



# Weekly Current Affairs

03 – 09 August 2020

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat’ logo design contest to be conducted by MyGov**

- Government is looking to have a distinct identity for 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' by developing a logo based on creative and innovative inputs from the citizens of the country.
- MyGov.in platform has started the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Logo Design Contest on its website where Indian Citizens can submit their entries without any hassle through online medium.
- The last date of submission of entries is 5th of August 2020 till 11.45 PM. The winning logo will be awarded a cash prize of 25 thousand rupees. MyGov is a citizen engagement platform which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote active participation of Indian citizens in Nation's governance and development. MyGov has crowdsourced many logos of various departments and initiatives including Swachh Bharat, DekhoApnaDesh, Lokpal and several others.

### **2. Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harshvardhan launched 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21'**

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

### **3. Tamil Nadu celebrates its monsoon festival ‘Aadi Perukku’**

- Aadi Perukku, also known as the Aadi monsoon festival, is being celebrated in Tamil Nadu.
- The festival falls on the 18th day of the Tamil month of Adi (mid-July to mid-August) and is celebrated as a tribute to water's life-sustaining properties.
- It takes the form of thanking Cauvery river for flowing in plenty, thus ensuring a good agricultural harvest during the year.
- The festival assumes added significance in the Cauvery Delta region, where farmers also pay homage to Mother nature in the form of the majestic Cauvery river.

#### 4. Northern Railway runs first-ever Vyapar Mala Express train

- Northern Railway ran the first-ever Vyapar Mala Express train. This train destined for Jirania in Tripura has 46 wagons. Wheat was loaded in 34 wagons at Guniana station of Firozpur Division by Food Corporation of India and in the remaining Rice and Pulses have been loaded.
- Railways has earned more than 94 lakh rupees from this Vyapar Mala Express train.
- This is an express service where piece-meal stock will reach its destination in a shorter time.
- The train departed from Delhi Kishanganj for Jirania and it will cover a distance of two thousand 673 Kilometres from Punjab to Tripura.
- It will help small traders in moving their cargo through Railways, in a short time, cost effective, convenient and environment-friendly mode of transportation.

#### 5. Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates international webinar on 'Lokmanya Tilak - Swaraj to Self-reliant India'

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a two-day international webinar on the theme of 'LokmanyaTilak - Swaraj to Self-reliant India' organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
- It was organised on the 100th death anniversary of the great freedom fighter Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak played a key role in the making of the Indian Independence movement complete in letter and spirit.
- The slogan is "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it" given by LokmanyaTilak, will always be written in golden letters in the history of the Indian Independence Movement.

#### 6. Indira Rasoi Yojana to start in Rajasthan from 20th of August

- Rajasthan's Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot recently directed his officials to commence Indira RasoiYojana from 20Th August 2020. The CM said it is another step towards realising the resolve of Rajasthan Government's "No Hunger No Sleep". Under this scheme, the needy and poor will get healthy and nutritious food at 8 Rs per plate. The state government will spend 100 Crores per year on the scheme.
- The Indira Rasoi Yojana named after former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, will run in 358 kitchens in 213 urban local bodies of the state. Under the Yojana a menu of 100 grams of pulses, 100 grams of vegetables, 250 grams of chapati and pickles will be served to 4.87 crore people every year.
- While all the necessary measures will be taken to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus a monitoring committee at the State and District level will be formed to ensure the quality of the food. All the beneficiary

under this scheme will get the information about the Yojana on his or her mobile phone as he or she takes the coupon.

### **7. Ramarchan puja begins ahead of Ram temple 'Bhoomipujan' in Ayodhya**

- Ramarchan puja has begun at Ram Janmabhoomi site ahead of the foundation laying ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The puja is a prayer to invite all major gods and goddesses ahead of Lord Ram's arrival.
- The puja is being conducted at the temporary seat of Ramlalla. It will be conducted in four phases. In the third phase, father of Lord Ram Dashrath with his wives will be worshipped and then all three brothers of Lord Ram - Laxman, Bharat and Shatrughan with their wives. Lord Hanuman will also be worshipped. In the fourth phase of the puja, Lord Ram will be worshipped.
- Security has been heightened in Ayodhya ahead of the foundation laying ceremony. Temples across the city have been decorated with lights, diyas and flowers ahead of the grand event.

