



Weekly Current Affairs

09-15 August 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Flipkart Signs MoU With UP Govt's One District, One Product (ODOP) Scheme

- E-commerce platform Flipkart signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uttar Pradesh Government's One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme.
- As part of the MoU, artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme will be brought into the 'Flipkart Samarth' initiative. This partnership will enable the under-served communities to showcase their specialised products and crafts in the e-commerce platform.
- Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs at Flipkart Group & Navneet Sehgal Additional Chief Secretary for Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Export Promotion were present during the signing of MoU.

2. 1.5 lakh tele-consultations completed through 'eSanjeevani' and 'eSanjeevaniOPD'

- The initiative by the Union Health Ministry, eSanjeevani OPD, has registered 1.58 lakh online consultations within nine months of its inception. This telemedicine facility has been very much useful for the country and that is proved from the data released by the Ministry in this regard.
- Since November 2019, this platform has been operationalized in 23 states and the services now cover more than 75% of the population of the country. The rest of the states are also in the process of rolling this service out within a very short span of time. The platform has two types of teleconsultation facilities – doctor-to-doctor (eSanjeevani) and patient-to-doctor (eSanjeevani OPD).
- This scheme is being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre Program. The program seeks to connect all 1.50 lakh health and wellness centres in the platform using the hub-and-spoke model. As of now, around 12000 health professionals, including 2800 doctors have been imparted training to offer consultations on the national e-platform through over 3000 Health and Wellness Centres across 10 states. 250 doctors are specialists are available on a daily basis on this platform, even during the lockdown situation. This service is available only for Android apps, as of now.

3. Railways Minister Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurates Railway Museum at Hubballi

- The Ministry of Railways has inaugurated a dedicated museum for railways in Hubballi, Karnataka, through video conferencing. This is the first of its

kind museum in Northern Karnataka and second in South Western Railways after the historic railway museum at Mysore, Karnataka.

- The main objective of the museum is to preserve and portray the glorious heritage of various branches of Railways and displays the gradual evolution of advanced systems in all spheres of Railway.
- The artefacts have been arranged in three sections – Malaprabha, Ghataprabha and the outdoor section. There is a grand arch at the entrance of the museum that welcomes one to the bygone era. This will be embellished with emblems of forerunners of South Western Railway, that served this region, which is Southern Mahratta Railway, Mysore and Southern Mahratta Railway, etc. and will attract the visitors to explore the world of Railways.

4. KVIC opened First Silk Training-cum-Production Center in Arunachal Pradesh

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has decided to open the first of its kind training and production centre of silk in Arunachal Pradesh. This centre will come up in Chullyu village in the state. The centre will be launched in the first week of September.
- KVIC has renovated an old school building in the village and converted it into a training-cum-production centre. The state government provided that school building to the commission completely free of cost to develop the centre. There will be machineries such as Charkha, silk reeling machines and warping drums in the centre. The first batch of 25 artisans has also been selected for training in the initial phases.
- This centre was conceived just six months ago and it is the brainchild of the KVIC Chairman. The idea is to provide training and then employment to the local people of the village through silk production. This will create employment opportunities in the area and also the silk produced will be sold outside.

5. No Sale Of Junk Food Within 50 Metres Of School Campus: FSSAI

- With the aim to ensure safe and wholesome food for school children, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has restricted the sale of junk and unhealthy food in canteens of schools and other educational institutions.
- Besides this, the food regulator has prohibited the sale and advertisement of unhealthy food within 50 metres of the school premises.
- The idea is to provide safe food and a balanced diet for children in schools.
- Foods which are referred to as foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) cannot be sold to schoolchildren in school canteens or mess premises or hostel kitchens or within 50 metres of the school campus.

6. Mumbai's Dadar becomes the first city to have female icons on traffic signals

- Mumbai has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.
- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed traffic signals that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.
- Aditya Thackery, Minister for Tourism and Environment termed that the signage is “ensuring gender equality with a simple idea.”
- While a first in India, countries like Germany and Australia started marking female icons in traffic signage in 2014 and 2017, respectively.

