions.**

About UV Baggage Bath

i.It is an enclosed chamber through which passenger luggage will be passed. The beamed **Ultra Violet** (UV) light from all directions disinfects the contaminations like virus, bacteria and other germs and pathogens on the outer surface of the baggage.

ii. It has been set up at the second entry (near entrance of Platform Number: 5, 6,7 & 8) of the station to sanitize the luggage of the on-board and off-board passengers.

iii. The sanitized luggage will be handed back to the passenger with a sticker certifying the sanitized luggage.

iv. The optional luggage disinfection process would be available free to the passengers for one month. After a month nominal charges will be collected based on the cost of operation and patronage.

About South Western Railway

Headquarters: Rail Soudha, Gadag Road Hubli Karnataka

Divisions: Hubli, Mysore and Bangalore

OBITUARY

Nobel Peace Prize Winner John Hume Passed Away at 83

The **Nobel Peace Prize winner**(1998) and prominent Northern Ireland politician **John Hume** passed away at **83** in a Londonderry nursing home due to a long period of illness on August 3, 2020.He was born on January 8, 1937 in Derry(Londonderry), Northern Ireland(a part of the United Kingdom- UK).He is the only person to receive the three major peace awards(Gandhi Peace Prize, Nobel Peace Prize & Martin Luther King Award).

Key Info about John Hume

i.John Hume was the founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970 and led the party from 1979 until 2001.

ii. He shared the Nobel Peace Prize with **David Trimble** of the Ulster Unionist Party(UUP) for their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland.

iii. They played a major role to create the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, which ended the violent conflict in Northern Ireland by bringing unionists and Irish republicans into a power-sharing government.

Few Honors- International Gandhi Peace Prize, 2001; Golden Doves for Peace Journalistic Prize, 1997; Martin Luther King Peace Award, 1999.

Padma Bhushan Awardee & Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor Ram D Pradhan passes away

On July 31, 2020 Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor and Veteran Bureaucrat Ramachandra Dattatraya Pradhan (R.D.Pradhan) passed away at the age of 92 in Mumbai. He was born on 27th June, 1928.

He joined as IAS officer in the erstwhile Bombay State in 1952. He has served positions in Gujarat, Maharashtra also. He has held the position of Home Secretary & Chief Secretary of Maharashtra.

Positions held:

- Governor of Arunachal Pradesh – March 1987 – March 1990.
- Home Secretary of India – January 1985 – June 1986.
- India's Resident Representative in Geneva to UNCTAD and GATT : 12 years
- International civil servant : 5 years
- He also won a seat in Maharashtra Legislative Council in June 1990 on a Congress ticket.
- On 1st May, 1960 he joined Y B Chavan, Chief Minister of the newly formed state of Maharashtra, as his private secretary.

- He was appointed as Maharashtra's Home Secretary in March 1977.

Awards

- R D Pradhan is a recipient of **Padma Bhushan**, third highest civilian award of India in 1987.

Notable Achievements

- He was chairman of the High-level Enquiry Commission for November 26, 2008 Mumbai Terror Attacks.
- One of the chief architects in drafting of peace accords in Punjab, Assam and Mizoram.
- He has authored several books and is a prolific writer. Some of his books are **"Working with Rajiv Gandhi", "1965 War, the Inside Story: Defence Minister Y.B. Chavan's Diary of India-Pakistan War"**

STATE NEWS

Government of AP Signs MoU with Hindustan Unilever Ltd, P&G and ITC to Support Economic Empowerment of Women

i.On 3rd August 2020, The state government of Andhra Pradesh**(AP)** signs a memorandum of Understanding**(MoU)** with three International **FMCG** (Fast-moving consumer goods) companies- Hindustan Unilever Ltd **(HUL)**, ITC ltd., and Procter and Gamble **(P&G)** to provide marketing and technological support for the economic empowerment of the women and to make them self-reliant.
ii.AP is set to launch two schemes **YSR Cheyutha** and **YSR Asara** to support the empowerment of women.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Chief Minister– Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

Governor– Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

Capital– Amaravati

DNHDD Launched E-Gyan Mitra Mobile Application for Online Education

The Education department of Daman Administration launched the **E-Gyan Mitra** mobile application developed by the administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu **(DNHDD)** to support students for their online education of the Union Territory of DNH and DD .

E-Gyan Mitra:

i.The application provides a platform for online classes, where the teachers can post the videos of lectures and conduct tests for the students from primary to higher secondary classes.

ii. Using the mobile application the teachers can monitor the progress of the students who are at home amid COVID-19 pandemic.

iii. The application supports multiple languages – English, Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi.

About Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu(DNHDD):

Administrator– Praful Patel

Capital– Daman

AC GAZE

Two-day international webinar on 'Lokmanya Tilak – Swaraj to Self-Reliant India': ICCR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated a two-day international webinar on the theme of 'Lokmanya Tilak – Swaraj to Self-reliant India' in New Delhi,which was organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations(ICCR) on the 100th death anniversary of the great freedom fighter Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak(August 1, 2020).