### **8. Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) moves towards 2nd phase, ODF-Plus**

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

### **9. Govt. approved “Khadi Agarbatti AtmaNirbhar Mission” to make India self-reliant in agarbatti production**

- MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved a unique employment generation program proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission, KVIC to make India AtmaNirbhar in Agarbatti production.
- The program named as Khadi Agarbatti AtmaNirbhar Mission aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country.
- Under the scheme, KVIC will provide Automatic Agarbatti making machines and powder mixing machines to the artisans through the

successful private Agarbatti manufacturers who will sign the agreement as business partners.

- KVIC will provide a 25 per cent subsidy on the cost of the machines and will recover the remaining 75 per cent of the cost from the artisans in easy installments every month.

### **10. Hyderabad ranked 16 among top 20 cities globally in CCTV Surveillance, topped in India**

- Hyderabad has been ranked 16th among the "Top 20 Most Surveilled Cities globally" according to a report published by a UK-based firm. Hyderabad with its 3 lakh CCTV cameras being used to keep tab on a city that has a population of a little over 1 crore, figured 16th in the most surveilled cities.
- Taiyuan in China was ranked first with 4,65,255 CCTV cameras. Hyderabad was ranked first in India.

### **11. Ladakh and J&K celebrated first anniversary of becoming UT**

- On August 5, 2020, the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir celebrated their first anniversary of formation.
- On August 5, 2019, the Government of India revoked the special status to Jammu and Kashmir by modifying Article 370 of the Constitution. After the abrogation of the article, two union territories Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir were carved out under Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019.

### **12. HRD Minister lays foundation stone of IIM at Dhaula Kuan in Sirmour district**

- In Himachal Pradesh, Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Dhaula Kuan in Sirmour district through video conferencing.
- The first phase of this Institute would be completed by spending an amount of 392.51 crore rupees.
- Union Government would provide all possible help to ensure that the institute emerges as the best institute of the region.
- In 2014 Union Government had taken decision to establish seven new IIMs including IIM Sirmaur.


### **13. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan tests positive for COVID-19**

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has tested positive for Covid-19 and has been admitted to a hospital.
- In a tweet, Mr Pradhan said, after seeing symptoms of COVID-19, he got tested and the report has come positive.

- On the advice of doctors, he has been admitted to hospital. Mr Pradhan is the second Union Minister in the Cabinet to test positive for Covid-19. Earlier, Home Minister Amit Shah had tested positive and was admitted to hospital.

#### 14. DNHDD launches E-Gyan Mitra mobile app for online education

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



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#### 15. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched Parivar Pehchan Patra in the state.

- A brain child of team CMO, the PPP will enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes at their doorstep in a fair and transparent manner.
- The PPP will be now linked to Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yogna (MMPSY).
- All the departments will be linked with e-ParivarPehchanPatra (PPP) within the next three months.
- At present, the MMPSY, which was launched on January 26, 2020 and three pension schemes - Old Age Samman Allowance Scheme, Divyang Jan Pension Scheme, and Widow and Destitute Women Pension Scheme, have been integrated with ParivarPehchanPatra.

## 16. Atal Innovation Mission declares results of ATL Tinkering Marathon 2019

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has declared the results of its flagship national annual innovation marathon challenge. The ATL Tinkering Marathon 2019 was held over fifty thousand Atal Tinkering Labs across the country and announced 150 winners of the Marathon.
- The challenge was executed by AIM in partnership with MyGOV on MyGov's Innovate Platform this year.
- 42 percent of the winning teams are from rural areas and 57 percent are from government schools. About 45 percent of the winning team students are girls.
- This year's marathon was uniquely designed by the students themselves.
- The Marathon had a strong focus on Research preceding the Innovations.
- The final phase of solution development received over 1191 entries from students across 29 States and UTs.

