



# Weekly Current Affairs

13-19 July 2020

make  exam

Download India's No. 1  
Competitive Exam Preparation App



## NATIONAL NEWS

### **1. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launches CAPFs nationwide tree plantation drive**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah yesterday launched the Central Armed Police Forces-CAPFs nationwide tree plantation drive. Under this drive, saplings were planted by the jawans of Central Armed Police Forces in Chhattisgarh. The personnel of BSF, CRPF, ITBP and CISF - deployed in Chhattisgarh for Anti-Naxal operations, planted saplings in their respective campuses as well as in their places of deployment.
- The Inspector General of Border Security Force, J.S.N.D. Prasad said that by planting saplings, paramilitary forces are also playing their role in preserving and promoting the environment as well as to check the pollution and save the Earth.

### **2. MP govt to run 'Roko -Toko' campaign for those who do not wear masks**

- Madhya Pradesh will now run a Roko -Toko means stop campaign for those who do not wear masks. Now selected voluntary organizations will provide masks to the people who do not wear masks in public places and will charge an amount of Rs 20 per mask from the concerned.
- The selected organizations will be provided 100 masks created under 'Jeevan Shakti Yojana' on credit. On sale of the mask, the organizations will pay the concerned urban body at the rate of Rs 11 per mask.

### **3. 206th birth anniversary of Nepali poet Bhanu Bhakta Acharya celebrated in Sikkim**

- The 206th birth anniversary of Nepali poet Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya or Bhanu Jayanti is being celebrated in Sikkim.
- Bhanu bhakta Acharya was born in Nepal's Tanahu district.
- Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya laid the foundation of Nepali literature and is revered as a significant literary figure in Nepali communities.
- He is credited for translating the Ramayana from Sanskrit to Nepali, thereby making it understandable for a wide range of Nepali speaking communities globally

### **4. Sachin Pilot removed as Rajasthan Deputy CM**

- Sachin Pilot was removed as the Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan on July 14, 2020. The announcement was made by senior Congress leader and the party's national spokesperson, Randeep Singh Surjewala.
- Sachin Pilot has also been removed as the Rajasthan Congress Committee Chief. Congress leader Govind Singh Dotasra has been appointed in his place as the new Rajasthan PCC Chief.
- Randeep Singh Surjewala claimed that Sachin Pilot and some of his associates have been swayed by the ruling party and are now conspiring to bring down the Congress government in Rajasthan. He called the move unacceptable.

### **5. Govt aims to increase public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025**

- The Union Health Ministry has pushed for an increased expenditure on public health.
- In a meeting with the 15th Finance Commission, the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, highlighted that the government aims at gradually increasing the public health expenditure to 2.5 per cent of the nation's GDP by the year 2025.

- The Minister asserted that the outlay for primary health expenditure will also be made nearly two third of the total public health expenditure in the country.

#### **6. Income Tax Department launches tool for Banks and Post Offices to ensure TDS rates on cash withdrawals**

- The Income Tax Department on July 12 launched a new tool for the banks and post offices that will ensure tax deduction at source (TDS) on the cash withdrawals beyond the threshold.
- With the help of the tool, post offices and banks will be able to ascertain the TDS applicability rates on the cash withdrawals of above Rs. 20 lakh in case a person is a non-filer of the income tax return and that of above Rs. 1 crore in case of a filer of Income-tax return.
- On the launch of the tool, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) informed that so far more than 53 thousand verification requests have been executed successfully on this facility.

#### **7. PM Narendra Modi to virtually address ECOSOC on United Nation's 75th anniversary on July 17**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually give a keynote address at the valedictory session of the High-level Segment of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) on July 17 in New York. The session will be on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.
- This has been considered as an important development, as the address will be PM Modi's first speech at the UN after India's elections to the Security Council. The PM will be joined by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Norway PM Erna Solberg.
- The theme of the High-Level Segment which is held annually by ECOSOC is "Multilateralism after COVID 19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary". PM Modi had earlier delivered his address at the 70th anniversary of ECOSOC on January 22, 2016.

#### **8. Union HRD minister launches World's Most Affordable COVID-19 kit "COROSURE"**

- On July 15, 2020, the Union Minister of Human Resource and Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishnak launched world's most affordable COVID-19 kit. The kit was developed by IIT Delhi.
- The kit called "COROSURE" has been billed as the world's most affordable RT-PCR based COVID-19 diagnostic kit. The base price of the kit is Rs 399.
- Around 10 companies have been given licenses to manufacture the kit. The technology of preparing the kit is to be transferred to the companies by IIT Delhi.

