



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

14 August 2020

### Today's Important News

Sports Ministry to organise Fit India Freedom Run from 15th August to 2nd October 2020.



### 1. India Extends USD 1 Million Assistance to Antigua and Barbuda's COVID-19 Response

- As a part of India's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, India extended an assistance of 1 million USD to the government of Antigua and Barbuda to combat the global COVID-19 pandemic and to improve their health infrastructure and capacity.
- Under the 1 million USD assistance, KJ Srinivasa, Indian High Commission in Guyana handed over the medical supplies, equipment and medicine to Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda over a virtual platform.



#### Foot Notes:

##### About Antigua and Barbuda:

**Governor General:** Sir Rodney Williams

**Prime Minister:** Gaston Browne

**Capital:** Saint John's

**Currency:** Eastern Caribbean dollar

### 2. ITBP awards 294 troops for bravery during recent skirmishes with Chinese in Ladakh

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has awarded 294 of its troops with the Director General (DG) commendation for displaying bravery during the recent skirmishes with Chinese troops in Ladakh. This was announced by the border force on August 14, 2020.
- The ITBP added saying that recommendations have also been sent to the government for awarding gallantry medals to 21 troops posted in the area.
- The ITBP in its first official account of the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops revealed how its troops not only effectively used the shield to protect themselves but also responded fiercely to advancing Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops and brought the situation under control.



**Foot Notes:**

**About ITBP:**

**Motto:** Shaurya – Dridhata – KarmNishtha

**Minister responsible:** Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

**Headquarters:** New Delhi, India

**About Ladakh:**

**Governor:** Radha Krishna Mathur

**Capitals:** Leh, Kargil

**3. NASA satellite finds 66 new exoplanets, 2,100 more 'candidates' to called planets**

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced that its planet hunter TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) has found 66 new exoplanets or world beyond our solar system.
- The US agency also informed about the discovery of nearly 2,100 more candidates on which astronomers have been working to confirm if they can be called planets.
- NASA on August 11 had announced that TESS has scanned about 75 percent of the starry sky during its primary mission which ended on July 6, 2020.



**Foot Notes:**

**About NASA:**

**Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States

**Founder:** Dwight D. Eisenhower

**Founded:** 1 October 1958,

**Administrator:** Jim Bridenstine

#### 4. Greek and Turkish Warships in 'Mini Collision' in the eastern Mediterranean

- A Greek and Turkish warship got engaged in a mini-collision during a standoff in the eastern Mediterranean. This was shared by a Greek Defence source who described the incident as an accident.
- Tensions rose in the Eastern Mediterranean region after Turkey sent a survey vessel to the region, escorted by warships, to map out the sea territory for possible oil and gas drilling in an area that is claimed by both Greece and Turkey.



##### Foot Notes:

##### About Greece:

**Prime Minister:** Kyriakos Mitsotakis

**Capital:** Athens

**Currency:** Euro

##### About Turkey:

**Speaker:** Mustafa Şentop

**Capital:** Ankara

**Currency:** Turkish lira

**President:** Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

#### 5. Sports Ministry to organise Fit India Freedom Run from Aug 15 to Oct 2

- The Sports Ministry will organise 'Fit India Freedom Run', a largest country-wide run, from August 15 to October 2, 2020. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the mega-event on August 14.
- Amid the ongoing pandemic situation and the norms of social distancing, the sports ministry has decided to encourage the participants of the event to run at their own pace, anywhere and anytime as per their convenience.
- The event organised by the Sports Ministry aims at encouraging fitness among the masses while also following the COVID-19 protocols. As per Mr. Rijiju, it is another endeavor to strengthen the Fit India movement envisaged by Prime Minister Modi.



##### Foot Notes:

##### About Ministry of Sports:

**Officeholder:** Kiren Rijiju (MOS independent charge)

**Founded:** 27 May 2000

**Jurisdiction:** India

**Headquarters:** Shastri Bhawan, Delhi

**About SAI(Sports Authority of India):**

**Headquarters location:** New Delhi

**Founder:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

**Founded:** 1982

**Director General:** Sandip Pradhan



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## 6. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation through an online webinar. The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end-users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence.
- The Draft Defence Acquisition Policy 2020 rolled out by the Defence Ministry last month envisaged establishment of Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation by the Service Headquarters.



**Foot Notes:**

**About Ministry of Defence:**



**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Founded:** 15 August 1947

**Officeholders:** Rajnath Singh (Minister), Subhash Bhamre (Minister of State)

### 7. Xiaomi India pledged 2500 smartphones to support online education

- The Chinese smartphone major Xiaomi has stated that its Indian arm MI India will distribute 2500 handsets worth Rs 2 crores to support online education of children who were the worst affected by the COVID 19 pandemic in the country.
- The company has come up with this idea amid the pandemic situation since it wants to support the concept of education in the country and wants to ensure that education reaches to all the children in the country. This is also part of the Digital India initiative by the government and the company wants to support that, at any cost. The smartphones are worth Rs 2 crores. The company has appealed to inform it regarding any child requiring such help in the country as the company will try to help that child.
- According to Teach for India, one smartphone can support the education of up to seven children on the use of the devices in shifts. This move will help those many children in the country. This comes on the backdrop of the UN policy Brief stating the grim impact of the pandemic on education all over the world.



#### Foot Notes:

##### About Xiaomi:

**Founded:** 6 April 2010, Ying Mansion, Beijing, China

**CEO:** Lei Jun

### 8. IFFI to be held in November as per schedule at Goa

- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in November 2020 as per the schedule of the event. The event is normally held in Goa between November 20 and 28. This year also, the same timeline is fixed for the event and no change has been proposed till now in the schedule.
- The International Film Festival of India, founded in 1952, is one of the most important film festivals in the continent. This is held annually in the Indian state of Goa. The main objective of the festival is to provide a common platform for the cinemas of the world to project the excellence of the film art, contributing to the understanding and the significance of cinema in the different



nations and their cultures. It is organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Goa Government.

- During this festival, the Golden Peacock Award is presented for both movies and short films to recognize the excellence of those movies.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Goa:**

**Capital:** Panaji

**Chief Minister:** Pramod Sawant

**Governor:** Satya Pal Malik

**9. First-of-its-kind Katra-Delhi Express Road Corridor to be completed by 2023**

- First-of-its-kind Katra (Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir)-Delhi Express Road corridor works have begun and it is expected to be completed by 2023.
- It was announced by Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh. The express Corridor is expected to reduce the travel time between Katra and Delhi to around six and half hours, the total outlay of the project is Rs. 35, 000 crores.



**Foot Notes:**

**About Jammu & Kashmir:**

**Capital:** Jammu (winter) and Srinagar (summer)

**Lt. Governor:** Manoj Sinha

**About Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER):**

**Minister of State (Independent Charge):** Dr. Jitendra Singh

**10. Manipur Observed its Patriots' day 2020 on August 13**

- Patriots' day is observed annually on August 13 in Manipur. The Patriots' Day 2020 was observed to commemorate the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri war during which many Manipuris sacrificed their lives to safeguard the independence of the State.
- On this day in 1891, Manipuris including the then Prince of Manipur Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General were hanged before the general public in the present Imphal area. Prabhat Pheri was held in the streets of Imphal City, as part



of the observance. The day was observed without involving the general public due to COVID-19 pandemic.

**About Manipur:**

**Nickname:** Jewel of India

**Chief Minister:** Nongthombam(N.) Biren Singh

**Governor:** Najma Heptulla



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