



# Weekly Current Affairs

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. Hon. President and Prime Minister to address the Governors' Conference on NEP-2020**

- Hon. President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi shall address the inaugural session of the Governors' Conference on National Education Policy on at 10:30 AM on 7th September 2020, through video conference.
- The Conference titled "Role of NEP-2020 in Transforming Higher Education" is being organized by the Ministry of Education, Govt of India.
- NEP-2020 is the first education policy of the twenty-first century which was announced after 34 years of the previous National Policy on Education 1986. NEP-2020 is directed towards major reforms in both school and higher education level.
- The new National Education Policy strives for making India into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society. It envisions an India-centred education system that contributes directly to transforming India into a Global Superpower.

### **2. G20 member countries reaffirm commitment to ensuring education continuity and safety for all**

- Education Ministers of G 20 nations have resolved to work together and share best practices in the area of education so that member countries can ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all, even in times of COVID crisis. A virtual meeting of G20 Education Ministers was held yesterday to discuss and share experiences of member countries in the three identified areas. These are education Continuity in Times of Crises, Early Childhood Education and Internationalization in Education.
- Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said, India will continue the efforts it has taken to reform and transform its education system and mitigate the challenge posed by the Covid 19 pandemic. He also said India is committed to collaborate with G 20 member countries in the area of education.
- The Education Ministers adopted a communique at the end of the meeting. Regarding ensuring education continuity in times of crises, the communique recognizes the value of distance and blended teaching and learning and underscores the importance of enhancing access to high-quality education, professional development for educators, digital infrastructure and content. The importance of research and data to assess the learning outcomes and quality of distance learning has also been stressed.

### **3. Government of India Expands the support to Artisans manifold, for making Agarbatti, to make India Aatm- Nirbhar**

- Taking a holistic approach and looking to the enhanced interest of the stakeholders, Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), further expanded the reach and support to Artisans, involved in Agarbatti making, and to the Agarbatti Industry, by issuing new guidelines on 4th September, 2020.
- Further to its launching the support program on 30.07.20, Ministry has looked at all aspects of the industry, beyond just supply of machines for making Agarbatti. This includes ensuring supply of inputs and raw materials, the demand for which has increased hugely in last one year.

#### **4. Vodafone Idea to rebrand as 'Vi' as it prepares for telecom battle**

- Vodafone and Idea brands re-branded themselves under a new brand identity 'Vi' on September 7, 2020. The new brand identity has been adopted keeping in mind the future, which is built for and around customers.
- The new brand identity and unified consumer positioning was launched by Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) through a virtual launch on September 7. The integration of Vodafone and Idea marks the culmination of the largest telecom integration in the world.
- In an official statement, VIL stated that two of India's most loved brands "Vodafone and Idea" are now 'together for tomorrow' giving birth to a new brand called 'Vi', which is read as 'We'.

#### **5. Assam govt e-launches SVAYEM scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths of state**

- In Assam, the State Government re-launched a scheme to provide self-employment to around two lakh youths of the state. Known as Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SVAYEM), it would provide 50 thousand rupees each as seed money to selected youths to start business ventures. The Assam Government is launching the redesigned SVAYEM with a budget of 1,000 crore rupees which will be spent in the next three months without any banking linkage.
- Those seeking to avail benefits of the scheme will be able to register themselves at a new portal which will be launched on September 16.
- Youths up to 40 years with the minimum qualification of matriculation would be able to get the benefit of SVAYEM scheme.

#### **6. Punjab Govt Launches 'I Rakhwali' App**

- The State Forest Department of Punjab has launched a mobile application named 'I Rakhwali' to strengthen its drive to preserve and maintain the environment in Punjab
- The app was launched by the Punjab Forest Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot.

- The main aim of 'I Rakhwali' app is to ensure greenery and protect the environment in Punjab as well as inspire people to plant more trees to safeguard the state forest area.

## **7. India In talks to Join COVAX Global vaccine allocation plan: WHO**

- The World Health Organisation is in talks with India about joining the "COVAX" global vaccine allocation plan, a senior WHO adviser. "India is certainly eligible, like all countries in the world, to be part of the COVAX facility and discussions are ongoing in that regard," Bruce Aylward told a briefing in Geneva, news agency Reuters reported.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the GAVI vaccine alliance are leading the COVAX facility, aimed at helping buy and distribute vaccination shots against the novel coronavirus fairly around the world.