#### **9. Shipping Minister Mandaviya reviews development activities of India's first trans-shipment hub in Cochin port, Kerala**

- On July 15, 2020, the Minister of State for Shipping Shri Manasukh Mandaviya reviewed the development activities of Vallarpadam terminal at Cochin. The terminal accommodates India's first trans-shipment hub.
- A Trans-Shipments Hub handles containers and stores them temporarily. Later it transfers them to other ships for onward destination.
- The Vallarpadam terminal of Cochin sea port where the hub is located is the most preferred gateway for South India and also a leading trans-shipment hub for South Asia.

### **10. 8.9% of the world's population, went hungry in 2019: UN's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 Report**

- In accordance with the United Nations'(UN) annual report “The state of food security and nutrition in the world- Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets”, nearly 690 million people, or 8.9% of the world's population, went hungry in 2019, an increase of 10 million since 2018 and of nearly 60 million since 2014. The report warned that the COVID-19 pandemic may add an additional 83 to 132 million people to the ranks of the undernourished in 2020.
- The number of hungry people worldwide has been slowly rising and if this trend continues, the number of undernourished people will exceed 840 million by 2030.

### **11. Ministry of Ayush announced the names of the winners of My Life-My Yoga Video blogging contest**

- Ministry of AYUSH announced the names of the winners of the video blogging contest ‘My Life, My Yoga’. This global contest on the digital platform was jointly hosted by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). The event was launched on 31 May 2020 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of the 6th International Day of Yoga.
- The contest was held in six categories- Professional, Adult (above 18 years) and Youth (under 18) with Male and Female contestants considered separately. A total of 35141 entries were received from India and nearly 2000 entries were received from other countries. The entries of other countries are being evaluated by the respective Indian Missions.
- The first winners in the professional category are Ashwath Hegde (male) and Rajni Gehlot (female). Rajpal Singh Arya and Shailee Prasad are first in adult (above 18 years) category and Pranay Sharma and Navyaa.S.H are first in youth (under 18 years) category.

### **12. India's Only Golden Tiger 'KAZI 106F' spotted in Kaziranga National Park**

- ‘Kazi 106F’, described as the country's only Golden Tiger, has emerged as the social media sensation right after its picture tweeted by an IFS officer went viral.
- Kazi 106 F, the tigress, resides in world heritage Kaziranga National Park of Assam. It is also known as ‘Tabby tiger’ or ‘Strawberry tiger’.The skin of tigers is orange-yellow with black stripes and whitish abdominal region.
- The yellowish background is controlled by a set of ‘agouti genes’ and their alleles and the black colour stripes are controlled by ‘tabby genes’ and their alleles. Suppression of any of these genes may lead to colour variation in tiger.

### **13. Hand sanitisers are essential commodity but will attract 18% GST**

- Even as the government classifies hand sanitisers as an essential commodity, it will attract a 18 per cent GST on them. The Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) has said that a GST of 18 per cent will be levied on all alcohol-based hand sanitisers.
- Merely classifying any goods as an essential commodity will not be the criteria for exempting such goods from GST, the AAR ruling added.
- Essential Commodities are goods that are considered essential to maintain a minimum acceptable standard of living.

### **14. WHO advises 140 tests per day per million population of COVID-19**



- The World Health Organization released its Guidance Note on Public Health Criteria to adjust Public Health and Social Measures. Under the guidance note, the organization advised comprehensive surveillance for suspected cases.
- WHO advises that a country has to conduct 140 COVID-19 tests per day per million population. With the various coordinated efforts made by the Centre and the States/UTs, 22 States/UTs in India are already conducting 140 and more tests per day per million.
- With 865 labs in the government sector and 358 private labs, the total number of testing labs is 1223, as on date. In addition to the gold standard for a test, RT PCR, TrueNat and CBNAAT are also used to augment this facility. During the last 24 hours, 3,20,161 samples have been tested. The testing per million for India is consistently rising. Today it has touched 8994.7.

### **15. Indian Railways' 1st cable-stayed rail bridge "Anji Khad bridge" being constructed in J&K**

- Indian Railways' Anji Khad Bridge Project is a big milestone for a better and more connected India. The country's "first cable-stayed" Indian Railways bridge, the magnificent Anji Khad Bridge will soon connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The ambitious project of Indian Railways is being constructed with superior technology and engineering excellence. The country's first cable-stayed railway bridge is being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, which is a Government of India undertaking.
- The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

### **16. India emerged as among top ten nations in intellectual property filings**

- As per World Intellectual Property Indicators-2019 Report, India has emerged as the top tenth nation in the ranking of the total (resident and abroad) Intellectual Property (IP) filing activity. With government push to schemes like 'Make in India', 'Skill India' and now 'Atma-nirbhar Bharat', IP Filing and grant activity is likely to increase.
- Industry 4.0 is witnessing new inventions and breakthroughs as it faces challenges in providing the right environment to stimulate innovation, especially in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. IP-intensive industries have been identified as an important and integral part of a country's economy and account for more jobs and a larger share of its GDP.
- The National IPR Policy, launched in May 2016, to promote strong IP regime in the country encourages innovation to achieve Country's industrial and economic development goals. This will provide an efficient IP ecosystem and build up pace of industrial growth in the country.

