



Weekly Current Affairs

23-29 August 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Gujarat tops Niti Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2020, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu

- Gujarat has topped the Niti Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2020 followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in the second and third place respectively, according to the government think tank's report.
- According to the report, six of eight coastal states feature in the top ten rankings, indicating the presence of strong enabling and facilitating factors to promote exports.
- The landlocked states, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand had taken several measures to promote exports which can be implemented by the other states with similar socio-economic challenges. This data driven effort identifies the core areas that are significant to promote the exports at sub national level.

2. Ministry of Culture announces 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India

- The Ministry of Culture has announced 7 new circles of the Archaeological Survey of India. The Ministry of Culture has taken the step in accordance with the Prime Minister's call to facilitate and strengthen the process of preservation and registration of archaeological monuments.
- New circles have been created in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Gujarat.
- Trichy, Raiganj, Rajkot, Jabalpur, Hampi, Jhansi and Meerut have been announced as new circles. Earlier there were 29 ASI circles across the country.

3. Barak Valley in Assam put under strict lockdown

- In Assam, Barak Valley has been put under strict lockdown due to the alarming situation of COVID-19. In a bid to contain the outbreak of COVID-19, all the three district disaster management authorities in Barak Valley have issued separate orders to restrict activities.
- This lockdown will continue till midnight of 04th September. Only pharmacies will be allowed to function in urban areas, stand alone shops are being permitted to run in rural areas during lockdown. The valley has witnessed around 10 thousand COVID positive cases with almost 50% recovery.

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

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

5. India's longest river ropeway over Brahmaputra opened for public

- The long pending Guwahati passenger ropeway project connecting the northern and southern banks of the Brahmaputra River was formally inaugurated by state minister of finance, health and family welfare Himanta Biswa Sarma. It is to be noted that the Guwahati-North Guwahati route will be the longest ropeway distance over a river in the entire country.
- The total length of this ropeway is 2 Km and its cabins have been imported from Switzerland. One way of the ride would cost Rs 60, while a two-way commute would require Rs 100.
- The entire project has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 56 crore. It may be mentioned here that the ambitious project was initiated in 2006 by the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authorities as part of beautifying the Brahmaputra riverfront.

6. Ahmedabad Railway Division successfully introduces unique concept of Baggage Sanitization

- In Gujarat, Ahmedabad Railway Division has successfully introduced a unique concept of Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping at Ahmedabad Railway Station. It is a first of its kind across the Indian Railways.
- AIR correspondent reports, the baggage sanitization and wrapping machine ensure 360 degree sanitization of the luggage by using ultra violet radiation. The machine has been installed by a private enterprise. Talking to media, Ahmedabad Divisional Railway Manager Deepak Kumar Jha said there are no harmful effects of UV rays on tiffins, food, vegetables or water kept in the baggage.
- This is an ideal solution for the passengers travelling by the Railways amid the pandemic. He said the machine has been set up on around 69 sq meters space on Ahmedabad Railway Station which will help Ahmedabad Division to earn additional revenue of six lakh rupees. This service will be voluntary for passengers for which they will have to pay charge upto 80 rupees depending upon the size and weight of the luggage.

7. Govt extends validity of Motor Vehicle documents till Dec 31

- The Road Transport and Highways Ministry has decided to extend the validity of Motor Vehicle documents till the 31st of December.
- The Ministry had earlier issued advisories on 30th March and 9th June this year regarding extension of validity of the documents related to Motor Vehicles Act and Central Motor Vehicle Rules.
- It was advised that the validity of Fitness, Permit, License, Registration or any other concerned documents may be treated to be valid till 30th of September.
- The decision was taken after considering the situation due to COVID-19 across the country.
- This step is likely to help out the citizens in availing transport related services.

8. Government makes use of FASTag mandatory for availing any discount in toll charges

- The government has made the use of FASTag mandatory to avail any discount at the highway toll plazas across the country. The decision was taken to promote digital mode of payment and ensure seamless travel on the National Highways.
- The Transport Ministry amended the National Highways Fee Rules, 2008 to allow discounts to users making return journeys within 24 hours provided they are using FASTag.
- The amendment would enable automatic discount and no prior receipt or intimation will be necessary if return journeys are completed within 24 hours.

