



CURRENT AFFAIRS

01 September 2020

Today's Important News

Former President Pranab Mukherjee
cremated with full state honours.



1. World Bank to pause publication of Doing Business report

- The World Bank Group has 'paused' the publication of the Doing Business report after irregularities have been reported regarding changes to the data used in the report. The effective suspension of the publication of the rankings has been announced in the wake of a number of reported irregularities regarding changes to data in the 2018 and 2020 reports published in October 2017 and October 2019.
- The policy regime in India places a lot of importance on the rankings.
- After assuming power in 2014, the Narendra Modi government set a target for India to be among top 50 countries in the rankings. In 2014, India was ranked 142nd. It jumped to the 63rd position among 190 countries in May 2019.



Foot Notes:

About World Bank:

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

Parent organization: World Bank Group

Founded: July 1944

President: David Malpass

MD and CFO: Anshula Kant

2. Rajiv Kumar takes over as election commissioner

- Rajeev Kumar assumed charge as the new Election Commissioner of India on September 1, 2020. He has formally joined the Election Commission of India and will be working alongside Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora.
- Kumar was appointed as the new Election Commissioner by President Ram Nath Kovind on August 21, 2020. The former finance secretary succeeds Ashok Lavasa, who had resigned earlier.



Foot Notes:

About ECI(Election Commission of India):

Formed: 25 January 1950

Headquarters: New Delhi

First executive: Sukumar Sen

Preceding executive: Om Prakash Rawat

3. India's GDP Contracts By 23.9% In Q1 Of 2020-21, The Worst In Decades

- India's GDP collapsed by 23.9% in April-June Quarter of FY 2020-21, as per the data of the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Indian economy posted its worst ever contraction in last four decades due to the COVID-induced slowdown that has hit majorly all the businesses and companies across the world.
- Indian economy grew at 3.1% in January-March quarter of 2019-20 due to the decline in consumer spending, investments and contraction in exports. And the strict nationwide lockdown, imposed soon after the outbreak of novel Coronavirus in India in March, had stalled economic activities across the country and led to job losses and decline in income.



Foot Notes:

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation: D. V. Sadananda Gowda

4. Hyderabad International Airport wins CII-GBC 'National Energy Leader' award

- Hyderabad International Airport won the 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' awards at the 21st National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management'. It was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC).
- The award was given during the 19th edition of 'Energy Efficiency Summit', Virtual Conference and Exposition on Energy Efficiency held from August 6-28, 2020.
- The 'National Awards for Excellence in Energy Management' is instituted by CII to recognize significant and innovative practices of the energy efficiency sector, for the energy efficient and sustainable growth of the Indian industry.



Foot Notes:

About CII:

President: Mr. Uday Kotak

President-Designate: T V Narendran

Headquarter: New Delhi, Delhi

5. CSIR-CMERI develops World's Largest Solar Tree

- CSIR-CMERI has developed the World's Largest Solar Tree, which is installed at CSIR-CMERI Residential Colony, Durgapur. The installed capacity of the Solar Tree is above 11.5 kWp. It has the annual capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power.
- The Solar Tree has been designed in a manner to ensure maximum exposure of each Solar PV Panel to Sunlight and also creation of the least amount of shadow area beneath.
- There are a total of 35 Solar PV Panels in each tree with a capacity of 330 wp each.



Foot Notes:

About CSIR:

Head: Shekhar C. Mande

Founded: 26 September 1942

Located in: New Delhi



6. Indian High Commission gifts books to 100 universities and Colleges to mark Mujib Barsho in Bangladesh

- The High Commission of India gifted books on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the liberation war of Bangladesh to 100 universities and colleges in the country.
- The books have been written by acclaimed authors and historians.
- The High Commission organised the online book gifting session as part of Mujib Barsho- the birth centenary year of Bangladesh's founder president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



Foot Notes:

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina

7. Tamil Nadu Appoints India's First-ever Woman Ambulance Driver Under New Initiative by CM Palaniswami

- Tamil Nadu has appointed India's first-ever woman ambulance driver under a new initiative by CM Palaniswami.



- M Veeralakshmi was appointed driver of one of the newly launched '108' ambulances in Tamil Nadu.
- As per the Tamil Nadu government, this is the first such instance in the country.
- Palaniswami on March 24, had announced that to strengthen the 108 ambulance emergency services, '500 new ambulances would be dedicated to the state at a cost of about Rs 125 crore'.

Foot Notes:

About Tamil Nadu:

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: Edappadi K. Palaniswami

Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

8. Woman IPS Officer “Charu Sinha” To head Srinagar sector for CRPF in a first

- Charu Sinha has become the first female IPS officer to get appointed as the Inspector General (IG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the terrorist-hit Srinagar sector. Charu Sinha is a 1996-batch IPS officer from Telangana cadre. She will now be heading the Srinagar sector for CRPF as the Inspector General.
- However, this is not the first time that Sinha has been assigned such a tough task. Earlier as well, she has worked as Inspector General of CRPF in the Bihar sector and has dealt with Naxals. Under her leadership, several anti-Naxal operations were carried out.
- She was later transferred to IG Jammu in CRPF where she spent a long and successful tenure. Now she has been appointed as the IG Srinagar sector. The Srinagar sector has never had a female officer at IG level. The sector closely works with the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir police and is often involved in anti-terror operations.



Foot Notes:

About CRPF(Central Reserve Police Force):

Headquarters: New Delhi

Minister responsible: Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs

Director-General: A P Maheshwari

9. Myntra appoints Kiara Advani as brand ambassador

- Flipkart-owned fashion marketplace Myntra has appointed Bollywood actor Kiara Advani as its brand ambassador to increase its young customer base across tiers.
- Her mass appeal as an actor and fashion trendsetter is poised to accelerate conversations around Myntra's apparel segments.
- Kiara's engaging social media presence, and high fan following with the youth will help strengthen Myntra's vision of democratising fashion.
- Myntra is one of the largest fashion e-commerce stores in India and has partnered with fashion and lifestyle brands in the country such as Nike, Adidas, Puma, Levis, Wrangler, Arrow, Jealous 21, Diesel, CAT, Harley Davidson, Ferrari, Timberland, US Polo, FabIndia, Biba among others.



Foot Notes:

About Myntra:

CEO: Amar Nagaram

Founded: February 2007

Founders: Mukesh Bansal, Ashutosh Lawania, Vineet Saxena

10. Former President Pranab Mukherjee cremated with full state honours

- Former President Pranab Mukherjee was cremated with full state honours at the Lodhi Road electric crematorium in New Delhi on Tuesday afternoon. His son performed his last rites.
- Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee has passed away at the age of 84, his family said.
- Mukherjee died of multiple organ failure on Monday after being admitted to hospital weeks ago, having also contracted coronavirus.



Foot Notes:

About Pranab Mukherjee:

Pranab Mukherjee is an Indian politician who served as the 13th President of India from 2012 until 2017. In a political career spanning five decades, Mukherjee has been a senior leader in the Indian National Congress and has occupied several ministerial portfolios in the Government of India.

Born: 11 December 1935, Miriti



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