### **17. There will be no postal ballot facilities to electors above 65 years in Bihar Polls**

- The Election Commission will not be extending postal ballot facilities to electors above 65 years of age in the Bihar assembly poll and other bye-elections.
- The facility of optional postal ballot will be extended to electors who are above 80 years of age, voters with physical disabilities, electors engaged in essential services and those who are COVID-19 positive or are in quarantine (home or institutional) in these elections. The limit the number of voters to be served by each polling station to 1,000, for the ease and safety of voters in Covid-19 situation.
- The 1,000 voter-limitation had increased the total number of polling stations in Bihar to 1.06 lakh, a rise of 34,000, which would require deployment of 1.8 lakh more polling personnel and other additional resources including vehicles.

### 18. Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission addressed by the Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal virtually addressed the opening session of Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing. The session will hold a two-day event. It will include digital conferences, trade fairs, and Business-to-Business service (B2B) meetings.
- The Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing will offer a unique platform for India and Italy to explore partnership opportunities. This Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing is expected to start a new digital journey and pave the way for a closer connection between the food processing ecosystems of the two countries. The Mission comes as many food processing companies are attempting to diversify and expand their product line-up. The move aims to expand its global outreach.

### 19. Odisha Government to include Transgenders under Madhu Babu Pension Scheme

- On July 18, 2020, Odisha Government announced that transgenders are to be included under MadhuBabu Pension Yojana.
- Madhu Babu Pension Yojana is a social security scheme that was launched in the state of Odisha. Under the scheme, around 5,000 transgenders are to receive Rs 500, Rs 700 and Rs 900 per month as pension. The women currently fighting in divorce cases are also to be brought under the scheme.
- The scheme was launched in the state of Odisha in 2008. It is a merger of two pension schemes namely Revised Old Age Pension Rules, 1989 and Disability Pension Rules, 1985. Under the scheme, the state government will provide pension to the state beneficiaries. This includes persons with disabilities, widows and now transgenders have been included.

**BANK & SSC ALL EXAMS**

**IBPS | SBI | RBI (Pre + Main)**  
**CGL | CPO | CHSL (All Tiers)**

**New Batch Starting from 20th July**



**₹3999/-**

### 20. India to launch 5 portals to promote Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

- Government of India announced that five portals are being developed by different organizations to promote innovation in India. This will help boost AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

- The portals being developed are for specific sectors and are as follows
- BHEL for power sector
- CMFTI for manufacturing sector
- HMT for machine tools
- ICAT and ARAI for automotive sector.
- The portals were launched to bring the problem solvers and solution seekers together. The portal will focus on academia, industry, research institute, startups and experts.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **1. Russia becomes first nation to complete human trials of Coronavirus vaccine**

- Russia has become the first nation to successfully complete the human trials of COVID vaccine. Russia's COVID vaccine has proven to be effective, as per the results of the trials.
- Chief Researcher Elena Smolyarchuk informed on July 12, 2020 that the human trials of Russia's COVID vaccine have been completed and the volunteers will be discharged soon. Smolyarchuk is the head of Center for Clinical Research on Medications at Russia's Sechenov University.
- Smolyarchuk confirmed that the research has been completed and it proved that the vaccine was safe. The first group of volunteers is expected to be discharged on July 15, while the second group will be discharged on July 20.

### **2. Iran drops India from Chahbahar Rail Project due to delay in funding**

- India has been dropped out from the construction of a railway line from Chahbahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, as the Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction on its own.
- The agreement was signed by Iran and India four years ago to build a railway line. As per the Iranian government, the decision has been taken because of the delay in funding and the start of the project from the Indian government.
- Mohammad Eslami, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister has already inaugurated the track laying process for Chahbahar-Zahedan line which will be of 628 km. The line will be extended to Zaranj across the border in Afghanistan.

### **3. Nepal's Prime Minister claimed that Real Ayodhya is in Nepal not in India and accused India over cultural Encroachment**

- On the occasion of Bhanu Jayanti, Nepal's Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli attended an event organized at his residence in Kathmandu in which he has now accused India of Cultural Encroachment.
- According to Nepal's Prime Minister's Knowledge, India has manipulated the history, Lord Rama was Nepali, Not Indian, and the Ayodhya City in which Lord Rama was born is a part of Nepal's Parsa district's Birgunj city.
- He has further added that the holy place where King Dashrath had executed the rites to get the son and the Balmiki Asharam is also in Nepal.