9. Gujarat govt to come up with ‘Gujarat Land Grabbing Prohibition Act’ bill in monsoon session

- Gujarat Government will come up with a bill called ‘Gujarat Land Grabbing Prohibition Act’ in the upcoming monsoon session of the state assembly. The proposed act will have provision of setting up special courts that shall clear the cases pertaining to land grabbing crimes in maximum six months.
- The proposed act will have provision of 10 to 14 years imprisonment, in addition to fine equal to Jantri value of the land.
- The Government will appoint one public prosecutor in each such special court that shall take legal actions against land grabbers in suomoto manner. Police officers not below the level of Deputy SP will probe land grabbing related crimes.

10. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completes 6 years, benefits 40.35 crore people

- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completed six years on August 28, 2020. The scheme was launched with an ambitious aim of banking the unbanked.
- The Prime Minister highlighted that the high number of beneficiaries of this scheme are from rural areas and are women. The future of several families have become secure because of the scheme, the Prime Minister reiterated.
- According to current data, 63.6 percent of the PM-JDY account holders are from rural areas while 36.4 percent are from urban areas. Besides this, over 55 percent PM-JDY account holders are women.

11. Arunachal assembly passes resolution for inclusion of state in Sixth Schedule

- Arunachal Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution for the entire state to be included in the Sixth Schedule of the constitution.
- Chief Minister Pema Khandu said that the Sixth Schedule provides protection of tribal people's rights in the Northeast. Arunachal unfortunately is the only state left out without any protective provisions for its tribal communities under the Indian constitution.
- "In absence of such protective mechanism, the tribals in Arunachal faces the danger of being alienated from their culture and land," Khandu said.

12. Govt sets up expert panel to help DRDO for futuristic battles

- G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D), and Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has constituted the five-member committee under the chairmanship of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi director Valipe Ramagopal Rao to review charter of duties of 57 DRDO labs on the basis of current and futuristic defence and battlefield needs.
- The panel also work towards the minimising the overlap of technologies they are working on at a time. The panel will submit its report within 45 days.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. Delhi, Dhaka to open new trade connectivity route via inland waterways from Sep 3

- India and Bangladesh have decided to open a new trade route from September 3, 2020, to promote regional connectivity by expanding the scope of inland water transport mechanisms that will enable trade boost in the region.

- On September 3, a Bangladeshi vessel will transport a cargo of cement to Tripura as part of the efforts to boost connectivity between the two countries. The vessel will be carrying 50 metric tonnes of cement from Premier Cement Ltd. of Bangladesh.
- The route which will be connecting Sonamura in Tripura to Daudkandi in Bangladesh has been operationalized under the agreement signed by the two countries in May 2020 to boost riverine trade.



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2. China sends a new Earth observation satellite into space 'Gaofen-9 05'

- China successfully launched a new optical remote-sensing satellite from its Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. The satellite, Gaofen-9 05, was sent into orbit by a Long March-2D carrier rocket.
- A multifunctional test satellite and another satellite named Tiantuo-5 were also launched via the rocket. The Gaofen-9 (05) optical remote sensing satellite follows the launch of the third Gaofen-9 satellite in June and the fourth earlier this month. Previous satellites were capable of providing sub-meter resolution imagery.
- The term "remote sensing" generally refers to the use of satellite or aircraft-based sensor technologies to detect and classify objects on Earth. It includes the surface and the atmosphere and oceans, based on propagated signals.

3. Indonesia's Sinabung volcano unleashes new burst of hot ash

- A rumbling volcano in western Indonesia unleashed an avalanche of scorching clouds down its slopes. The volcano in North Sumatra province was shooting smoke and ash more than 1,000 meters into the air.
- The 2,600-metre (8,530-foot) Sinabung was dormant for four centuries before exploding in 2010, killing two people.
- Another eruption in 2014 killed 17 people, while seven died in a 2016 eruption. Sinabung is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia,

which is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific Ring of Fire, an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

4. Saudi Arabia's state oil company Aramco suspends 10 bn dollar China oil refinery project

- Saudi Arabia's state oil company Aramco has suspended a deal to build a 10 billion dollar refining and petrochemicals complex in China.
- Aramco decided to stop investing in the facility in China's Northeastern province of Liaoning due to uncertain market outlook.
- The oil-price crash and Corona's impact on energy demand have changed the calculations for energy companies' projects around the world.
- Aramco plans deep cuts to its capital spending as it tries to maintain a 75 billion dollar dividend amid low crude prices and rising debt.

5. India, Uzbekistan hold first meeting of the National Coordination Committee

- India and Uzbekistan held the first meeting of their National Coordination Committee on August 24, 2020. The committee has been set up to monitor the implementation of the mutually agreed projects between India and Uzbekistan.
- The National Coordination Committee was constituted under the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.
- The first meeting of the committee was co-chaired by the Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan and Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade, Sardor Umurzakov.