## **8. Tamil Nadu govt releases policy for electronics & hardware manufacturing**

- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy released the state's Electronic Hardware Manufacturing Policy-2020. A target is fixed in the new policy for the manufacturing of electronic goods worth 100-billion US Dollars by the year 2025.
- It envisages making the state contribute 25 percent of the country's total electronic hardware export. It aims at attracting semiconductor fabrication units to the state.
- Providing a 30-percent capital subsidy, 50 percent grant for taking land on lease, 5-percent interest grant for term loans and a monthly financial aid for the first-time trainees in the sector for six months at the rate of Rs. 4,000 for men and Rs. 6,000 for women are some of the features in the new policy. Mobile phones, LED's, fabless chips, printed circuit boards, solar photovoltaic cells and medical and automobile electronics are some of the areas that are being given focus in the new policy.

## **9. Government releases draft guidelines on advertising; to treat non-legible disclaimers as misleading ads**

- The Consumer Affairs Ministry has come out with a comprehensive set of draft guidelines on advertising. The guideline says, disclaimers in small font and which are not factual will be treated as misleading ads. The code has been drafted by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- It is aimed at curbing unfair trade. It holds manufacturers, service providers, and advertising agencies accountable for any misleading claims.
- Consumer Protection Act, 2019 is a law to protect the interests of the consumers. It saves the rights of consumers by establishing authorities for timely and effective administration and settlement of disputes.

### **10. Prime Minister to inaugurate Patrika Gate in Jaipur**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi shall inaugurate the Patrika Gate in Jaipur through video conference at 11 AM, on the 8th September 2020. The Iconic Gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur.
- Prime Minister shall also release two books written by the Group Chairman on the occasion.
- The programme will be telecast live on DD News.

### **11. At 96.2%, Kerala tops India's literacy rate chart again, Andhra ranks last at 66.4%**

- With 96.2 percent literacy, Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country, while Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 percent, showed a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey. The report on 'Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of the 75th round of National Sample Survey – from July 2017 to June 2018' provides for state-wise detail of literacy rate among the persons aged seven years and above.
- According to the study, after Kerala, Delhi has the best literacy rate at 88.7 percent, followed by Uttarakhand's 87.6 percent, Himachal Pradesh's 86.6 percent, and Assam's at 85.9 percent.
- On the other hand, Rajasthan is the second-worst performer with a literacy rate at 69.7 percent, followed by Bihar at 70.9 percent, Telangana at 72.8 percent, Uttar Pradesh at 73 percent, and Madhya Pradesh at 73.7 percent. The study has pegged the overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7 percent.

### **12. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah lauded 'PM SVANidhi' scheme to benefit the street vendors**

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah lauded the 'PM SVANidhi' scheme being run by Modi Government to benefit the street vendors. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today held 'Svanidhi Samvaad' with street vendors from Madhya Pradesh.
- The Government of India had launched PM Svanidhi scheme on 1st June, 2020 to help poor street vendors, impacted by COVID-19, resume livelihood activities. This scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh Street Vendors. Under the Scheme, the vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year. On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on quarterly basis. There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.

- The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month. Moreover, vendors can achieve their ambition of going up on the economic ladder by availing the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/early repayment of loan.

### **13. Inaugural run of South India's 1st and country's 2nd Kisan Rail between Anantapur and New Delhi flagged off**

- The inaugural run of Anantapur – New Delhi Kisan Rail was flagged off through video link by Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, and Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- The programme was presided over by Shri Suresh C. Angadi, Union Minister of State for Railways. The Kisan train will run between Anantapur in Guntakal Division of South Central Railway and Adarsh Nagar in Delhi.
- Speaking on the occasion, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that the Kisan Rail will help in strengthening the agricultural economy, while Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the state's popular fruits will now be able to reach other areas in the country easily.