### **4. UK bans its companies from sourcing 5G equipment from Chinese telecom company Huawei**

- The UK has banned its companies from sourcing 5G equipment from Chinese telecom company Huawei. The move comes despite Beijing's threat to retaliate to any such action by Britain.

- The new guidelines require the British telecom operators to remove all 5G-related equipment, supplied by the Chinese company, from their infrastructure by 2027.
- The cumulative cost of the actions against the Chinese telecom giant would come to around £2 billion.

### **5. South American country Suriname elects Indian-origin ‘Chan’ Santokhi as President**

- South American country Suriname brought an end to dictatorial rule by electing a new President Chan Santokhi. Santokhi is an Indian-origin former police chief, who won a landslide victory in the election that took place in May this year.
- 61-year-old Santokhi belongs to the Progressive Reform Party and sworn in as President on July 16. Santokhi was the sole nomination for President of Suriname.

### **6. Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Barack Obama's twitter accounts hacked in Bitcoin scam**

- The Twitter accounts of some of the world's top business magnates, politicians and celebrities were hacked in an alleged Bitcoin scam. Some of the accounts include those of former US President Barack Obama, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, Democratic US Presidential nominee Joe Biden, Apple's Mike Bloomberg, and Celebrities Kim Kardashian and Kayne West.
- The unidentified hackers broke into these verified twitter accounts and posted fake tweets that offered \$2,000 for every \$1,000 sent to an anonymous Bitcoin address. The tweets were taken down immediately after the account owners informed that they were not posted by them. Twitter Support tweeted saying that they are aware of the security incident and they are investigating the matter and are taking steps to fix it.
- Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey also tweeted saying that is a tough day for all at Twitter and they feel terrible this happened. Dorsey assured that twitter is diagnosing the problem and will share everything when they have a more complete understanding of exactly what happened.

### **7. India and Bhutan opened a new trade route between Jaigon in West Bengal and Pasakha in Bhutan.**

- On July 16, 2020, India and Bhutan opened a new trade route between Jaigon in West Bengal and Pasakha in Bhutan.
- The land route will help to move industrial raw materials and goods destined for Pasakha Industrial Estate. The route will help boost trade and commerce and will lead to decongestion of vehicular traffic.
- India had recently proposed to build road in Yeti territory of Bhutan which China claimed recently. The road will also help India access Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh quickly. The road will reduce distance between Guwahati and Tawang by 150 kilometres. China claims Tawang to gain absolute control over Tibet.

### **8. India-Israel sign agreements to expand cooperation on Cyber Security**

- India and Israel signed agreements to expand their collaboration in dealing with cyber threats. The agreement was signed between Director General of Israel's National Cyber Directorate (INCD) and India's Ambassador to Israel Sanjeev Singla.
- The agreement also involved Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) that operates under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and INCD. The agreement will expand the scope of exchange of information between the countries on cyber threats.



- The agreement lays down cooperation in capacity building and mutual exchange of best practices in the field.

### **9. India forms “Air travel Bubble” with US, UK, UAE, Germany and France**

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced that India is to resume operation of international commercial flights with France and US. The Government of India has signed agreements with US, UK, France and countries in UAE. Negotiations with Germany is in its final stages. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has planned to bring down the air travel charges by 25%.
- Under the agreements signed with the countries, United Airlines and Delta are to operation from the US. The Air France is to operate from France. No UK based airlines are to operate to India. Rather, Air India will fly to UK. Lufthansa of Germany will operate from Germany. Under the agreements signed with the countries, United Airlines and Delta are to operate from the US.
- According to the agreement signed, India is to allow only overseas citizens, Indian nationals and card holders and a certain category of people with business and diplomatic visas. People with valid tourist visa will not be allowed to enter India by the flights being scheduled.

### **10. Tunisia’s Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh resigns**

- Tunisian Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh resigned. Ennahdha had earlier tabled a no-confidence motion against Fakh fakh, who took office in February after winning approval from lawmakers following four months of deadlock.
- He is currently under investigation over allegations of conflict of interest of owning shares in companies that had received public contracts.

### **11. UN designates Pakistan Taliban Commander Noor Wali Mehsud as global terrorist**

- The United Nations on July 16, 2020 designated Pakistan-based terror group, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan's leader, Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, as a global terrorist.
- The Security Council Committee in pursuant to resolutions concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals and entities has approved the addition of Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud’s name to the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List.
- Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud has been listed in pursuant resolution 2368 (2017) for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of, or in support of" entities associated with Al-Qaida.