6. Rohingya relocation to Bhasan Char island may start after Monsoon

- The Bangladesh government is planning to begin the relocation of Rohingyas to the newly built facility at Bhasan Char island after the monsoon season. The move is aimed at giving the refugee community from Myanmar a better place for living.
- The announcement was made by the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary, Masud Bin Momen during a webinar in Dhaka. Momen stated that the Bangladesh government is planning to take relatives of the 306 Rohingya refugees already settled in Bhasan Char and other representatives to show the facilities available on the island for the people to be settled there.

7. Africa declared free of wild polio in 'milestone'

- The World Health Organization has declared Africa free of polio, a landmark in a decades-long campaign to eradicate the notorious disease around the world.
- This was announced by WHO Regional Director of Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti. A commission has certified that no cases had occurred on the continent for the past four years, the threshold for eradication of poliovirus.
- The WHO said, poliovirus now joins smallpox in the list of viruses that have been wiped out in Africa.

8. Shinzo Abe Will Resign as Japan's Prime Minister, Citing His Worsening Health

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has stepped down from his position due to his worsening health condition. The long-serving Prime Minister of Japan did not name a successor.
- The Japanese Prime Minister has been suffering from ulcerative colitis for over a decade. The chronic condition was partly responsible for forcing him out of office after just a year during his previous term as prime minister in 2007.
- According to Article 9 of Japan's Cabinet law, if a prime minister is prevented from discharging his functions, or the post is vacant, then a minister of state he has designated in advance will temporarily perform the role.
- An extra session of Parliament is likely to be held from October. Elections must also be held for parliament's powerful lower house by late October 2021.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Kevin Mayer steps down as TikTok CEO Amid Trump Administration's Pressure

- TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer has announced his resignation from the post, less than three months after his appointment. In an email to his employees, Mayer said that "It is with a heavy heart that I wanted to let you all know that I have decided to leave the company."
- Mayer's resignation comes just days after TikTok sued US President Donald Trump's administration over an executive order effectively banning all transactions with its Chinese parent company ByteDance in the United States. TikTok's parent company ByteDance has been receiving enormous backlash from the US President due to its ties to China.
- TikTok's General Manager in North America, Vanessa Pappas will be taking over as the interim global head of the company.

2. 21-year old Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash bags 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title

- Twenty-Year old Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonna lagadda of Hyderabad has bagged the first ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations (MC) World Cup (MCWC) held on August 15, 2020 by Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO).
- The MSO was held virtually with 30 participants, who were upto 57 years of age. The participants were from 13 countries including the UK, Germany, UAE, France, Greece and Lebanon.
- Bhanu Prakash had secured the gold medal with a score of 167, Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal with a score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.
- He has created a new All Time Record and has beaten the records of Math Maestros like Shakuntala Devi and Scott Flansburg. India's Aryan Shukla finished fourth with a score of 96.

3. DRDO Chief G Satheesh Reddy gets two-year extension

- Renowned Aerospace Scientist Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy was given a two-year extension as Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research & Development (DoDRD) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- G Satheesh Reddy was appointed to the post in August 2018 for a tenure of two years.
- Satheesh Reddy was born in Atmakuru, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. He was appointed as Scientific advisor to the Defence Minister of India in June 2015. Satheesh Reddy also heads Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, a Military Missile Research Centre in Hyderabad, India.
- Satheesh Reddy is one of the Chief Architects behind India's Mission Shakti, Anti Satellite Missile Test (ASAT).

BANKING

1. Businesses With annual turnover of up to Rs 40 Lakhs are GST Exempt: Finance Ministry

- The Union Ministry of Finance announced on August 24, 2020 that now businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh will be GST exempt. The Ministry added that those with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only 1 percent tax.

- Earlier, only businesses with an annual turnover of Rs 20 lakh were exempted from GST tax. The Finance Ministry made the announcement through a series of tweets on the occasion of the first death anniversary of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

2. ICICI Becomes 1st Indian Bank to use Satellite data for Giving Loans

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

3. RBI announces special OMO of Rs 20,000 crore in two tranches

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities (G-Secs) under open market operations (OMO) for an aggregate amount of Rs 20,000 crore in two equal tranches of Rs 10,000 crore on August 27, 2020 and September 03, 2020 on account of current and evolving liquidity and market conditions.
- For the OMO held on August 27, the RBI bought longer-dated government securities maturing between 2024 to 2032 viz. 6.18%, 8.24%, 5.79% and 7.95% maturing on November 4, 2024, February 15, 2027, May 11, 2030 and August 28, 2032, respectively. On the other hand, it sold securities that mature between October and November, 2020.
- The securities for the second tranche auction on September 03, 2020 will be announced separately.