### **14. PM Modi to launch Matsya Sampada Yojana, e-Gopala app on September 10**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will digitally launch the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) on 10th September. Prime Minister will also launch e-Gopala App, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers. Several other initiatives in the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors in Bihar will also be launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion.
- The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores for its implementation during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories, as a part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package.
- The investment of Rs. 20,050 crores under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector. Out of this, an investment of about Rs 12340 crores is proposed for beneficiary-oriented activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture and about Rs 7710 crores investment for Fisheries Infrastructure.

### **15. Petroleum and Gas PSUs to join International Solar Alliance**

- Five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry will be joining International Solar Alliance (ISA)'s Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISA-CSCA) as Corporate Partners and will be

contributing to ISA's Corpus Fund, said Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

- The Minister said that Oil & Gas PSUs are increasingly evaluating new opportunities in the solar and RE space for diversification. Recently, French major Total has also announced investments for buying about 2 GW operating PV plants in India.

### **16. MoS V. Muraleedharan attends 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan attended the 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Wednesday. The Meeting was held virtually.
- It was attended by the Foreign Ministers of the East Asia Summit participating countries and chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam.
- The Meeting discussed ways and means to strengthen the Leaders-led EAS platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary.
- The Ministers exchanged views on the current regional and international developments including the COVID-19 pandemic and the cooperation to achieve a speedy and sustainable recovery.
- Mr Muraleedharan in his remarks appreciated Vietnam's efforts, as ASEAN Chair, for providing continued stewardship towards a 'Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN' during the pandemic.
- He underlined the key role played by EAS as a leading mechanism of the Indo-Pacific region and reiterated India's support to make it stronger and more responsive.

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### **17. First India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue held virtually**

- The first India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue was held virtually. The focus of the dialogue was on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. The outcome oriented meeting was held with the objective of building on the strong bilateral relations that the three countries share with each other.
- The three sides agreed to hold the dialogue on an annual basis.
- The three sides discussed economic and geostrategic challenges and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and domestic responses to it. Cooperation on Marine Global Commons and potential areas for practical cooperation at the trilateral and regional level were also discussed, including through regional organisations such as ASEAN, IORA and the Indian Ocean Commission.

### **18. Education Minister launches EFLU's free English learning app**

- Union Minister of Education has launched a free mobile app named as "English Pro". The mobile application has been developed by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad under University Social Responsibility (USR).
- This app will be "a useful digital tool" and will act as an educational resource for the teachers, students and for people from varied backgrounds. The first-of-its kind initiative by any university in the country, the mobile application "EnglishPro" will help learners in developing Indian English Pronunciation in the unique "Indian" way.
- In the near future, EFLU will also come up with more advanced versions of the mobile application to address the larger learner-needs.

### **19. Telangana, Haryana states take several activities under Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat programme**

- Under the Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat programme, Telangana and Haryana States have achieved synergy and artists, students and literary personalities learnt arts, language and culture of each other to a large extent. Telangana and Haryana states have taken up several activities under the Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat programme and achieved the objective to a large extent during the past few years.
- Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, the programme provided the two states a perfect platform to promote the spirit of national integration and learn each other's language, art, culture, literature and know largely about the way of life of each other.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**



### **1. Donald Trump announces Wilmington as first World War II Heritage City**

- US President Donald Trump announced Wilmington in southern US state North Carolina as the first World War II Heritage City at a ceremony held to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.
- During the war, Wilmington was the site of the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, which built 243 ships in five years as part of the federal government's emergency shipbuilding program, according to a The Hill report.
- The President signed legislation last year directing the secretary of the interior to each year designate at least one city as an American World War II Heritage City based on contributions made to secure victory in the war.

### **2. Typhoon Haishen wreaks havoc in South Korea**

- A powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea after battering islands in southern Japan and injuring dozens of people.
- The Korea Meteorological Administration said typhoon Haishen was passing waters off the eastern coastal city of Sokcho.
- Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said at least 38 people were injured, five of them seriously, after Haishen lashed southwestern Japan over the weekend with strong winds and rain.

### **3. Bangladesh launches campaign against fake information & rumours**

- The Bangladesh government has launched a campaign named 'Asol Chini' or 'real-sugar' to fight fake information and rumour spreading on social media. It is very difficult to find out the truth in the whirlwind of fake information and rumours on the online media.
- It can cause social unrest and loss of property and life.
- The project is aimed to stop rumours and fake information to spread. The campaign aims to create digital literacy to stop fake information and rumours. A digital platform Durbar21.org has been created for this purpose.