## 17. India contributes over \$15 mn to India-UN Development Partnership Fund

- India has contributed \$15.46 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, underscoring the country's commitment to supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti handed over a cheque of \$15.46 million.
- The tranche of \$15.46 million includes \$6 million to the overall fund, in which all the developing countries are eligible for partnership, and \$9.46 million dedicated to the Commonwealth countries.
- The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is managed by the UNOSSC and implemented under the leadership of partner developing countries leveraging the strengths of United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

## 18. Karnataka Medical Education Minister inaugurates nation's first ICMR approved mobile RTPCR COVID lab

- Nation's first ICMR approved mobile RTPCR COVID lab developed by Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru was inaugurated by Karnataka Medical Education Minister Dr.K.Sudhakar. Packed with all the safety features, this unique lab is capable of producing accurate results within four hours.
- In a month the mobile lab can conduct 9000 tests.
- The lab can be utilised for testing H1N1, HCV, TB, HPV, HIV virus also.
- Called as Mobile Infection Testing and Reporting lab, MITR can be deployed in Corona hot spots quickly.

- Another innovative project fructified in Bengaluru when a bus stand was converted into 200 bed Covid Care Centre.

### **19. India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or Kisan Rail started from 07 August 2020.**

- The train will transport material between Maharashtra's Devlali and Bihar's Danapur Railway station.
- The Kisan Rail will carry fruits and vegetables and will make stoppages at several stations and pick-up and deliver them. With the launch of Kisan Rail, the Railways aims to help double farmers' income.
- This will help in bringing perishable agricultural products like vegetables, fruits to the market in a short period of time.
- The Kisan Rail train with frozen containers is expected to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables, inclusive of fish, meat and milk.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced to start 'Kisan Rail' in the current year's Budget, for providing a seamless supply chain of perishable produce.

### **20. PM inaugurated Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra in New Delhi on 8th August**

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

### **21. Focussing on MSMEs, Gujarat launches new Industrial Policy 2020**

- On August 7, 2020, the Gujarat State Government launched the "Industrial Policy 2020". The policy aims to provide Rs 40,000 subsidies to the industries in the state in the next five years.
- The policy will help to lease lands to industrialists and also provide incentives to industrial parks. Under the policy, the Gujarat State Government will appoint dedicated "relationship managers" to host Vibrant Gujarat Summit in January 2021. The Gujarat Industrial Policy,



2015, came to an end in 2019 and the government had extended it till 2020.

- Gujarat stands first in terms of number of Industrial Entrepreneurship Memorandum (IEM). This is 51% of total IEMs filed in the country. The subsidies being allocated to the current policy is three times as that of the previous policy.
- The policy will help industries willing to relocate from China through “Relocation Incentives”. The Gujarat State Government has held joint meetings with countries such as Japan, Germany, USA and UK in this regard.

## **22. CM Arvind Kejriwal launches Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, says it will boost economy**

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched ‘Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy’. Under this the Delhi government will waive registration fee and road tax, and provide incentives for new EVs in the national capital.
- It will give incentive of up to Rs 30,000 for two-wheelers, autos and e-rickshaws while for cars, it will give incentive of up to Rs 1.5 lakh.
- The policy aims to boost the economy, create jobs and reduce pollution levels.
- Also, it aims to constitute 25% electric vehicles by 2024. Currently, constitution of electric vehicles in capital is 0.29%.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **1. UK to issue coin in honour of Mahatma Gandhi**

- Amid growing interest in recognizing the contributions of people from the BAME community (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) Britain is considering minting a coin to remember Mahatma Gandhi.
- Rishi Sunak Britain’s current Finance Minister issued an order in a letter to the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC) to pursue recognition of individuals from the BAME community.
- Taking a step ahead in following the order RMAC will mint a coin to commemorate Gandhi. While remembering Mahatma Gandhi the officials from the department said in a statement, “Often referred to as “Father of the Nation” Mahatma Gandhi, was born in the year 1869.

### **2. Trump Suspends H-1B and other Visas that Allow Foreigners to Work in the U.S.**

- US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order that bans federal agencies from hiring foreign workers especially those on H-1B visa on contracting or subcontracting.

- The unprecedented move is followed by a month old announcement by the Trump government on June 23 where the administration announced that the H-1B visas along with other types of foreign work visas will remain suspended until the end of 2020 to protect American workers in a crucial election. This new restriction took effect from June 24.
- Also recently a federally owned corporation in the US called Tennessee Valley Authority in a press release announced that the company will outsource 20 per cent of its technology jobs to companies based in foreign countries. Through this new announcement, the US was going to witness another 200 American workers losing their jobs over the next five year.