Axis Bank unveils AXAA ,an AI powered conversational banking IVR

Axis Bank has partnered Bengaluru startup Vernacular.ai,an AI-based SaaS voice automation platform,to deploy multi-lingual BOT **AXAA** on its phone banking Interactive voice response (IVR) which helps to increase automation in customer service.

About Axis Bank:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer– Amitabh Chaudhry

S.no	Current Affairs 5 August 2020
1	MoD releases draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020; aimed at $5 bn export by 2025
2	IIT Kanpur and DAR & PG sign agreement with MoD for using AI, ML to address grievances

3	Listed entities get 3 years to meet criteria of minimum 25% public shareholding
4	Four more States/UTs linked with One Nation One Ration Card scheme; taking total to 24
5	For the 1st time in India Railways uses NTC machine for track construction
6	Canara Bank Partnered with 3 insurers to Provide Individual Short-Term Corona Kavach Policy
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10	IIT Madras with Helyxon Developed First of Its Kind Remote Patient Monitoring Solution for COVID-19
11	A health assistant robot "Rakshak" designed by the Mumbai Division of Central Railway
12	A COVID prevention kiosk named "UV Baggage Bath" inaugurated at Bengaluru railway station
13	Nobel Peace Prize Winner John Hume Passed Away at 83
14	Padma Bhushan Awardee & Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor Ram D Pradhan passes away
15	Government of AP Signs MoU with Hindustan Unilever Ltd, P&G and ITC to Support Economic Empowerment of Women
16	DNHDD Launched E-Gyan Mitra Mobile Application for Online Education
17	Two-day international webinar on 'Lokmanya Tilak – Swaraj to Self-Reliant India': ICCR
18	Axis Bank unveils AXAA ,an AI powered conversational banking IVR

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Nitin Gadkari Approves the Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanribhar Mission Proposed by KVIC to Generate Employment and Achieve Aatmanribhar Bharat

On 2nd August 2020, Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises**(MSME),** approved the Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanribhar Mission proposed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission**(KVIC)** to increase the production of Agarbatti (incense sticks) and to generate employment and to achieve the self-reliant India in the production of agarbatti.

About Ministry of MSME:

Union Minister– Nitin Jairam Gadkari

Minister of State– Pratap Chandra Sarangi

Harsh Vardhan launched largest network of 5 dedicated COVID-19 Biorepositories; 1st Pan-India 1000 Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 Completed

i.On 1st August 2020, Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare announced the completion of 1st Pan-India 1000 Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2. He reviewed the COVID-19 activities of Department of Biotechnology**(DBT)**, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council **(BIRAC)** and DBT-Autonomous Institutions **(AIs)** in the meeting with **DBT.**

ii. He also launched the establishment of Five COVID-19 Bio Repositories by the DBT at Faridabad, Bhubaneshwar, New Delhi, Pune and Bangalore

About Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW):

Union Minister– Harsh Vardhan

Minister of State– Ashwini Kumar Choubey

Largest ever Online Hackathon in the World -4th edition of Smart India Hackathon 2020 Launched by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Virtually

i.On August 1, 2020 Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Grand Finale of 4th edition of Smart India Hackathon-SIH (Software) 2020, largest ever online Hackathon in the world and interacted with the participants through video conference.

ii. Union Minister for Education, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the Grand Finale virtually in New Delhi.

iii. The Grand Finale was conducted online from 1st to 3rd August, 2020 over a specially-built advanced platform.

iv. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' chaired a high-level meeting on Smart India Hackathon on On July 27, 2020

Static

Chairman, SIH 2020– Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe(Chairman of AICTE)

Chairman, Executive Committee of SIH– Abhay Jere(CIO of Ministry of Education)

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launches 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21'

On August 01, 2020 Union Minister for Ministry of Science and Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan, a national level programme for popularizing pure science among **school students of Class 6th to 11th** .

ii. Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan is an initiative to identify and nurture students who are interested in the field of science and to identify bright minds with a scientific aptitude among the student community.

iii. It is an initiative of **Vijnana Bharathi (VIBHA)** in collaboration with **Vigyan Prasar**, Government of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) an institution under the Ministry of Education(formerly known as Ministry of Human Resource Development).

About Organisers:

- Vijnana Bharathi (**VIBHA)** is a national movement for propagation and popularization of Science & Technology among the students and masses.

- Vigyan Prasar (**VP**) is a national institute for science and technology communication established in 1989 under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- National Council of Educational Research & Training (**NCERT**) was set up by the Government of India in 1961, to assist and advise the state and central governments on academic matters related to school education.

BANKING & FINANCE

BOB Financial Solutions Partnered with Innoviti Payment to launch the New Credit Card EMI offering on POS Terminal

i.BOB Financial Solutions Limited partnered with **Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd** to launch the New Credit Card Equated Monthly Installments**(EMI) offering** on Point of Sale**(POS)** terminals.

ii. The association of Bank of Baroda(BOB) Credit Card with Innoviti Payment Solutions will enable BOB credit card holders to access EMIs that can be repaid **conveniently** through their credit cards.

iii. The Bank of Baroda credit cardholders pan India can receive the service from over 70,000 Innoviti POS terminals across more than 1,000 cities.

About Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd:

Registered office– Bangalore, Karnataka

CEO– Rajeev Agrawal

About BOB

Headquarters– Alkapuri, Baroda(Vadodara)

Managing Director & CEO– Sanjiv Chadha

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

IFSCA Set Up Expert Committee headed by Pradip Shah to Suggest Ways to Develop of International Retail Businesses

On 4th August 2020, The International Financial Services Centres Authority **(IFSCA)** announced the establishment of an expert committee **headed** by **Pradip Shah,** Chairman of Indasia Fund Advisors Pvt Ltd. to suggest ways to enhance International Retail Business in International Financial Services Centres **(IFSC).**

About IFSCA:

Established through International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019.

Chairman– Injeti Srinivas

Headquarters– Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Mohamed Irfaan Ali becomes the President of Guyana

On August 2, 2020 Former Guyanese housing minister **Mohamed Irfaan Ali**(40 years old)became the President of the country after he was declared as the winner of the disputed March 2, 2020 general election following a recount. 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)
- 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.

Background

i.David A. Granger declared victory days after the March vote, but the opposition stated that the results from the largest voting district had been inflated in favor of him, who served as the president since 2015.

ii. The country's top court found that the district had not counted votes in accordance with electoral laws.

Note- Preliminary recount data released in June, 2020 showed that Mohamed Irfaan Ali had won the initial poll.

About Guyana(officially the Co-operative Republic of Guyana)

Capital– Georgetown

Currency- Guyanese Dollar(GYD)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

UNICEF & ADB funds for Thermal screening at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

Hyderabad's **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport** has received a mass fever screening system to enhance the screening process of passengers. There are two more scanners in the Airport.

About the Scanner:-

- The thermal scanner is a ceiling mounted one and is capable of scanning, detecting and tracking persons having fever or showing symptoms of fever and also persons with high skin temperature.
- The scanner automatically adapts to the room temperature without any human intervention.
- It has dual displays, day camera and infrared system.

Funding Agency:-=

- The thermal scanner has been provided by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in coordination with Asian Development Bank funded by the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**.
- Apart from domestic flights, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport has also been handling international relief flights under Government's "Vande Bharat Mission". It has handled around 40,000 international passengers during the COVID -19 pandemic.

About Telangana:

Capital – Hyderabad

Chief Minister – K. Chandrashekar Rao

Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

SPORTS

Mercedes Lewis Hamilton Won British Grand Prix 2020;Created Record by winning the British Grand Prix title for 7th Time

On August 2, 2020 Formula One Champion Mercedes **Lewis Hamilton**(British) won **British Grand Prix**(GP) **2020**(officially known as the Formula 1 Pirelli British Grand Prix 2020) held at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom(UK). By this win, he created record by winning the British Grand Prix title **7th time**.He is the only racer to **win most** in British GP.

- Lewis Hamilton won this title despite a puncture on his last lap. He is a six-time Formula One World Champion.
- With this victory, Lewis Hamilton won 87 GP and is 4 short of ferrari Michael Schumacher's all-time record of 91

Key Info

i.Red Bull's Max Verstappen(Dutch) came second and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished third followed by Renault's Daniel Ricciardo.

ii. Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas was at second spot after Lewis Hamilton until the tyre deflated on lap 50 yet he finished 11th.

iii. McLaren's Carlos Sainz had been set to finish fourth, but due to his tyre issue he finished 13th.

Note– There is another race at Silverstone to be held.

About UK:

Capital– London

Currency– Pound sterling

Central Government gave nod to Indian Premier League 2020 in UAE

The Central Government has given the go ahead for 13th edition of Indian Premier League to be rescheduled in the United Arab Emirates from **September 19 to November 10, 2020**. The Board of Control for Cricket in India has got "verbal clearance" from the Government and will receive the official letter in a day or two.

Key Points:

- The squad size of each franchise is capped at 24 players.
- **Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah** will be the three venues of the tournament. No spectators to be allowed in the initial phase of the tournament.
- Final will be held on November 10, 2020, which will be the first-ever weekday final in the history of the tournament.
- **Women's T20 Challenge (Challenger series)** to be held from November 1 to 10.
- No call on Chinese Sponsorships taken, the BCCI has decided to stick with the present sponsorships.

OBITUARY

Former Samajwadi party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Amar Singh dies at 64 in Singapore

On August 1, 2020 former Samajwadi party leader and Rajya Sabha **MP** (Member of Parliament) Amar Singh, had passed away at the age 64, in Singapore due to Kidney ailments. He was born on January 27, 1956 at Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh. He had gone through kidney transplant in the year

2011.

