



CURRENT AFFAIRS

15 July 2020

Today's Important News

ADB appoints Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa as new Vice President.

1. BCCI appoints Hemang Amin as its interim CEO

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



Foot Notes:

About Board of Control for Cricket in India:

President: Sourav Ganguly

Secretary: Jay Shah

CEO: Hemang Amin(Interim)

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

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

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually give a keynote address at the valedictory session of the High-level Segment of the United Nations'



Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) on July 17 in New York. The session will be on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

- This has been considered as an important development, as the address will be PM Modi's first speech at the UN after India's elections to the Security Council. The PM will be joined by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Norway PM Erna Solberg.
- The theme of the High-Level Segment which is held annually by ECOSOC is "Multilateralism after COVID 19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary". PM Modi had earlier delivered his address at the 70th anniversary of ECOSOC on January 22, 2016.

Foot Notes:

About UNECOSOC(United Nations Economic and Social Council):

Headquarters location: New York, United States

Head: Mona Juul

Founded: 1945

Parent organization: United Nations

3. NEOWISE Comet to be visible from naked eye till July-end

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



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

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



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

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



for South Asia.

Foot Notes:

About Kerala:

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

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6. ADB appoints Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa as its new Vice President

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



Foot Notes:

About ADB:

Founded: 9 Dec 1966

Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines

President: Masatsugu Asakawa

7. 8.9% of the world's population, went hungry in 2019: UN's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 Report

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



Foot Notes:

About United Nations:

Headquarter: New York, United States (US)

Secretary General: Antonio Guterres

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founded: 24 October 1945, California, United States

8. Ministry of Ayush announced the names of the winners of My Life-My Yoga Video blogging contest

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



Foot Notes:

About Ministry of AYUSH:

Founded: 9 November 2014, India

Minister: Shripad Naik

Headquarters: New Delhi

9. World Youth Skills Day is observed on 15 July

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



10. MHA directs paramilitary forces to ban Facebook

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has directed the paramilitary forces to ban Facebook for their personnel and ex-servicemen. The Ministry issued the direction on July 13, 2020 through a letter to all paramilitary forces including CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and NSG.
- The Home Ministry has asked the paramilitary forces to ban Facebook not only for the personnel who are currently serving them but also for ex-servicemen as they remain in touch with the armed forces.
- The Home Ministry sent the directive after receiving an e-mail from Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy asking to extend the ban of foreign apps in paramilitary forces as well.



Foot Notes:

Union Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah

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