### **3. UK's Envoy To India Philip Barton Promoted As UK's Foreign Office Minister**

- British high commissioner to India Philip Barton on Monday got appointed as the permanent under-secretary to head the newly merged Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. This new appointment of Sir Philip Barton as the Permanent Under-Secretary of the new ministry came just after the approval of United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab.
- UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has earlier announced to the parliament that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID) will merge to form the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). This new ministry called FCDO will be established in 2020 and it will be led by the Foreign Secretary. The function of the new ministry will involve a combined function of DFID and FCO.

### **4. In landmark move, Prime Minister Imran Khan unveils 'new political map' of Pakistan**

- Pakistan recently released a new political map claiming the entire territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and part of Gujarat including the erstwhile state of Junagadh as part of its territory.
- In recent times in the wake of the global pandemic when the whole world is fighting against the deadly virus in unison, our neighbours are in a race to occupy our territory. When India is all set to celebrate, the first anniversary of its decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on 5th August then our neighbour Pakistan a day before the anniversary has made a controversial change in their political map inviting arguments and disputes.
- This is the second such map revising territorial claims in the South Asian region. Before this, our neighbour in the north "Nepal" printed a political map showing the Kalapani region of Pithoragarh district as part of its sovereign territory.


## 5. US Conducts Test Flight of Unarmed Minuteman 3 Missile

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

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## 6. India extends Line of Credit worth 18 million dollars to Maldives

- India has extended Line of Credit worth 18 million US dollars to the Government of Maldives for the expansion of fishing facilities at Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO).
- The project envisages investment in fish collection and storage facilities and the setting up of a tuna cooked plant and fishmeal plant.
- It is part of the 800 million US dollars line of credit offered by India with repayment tenor of 20 years and a 5-year moratorium.

## 7. Rajapaksa brothers win by landslide victory in Sri Lanka's election

- Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa-led Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) registered a landslide victory in the Sri Lankan Parliamentary Elections on August 5, 2020. The party and its allies secured two-thirds of the seats at the elections.
- Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) won 145 seats in the 225-member parliament, while the allies managed to clinch more than five seats. Out of the total vote percentage, SLPP got around 59 percent of the popular vote, while SJB (Samagi Jana Balawegaya) garnered around 23 percent

of votes. The SJB is an offshoot of UNP, which was formed earlier this year.

## **8. Mauritius declares state of environmental emergency after oil spill**

- Mauritius' Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth declared a state of environmental emergency on August 7, 2020 after a shipwreck caused massive fuel spill.
- A Japanese-owned ship, which ran aground on July 25, has been leaking tons of oil into the Indian Ocean. The ship is reportedly carrying nearly 4000 tons of fuel oil and 200 tons of diesel on board.
- The Mauritius PM made the brief statement by tweeting that Mauritius does not have the skills and expertise to refloat stranded ships, so he has asked for help from France.
- Mauritius' Ministry of Environment has set up a committee to identify how best to orchestrate the cleanup. The ministry warned the public to stay away from the affected area because of toxic fumes.

## **9. Bangladesh to construct monument for Indian soldiers martyred in 1971 Liberation War**

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

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

### **1. RBI approves Sashidhar Jagdishan as CEO and MD of HDFC Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the Managing Director (MD) and CEO of HDFC Bank. Mr. Jagdishan will take charge of the outgoing MD Aditya Puri on October 27, 2020 and will remain on the position for three years.
- HDFC Bank mentioned that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bank will be held in due course to approve the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the new MD and CEO of the bank.

- Along with Sashidhar Jagdishan, HDFC Bank had also submitted the names of Sunil Garg, Global CEO of Citi Commercial Bank, and Kaizad Bharucha (ED at HDFC Bank) for the RBI's consideration.

## **2. Govt extends Ajay Tyagi's term as SEBI chairman by 18 months till Feb 2022**

- Ajay Tyagi has been given an 18 month extension as the chairman of markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI. His term will continue till February 2022.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of Ajay Tyagi's term for 18 months with effect from 1st September 2020 to 28th February 2022.
- Tyagi, a 1984 batch retired IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre was appointed as the SEBI chairman in March 2017 for three years.