About Amar Singh:

Political Carrier

i.He was the general secretary of the Samajwadi Party and was later expelled from the party by its chief, **Mulayam Singh Yadav**, on 2nd February 2010.

ii. Amar Singh was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time from Uttar Pradesh in **1996**.

iii. He became a key-figure during Manmohan Singh's 10-year government between **2004 and 2014.**

iv. From **5th July 2016 to 1st August 2020**, he was re-elected as the member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha. (**Constituency**: Uttar Pradesh) (**preceded** by Ambeth Rajan)

v.In **2015**, a book by an American author claimed that Amar Singh contributed between USD 1 million and USD 5 million to the Clinton Foundation in 2008 which stood as a huge controversy.

About Rajya Sabha

Chairman – Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu

Leader of the House – Thawar Chand Gehlot (since 11th June 2019)

Leader of the Opposition – Ghulam Nabi Azad (since 8th June 2014)

Symbol – Emblem of India.

Minister of Technical Education of U.P, Kamal Rani Varun died at the age of 62

Minister of Technical Education of Uttar Pradesh, Kamala Rani Varun had passed away at the age of 62 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh due to the infection of COVID-19. She was born on 3 May, 1958 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. She had been admitted in the hospital on July 18,2020 after testing positive on COVID-19 virus at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.She belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

About Kamala Rani:

Political career

i.Kamal Rani served as the Member of Legislative Assembly, Uttar Pradesh from 11 March 2017 to 2nd August 2020. (**Constituency**: Ghatampur) (**Preceding**: Indrajeet Kori)

ii. Also she was the only women **Minister of Technical Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh** from 21st August 2017 to 2nd August 2020.

iii. She also served as the Member of Parliament, Lok sabha from the year 1996 to 1999 (**Preceded** – Keshari Lal Kureel; **Succeeded** – Pyare Lal Sankhwar) (**Constituency** – Ghatampur).She served as Member of Parliament in the 11th and 12th Lok Sabha.

iv. During her tenure as a Member of Parliament, she served on advisory committees regarding labour, welfare, industry, women empowerment, official language and tourism departments.

Former AP Minister P Manikyala Rao died at 59 due to COVID-19

On August 1, 2020 **Former** Andhra Pradesh**(AP) Minister** Pydikondala**(P) Manikyala Rao** passed away at the age 59 due to **COVID-19** infection in a private hospital in Vijayawada, AP. He was a Senior BJP leader. He was born on November 1, 1961 at AP.He belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

- He was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Thadepalligudem of West Godavari district(May 2014 – May 2019) and served as the Endowment Minister in Chandrababu Naidu's cabinet between 2014-2018.

About AP:

Chief Minister– YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Governor– Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar Released a Book Titled "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata" Authored by State Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary

On August 2, 2020 Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** 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.

- The book is compiled and edited by senior journalist Arvind Sharma and its preface has been written by another senior journalist Vinod Bandhu.

Essence of the Book

i.The book also reflects the different aspects of the author's personality.

ii. It mentions various developmental works in different sectors and welfare measures taken by the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar.

iii. It states about the special bonding between the author and CM.

iv. It has described various other important activities of assembly like, successful completion of 6th

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region among others.

Note– As the book contains 3 dozen articles, the readers especially politicians and law students will benefit and be able to enhance their knowledge about politics, society and Constitution

About Bihar:

Capital– Patna

Governor– Phagu Chauhan

"Vishesh: Code to Win":Biography of India's youngest Basketball captain, Vishesh Bhriguvanshi authored by Nirupama Yadav to be released

A book titled, "**Vishesh: Code to Win**" written by the sportswoman-turned-author **Nirupama Yadav** is expected to be put out for the public view on August 29, 2020, the National Sports day. The book is the biography of India's Youngest Basketball Captain, Vishesh Bhriguvanshi and will be published by the Bluerose publishers.

About the book

i.The Book narrates the journey of a young Indian basketball captain, Vishesh Bhriguvanshi, becoming the captain of the team in a cricket-dominated nation.

ii. The objective of the book is to encourage the sports industry to focus more on developing games in India like cricket so that the players get their due recognition.

About Vishesh Bhriguvanshi

i.Vishesh a 29 year old player from Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi has been playing basketball for the team Indian since 2007 and has a 15 years of career now.

ii. He was first awarded the captainship of the Indian team in 2010.

iii. He represented India at various championships — Asian Games (2), Asian Championships (5), Beach Asian Games (3), Indoor Asian Games (2), South Asian Games (2) and South Asian Championships (7).

iv. In 2017 he became the first Indian to be signed by Australia's **National Basketball League** (NBL).

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Sanskrit Day 2020 – August 3

i.The World Sanskrit Day which is also known as Sanskrit Diwas or Vishvasamskritadinam is celebrated all over the world on the Shravana Poornima, full moon day of the hindu month Shravana, the day promotes the revival of the ancient Indian language and speaks about the importance of learning and knowing Sanskrit Language.

ii. The World Sanskrit Day 2020 is celebrated on 3rd August 2020.