7. Delhi Airport launches 'Air Suvidha', an online portal for international passengers

- The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has developed a first-of-its-kind web portal named ‘AIR SUVIDHA’.
- This portal is meant for India-bound international arriving flyers, to enable them to fill the mandatory self- declaration form.
- Eligible passengers can also apply online for exemption from mandatory institution quarantine process.
- The AIR SUVIDHA portal will make traveling contactless as the passengers won't have to fill physical copies of self declaration and quarantine exemption forms when they arrive in India.

8. Golfer Chawrasia tests positive for Covid-19

- Ace Indian golfer SSP Chawrasia has tested positive for Covid-19 and is in home quarantine.
- A four-time winner on the European Tour, including back-to-back Indian Open triumphs in 2016 and 2017, Chawrasia had started training at the Royal Calcutta Golf Course and was slated to fly to England this week.
- He is a four-time winner on the European Tour, including back-to-back Indian Open triumphs in 2016 and 2017.

9. Finance Minister Sitharaman launches online dashboard for National Infrastructure Pipeline

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on August 10 launched an online dashboard of National Infrastructure Pipeline. The Dashboard will showcase over 6,800 projects online.
- The Online dashboard of NIP is to be hosted on the India Investment Grid (IIG), which is a dynamic and interactive online platform that showcases real-time and updated investment opportunities in India.

- As per the Ministry of Finance, the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) project database will help in providing real-time updates for domestic and foreign investors in the infrastructure projects.

10. GoI launched National Portal "SURAKHSYA" on Human Elephant conflict

- The Union Environment Minister launched National Portal on Human Elephant conflict called "SURAKHSYA".
- The portal aims to collect real time information and will also manage conflicts on real time basis.
- The portal will help to set data collection protocols, data visualization tools and data transmission pipelines.
- The National Portal was launched during the celebration of international annual event World Elephant Day.
- The World Elephant Day is celebrated every year on August 12 to create elephant conservation and share knowledge for better protection of wild captive elephants.

11. Daughters become equal coparceners at birth even if born prior to 2005 amendment to Hindu Succession Act

- The Supreme Court on August 11, 2020 ruled that daughters are entitled to equal property rights even if they were not born at the time of the 2005 amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 or irrespective.
- The apex court ruled that daughters would have equal coparcenary rights in Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) properties. This would hold irrespective of whether the father was alive or not at the time of the amendment.
- The judgement was delivered by a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justices Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer and MR Shah. They were hearing appeals that raised the issue of whether the amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral property would have retrospective effect.

12. Lok Sabha starts beginner-level course in French

- Lok Sabha has started a beginner-level course in French for the officials and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat at the Parliament House. As many as 57 officials registered for the course.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the course. Birla appreciated the initiative undertaken by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE).
- In the near future, courses in German, Spanish, Russian and other important world languages would also be organised.


13. Govt abolishes Cotton Advisory Board; notifies change in status of textiles research associations

- On the lines of Government of India vision of “Minimum Government and Maximum Governance”, the Ministry of textiles has abolished its another advisory body, Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), and notified that all eight Textiles Research Associations (TRAs) have ceased to be “affiliated bodies” of the ministry.
- Hereafter, TRAs will be approved bodies for conducting testing, research and developmental activities related to the textiles sector.
- Any disposal/sale/transfer of assets created out of the central government grant shall require prior specific approval of the ministry.

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14. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches ICAR's data recovery centre 'Krishi Megh'

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched ICAR's data recovery centre - KrishiMegh. The move is aimed at protecting the precious data of the government's premier research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- It has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) in Hyderabad. The main data centre of the ICAR is at the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) in the national capital.
- Krishi Megh has been set up under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), funded by both the government and World Bank.

15. Tribal Affairs Ministry develops nine 'Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums

- The Tribal Affairs Ministry is developing “Tribal Freedom Fighters’ Museums dedicated to the contributions of the tribal people in India to the freedom struggle.
- Out of nine sanctioned museums, two museums are near completion and the remaining seven are at different stages of progress.
- By the end of 2022 all the museums will come into existence.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced setting up of these tribal freedom fighters’ museums during his Independence Day Speech on 15th August 2016.
- All the museums will have strong usage of technologies like Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and 3D/7D holographic projections. These museums will demonstrate the way tribals struggle to protect their custodial concerns for the biological and cultural diversity of the country.