## **New Appointments and Person in News**

### **1. Rajiv Lall resigns as IDFC First Bank's non-executive chairman**

- Private sector lender IDFC First Bank informed its non-executive chairman Rajiv B. Lall has resigned from the post with immediate effect.
- Lall has cited that he has been dealing with his prolonged personal health issues for a while now.

- Lall is a veteran banker and served as the founder managing director and chief executive officer of IDFC First Bank from October 1, 2015, till December 18, 2018.
- Lall also served as India's representative to the G-20 Working Group on Infrastructure.

## 2. Australia appoints cricket icon Matthew Hayden as trade envoy to India

- Government of Australia has appointed former cricketer, Matthew Hayden and Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh as trade envoys for advancing business ties with India.
- The council plays an important role in advancing Australia's foreign and economic policy interests with India.
- Three new appointments to the board of the Australia-India Council were announced recently, Ashok Jacob has been reappointed as chair, and will be joined by three new board members.”
- Hayden is a former international cricketer, who played 103 Tests and 161 One Day Internationals for Australia. He has scored 40 international centuries. He was made Member of the Order of Australia in 2010 for his sporting excellence.

## 3. Anil Jain becomes new All India Tennis Association president

- The All India Tennis Association (AITA) elected BJP Rajya Sabha member Anil Jain as its new president. Anil Jain will replace Praveen Mahajan as AITA president.
- Also, Anil Dhupar was chosen as its secretary general during the national federation's Annual General Meeting in New Delhi.
- India's Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal was elected as the treasurer for a four-year term till 2024.
- All the office bearers as well as the new executive committee members were elected unopposed.



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## **BANKING**

### **1. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank ceased to be banking company: RBI**

- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank has ceased to be a banking company within the meaning of the Banking Regulation Act. In November last year, the RBI had said that Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank was headed for liquidation after the company's application for voluntary winding up.
- The decision to shut operations by the Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank was taken due to unanticipated developments in the business landscape which have made the economic model unviable.
- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank had received the banking licence from the RBI in April 2017 for carrying on the business of a payments bank and had also received an authorisation to carry on the business of Prepaid Payments Instrument business.
- It had commenced business from February 22, 2018.

### **2. RBI's loan recast plan ready, relief for 26 sectors; banks to follow these rules before restructuring**

- The Reserve Bank specified five financial ratios and sector-specific thresholds for resolution of COVID-19-related stressed assets in 26 sectors, including auto components, aviation and tourism.
- The circular issued by the Reserve Bank for resolution of the stressed assets is based on the recommendations of the K.V. Kamath Committee, which submitted its report on 4th of September.
- The 26 sectors specified by the RBI include automobiles, power, tourism, cement, chemicals, gems and jewellery, logistics, mining, manufacturing, real estate, and shipping among others.

### **3. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches Doorstep Banking Services**

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) on September 9, 2020. The services aim to provide customers with the convenience of banking services at their doorsteps.
- The Union Ministry of Finance issued an official statement saying that as a part of EASE Reforms, Doorstep Banking Services is envisaged to provide the convenience of banking services to the customers at their doorstep through the universal touch points of call centre, web Portal or mobile App. The customers will also be able to track their service requests through these mediums.

#### **4. EPFO decides to pay 8.5% interest during 2019-20**

- The Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar chaired the 227th Meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund. In view of the exceptional circumstances arising out of Covid-19, the Central Board has recommended the same interest rate at 8.50 per cent to the Central Government.
- It would comprise 8.15 per cent from debt income and balance 0.35 per cent capital gain from the sale of Exchange Traded Funds, ETFs subject to their redemption by 31st December this year.
- The Central Board accorded approval for an Amendment to Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 to enhance the maximum assurance benefit to 7 lakh rupees from the present maximum assurance benefit of 6 lakh rupees.