About University Grants Commission (UGC):

Chairman– Prof. D. P. Singh

Location– New Delhi

First Muslim Women Rights Day Observed on August 1 2020

i.On 1st August 2020, Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi informed that country observed the first anniversary of the passage of **Muslim Women Act (**Protection on Rights on Marriage Act) on **1st August 2019** which against the act of triple talaq or talaq-e-biddat and help to achieve gender equality for Muslim women as **Muslim Women Rights Day.**

ii.1st August 2020 was recorded as the first Muslim Women Rights Day across India.

About Ministry of Minority Affairs:

Union Minister– Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

Minister of State– Kiren Rijiju

STATE NEWS

Andhra Pradesh CM Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy launched cybercrime awareness programme 'E-Raksha Bandhan'

i.On August 3, 2020, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, **Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy** launched a one-month long virtual cybercrime awareness programme '**E-Raksha Bandhan**' in Amaravati.

ii. The **Aim** of the Programme is to create awareness among women, youth and children on Cyber Crimes across the state.

iii. It is organized by the Andhra Pradesh Police, CID, FM Radio, Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (**CCPWC**), Cyber Peace Foundation (**CPF**) and other organisations.

About Andhra Pradesh

Capital – Amaravati

Chief Minister – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

Governor – Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

Government of Rajasthan Approves 5% Reservation in Judicial Service for MBC

i.On 2nd August 2020, The Government of Rajasthan approved the 5% reservations to the More Backward Classes**(MBC)** in the state judicial service.

ii. The Rajasthan government amended the Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules 2010 through the cabinet of Rajasthan on the initiative of Ashok Gehlot, chief Minister of Rajasthan to provide 5% reservation in the state judicial service

About Rajasthan:

Chief Minister– Ashok Gehlot

Governor– Kalraj Mishra

Capital– Jaipur

Rajesh Kumar appointed as Manipur Chief Secretary

Dr. **Rajesh Kumar,** IAS has been appointed as the next Chief Secretary of the state of Manipur by Manipur Governor Najma Heptullah The current Chief Secretary J.Suresh Babu who retired on 31st July, 2020.

- Rajesh Kumar is a 1988 batch IAS officer of Manipur Cadre.
- Prior to this, he was serving as Additional Chief Secretary (finance) of Manipur.
- He was ranked 10th among the Manipur cadre officers of 1998 batch.

Students' long-pending demand :

- Student Bodies of Manipur reminded the Manipur Government of their long-pending demand for appointment of native IAS officers as New Chief Secretary.
- In 2018 various student organisations held a peaceful rally demanding appointment of native IAS officers as CS of Manipur. The All Tribal Students' Union Manipur (**ATSUM**), Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur (**DESAM**), Apunba Ireipakki Maheiroi

Sinpanglup (**AIMS**) has demanded that a native officer amongst senior most IAS officers of the same batch in the state be given a chance as new chief secretary

- A six-point MoU was signed between the state government and student organisations.

About Manipur:

Chief Minister – N. Biren Singh

Capital – Imphal

Governor – Najma Heptulla.

AC GAZE

India withdraws from Women's World Team Squash Championship 2020

Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has withdrawn from the Women's World Team Squash Championship 2020 ,due to lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of athletes, which is scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from December 15 to 20,2020.

About SRFI:

President – Debendranath Sarangi.

Headquarter – Chennai,Tamil Nadu.

S.no	Current Affairs 4 August 2020
1	Nitin Gadkari Approves the Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanribhar Mission Proposed by KVIC to Generate Employment and Achieve Aatmanribhar Bharat
2	Union Minister of Health, Harsh Vardhan: Completion of Pan-India 1000 Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2
3	Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon (Software) 2020 Launched by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Virtually
4	Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launches 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21'
5	BOB Financial Solutions Partnered with Innoviti Payment to launch the New Credit Card EMI offering on POS Terminal
6	IFSCA Set Up Expert Committee headed by Pradip Shah to Suggest Ways to Develop of International Retail

	Businesses
7	Mohamed Irfaan Ali becomes the President of Guyana
8	Rajiv Gandhi International Airport gets additional Thermal screening system
9	Formula One Champion, Mercedes Lewis Hamilton Won British Grand Prix 2020; won this title for 7th Time
10	Central Government gave nod to Indian Premier League 2020 in UAE
11	Former Samajwadi party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Amar Singh dies at 64 in Singapore
12	Minister of Technical Education of U.P, Kamal Rani Varun died at the age of 62
13	Former AP Minister P Manikyala Rao died at 59 due to COVID-19
14	Bihar CM Nitish Kumar Released a Book Titled "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata" Authored by State Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary
15	A book, titled "Vishesh: Code to Win" authored by sportswoman-turned-author Nirupama Yadav: published by Bluerose
16	World Sanskrit Day 2020 – August 3
17	First Muslim Women Rights Day Obeserved on August 1 2020
18	Andhra Pradesh CM Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy launched cybercrime awareness programme 'E-Raksha Bandhan'
19	Government of Rajasthan Approves 5% Reservation in Judicial Service for MBC
20	Rajesh Kumar appointed as Manipur Chief Secretary
21	India withdraws from Women's World Team Squash Championship 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Nitin Gadkari inaugurated upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge in Bihar

i.On July 31, 2020, as a part of the renovation of the Mahatma Gandhi Bridge/Setu over river Ganga in Bihar, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) Nitin Jairam Gadkari virtually inaugurated its upstream carriageway. This means the two lanes are completed of the 4-lane bridge which is being renovated at a cost of **Rs 1,742 crore**.