Books and Awards

1. Book on renowned cricket coach Vasoo Paranjape to be released on September 2

- A book named 'Cricket Drona' on one of India's most respected cricket coach, Vasoo Paranjape, will be released on September 2. The book published by Penguin has been co-authored by Paranjape's son, former India player and current national selector Jatin along with cricket journalist Anand Vasu.
- The book has essays written by Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sunil Gavaskar. 'Cricket Drona' takes us through the life of Paranjape, who left a defining impact on the game, shaping the careers of some of Indian cricket's

greatest figures including Gavaskar, Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma.

2. The Book “Delhi Riots 2020: the Untold Story” is set to be Published

- The book “Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story” authored by Monika Arora, advocate, Sonali Chitalkar (political Science) and Prerna Malhotra (English) teachers at Delhi University is set to be published by Garuda Prakashan. The book was released by Bhupendra Yadav, member of parliament and national general secretary over a virtual event in the presence of BJP leader, Kapil Mishra.
- The 190-page book presents the story of the three-day violence that affected North East Delhi in February 2020. The book blames the Muslim mobs and frames the urban naxals and jihadists in association with Islamic states for violence in the key areas. The book resembles a “fact finding report” on the violence published by the women groups of intellectuals and academicians.



3. Army Chief honours 51 SAG of the National Security Guard

- Chief of Army Staff on honoured the 51 Special Action Group of the National Security Guards in recognition of its achievements in combating terrorism.
- The 'COAS (Chief of Army Staff) Unit Appreciation' was conferred on the elite group for its "outstanding achievements" in anti-terror operations.
- The group draws 100 per cent of its manpower from the Indian Army and has established itself as an elite counter terrorist force earning many gallantry awards including three Ashok Chakra which is India's highest peacetime gallantry honour.
- Since its raising in December 1984, 51 Special Action Group has carved a niche for itself.

4. National Sports Awards to be held virtually this year on 29th August due to Covid-19

- President of India Ram Nath Kovind will confer the National Sports Awards 2020 through a virtual mode for the first-ever time on August 29, 2020. The President will be attending the awards ceremony through the NIC link from the President's house.
- The National Sports Awards 2020 comprises a total of 74 awards in seven categories. Among the total award winners, 65 will be attending the ceremony from various locations while 9 will not be able to attend due to COVID-19 related reasons. While cricketer Rohit Sharma, Paralympian Mariappan Thangavelu, table tennis champion Manika Batra and wrestler Vinesh Phogat will be receiving the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award on the occasion.

5. Marieke Lucas Rijneveld wins International Booker Prize for “The Discomfort of Evening”

- Dutch Author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld won the 2020 International Booker Prize for the Literary fiction book ‘The Discomfort of Evening’. Rijneveld became the youngest author to win the prize at the age of 29.
- The Booker Prize Foundation is a registered charity, it is responsible for the award of The Booker Prize for Fiction and for The International Booker Prize. The Book was first published in Dutch in 2018 and eventually translated into English by Michele Hutchison.
- Under the rules of the prize, the award of 50,000-pound will be split equally between the author and translator Michele Hutchison, giving equal recognition to both.

6. Army Chief General Released a Book Titled “National Security Challenges: Young Scholars’ Perspective” Authored by University students

- General Manoj Mukund(MM) Naravane, Chief of Army Staff released a book titled, “National Security Challenges: Young Scholars’ Perspective” authored by university students, ranging from the undergraduate level to doctoral candidates. The book contains various themes pertaining to national security. It aims to develop strategic thinking among the youth of this country. The book was published by Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), the Army think-tank.
- The book is a tribute to Field Marshal Manekshaw, the strategist of 1971 Indo-Pakistan War, that resulted in the liberation of Bangladesh.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. Thawar Chand Gehlot launches KIRAN helpline service for mental health rehabilitation

- Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thawar Chand Gehlot launched 'Kiran', a toll-free mental health rehabilitation helpline number on August 27. The helpline (1800-599-0019), developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment along with its partners, aims to provide support for early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental wellbeing, preventing deviant behaviours, psychological crisis management, among others.
- The helpline will offer mental health rehabilitation services. 'Kiran' targets to resolve issues of people across the country experiencing stress, anxiety, depression, panic attack, adjustment disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, suicidal thoughts, pandemic induced psychological issues, and mental health emergencies.
- The helpline will be supported by 660 volunteer clinical/rehabilitation psychologists and 668 volunteer psychiatrists, along with 75 experts at 25 helpline centres who will have the capacity of handling 300 clients per hour.