### **12. Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda appointed as Gabon’s First Woman Prime Minister**

- Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon appointed Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda(56), as the First Women Prime Minister of Gabon succeeding Julien Nkoghe Bekale. She is the sixth Prime Minister under Bongo’s Presidency since 2009.
- Raponda is an economist in public finance from Gabonese Institute of Economy and Finance.
- Raponda has served as Budget Minister since 2012. She was elected as First Woman Mayor of Libreville (Capital of Gabon), from Bongo’s Gabonese Democratic Party in 2014.

**BANK ALL EXAMS**

**IBPS | SBI | RBI**  
**Pre + Main Exams**

**New Batch Starting from 20th July**

**LIVE COURSE**

**₹3499/-**

### **New Appointments and Person in News**

#### **1. Dr. Vidhu P. Nair appointed India's next Ambassador to Turkmenistan**

- Dr. Vidhu P. Nair has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan.
- Dr Nair, who is a 2002 batch IFS officer, is presently Director in the External Affairs Ministry.
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

#### **2. BCCI appoints Hemang Amin as its interim CEO**

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Hemang Amin as the interim CEO of the board. The announcement was made on July 13, 2020.
- The BCCI's made announcement after former CEO Rahul Johri's resignation was accepted by the board. The board employees have been informed about the arrangement.
- Hemang Amin was serving as BCCI's IPL Chief operating officer. Amin's appointment to the post is only for the interim period. The BCCI is expected to appoint the next CEO of the board in the next 8-12 months.

#### **3. ADB appoints Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa as its new Vice President**

- On July 15, 2020, Ashok Lavasa was appointed as the vice president of Asian Development Bank.
- Ashok Lavasa, a 1980 batch retired IAS officer was serving as the Election Commissioner and is next in line to become Chief Election Commissioner. He has now been appointed as Vice President of ADB for Public-Private Partnerships and Private Sector Operations.
- Lavasa would be the second election commissioner to step down from the poll panel before the completion of his term. Similar stepping down occurred in 1973 with Chief Election Commissioner Nagendra Singh. He was appointed as judge in the International Court of Justice at the Hague.
- Lavassa is to succeed Diwakar Gupta whose term ends on August 31.

### **BANKING**

## 1. RBI Approves reappointment of Shyam Srinivasan as the MD & CEO of Federal Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) approved the reappointment of ShyamSrinivasan as the managing Director and Chief Executive officer of Federal bank Limited with effect from September 23, 2020 till September 22, 2021.
- Under Regulation 30 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), RBI approved the reappointment of Shyam after the completion of the current term which ends on 22nd September 2020, along with the remuneration proposed by the Federal Bank.

## Books and Awards

### 1. His Holiness Dalai Lama's biography to release in 2020

- A new biography on the life and times of Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness Dalai Lama, will be released this year.
- Titled 'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography', the book is written by Tenzin Geyche Tethong and will be published by Roli Books.
- It will also be published in other languages including Russian, German, Italian, Dutch.
- Tenzin Geyche Tethong has been associated with the Dalai Lama for over four decades as his close aide and advisor.
- The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso is the current Dalai Lama.
- He now lives in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, fled from Tibet and came to India at the age of 23.
- His teachings of peace and non-violence and freedom has won him the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in the year 1989.

### 2. Ruskin Bond's new book will mark 70 years of his writing journey

- Ruskin Bond's new book, A Song of India is all set to release in July this year.
- Published by Puffin Books, the book is set in 1951, and traces the beginning of Bond's writing career.
- The illustrated book will mark the 70th year of the author's writing journey.
- It was in England where Bond worked on his first book 'The Room on the Roof' and realised his true calling of becoming a writer.
- The new book is the fourth installment in his memoir series after "Looking for the Rainbow" (2017), "Till the Clouds Roll By" (2017) and "Coming Round the Mountain" (2019).

### 3. Gurbux Singh, Palash Nandi to be conferred with prestigious Mohun Bagan Ratna

- Indian hockey great Gurbux Singh and former Bengal cricketer and coach Palash Nandi will be conferred with the prestigious Mohun Bagan Ratna this year.
- Last year Keshav Datt became the first sportsperson from a non-footballing background to get the award.
- The awards are given on July 29 every year which is celebrated as Mohun Bagan Day.
- July 29 was the date of Bagan's IFA Shield triumph in 1911 when they defeated East Yorkshire Regiment 2-1.