ii. During the inauguration ceremony, a new 5 km long, 4-lane Bridge over river Ganga in parallel to MG Setu, was also announced by Nitin Gadkari to facilitate movement of ships under it. With an outlay of Rs 2,926.42 crore, it will get completed by 2024.

About Bihar:

Capital– Patna

Governor– Phagu Chauhan

Narendra Singh Tomar Released Booklet on 'Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme'

i.Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, released a booklet on 'Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme **(DILRMP)**'.

ii. It is prepared by the Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development based on the presentations made by states during regional and national workshops since inception of the programme.

iii. This book is a collection of different best practices that focus on addressing various issues, challenges, and threats to the implementation of DILRMP.

About DILRMP

The Cabinet on August 8, 2008 gave approval for the merger of the schemes, Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) & Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA&ULR) into a modified Scheme named DILRMP.

MSME launched programme under "Gramodyog Vikas Yojana" to benefit artisans manufacturing Agarbatti

i.On July 30, 2020, Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME) approved a programme under "Gramodyog Vikas Yojana" for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of Agarbatti and to develop village industry. As a part of programme, a total of 200 Automatic Agarbatti making machines and 40 Mixing machines will be provided to the artisans.

ii. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the M/o MSME, will provide training, and assist artisans with Agarbatti manufacturing machines.

About Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises:

Union Minister– Nitin Jairam Gadkari (Constituency- Nagpur, Maharashtra)

Minister of State (MoS)– Pratap Chandra Sarangi

About Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC):

Chairman– Vinai Kumar Saxena

Headquarter– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Hardeep Singh Puri launched ARHCs Knowledge Pack, Awaas App & E-Commerce Portal of NAREDCO

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Hardeep Singh Puri** released the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes Pack through Video Conferencing on July 31, 2020.He also launched the mobile application of Credai – Awaas App and an E-Commerce Portal, "HousingforAll.com" of NAREDCO.

Note – On July 08, 2020 Union Cabinet approved ARHC as a sub scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The scheme is estimated to benefit 3.5 Lakh people.

Objective

i.To provide dignified and affordable rental accommodation to the urban poor and migrant workers.

ii. The imposition of lockdown saw massive reverse migration of workers across the country, this scheme aims to provide an affordable living space for people in need.

Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Launches India Report – Digital Education June 2020 prepared by Digital Education Division of MHRD

i.On 28th July 2020, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Union Minister for Human Resource Development(HRD) launched the compilation India Report – Digital Education June 2020 prepared by the Digital Education Division of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in consultation with Education Departments of States and UTs.

ii. The report highlights the methods adopted by the MHRD and the Education Department of States and Union Territories**(UT)** to ensure the accessibility to education for the children at home.

About Ministry of Education(MoE):

The Ministry of Human Resource Development**(MHRD)** was renamed as the **Ministry of Education(MoE)** on 29th July 2020.

Union Minister– Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'

Minister of State– Sanjay Dhotre.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India & UK tie up for new 8 Million Pounds Medicinal Research

On 28th July 2020, Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, The Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth announced funding and tie up between the United Kingdom**(UK)** and India for **five new medicinal research** projects **worth 8 million pounds** (around Rs.78 crore) to tackle the anti-microbial resistance to support the combat against antibiotic resistant bacteria and genes during his 'virtual visit' to India.

About United Kingdom(UK):

Prime Minister– Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson

Capital– London

Currency– Pound sterling

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

66th SKOCH Summit Awards: Ministry of Tribal Affairs receives SKOCH Gold Award for "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes"

i.On 30th July 2020, The SKOCH Awards were presented over a virtual platform at the 66th SKOCH Summit at New Delhi. The 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition was entitled as "India Responds to COVID Through Digital Governance" and the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs(MoTA)** participated in the "Digital India & E-Governance" 2020 competition.

ii.SKOCH Gold Award was presented to MoTA for its project of Scholarship Division – "**Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes**".

About SKOCH:

Chairman– Sameer Kochhar

Head Office– Gurgaon, Haryana

About Ministry of Tribal Affairs:

Union Minister– Arjun Munda

Minister of State– Renuka Singh Saruta

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India, Israel Collaborated to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds

i.Experts from **India** and **Israel** have collaborated to develop **rapid testing for COVID-19** in **under 30 seconds** by merging the technological expertise of Israel with Indian development and production capabilities.

ii. They have started to conduct trials at a special testing site at Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya (RML) Hospital on a large sample of patients for 4 different kinds of technologies namely, Voice test, Breath analyser test, Isothermal testing and Polyamino acid testing.