## **3. Senior BJP leader Manoj Sinha appointed as new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir**

- The President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Manoj Sinha as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. The President accepted the resignation of Girish Chandra Murmu as Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Mr Murmu, a 1985 batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer was appointed as the Lt.Governor in October last year.
- Murmu had sent his resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind.

## **4. Ex-Lieutenant Governor of J&K G.C. Murmu appointed as the new CAG of India**

- Former Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. G.C. Murmu had resigned as J&K Lt Governor on August 5, 2020.
- An official notification released by the Department of Economic Affairs read that the President by virtue of the power vested in him by clause (1) of Article 148 of the Indian Constitution appointed Girish Chandra Murmu to the post of Comptroller and Auditor General of India with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.

## **5. Harmanpreet Kaur and Suresh Raina appointed as Brand Ambassadors for Gaming Platform of WTF**

- Indian middle-order batsman Suresh Raina & Indian women's team captain(T20) Harmanpreet Kaur were appointed as Global brand

ambassadors of World 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 YashKadakia.

## **6. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi took oath as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission**

- Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi took oath as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- Prof. Joshi joined the Commission as a member in the year 2015. He succeeded Arvind Saxena who completed his term as UPSC chairman.
- He served as Director of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration.
- During his career, Dr. Joshi taught more than 28 years at postgraduate level and held many important positions in various policy making, academic and administrative bodies.

## **7. Odisha cadre IPS officer, P S Ranipse has been appointed as IG, in CRPF**

- Odisha cadre IPS officer, P S Ranipse has been appointed as Inspector General (IG), in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- He will hold the post on Central deputation for a period of five years from the date of joining.
- IPS officer P S Ranipse belongs to the 1995 batch and was serving as Additional Director General (Vigilance) in Odisha.
- He held the position of Inspector General of Police (Odisha) in 2013.

## **BANKING**

### **1. RBI announces a slew of measures to boost digital payments**

- On August 6, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India launched “Innovation Hub” for ideation and incubation of new capabilities that can be leveraged to deepen financial inclusion.
- The hub is being launched to promote the start ups in the country. It will help in ideation and incubation of new capabilities. This will in turn help to deepen financial inclusion in the country and promote efficient banking services.

- The hub is to act as a centre to create viable and innovative financial products. This will provide the following benefits
- The hub will help achieve efficient banking. RBI has recently taken several similar initiatives to encourage responsible innovation. One such recent initiative is the “Regulatory Sandbox”.

## **2. RBI's monetary policy committee decides to leave policy repo rate unchanged at 4 percent**

- The RBI's monetary policy committee has decided to unanimously leave the policy repo rate unchanged at 4 percent. RBI will continue with the accommodative stance of monetary policy as long as necessary to revive growth, mitigate the impact of COVID-19, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward.
- The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank rate remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent.
- The reverse repo rate stands unchanged at 3.35 per cent.
- The Consumer Price Index inflation, which was at 5.8 per cent in March 2020, was placed at 6.1 per cent in the provisional estimates for June 2020.

## **3. Airtel Payments Bank, Bharti AXA partner to offer ‘shop insurance’ for retailers**

- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer “Smart Plan Shop Package Policy” for the financial protection of the bank’s retailers and merchants. The policy will provide financial protection in case of damage to assets inside the shop due to fire and allied perils and burglary, among others, as covered in the product.
- This policy covers assets inside the shop against burglary, fire and allied perils such as flood, earthquake, landslide, rockslide, riots, strike and malicious damage, among others.
- It also covers the loss of money in safety because of an accident. The policy has a flexible sum insured option, starting from Rs 2 lakh up to Rs 25 lakh.

## **Books and Awards**

### **1. Oscar-winner Matthew McConaughey writes his debut book "GreenLight"**

- ‘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.