### 4. Pema Khandu releases book "The Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh"

- The book titled ‘The Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh’ was released by Arunachal Chief Minister PemaKhandu.
- The Tangams are a little-known community within the larger Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh and reside in the hamlet of Kugging in Upper Siang district’s Paindem circle.
- Tangams are now concentrated in only one village (Kugging), with 253 reported speakers.
- As per the UNESCO World Atlas of Endangered Languages (2009), Tangam — an oral language that belongs to the Tani group, under the greater Tibeto-Burman language family — is marked ‘critically endangered’.

#### **5. Kate Winslet to receive TIFF Tribute Award during Toronto film festival**

- The Toronto International Film Festival(TIFF), announced that Kate Winslet will be receiving the 2020 TIFF Tribute Actor Award at the virtual event of the 45th edition of TIFF.
- Kate will receive the honour in the virtual gala on 15th September 2020, following her film, Francis Lee’s Ammonite in which she played a fossil hunter Mary Anning.
- Kate Winslet debuted in the film Heavenly Creatures directed by Peter Jackson. She was known for her role as Rose DeWitt in James Cameron’s Titanic (1997).She won the Oscar for the best actress for the film The Reader.
- She received multiple Golden Globes for her movies like Revolutionary Road, Mildred Pierce and Steve jobs.

#### **6. ISRO Chief K Sivan named as the Recipient of 2020 Von Karman Award**

- The International Academy of Astronautics(IAA) has announced Dr.Kailasavadivoo Sivan, Chief of Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO) as the recipient of the 2020 Von Karman Award, the highest distinction of the IAA. The award will be presented to Dr. K. Sivan in March 2021 at Paris.
- The premier award of IAA was instituted in 1982 in the memory of Dr. Theodore Von Karman, renowned aerospace scientist and the founder and the first President of IAA.
- The Award is annually presented to recognise the distinguished contributions and lifetime achievements in any branch of science.

### **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

#### **1. Indian Army to order second batch of 72,000 assault rifles from US**

- The Indian Army has decided to place another order for 72,000 Sig 716 assault rifles from the United States. This will be the second batch of rifles being ordered from the US, as the first lot comprising 72000 rifles has already been delivered to the Army.
- The first batch of American assault rifles will be used by the troops in Northern Command and other operational areas.
- According to defence sources, the Army has decided to place an order for 72000 more of such rifles under the emergency financial powers granted by the centre to the armed forces amid India’s ongoing border dispute with China.

#### **2. IIT Kanpur develops UV sanitizing device 'SHUDDH' to make room COVID free**

- Due to Covid Pandemic People are nowadays afraid of touching anything around, specifically in the areas where masses have to come. To solve this problem Imagineering Laboratory department of IIT Kanpur has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product named SHUDDH.



- Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper that is SHUDH has six UV lights of 15 Watts each that can be individually monitored from a distance.
- Initial testing has proved that the device at its full operation can disinfect a 10x10 squared feet room in about 15 minutes.
- SHUDH can assist in killing the spread of corona virus at the highly prone places such as hospitals, hotels, malls, offices and schools.

### **3. Indian Army to acquire ‘Raven’ and ‘Spike Firefly’ UAV’s for reconnaissance missions**

- Talks on sharpening the infantry of the Indian Army continues as the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is likely to acquire the remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle- Raven from the United States and Israel’s Spike Firefly.
- As per media reports, procurement of 200 pieces of Aero Vironment RQ-11 Raven and talks for purchase of Israeli flying ammunition- Spike Firefly is in advance level.
- The RQ-11 Raven is a remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle that is launched with hand. It is manufactured by Aero Vironment (U.S. California based Defence Contractor).
- RQ-11 Raven can fly up to an altitude of 500 feet from the ground level with a speed of between 45-97 Kilometers per hour. RQ-11 Raven can fly up to 10 Kilometres.
- The Spike Firefly is developed under a joint venture of Israeli company- Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel’s Ministry of Defence. The Spike Firefly has loitering capability and can be carried by a soldier as a part of his kit.

### **4. Google’s Sundar Pichai announces \$10 billion investment in India's digitalization**

- Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced a \$10 billion investment in India at the Google for India virtual live-stream event.
- The event focused on contributing to accelerate India’s digital economy with this investment over the next five to seven years.
- Firstly, the Rs 75,000 crore investment will focus on help in enabling affordable access and information to every Indian irrespective of the language.
- The huge investment will also help local businesses to move towards digital transformation.
- Pichai shared the success of programs like Internet Saathi and claimed that it has helped over 30 million women across India to learn digital skills and incorporate them into their lives and the communities.