2. Tata Capital Ltd Launched a New Service 'Swift Insta Personal Loans' on Whatsapp

- Tata Capital Ltd (Tata Capital), the financial services arm of the Tata Group launched its new service called, 'Swift Insta Personal Loans' (SIPL) on WhatsApp. Through the new service, the existing customers can easily apply for loans and receive sanctions for personal loans (on a single platform) using TIA, a chatbot of Tata Capital on Whatsapp.
- Currently the platform will be available in a comprehensive manner offering only personal loans. The platform will also be expanded to other loan categories. Through the company's WhatsApp number (7506756060) for TIA, customers can apply for SIPL. SIPL is the latest edition to Tata Capital's suite of instant loan offerings.

3. IAF launches mobile app 'MY IAF' to provide career-related information to aspirants

- Indian Air Force launched a mobile application, "MY IAF". The app will provide career-related information to those who want to join the Indian Air Force.
- The application, developed in association with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), provides career-related information and details for those desirous of joining the IAF.
- The user-friendly format of the app serves as a single digital platform interfacing the users with the details of the selection procedure, training curriculum, pay and perks etc for both officers and airmen in the IAF. It also provides glimpses into the history and stories of valour in the IAF.

4. Rare fish “Mahseer” discovered in Sileru river by Andhra University’s researchers

- Andhra University’s researchers have found a species of rare fish named Mahseer (scientific name Tor). The fish was found from the upper part of Sileru river, in Andhra Pradesh.
- IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) has listed this fish in the endangered list.
- Golden Mahseer fish is found in the Himalayan region, where the temperature around year does not exceed 20° Celsius such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nepal and Bhutan.

5. Govt working on setting up a new air defence command by October

- The Defence Ministry is working to restructure the armed forces to set up a new air defence command under the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Prayagraj by the second week of October 2020.
- The Department of Military Affairs has hastened its work to prepare the structure of the command under an Air Force officer. Efforts are being made to announce the creation of the air defence command at Prayagraj on Air Force Day on October 8, 2020, as per government sources.
- The main aim of setting up a new air defence command is to combine the resources of the three services under one command and activate it to protect the air space of the country.

SPORTS

1. Table Tennis Player Poulomi Ghatak retires silently, shifts her focus on coaching

- One of the most successful Indian table tennis players, Poulomi Ghatak, quietly bid adieu to her playing career. A seven-time national champion, Ghatak was the most prominent name in women’s table tennis in the last couple of decades. ‘We don’t play cricket. We play table tennis. That’s the difference,’ she says as she retires as an eminent successful Table Tennis player of the Indian team.
- She had broken into the national team of Table Tennis at quite a young age and had remained an extremely consistent performer. Excelling for more than two decades, she won the National crown for stupendous seven times.

2. Bayern Munich win Champions League 2019-20 title

- German professional sports club Bayern Munich won the UEFA Champions League title for the sixth time by defeating Paris Saint-Germain 1-0. The club bagged their maiden UEFA Champions League title in 1974.

- French professional footballer, Kingsley Junior Coman was the only scorer of the match and selected the Man of the Match. Real Madrid is the top club in the winner list of total UEFA Champions League with 11 trophies so far. Bayern and Liverpool both are six-time champions of Europe. Bayern Munich won all 11 league fixtures of this season of the UEFA Champions League. Barcelona became the group topper for a record 13th consecutive season.
- The Union of European Football associations organized the UEFA Champions League club football competition annually. Top European clubs participate in the tournament.
- The first UEFA Champions League was organized in 1955-56 when it was called the European Cup. In 1992-93, it became the Champions League.

3. Jaques Kallis, Lisa Sthalekar and Zaheer Abbas inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

- Legendary South African all-rounder Jaques Kallis, Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas and Pune-born former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame.
- Among the finest all-rounders to play the game, Kallis represented South Africa in 166 Tests, 328 ODIs and 25 T20s between 1995 and 2014. Remarkably, he is the only player to score at least 10,000 runs and take at least 250 wickets in both Test and ODI cricket.
- Zaheer Abbas played 78 Tests and 62 ODIs for Pakistan, accumulating 5062 and 2572 runs respectively. Kallis is the fourth South African player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and Abbas the sixth from Pakistan. Sthalekar represented Australia in eight Tests, 125 ODIs and 54 T20s.
- Sthalekar is the 27th from Australia and the ninth woman player in the list, which includes five from her country.