16. Ahead Of Assembly Polls, Assam Launches Largest Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme Arunodoi

- The Assam Government is set to roll out the Arunodoi Scheme from October 02, 2020, to provide financial assistance to around 17 lakh families in the state. This is the largest direct benefit transfer scheme till date in the state.
- Under this scheme, an amount of Rs 830 will be provided to the eligible families to buy food grains and essential food items. Around 15000-17000 families will be provided with this facility per assembly constituency. The government will have to bear Rs 210 crores per month for this scheme.
- The main aim of the scheme is to take care of the financial problems of the poor and BPL families in the state with substantial financial support. As it is a DBT scheme, there is no chance of any kind of misappropriation of funds and the end beneficiary is expected to get the support as mandated in the scheme.

17. PM Modi launches 'Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest' for Honest Taxpayers

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a platform in order to honour and appreciate the honest taxpayers in the country. The ‘Transparent Taxation – Honouring the Honest’ platform has been launched by the PM through video-conferencing. The government aims to change the way in which taxes are being paid in India now, through this platform.
- The platform will introduce reforms such as faceless assessment, faceless appeals and taxpayers’ charter. Faceless assessment and taxpayers’ charter will be made live from the inception whereas the feature of faceless appeal will be made available on the platform from September 25, 2020.

18. First-of-its-kind Katra-Delhi Express Road Corridor to be completed by 2023

- First-of-its-kind Katra (Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir)-Delhi Express Road corridor works have begun and it is expected to be completed by 2023.
- It was announced by Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh. The express Corridor is expected to reduce the travel time between Katra and Delhi to around six and half hours, the total outlay of the project is Rs. 35, 000 crores.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. Lebanese PM resigns after protests erupt following Beirut Blast

- Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab has resigned from his post in the wake of a major blast in Beirut that has triggered public outrage. The Prime Minister's resignation follows a weekend of anti-government protests after the August 4 explosion in Beirut's port that decimated the facility and caused widespread destruction, killing more than 160 people and injuring about six thousands.
- Diab's government was formed in January this year after his predecessor, Saad Hariri, stepped down in October last year in response to the demonstrations.
- President Michel Aoun has accepted the resignation of the Diab government and asked it to stay on in a caretaker capacity until a new cabinet is formed.

2. Russia registers World's first Covid-19 vaccine, Putin's daughter among those inoculated

- Russia is all set to launch the world's first COVID-19 vaccine on August 12, 2020. The news of Russia registering its first vaccine against the virus was announced earlier on August 8 by Oleg Gridnev, Deputy Health Minister.
- In the efforts of finding the cure for coronavirus, six candidates of vaccines around the world have entered phase three of human trials and as per the reports, one of Russia's candidates has completed all the three phases of human clinical trials.
- The vaccine to be launched by Russia has been developed jointly by the Russian Defence Ministry and the Gamaleya Research Institute. Reportedly, Russia will also begin producing the vaccine soon and has plans for a massive, country-wide vaccine drive.

3. Saudi Arabia cuts off loan, oil supply to Pakistan; end of decade-long ties

- With Saudi Arabia ending loan and oil supply to Pakistan, the decade-long friendship between the two countries has finally ended.

- Pakistan was also made to pay back USD 1 billion to Saudi Arabia, which was part of a \$6.2 billion package announced by Saudi Arabia in November 2018, which included a total of \$3 billion in loans and an oil credit facility amounting to \$3.2 billion.
- The deals were then signed when Crown Prince Muhammed Bin Salman made a visit to Pakistan in February last year.

4. Indian-origin senator "Kamala Harris" named US Vice Presidential candidate for Democratic party

- In the United States, Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden has named Indian-origin senator Kamala Harris as his Vice-Presidential running mate.
- Joe Biden made history by selecting the first black woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket. Kamala Harris is currently the US Senator from California.
- If elected, Kamala Harris would be the first ever woman to be the Vice President of the United States and the first ever Indian-American and African Vice President of the country.

5. Israel shares AI-based technology, high-end equipment with AIIMS to help combat COVID-19

- Israel has given state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence-based technologies and high-end equipment to AIIMS, Delhi as part of Israel-India cooperation to fight the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Israeli Ambassador to India Dr Ron Malka formally handed over the high-end equipment and technology solutions to Director of AIIMS, Dr RandeepGuleria.
- It also includes a 12-hour disinfection product called CPD that stays active to protect the surface against new attacks of contamination.
- Earlier, India helped Israel with medicines and safety gear.
- Now Israel has sent equipment including robotic teleconsultation and telemonitoring equipment.