About Israel:

Capital– Jerusalem

Currency– Israeli Shekel

SPORTS

German Footballer Benedikt Howedes retires at 32

On July 31, 2020, German footballer Benedikt Howedes retired.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.

Key Points:

i.Benedikt Howedes has played 44 times for German National Team from 2011-17.

ii. In September 2007, German Football Association honored him with the Fritz Walter Medal, under-19 Gold Medal which is given to the best youth players.

iii. He has played for clubs Schalke 04, Juventus and Lokomotiv Moscow.

iv. He played for the youth team at Schalke and then for the senior's club from 2007-18. He spent an injury-troubled loan spell in Juventus in 2017-18.

v.The defender was last playing for Lokomotiv Moscow in Russian League and left it by mutual consent after the league was called-off due to coronavirus.

OBITUARY

Sahitya Akademi Awardee Sa. Kandasamy passed away at 81 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

On July 31, 2020, the famous writer and documentary Filmmaker **Sa. Kandasamy** passed away at the age 81, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu due to heart ailments. He was born in **1940**, Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu. He won the **Sahitya Akademi award** for his Novel '**Visaranai Commission**.'

About Sa. Kandasamy

Career

- He started his career in the year **1968** with the publication of his novel, **Chayavanam / Sayavanam** later listed by the **National Book Trust** as a masterpiece in modern Indian Literature.

- In his writings, he attributed the style to his deep learning of **Sangam literature.**
- He was granted a fellowship by the **Lalit Kala Akademi of the government of Tamil Nadu** in **1995** for his contribution toward the development of art.
- He had written at least 7 novels and 11 short stories in his lifetime.
- Kandasamy was inspired by Rachel Carson's book 'Silent Spring' and the global environment movement.

His works

i.His documentary film on **Kaaval deivangal** by Doordarshan won the first prize at the **Angino Film Festival, Nicosia, Cyprus in 1989.**

ii. His work, **Oru Thakkaiyin Meethu Naangu Kangal** (Four eyes on a float) explains the generation gap which was later made into a short film by director **Vasanth.**

iii. He also shot a documentary on **Prapanchan**.

iv.A novel '**Tholaindhu ponavargal**' written by him, was made into a television serial.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

'Greenlights' the debut book authored by Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey

'Greenlights' the debut book authored by Oscar-winning actor **Matthew McConaughey** published by **Crown Publishing Group** is set to be released on **20th October 2020**. The book was described as "not a traditional memoir but a playbook" based on the adventures and life experiences of McConaughey.

McConaughey describes 'Greenlights' as an album, a record and the story of his life and he shared his anecdotes, poems and life lessons in this book.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Breastfeeding Week 2020 – Aug 1-7

i.World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated annually in the **first week of August** (from 1st of August to 7th of August) around **120** countries in the World. The day is celebrated to encourage breastfeeding and improve the babies' health around the world.

ii. The theme for the year 2020 is, "**Support Breast feeding for a healthier planet".**

iii. The day commenced after signing the **Innocenti Declaration in August 1990.**

About WABA

Headquarters – Penang, Malaysia

Chairperson – Felicity Savage

About UNICEF

Headquarters – New York, United States

Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore

STATE NEWS

AP Governor cleared three State-capital Bills and CRDA Repeal Bills 2020

i.On July 31, 2020, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh (AP) Biswa Bhusan Harichandan gave his assent to the **Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions** and **Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) Repeal Bills – 2020**.

ii. The clearance of the decentralisation Bill facilitates the development of Amaravati, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam as the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Capitals respectively.

iii. On the other hand, the repeal (revoke) of the CRDA paves the way for the formation of the Amaravati Metropolitan Region Development Authority.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Chief Minister- Jagan Mohan Reddy

State Tree- Neem tree

State Flower- Jasmine

State Animal- Blackbuck

State Bird- Rose-ringed parrot

Jitendra Singh Laid Foundation Stones Virtually & E- Inaugurated Various Construction Works under PMGSY-II in J&K

Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State-MoS (Independent Charge), Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and

Space **laid foundation stones** virtually and **e-inaugurated** various construction works being undertaken under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana **(PMGSY)-II** in Jammu and Kashmir**(J&K)**.

28 roads under PMGSY-II to be constructed

The project includes construction of 28 roads under PMGSY-II in different parts of J&K at a cost of around Rs 175 crore.

About PMGSY:

Launched – 25th December, 2000 by Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Objective– to provide all-weather access to unconnected habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy.

Implementation– The Ministry of Rural Development and state governments

Madhya Pradesh launched "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" public awareness campaign from August 1-15

Madhya Pradesh Urban Development and Housing Minister Shri Bhupendra Singh launched a public awareness campaign "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" from August 1-15.