## **2. Kala Narayanasamy conferred with President’s Award in Singapore**

- Indian-origin nurse, Kala Narayanasamy in Singapore has been conferred with the President’s Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Kala Narayanasamy, who is the Deputy Director of Nursing at Woodlands Health Campus, has been conferred with this award for utilising the infection control practices that she had learned during the 2003 severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, in the current pandemic.
- The President’s Award for Nurses in Singapore recognises the efforts of nurses who have shown sustained outstanding performance and contributions to patient care delivery, education, research and administration.

## **3. Biography of India's youngest Basketball captain Vishesh Bhriguvanshi to hit stands soon**

- 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, VisheshBhriguvanshi and will be published by the Bluerose publishers.
- The Book narrates the journey of a young Indian basketball captain, Vishesh Bhriguvanshi, becoming the captain of the team in a cricket-dominated nation.
- 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.

## **4. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar released a book - "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata".**

- Written by Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary. The book published by Bihar Assembly Secretariat is a compilation of Choudhary's views, three dozen articles on different important issues and his life journey.
- It also mentions various developmental works in different sectors and welfare measures taken by Nitish Kumar government in Bihar.



- The book "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata" has also talked about various other important activities of assembly, successful completion of 6th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region, Prohibition law, debate on climate change, reforms in the procedure and business advisory rules of the assembly.

### **5. Malayalam movie ‘Moothon’ and documentary ‘Son Rise’ win awards at 20th New York Indian Film Festival**

- 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.
- 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. The films showcased in the event were in multiple languages including Assamese, Bengali, Haryanvi, Hindi, English, Ladakhi, Maithili, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali and Tamil.

### **6. DIAT bags 1st prize in Smart India Hackathon 2020**

- Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, DIAT, has bagged 1st prize in Smart India Hackathon, SIH, 2020. It was held from 1st to 3rd of this month at Noida Institute of Engineering and Technology, Uttar Pradesh.
- This 36-hour non-stop digital product building competition was a national level competition for software edition, which was organized jointly by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and All India Council for Technical Education.
- During the competition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the participants in a live event. Six-member team of the institute received one lakh rupees as prize money for solving a technical problem using artificial intelligence.

### **7. ‘RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations’ authored by Yatish Yadav launched**

- The new book, titled “RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations”, has been launched. The book gives a peep into the heroic covert operations carried by India’s external spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).
- The book has been written by investigative journalist and author Yatish Yadav. It has been published by Westland.
- The book provides a deeper insight and understanding of how covert operations are carried out in the uncharted territory.

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1. SpaceX's Crew Dragon successfully returns NASA astronauts back to Earth**

- Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley two US astronauts who were sent to the International Space Station two months ago return to the planet Earth safely following a 21-hour overnight journey. The astronaut were sent by NASA in collaboration with Elon Musk's company Space-X. The Crew Dragon designed and operated by Space-X which is also being used for this flight test can stay in orbit about 110 days,
- On 30th May 2020 at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft was launched from Launch Complex 39A at 3:22 PM. This is leap and bound moment in the history of aeronautical science when for the first time in the history, NASA sent their astronauts in a commercially built and operated American crew spacecraft.
- This Demo-2 mission in partnership with Elon Musk's Space-X is the final major test before NASA's Commercial Crew Program approves and certifies Crew Dragon for operational, long-duration missions to the space station.

### **2. IIT Madras in joint collaboration with HELYXON developed a device called OXY2**

- A health startup at IIT Madras in joint collaboration with HELYXON has developed a device called OXY2. This newly designed device can easily take vitals of an individual such as heart rate, temperature, oxygen saturation and respiration rate clinically accurate. The device is made commercially available now and has already been deployed to monitor 2000 patients a day in hospitals.
- The core technology of OXY2 was validated after doing a year-long multi-centric study at various Chennai-based medical institutions for accuracy and performance with reference to current standards. After the successful trial medical institutions found the device to be of great help during the pandemic when the medical staff have to come in close with the patients to take their vitals.

## **SPORTS**

### **1. Lewis Hamilton wins his seventh British Grand Prix 2020 despite puncture on last lap**

- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton has won the Formula One British Grand Prix 2020 held at the Silverstone Circuit, United Kingdom.
- Max Verstappen (Red bull) ended up second in this F1 race while Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) came third. This is the third win for Hamilton in this season of F1 races.