6. Russia, Brazil agree to cooperate in production of world's first coronavirus vaccine Sputnik V

- Russia and Brazil have agreed to cooperate in the production and marketing of the world's first registered coronavirus vaccine 'Sputnik V'. The Russian Direct Investment Fund said that the cooperation agreement was signed with the Brazilian State of Parana on August 12, 2020.
- Under the strategic agreement, the Russian Direct Investment Fund together with pharmaceutical companies in the state of Parana will organise the production of the Sputnik V vaccine and its distribution in Brazil and other Latin American countries.

- The Russian Health Ministry registered the world's first COVID-19 vaccine- Sputnik V on August 11, 2020.

7. India Extends USD 1 Million Assistance to Antigua and Barbuda's COVID-19 Response

- As a part of India's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, India extended an assistance of 1 million USD to the government of Antigua and Barbuda to combat the global COVID-19 pandemic and to improve their health infrastructure and capacity.
- Under the 1 million USD assistance, KJ Srinivasa, Indian High Commission in Guyana handed over the medical supplies, equipment and medicine to Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda over a virtual platform.

8. Greek and Turkish Warships in 'Mini Collision' in the eastern Mediterranean

- A Greek and Turkish warship got engaged in a mini-collision during a standoff in the eastern Mediterranean. This was shared by a Greek Defence source who described the incident as an accident.
- Tensions rose in the Eastern Mediterranean region after Turkey sent a survey vessel to the region, escorted by warships, to map out the sea territory for possible oil and gas drilling in an area that is claimed by both Greece and Turkey.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Capital India Finance appoints ex-NABARD Chief Harsh Bhanwala as executive Chairman

- Financial Services Platform, Capital India Finance Limited (CIFL) has appointed Ex-NABARD Chief Harsh Kumar Bhanwala as its Executive Chairman. Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala took charge as Executive Chairman.
- Dr. Bhanwala is a PhD holder and did his Post Graduation degree in Management from Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. He was Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) from December 2013 till May 2020. He was the Managing Director of Delhi State Cooperative Bank Ltd (DSCB) during its turnaround period from 1999 to 2005.

2. Public Enterprises Selection Board selects Soma Mondal as the next chairman of SAIL

- Soma Mondal has been selected by the Public Enterprises Selection Board as the next chairman of public sector steel major Steel Authority of India Limited.
- Her appointment is subject to approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- If the ACC gives its approval, she will make history with the rare distinction of being the first woman chairperson of SAIL.
- She will also be the first woman to head a major steel company not only in India but also elsewhere in the world. The current chairman of SAIL Anil Chaudhary assumed charge in September 2018 and is due to retire at the end of this year.

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3. Mukesh Ambani climbs billionaire rankings; fourth richest in the world

- Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has surpassed Bernard Arnault, chairman and Chief Executive Officer of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton to become the world's fourth-richest person.
- As per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Ambani's net worth is now at \$80.2 billion (approx Rs 6 lakh crore) after adding \$22 billion to his wealth in 2020. Mr Ambani was behind Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos (net worth \$187 billion), Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates (\$121 billion) and Facebook co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg (\$102 billion)
- Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian in the list of Top Ten Billionaires across the world.

4. Akshay Kumar, Dwayne Johnson and Ryan Reynolds feature in Forbes' highest-paid actors of 2020 list

- Forbes magazine has released "The Highest-Paid Actors Of 2020" list. Bollywood actor, Akshay Kumar is the only Indian star to be listed among

the top 10 world's highest-paid actors of 2020 with total earnings of \$48.5 million.

- Akshay is placed at sixth place in the list.
- Most of his income came from product endorsements.
- The list has been topped by Wrestler-turned-movie star Dwayne Johnson, for a second straight year, with the total earning of \$87.5 million.

BANKING

1. RBI governor announces 'positive pay' feature to help avert cheque frauds

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the banking system will move to a positive pay practice in cheque transactions to curb frauds.
- Under the 'positive pay' system, a customer who issues the cheque clicks a picture of the cheque before handing it over to the beneficiary and uploads the same on the bank's mobile application.
- The limit of Rs 50,000 will cover approximately 20 per cent of transactions by volume and 80 per cent by value.
- Since 2016, the second largest private sector lender ICICI Bank has such a facility for all cheques irrespective of the amount.
- By following such a system, a bank knows of a cheque being drawn by the customer even before it is deposited by the beneficiary into her account.

