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MHRD

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

29 July 2020

Today's Important News

HRD Ministry renamed as Ministry of Education as Modi Cabinet Reverses Change Made by Rajiv Gandhi.

1. First batch of five Rafale jets touched down at Ambala Air Base on July 29

- In historic moments for the Indian Air Force, the first batch of five Rafale combat jets on Wednesday entered the Indian air space on its way to Ambala airbase from France. The aircraft were welcomed in India with a water cannon salute. The pilots of the much-awaited first batch of Rafale aircraft from France will be received by Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria.
- The Union Defence Minister confirmed the same through a series of tweets, the first of which read that the birds have landed safely at Ambala.
- The five Rafale combat jets had entered the Indian air space, escorted by 02 SU30 MKIs. This was confirmed by both the Indian Air Force and the Defence Minister. The Indian Air Force had tweeted saying, "Welcome home 'Golden Arrows'. Blue skies always." The IAF tweet further read that the arrow formation of Rafales was given a ceremonial welcome by SU-30s.



Foot Notes:

Union Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh

About France:

Capital: Paris

President: Emmanuel Macron

Prime Minister: Jean Castex

About Rafale fighter jet:

The Dassault Rafale literally meaning "gust of wind", and "burst of fire" is a French twin-engine, canard delta wing, multirole fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation. Equipped with a wide range of weapons, the Rafale is intended to perform air supremacy, interdiction, aerial reconnaissance, ground support, in-depth strike, anti-ship strike and nuclear deterrence missions. The Rafale is referred to as an "omnirole" aircraft by Dassault.

2. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends the 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB

- The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 28 took part in the 5th Annual Board of Governors Meeting of AIIB- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank through a video conference.
- During the meet, the discussions were focused on official business, including a roundtable discussion on the theme 'AIIB 2030- Supporting Asia's Development over the Next Decade' and election of AIIB President.



Foot Notes:

About AIIB:

Founded: 16 Jan 2016

President: Jin Lique

Headquarters: Beijing, China

3. HRD Ministry Renamed as Ministry of Education as Modi Cabinet Reverses Change Made by Rajiv Gandhi

- The Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has been renamed as Ministry of Education. The decision was taken during a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Union Cabinet has also approved a new education policy, which will also be announced later.



Foot Notes:

Union HRD Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

4. PM Narendra Modi to address grand finale of world's largest online hackathon on August 1

- Prime Minister will address Grand Finale of the world's largest ever online hackathon- Smart India Hackathon 2020- on August 1, 2020. The Human Resource Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank made the announcement on July 28, 2020. The Smart India Hackathon (SIH) is being organised by the Ministry of Human Resources Development and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- The Human Resource Minister had chaired a high-level meeting on Smart India Hackathon (SIH) and discussed achievements of the already conducted hackathons. The grand finale of the Smart-India Hackathon 2020 will be held till August 3, 2020
- The hackathon will see participation from over 10,0000 students this year. The students will be competing to solve 243 problem statements from 37 Central Government departments, 17 State Governments and 20 industries during the online Grand Finale.



Foot Notes:

About AICTE(All India Council for Technical Education):

Founded: November 1945

Sector: Technology education

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Anil Sahasrabudhe

5. Bharti AXA general insurance launches 'bohot zaroori hai' campaign for farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka

- Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched its crop insurance campaign, 'Bohot Zaroori Hai' for farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka to encourage them about their yield protection and financial security. It aims to create awareness to farming communities about the relevance and significance of crop insurance, which can alleviate rural distress caused by crop failure or damage due to unseasonal rains, monsoon failure among others.
- The awareness drive describes that buying crop insurance as a very important aspect of farming and also signifies that the protection of crops will eventually secure the aspirations of farmers.