### **5. NEOWISE Comet to be visible from naked eye till July-end**

- NEOWISE Comet or C/2020 F3 will be visible to the naked eye for 20 minutes every day starting from July 14, 2020. The comet will be visible for around 20 days.
- The comet will be visible an hour before dawn initially and it will be visible in the evening later this month before fading away in August. The comet will be closest to Earth on July 22 at a distance of about 103 million kilometers when it will be crossing the planet's orbit.

### **6. MHA directs paramilitary forces to ban Facebook**

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has directed the paramilitary forces to ban Facebook for their personnel and ex-servicemen. The Ministry issued the direction on July 13, 2020 through a letter to all paramilitary forces including CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and NSG.
- The Home Ministry has asked the paramilitary forces to ban Facebook not only for the personnel who are currently serving them but also for ex-servicemen as they remain in touch with the armed forces.

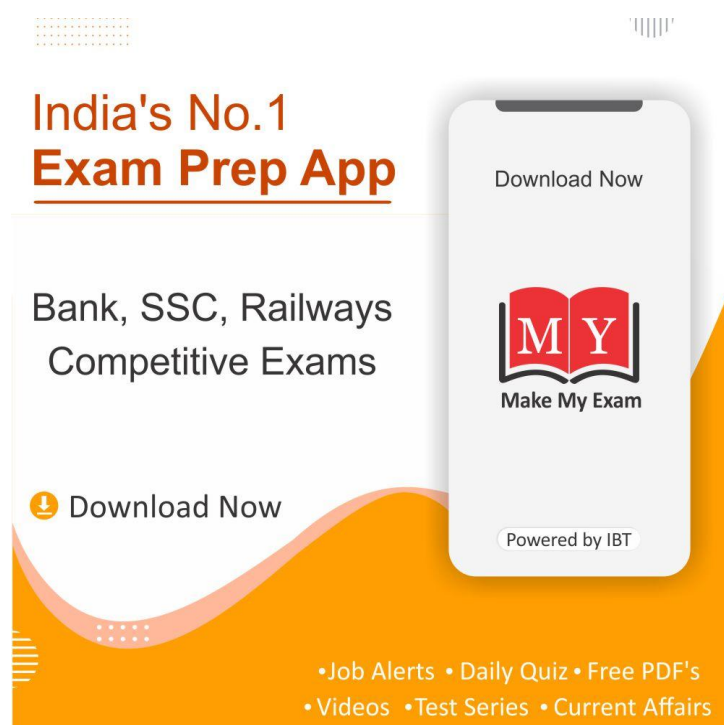
- The Home Ministry sent the directive after receiving an e-mail from Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy asking to extend the ban of foreign apps in paramilitary forces as well.

### 7. Government to allow Invalid Pension to Armed Forces Personnel with less than 10 years of qualifying service

- Government has decided to allow Invalid Pension to Armed Forces Personnel with less than ten years of qualifying service.
- This pension is granted to the Armed Forces Personnel who is invalidated out of service on account of disability which is accepted as Neither Attributable to Nor aggravated (NANA) by Military Service.
- It will be available to those Armed Forces Personnel who were in service on or after 4th January 2019. Earlier, the minimum period of qualifying service actually rendered and required for invalid pension was ten years or more.

### 8. DRDO's Research body developed fully indigenous P7 Heavy Drop System for IL 76 aircraft

- As a part of Make in India programme, DRDO has developed P7 Heavy Drop System (HDS) which is capable of para dropping military stores (vehicle/ ammunition/ equipment) up to 7-ton weight class from IL 76 aircraft [Ilyushin Il-76 or Gajraj (elephant king)]. This HDS consists of a platform & specialised parachute system. It has been inducted in the Indian Army.
- The design of this fully indigenous system has been developed by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), a pioneer Research & Development (R&D) lab of DRDO based in Agra, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- It's platform system manufactured by L&T (Larsen & Toubro) while parachutes manufactured by Ordnance Factory.
- Parachute System is a multi-stage parachute system comprises of 5 Main canopies, 5 Brake chutes, 2 Auxiliary chutes, 1 Extractor parachute and platform is a metallic structure made up of Aluminium/steel alloys.\



India's No.1  
**Exam Prep App**

Bank, SSC, Railways  
Competitive Exams

Download Now

Download Now

Download Now

Powered by IBT

• Job Alerts • Daily Quiz • Free PDF's  
• Videos • Test Series • Current Affairs

## SPORTS

### **1. 2022 FIFA World Cup to be held in Qatar**

- On July 15, 2020, the Federation Internationale de Football Association announced that the 2022 World Cup is to be held in Qatar. The governing body also released schedule of matches.
- The 2022 FIFA World Cup will be the first world cup to be held in Arab World and also the first in a muslim-majority country. The World Cup would be the last to involve 32 teams as the teams are to be increased to 48 in 2026 tournament.
- The tournament is to be held in November-December. The final match of the tournament has been scheduled on December 18, 2020, which is also Qatar National Day.