Books and Awards

1. Book Chronicling 3rd Year Of Vice President Naidu In Office Released

- A book chronicling the third year in office of Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu titled 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing' was released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The electronic version of the book (e-book) will be launched by Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- The book which runs into more than 250 pages has been brought out by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The book captures through words and pictures the variegated activities of the Vice President, including his travels in India and abroad. It provides a glimpse of his interactions with farmers, scientists, doctors, youth, administrators, industry leaders and artists, among others.

2. ITBP awards 294 troops for bravery during recent skirmishes with Chinese in Ladakh

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has awarded 294 of its troops with the Director General (DG) commendation for displaying

bravery during the recent skirmishes with Chinese troops in Ladakh. This was announced by the border force on August 14, 2020.

- The ITBP added saying that recommendations have also been sent to the government for awarding gallantry medals to 21 troops posted in the area.
- The ITBP in its first official account of the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops revealed how its troops not only effectively used the shield to protect themselves but also responded fiercely to advancing Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops and brought the situation under control.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. Paytm launches first pocket Android POS device for contactless payments in India

- Paytm has launched its first pocket Android PoS device for contactless ordering and making payments, for SMEs.
- This comes at an introductory price of ₹499 per month on a rental basis and is designed like a phone. The firm says its PoS machine comes bundled with Paytm's 'Scan to Order' service, which is slowly said to be gaining traction in places like restaurants and takeaway joints.
- This product is also expected to make payments easier for logistic players, Kirana stores, and small shopkeepers.

2. Skyroot Aerospace becomes first Indian startup to test upper-stage rocket engine

- Skyroot Aerospace, Indian aerospace startup successfully test fired an upper stage rocket engine “Raman”, India’s first 100% 3D printed bi-propellant liquid rocket engine injector named after the Nobel laureate Sir CV Raman and became the first private aerospace company in India to test a rocket engine developed in India.
- Raman is a lightweight 3D printed rocket engine featuring a fewer number of moving parts.
- Raman can hurl a satellite of 250 to 700 kilograms into the lower orbits.

3. HAL’s Light Combat Helicopters deployed for operations at Leh

- In the prevailing tension situation in Ladakh with China over repeated incursions by the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) of the country, the government has decided to deploy two Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) in the region.
- These helicopters have been developed by the public sector defence undertaking, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

- These two helicopters are going to support the initiatives of the Indian Air Force in the region in the high altitude areas of the region. These helicopters have been deployed for operations at a very short notice. This is the lightest such helicopters in the world in order to meet the specific demands of the IAF.

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5. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation through an online webinar. The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end-users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence.
- The Draft Defence Acquisition Policy 2020 rolled out by the Defence Ministry last month envisaged establishment of Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation by the Service Headquarters.

6. Xiaomi India pledged 2500 smartphones to support online education

- The Chinese smartphone major Xiaomi has stated that its Indian arm MI India will distribute 2500 handsets worth Rs 2 crores to support online education of children who were the worst affected by the COVID 19 pandemic in the country.
- The company has come up with this idea amid the pandemic situation since it wants to support the concept of education in the country and wants to ensure that education reaches to all the children in the country. This is also part of the Digital India initiative by the government and the company wants to support that, at any cost. The smartphones are worth Rs 2 crores. The company has appealed to inform it regarding any child

requiring such help in the country as the company will try to help that child.

- According to Teach for India, one smartphone can support the education of up to seven children on the use of the devices in shifts. This move will help those many children in the country. This comes on the backdrop of the UN policy Brief stating the grim impact of the pandemic on education all over the world.

SPORTS

1. PCA's new international stadium to be named after Patiala's last ruler "Maharaja Yadavindra Singh"

- Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) is set to name its new stadium in Mullanpur, New Chandigarh, Punjab after the late Maharaja Yadavindra Singh.
- PCA President Rajinder Gupta proposed the idea to name the stadium and it had been approved.
- Maharaja Yadavindra Singh played a test match for India against England in 1934. Maharaja Yadavindra Singh was the father of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. He was the 9th and the last Maharaja of Patiala.