Highlights:

- "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" – means ***one mask, many lives***.
- The Scheme will spread awareness about wearing masks as prevention from Covid-19 infection.
- Establishment of Mask Banks, where people can donate masks which in turn will be distributed free to poor people.
- Citizens can also donate masks through NGOs in every district/urban body.
- The Donations can be in the form of masks or funds which will be used to stitch masks through self-help groups.
- The awareness will be spread through announcements, posters and pamphlets.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Chief Minister – Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor – Anandiben Patel (Governor of Uttar Pradesh given as additional charge as Governor of Madhya Pradesh).

Maharashtra Govt. Approved MagNet project worth Around Rs 1,000 crore to Help Farmers; 70% funded by ADB

The **Maharashtra** government approved the Maharashtra Agribusiness Network **(MagNet) project** worth about **Rs 1,000 crore**(USD 142.9 million). The project aims to help farmers across all districts in the state for the next 6 years. This will boost the fruit and vegetable production and will improve processing and minimise the losses in the sector of perishables.

- **70%** of the project cost (i.e.700 crores) will be funded by Asian Development Bank**(ADB)** while the rest of **30%** cost (300 crores) is funded by the **state** government.
- The Maharashtra State Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee in a release informed that the **MagNet project incentives** will be given to small and marginal farmers considering the losses of fruits and vegetables at different stages and in view of growing demand of fruits and vegetables in coming years.

About Maharashtra

Capital– Mumbai

Governor– Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Chief Minister- Uddhav Thackeray

About ADB:

Headquarters- Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippine

President-Masatsugu Asakawa

Recent Related News:

i.ADB & India signs USD 177 million loan for road improvements in Maharashtra.

ii.ADB approves USD 346 mn loan for Maharashtra to electrify rural agriculture customers

Haryana's Forest department used drone for aerial seeding to increase green cover in Aravallis

In order to improve green cover in the inaccessible Aravalli area of Haryana's Faridabad district, the Haryana forest department has used drone technology to shower 50,000 seeds pallets covered with a mixture of clay and compost. This 'seeding drone' is designed by an Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur backed startup.

- Species whose seeds were disseminated included Peepal, Pilkhan, Amaltash, Bael Patra, Pahari Papri, Ronjh and Khairi.

Key Points:

-This exercise of showering seeds from drone was held between July 18-29, 2020 and covered Haryana's four districts of Faridabad, Yamunanagar, Panchkula, and Mahendergarh.

Nearly **five lakh** seeds dispersed in these districts.

-The project is being taken up on a pilot basis in order to regenerate low vegetation density sites

which are hard to access.

Recent Related News:

On 23rd June 2020, The **Government of Haryana** under the Chief Minister's **Distance Education Programme** signed an agreement with **Reliance Jio TV** to benefit around 52 lakh rural students during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, our channels of **EDUSAT** can be accessed for free of cost which will be available on the Jio platform.

About Haryana:

Chief Minister– Manohar Lal Khattar

Governor– Satyadev Narayan Arya

Capital– Chandigarh

AC GAZE

Bollywood action director Parvez Khan passes away at 55

Bollywood action director Parvez Khan has passed away at the age of 55 years due to massive heart attack who is known for his work in Andhadhun, Johnny Gaddaar and Bullett Raja and also worked with Filmmaker Hansal Mehta in the National Award-winning 2013 drama "Shahid".

Pawan Hans launches Helicopter service in UttaraKhand:UDAN scheme

Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) has launched helicopter service on the Dehradun-New Tehri-Srinagar-Gauchar route in UttaraKhand under the Central government's regional connectivity scheme UDAN(Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik).

S.no	Current Affairs 2 & 3 August 2020
1	Nitin Gadkari inaugurated upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge in Bihar
2	Narendra Singh Tomar Released Booklet on 'Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme'
3	M /o MSME launched programme under "Gramodyog Vikas Yojana" to benefit artisans manufacturing Agarbatti

4	Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launches ARHCs Knowledge Pack and Launches mobile app of CREDAI
5	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Launches India Report – Digital Education June 2020 prepared by Department of School Education & Literacy
6	India & UK tie up for new 8 Million Pounds Medicinal Research
7	66th SKOCH Summit Awards: Ministry of Tribal Affairs receives SKOCH Gold Award for "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes"
8	India, Israel Collaborated to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds
9	German Footballer Benedikt Howedes retires at 32
10	Sahitya Akademi Awardee Sa. Kandasamy passed away at 81 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
11	'Greenlights' the debut book authored by Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey
12	World Breastfeeding Week 2020 – Aug 1-7
13	AP Governor cleared three State-capital Bills and CRDA Repeal Bills 2020
14	Jitendra Singh Laid Foundation Stones Virtually & E- Inaugurated Various Construction Works under PMGSY-II in J&K
15	Madhya Pradesh launched "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" public awareness campaign from August 1-15
16	Maharashtra Govt. Approved MagNet project worth Around Rs 1,000 crore to Help Farmers; 70% funded by ADB
17	Haryana's Forest department used drone for aerial seeding to increase green cover in Aravallis
18	Bollywood action director Parvez Khan passes away at 55
19	Pawan Hans launches Helicopter service in UttaraKhand:UDAN scheme