### **Books and Awards**

#### **1. Vice President Releases 'The State of Young Child in India' report**

- The Vice President, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu released 'The State of Young Child in India' report, a comprehensive account of the challenges related to early child development in India. The report has been prepared by Mobile Creches a policy advocacy organisation which works with the underprivileged children across India.
- According to the report, from 159 million children aged below 6 years in India, 21 per cent are undernourished, 36 per cent are underweight and 38 per cent do not receive full immunization.
- Based on ranking and values on the Young Child Outcome Index (YCOI), the report named Kerala, Goa, Tripura and Tamil Nadu to be among the top performers, while eight states-- Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar-- with scores below the national average lagged behind.

#### **2. Author and natural historian David Attenborough gets Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019**

- David Attenborough, a renowned author, and natural historian was conferred with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented the Peace Prize in a virtual ceremony.
- BBC Broadcaster has been given the prize for revealing the wonders of the natural world and for his contribution through books and films to awaken humankind to protect and preserve the biodiversity on our planet.
- According to the citation for the ceremony, David Attenborough has been honoured with the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for educating and entertaining

the generations of people through his films and books and for tirelessly working to awaken humankind to preserve and protect the biodiversity on Earth.

### **3. US President Trump nominated for 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for brokering UAE-Israel peace deal**

- The United States President Donald Trump has been nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize because of his efforts on brokering the Israel-UAE Peace Deal.
- The nomination of Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize has been submitted by Tybring - Gjedde, a member of the Norwegian Parliament. Tybring - Gjedde specifically praised Trump for his efforts towards resolving the protracted conflicts worldwide.
- This is not the first time that Mr. Trump has been nominated for the Peace Prize. In 2018, Tybring-Gjedde had submitted the US President's name following his Singapore Summit with North Korean Leader Kim Jong-Un. However, he did not win the award.

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1. MoD signs contracts worth Rs 2580 Cr with Indian Companies for supply of Pinaka Regiments to Indian Army**

- Acquisition Wing of Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract worth Rs 2580 Cr with M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML), M/s. Tata Power Company Ltd. (TPCL) and M/s. Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- The contract has been signed for supply of six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army and hence will enhance the operation preparedness of our Armed Forces.

### **2. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh holds meeting with Iran's Minister of Defence in Tehran**

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting on 5th September 2020 with Iran's Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics, Brigadier General Amir Hatami, at the latter's request. Raksha Mantri was on a transit halt in Tehran enroute from Moscow to New Delhi.
- The meeting between the two Ministers took place in a cordial and warm atmosphere. Both the leaders emphasized upon the age-old cultural, linguistic and civilizational ties between India and Iran. They discussed

ways to take forward bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional security issues, including peace and stability in Afghanistan.

### **3. Mammoth collision of 'impossible' black holes detected for first time**

- The most massive black hole collision ever detected has been directly observed by the LIGO and VIRGO Scientific Collaboration, which includes scientists from the Australian National University (ANU).
- The short gravitational wave signal, GW190521, captured by the LIGO and Virgo gravitational wave observatories in the United States and Europe on 21 May last year, came from two highly spinning, mammoth black holes weighing in at a massive 85 times and 66 times the mass of the Sun, respectively. But that is not the only reason this system is very special.

### **4. IIT-Bombay students launch AI-based scanning app “AIR Scanner”**

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, students have launched a free-of-cost mobile scanner application “AIR Scanner”.
- The app saves the scanned document in PDF format and stores directly in the device.
- The AI (Artificial Intelligence) based Reading Assistant and Document Scanner app is developed by Rohit Kumar Chaudhary and Kavin Agrawal.

### **5. India successfully test-fires hypersonic missile carrier, 4th country to achieve the feat**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle at 11 am on September 7, 2020 from the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha.
- The successful flight test of the indigenously-developed Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV) enabled the successful demonstration of the Hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology, which is a major technological breakthrough for India.

### **6. WhatsApp, Cyber Peace Foundation partner to drive cyber safety awareness**

- WhatsApp announced a strategic partnership with CyberPeace Foundation with the aim to create awareness on cyber safety among students. This is an effort to build on their earlier partnership with WhatsApp under the “e-Raksha” program that reached thousands of students.
- With the collaboration, the platforms aim to reach nearly 15,000 students across five states including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra by the end of 2020.

- In the first phase 15,000 students will be covered in five regions by the end of 2020.
- The need for this awareness campaign was felt as students spend more time online and so they become more vulnerable to cyber threats such as cyberbullying, stumbling across child abuse material, cybercriminals disrupting online classes, the spread of misinformation, privacy issues etc.