4. First female golfer from Germany Sophia Popov wins Women's British Open

- World number 304 Sophia Popov became the first female golfer from Germany to capture a major title after winning the Women's British Open by two strokes at Royal Troon in Scotland.
- Thailand's Jasmine Suwannapura was the runner-up after shooting 67. It completed one of the most unlikely wins in the tournament's history.

5. James Anderson becomes first Fast Bowler to take 600 Test Wickets

- England's James Anderson has created history by becoming the first-ever fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test cricket. The 38-year-old achieved the feat during England's third test against Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl cricket ground in Southampton on August 25, 2020

- During the beginning of the third test, Anderson was seven wickets away from the historic feat. He, however, reached the milestone on the 5th day of the Test when he dismissed Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali to claim his 600th wicket.
- James Anderson has now become the fourth-highest wicket-taker in the longest format of the game, only behind Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne and Anil Kumble. He is the highest wicket-taker for England in Test cricket. Stuart Broad is the second-highest wicket-taker for England in Test cricket with 500 Test wickets.

OBITUARIES

1. The birth anniversary of Mother Teresa was observed on 26 August 2020.

- She was born Anjezën Gonxhe Bojaxhiu on 26th of August 1910 in Skopje, North Macedonia.
- Mother Teresa arrived in India in 1929 and spent most of her life in service of the destitute in India.
- The Nobel Laureate founded the Missionaries of Charity and spent 45-years serving the poor, sick, orphaned and dying on the streets of Kolkata.
- Teresa received a number of honors, including the 1962 Ramon Magsaysay Peace Prize and 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.
- Mother Teresa was declared as a Saint on 4th September 2016.

2. PM Modi pays tribute to Arun Jaitley on his death anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to senior BJP leader and former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on his death anniversary. On the first death anniversary of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, the government is remembering his contribution to nation-building and the legacy he left behind as Finance Minister during 2014-19.
- The Ministry of Finance acknowledged the key role he played in the implementation of GST. Arun Jaitley served as the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of the Government of India from 2014 to 2019.
- Jaitley previously held the cabinet portfolios of Finance, Defence, Corporate Affairs, Commerce and Industry, and Law and Justice in the Vajpayee government and Narendra Modi government. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award, posthumously in 2020 in the field of Public Affairs.

3. Former Congo President Pascal Lissouba dies at 88

- Former Congolese president Pascal Lissouba died in France at the age of 88. He was president of the Republic of Congo - also called Congo-Brazzaville, to distinguish it from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - from 1992 to 1997.
- He fled the country after being overthrown in a civil war by the current president, Denis Sassou Nguesso, who had lost the country's first multi-party elections in 1992.

4. Steven Spielberg's Father, Computer Pioneer Arnold Spielberg, Dies at 103

- Arnold Spielberg a Pioneered computer designer & an innovative engineer passed away at the age of 103 in Los Angeles, California of natural causes. He along with Charles Propster designed(in late 1950s) the GE-225 mainframe computer, while he worked for General Electric. He is the father of filmmaker Steven Spielberg. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on February 6, 1917.
- The GE-225 mainframe computer enabled the researchers at Dartmouth College to develop the programming language BASIC, which led the rise of personal computers in the 1970s and '80s.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. PM Modi wishes people on World Gujarati Day on 24 august

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended wishes to all Gujaratis on the occasion of World Gujarati Day which is observed every year on 24 August. August 24 is Poet Narmad's birthday and is celebrated as a day dedicated to Gujarati language and literature.
- Narmadashankar Dave 'Narmad' was a visionary creator, philosopher, pioneer of social justice and a proud Gujarati poet.
- The poet who is considered to be the founder of modern Gujarati literature, introduced his fearlessness and creativity through a magazine called 'Dandio'.

2. Women's Equality Day: 26 August

- Women's Equality Day is celebrated on August 26 every year to honor the hard-fought victory of the women's suffrage movement.
- Women's Equality Day has been designed to commemorate the 19th Amendment being adopted in the 1920s in the United States.

- This act stopped the federal government and states from preventing people from the right to vote based on their sex. By the early 20th century, other countries including Finland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom had legalised voting for women as this movement swept across the world.



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