2. Sri Lanka, UAE kept as India's back up for 2021 T20 World Cup

- As per the latest report, Sri Lanka and the UAE have been kept as backup venues for the 2021 Men's T20 World Cup in case India is unable to host the tournament due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ICC had recently confirmed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will be held in India as scheduled earlier, while this year's postponed T20 World Cup edition will be held in Australia in 2022.
- However, the ICC has identified Sri Lanka and UAE as backup venues for the 2021 edition in case Covid-19 makes India an untenable host. India is currently the third-worst-hit country in the world after the US and Brazil with over 2 million coronavirus cases.

3. Sports Ministry to organise Fit India Freedom Run from Aug 15 to Oct 2

- The Sports Ministry will organise 'Fit India Freedom Run', a largest country-wide run, from August 15 to October 2, 2020. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the mega-event on August 14.
- Amid the ongoing pandemic situation and the norms of social distancing, the sports ministry has decided to encourage the participants of the event to run at their own pace, anywhere and anytime as per their convenience.
- The event organised by the Sports Ministry aims at encouraging fitness among the masses while also following the COVID-19 protocols. As per

Mr. Rijiju, it is another endeavor to strengthen the Fit India movement envisaged by Prime Minister Modi.

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OBITUARIES

1. Former India and Mohun Bagan football player Manitombi passes away

- Former India defender and Mohun Bagan captain Manitombi Singh passed away. He played for Mohun Bagan and was part of the Hindustan FC team that won the Delhi Soccer Association league title in 2010.
- He was part of the team that won the LG Cup in Vietnam under the captaincy of Bhaichung Bhutia. He also donned the Indian colours at the Busan Asian Games later in the year.

2. Renowned lyricist & poet RahatIndori passes away

- In Madhya Pradesh, noted Urdu poet and lyricist RahatIndori died of cardiac arrest in Indore. He was also tested positive for COVID-19. With a 50-year career in poetry, Indori was known for the lyrics of hit films like Munnabhai MBBS, Kareeb, Ghatak and Ishq.
- Indori did his schooling from Nutan School in Indore and his graduation from IslamiaKarimia College, Indore.
- Rahat Sahab had faced poverty in his childhood, so in his words people could see the truth of life.

3. Veteran sports journalist G.K.Menon passes away

- Veteran sports journalist GK Menon died in Mumbai. He was 93 and. He worked with the Indian Express and The Times of India and ended his freelance career in the early 1990s.

- Menon played cricket at the club level and also was an active member of the Shivaji Park Gymkhana in Dadar, central Mumbai.
- He was manager of the 1952-53 Bombay University team which won the Rohinton Baria Trophy by beating Delhi in the final at Bengaluru.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Every year 10th August is observed as World Biofuel Day

- It is observed to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the biofuel sector.
- They are renewable, biodegradable, sustainable and environment friendly fuel. It can be seen as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- Biofuels have the benefits of reducing import dependency on crude oil, cleaner environment, additional income to farmers and employment generation in rural areas.

2. Railways to observe cleanliness week to mark Independence Day

- Indian Railways has decided to observe 'Cleanliness Week' starting from August 10 till August 15 in order to give the message of the importance and significance of cleanliness for the national transporter.
- During this week, the Indian Railways has decided to launch a special cleanliness drive and also special focus will be provided to clean the tracks, station offices, colonies, worksites, the edge of stations and other areas near the premises of the railway stations, across the country. The Ministry has decided to focus mainly on the plastic waste collection from the tracks along with other waste products.

3. International Youth Day is observed on 12 August

- International Youth Day is observed every year on 12 August. The day gives an opportunity to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement.
- In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12th August be declared International Youth Day.
- The theme of this year is 'Youth Engagement for Global Action'.

4. Manipur Observed its Patriots' day 2020 on August 13

- Patriots' day is observed annually on August 13 in Manipur. The Patriots' Day 2020 was observed to commemorate the 1891 Anglo-

Manipuri war during which many Manipuris sacrificed their lives to safeguard the independence of the State.

- On this day in 1891, Manipuris including the then Prince of Manipur Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General were hanged before the general public in the present Imphal area. Prabhat Phery was held in the streets of Imphal City, as part of the observance. The day was observed without involving the general public due to COVID-19 pandemic.



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