Foot Notes: About Bharti AXA General Insurance: Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director: Sanjeev Srinivasan	About Maharashtra: Capital: Mumbai Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackrey	About Karnataka: Capital: Bengaluru Chief Minister: B. S. Yediyurappa Governor: Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
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6. Young Indian Activist Archana Soreng Becomes Part of UN Advisory Group on Climate Change

- The United Nations Secretary -General António Guterres named Indian climate activist Archana Soreng among 7 members to his new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change. The members will advise him regularly on accelerating global action and also provide solutions to tackle the worsening climate crisis. This is to mobilize climate action as part of the COVID-19 recovery efforts.
- The members are between the ages of 18 and 28 years old. The members of the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change represent the diverse voices of young people from all regions as well as small island states. They will offer perspectives and solutions on climate change, from science to community mobilization, from entrepreneurship to politics, and from industry to conservation.



Foot Notes:

About UN:

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founded: 24 October 1945, California, United States

Secretary general: António Guterres

7. Every year July 29 is celebrated as Global Tiger Day

- Every year July 29 is celebrated as Global Tiger Day. The decision to celebrate the day was taken at the Saint Petersburg Declaration on Tiger conservation that was signed in 2010.
- India has 70% of total tiger population in the world. To commemorate Global Tiger Day, the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released the All India Tiger Estimation-2018 report. Also, the Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan is to release a report on Tiger Census to commemorate Global Tiger Day. The day is also called International Tiger Day.
- The day is celebrated to create awareness for tiger conservation. It promotes a system to protect natural habitats of tigers and raise public awareness. This year, the Global Tiger Day is celebrated with the slogan, "Their Survival is in our hands".



Foot Notes:

About Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:

Founded: 1985

Headquarters: New Delhi

Jurisdiction: India

Officeholders: Babul Supriyo (Minister of State), Prakash Javadekar (Minister)

8. Nitrogen Dioxide Levels Fell Over 70% During Lockdown In Delhi: UN Report

- The UN policy brief stated that Levels of nitrogen dioxide fell by more than 70% during the lockdown in New Delhi. The environmental gains could be temporary if the cities re-open without policies to prevent air pollution and promote de-carbonization.
- It also stated that nitrogen dioxide fell 40% in urban areas in China, 20% in Belgium and Germany, and 19-40% in different areas of the US.
- The UN's Policy on 'Covid-19 in an Urban World' stated that with an estimated 90% of all reported Covid-19 cases, urban areas have become the epicentre of the pandemic. It also pointed out that several new scientific studies suggest that poor air quality is correlated with higher Covid-19 mortality rates.



Foot Notes:

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Lt. Governor: Anil Baijal

9. IRCTC, SBI Card launch new Co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) and SBI Card launched a co-branded contactless credit card, IRCTC -SBI Platinum Card on RuPay Platform to reward the frequent railway (train) travellers. The card is equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology by which users can facilitate their transactions at the point of sale (POS) machines by Tap and Pay option. This enables consumers to transact safely and securely online.
- The card offers exclusive benefits for rail passengers on



retail, dining, entertainment besides transaction fee waivers. It also offers maximum savings proposition on their travel. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) and SBI Card launched a co-branded contactless credit card, IRCTC -SBI Platinum Card on RuPay Platform to reward the frequent railway (train) travellers. The card is equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology by which users can facilitate their transactions at the point of sale (POS) machines by Tap and Pay Option. This enables consumers to transact safely and securely online.

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Foot Notes:

About IRCTC:

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Chairman & Managing Director: Mahendra Pratap Mall

About SBI Card:

Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana.

MD and CEO: Hardayal Prasad (will retire on July 31, 2020) Ashwini Kumar Tewari to take charge from August 1, 2020.

10. “Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India” authored by Viral V. Acharya

- The book titled “Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India” authored by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor Viral V. Acharya.
- The book is published by SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd. The book portrays his quest to restore financial stability in India and offers a concrete plan for sustained improvement.

Foot Notes:

About Viral V. Acharya:

Viral V. Acharya is an Indian economist who was appointed as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India. He also served as a member of the advisory council of the RBI Academy and was a member of the Academic Council of the National Institute of Securities Markets, Securities and Exchange Board of India since 2014.



About SAGE Publications India Ltd:

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Managing Director and CEO: Vivek Mehra



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