## **2. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju chairs 1st General Council meeting of Khelo India Scheme**

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju chaired the 1st General Council meeting of the Khelo India Scheme. Mr Rijiju urged the states to organise State-level Khelo India Games annually with an effort to identify a larger number of grassroot-level talents.
- The annual competitions being organized at the national level under the Khelo India Scheme, like the Khelo India Youth Games and University Games, have helped to identify sporting talent from all states.
- Mr Rijiju has asked the states to organise competitions at the district, block and panchayat-level to identify young talent.

## **3. India withdraws from women's world team squash championship in Kuala Lumpur**

- India has withdrawn from the women's world team Squash championship scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15th to 20th December.
- Indian team cited lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of its players.
- The coronavirus case count continues to rise in the country with Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai — all major squash centres — badly hit by the virus, making resumption of training difficult.
- The Asian Junior Individual Championship 2020 has also been cancelled by the Asian Squash Federation due to the pandemic.
- The event was scheduled to be held at Qingdao, China in June but was postponed to December before being finally cancelled.

## **4. India will hosts T20 World Cup in 2021, Australia to host in 2022**

- India will remain hosts of the 2021 Twenty20 World Cup while Australia will host this year's postponed tournament in 2022.
- The ICC also confirmed the women's 50-over World Cup that was scheduled to be held in New Zealand in February-March next year has been postponed to 2022.
- This year's T20 World Cup was scheduled to be held in Australia in October-November but the tournament was postponed due to the logistical challenges of staging the 16-team event amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions in place.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1. Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Shivajirao Patil Nilangeka passes away at 88**

- Maharashtra former Chief Minister and Senior Congressman Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar passed away. The doctor announced kidney failure as the reason for his death. The 88-year-old minister who had been suffering from several co-morbidities including diabetes and high blood pressure, and had been tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Pune was admitted at a private hospital.
- The former CM is survived by wife, three sons, a daughter and grandchildren. His last rites are to be performed in Nilanga his birthplace in Latur district.

### **2. Former Union Home Secretary & Arunachal Pradesh Governor, Ram Pradhan passes away at 92**

- The former Union Home Secretary Ram Pradhan has passed away due to age-related ailments. Mr. Pradhan served as the governor of Arunachal Pradesh during the Rajiv Gandhi government.
- Pradhan was an IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre.
- He also headed a two-member committee set up in December 2008 to probe the security forces' response to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

### **3. Renowned TV actor Sameer Sharma passes away**

- Sameer Sharma, a 44-year-old television actor, was found dead in his Malad apartment. Malad police officials said that the actor died by suicide. The actor had also appeared in the shows Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki and Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, Jyoti, Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Du, and Left Right Left, among others.
- He is also listed as a cast member in films such as Hasee Toh Phasee and Ittefaq.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1. World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated annually from 1st of August to 7th of August**

- 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.

- The theme for the year 2020 is, “Support Breast feeding for a healthier planet”.
- The day was commenced after signing the Innocenti Declaration in August 1990. The global campaigning was first organized by the WABA (World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action) along with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in 1992, to raise awareness about the benefits of breastfeeding for the initial 6 months of a child’s life.

## 2. National Handloom Day celebrated on 07 August

- National Handloom Day is being organised on 07 August by the Ministry of Textiles. 7th August was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on the same date in the year 1905.
- The objective is to generate awareness about the Handloom Industry among the public and its contribution to socio-economic development.
- To mark the occasion and to instil pride in the workmanship of handloom weaving amongst citizens, a social media campaign is planned for the handloom weaving community.

## 3. India Observes 77th anniversary of August movement or Quit India movement on 8<sup>th</sup> august

- The 77th anniversary of Quit India movement, also known as August Kranti Diwas, was observed on August 8, 2019. The Quit India movement began with Mahatma Gandhi’s clarion call of “Do or Die” to end the British rule in India.
- In July 1942, the Congress Working Committee met at Wardha and a resolution was passed which was termed The Wardha Resolution.
- It is also known as Quit India Resolution which demanded, The British Rule in India must end immediately. The British had refused to grant India total independence but later they agreed to give independence after World War II ended. World War II ended in 1945 and India gained independence in 1947.



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