### **2. Sports Adda named former Cricketer Brett Lee as brand ambassador**

- Sports Adda has signed former Australian fast bowler and cricket legend Brett Lee, as its brand ambassador.
- Sports Adda is Indian news and information website for cricket, football, and kabaddi.
- As ambassador, Lee will be conducting a host of fun activities including contests, quizzes, Q&As, bowling master classes, and giveaways that will feature exclusively on the Sports Adda app, website, and social handles.
- Lee has taken over 700 wickets in his international career across all three formats, and brings with him a wealth of knowledge - not only of bowling and playing at the highest level but also with his insight into the sport and stories from his playing days.

## OBITUARIES

### **1. Renowned Gujarati Cartoonist Avad Bin Hassan Jami passes away**

- One of the most senior and popular cartoonists of Gujarat, Avad Bin Hassan Jami, has passed away. He was 77. He was popularly known as “Jami”. His cartoons were published in Gujarati magazine “Abhiyan” for over two decades.
- He was a drawing teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jamnagar and became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.

### **2. Legendry Dutch footballer Suurbier passes away at 75**

- Netherlands and Ajax defender Wim Suurbier, a key member of the 1970s Dutch squad who played in two World Cup finals, died at the age of 75.
- With Ajax from 1964 to 1977 he won three European Cups and seven national titles.
- The club described him as the "first modern back of the Netherlands", able to attack deep as well as defend.
- Suurbier was also part of the Dutch sides that lost in the 1974 and 1978 World Cup finals, to West Germany and Argentina.

### **3. Neela Satyanarayan, Maharashtra's first woman Election Commissioner, passes away at 72**

- Former IAS officer and Maharashtra's first woman Election Commissioner Neela Satyanarayan passed away.

- The 1972 batch IAS officer was admitted to the hospital after she was diagnosed with COVID-19.
- She was an additional Chief Secretary of Revenue department and post-retirement, in 2009, she was made the state election commissioner.
- Mrs. Neela retired on July 5, 2014.

#### **4. India's 1st Para-Badminton Arjuna Awardee Ramesh Tikaram Athlete Passed Away at 51**

- Arjuna awardee, para-athlete, and para-badminton player, Ramesh Tikaram passed away at 51 due to coronavirus in a Bengaluru hospital. He organized the World Cup for Para badminton in Bengaluru in 2002.
- He excelled in athletics before shifting to badminton. Tikaram was selected to represent India at the Barcelona Paralympics in 1992.
- As an athlete, he won many medals in shotput and Javelin throw including an international meet in Nottingham in 1995. He won gold in the Multi-Disability championship in Sydney for shot put.

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **1. Bastille Day celebrated on 14 July each year.**

- Bastille Day is the common name given in English-speaking countries to the national day of France, which is celebrated on 14 July each year.
- In 1789, on this day, a violent uprising helped usher the French Revolution.
- Citizens stormed the Bastille fortress, which was used to lodge the state prisoners.
- French poet and philosopher, Voltaire was imprisoned in Bastille for nearly a year after he spoke out against the ruling French regent's family.
- Bastille had become the symbol of the harsh rule and tyranny of the French monarchy, especially King Louis XVI and his queen, Marie Antoinette.

#### **2. World Youth Skills Day is observed on 15 July**

- World Youth Skills Day is observed on 15 July every year. The day is aimed to recognize the importance of equipping young people across the world with skills for employment and entrepreneurship. The day also aims to highlight the crucial role of skilled youth in addressing current and future global challenges.
- World Youth Skills Day 2020 is to take place in a challenging context. The coronavirus pandemic and lockdown measures have led to the worldwide closure of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, threatening the continuity of skills development.

#### **3. Nelson Mandela International Day is observed on 18 July every year**

- Nelson Mandela International Day or Mandela Day is observed on 18 July every year across the globe. The day is aimed to honour Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president, Nobel Prize winner, and anti-apartheid icon.
- Mandela Day was first held on 18 July 2009, in New York. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recognized the day later that year. On 10 November 2009, the UNGA adopted a resolution A/RES/64/13 to recognize 18 July as the "International Day of Nelson Mandela". The day is designated to mark the contribution Nelson Mandela brings to peace through his active participation in resolving disputes, addressing racial issues, international democracy and reconciliation, and the promotion of human rights.



- Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in the Eastern Cape, South Africa on 18 July 1918. In 1942, he began his career in politics. In 1944, he joined the African National Congress. Mandela was accused of treason in South Africa and was arrested on 5 December 1956.