## **7. Induction ceremony of Rafale fighter jets into IAF to be held at Ambala airbase on September 10**

- A formal induction ceremony of the five high-profile Rafale fighter aircraft into the Indian Air Force's (IAF) 'Golden Arrows' Squadron will be held at the Ambala airbase in Haryana on September 10. Earlier, sources had said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is most likely to attend the ceremony.
- French Defence Minister Florence Parly will take part in the induction ceremony and during the visit, other than having a bilateral with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, she will also meet National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.
- The first batch of five Rafale jets, which arrived at the Ambala airbase on July 29, have already proven their mettle with successful weapons firing at a test range after arrival. When the first batch of Rafales arrived at Ambala, the IAF had said that efforts are focused on operationalisation of the aircraft at the earliest.

## **8. Oxford COVID-19 Vaccine trial paused after participant falls ill**

- The last phase of clinical trials of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca has been put on hold after one of the participants fell ill in the United Kingdom. AstraZeneca described the pause as a "routine" pause in the case of "an unexplained illness".
- The AstraZeneca-Oxford COVID vaccine is one of the leading COVID-19 vaccine candidates, whose trials are being conducted in multiple nations including India and the United States. The outcome of vaccine trials is being closely watched across the world.
- The Oxford vaccine is seen as a strong contender among dozens of vaccines being developed globally, as the phase I and II trial results showed that the vaccine offers double immunity against COVID-19. The vaccine candidate moved to phase III trials a few weeks back.

## **SPORTS**

### **1. Indo-Canadian pair Rohan Bopanna-Denis Shapovalov reach men's doubles quarterfinals**

- The Indo-Canadian pair of Rohan Bopanna and Denis Hapovalov have reached the quarterfinals of the ongoing US Open tennis.
- The pair of Bopanna-Shapovalov defeated the German pair Kevin Krawietz and Andrea Mies in the second-round clash that had lasted for an hour and 47 minutes.
- The Indian-Canadian pair will now play against the Dutch-Romanian duo Jean-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau on September 7, 2020.

## **2. Sports Ministry extends contract of athletics foreign coaches with eye on 2024 Olympics**

- The Sports Ministry has extended the contract of 9 foreign coaches and support personnel, including High Performance Director of athletics with an eye on the 2024 Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games 2022.
- In July this year, the Sports Ministry had decided to draw up extended contracts for foreign and Indian coaches in sync with the Olympic cycle. This decision was taken by the Ministry with a focus on the 2024 and 2028 Olympics, and to ensure Olympic-bound athletes are able to train consistently and in continuity with one coach and improve their performance as per the international standards.

## **3. Pierre Gasly wins F1 Italian Grand Prix 2020**

- Pierre Gasly (Scuderia Alpha Tauri, France) has won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2020 held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Italy. This is his first Grand Prix win.
- Carlos Sainz Jr. (McLaren, Spain) came second followed by Lance Stroll (Racing Point, Canada) in third place.
- Lewis Hamilton ended in 7th place after he earned a 10-second stop and go penalty.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1. Keshavananda Bharati of 'basic structure' fame dies**

- Kesavananda Bharati Swamiji, the seer of Edneer Mutt in Kasargod district of Kerala, whose petition in 1973 had led to the creation of the "Basic Structure Doctrine" by a 13-judge bench of the Supreme Court, passed away early morning today. He was 79 years old.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has expressed grief over the passing away of Kesavananda Bharati Ji.
- The Prime Minister said, "We will always remember Pujya Kesavananda Bharati Ji for his contributions towards community service and empowering the downtrodden. He was deeply attached to India's rich culture and our great Constitution. He will continue to inspire generations."



## 2. Father of India's Radio Astronomy Govind Swarup passes away

- Father of India's Radio Astronomy, Dr. Govind Swarup passed away in Pune. Dr. Swarup is known not only for his many important research contributions in several areas of astronomy and astrophysics, but also for his outstanding achievements in building ingenious, innovative and powerful observational facilities for front-line research in radio astronomy.
- The Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) was established at Narayangaon near Pune was established under Dr. Swarup's able guidance. He was awarded Padmashree, Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award, H. K. Firodia award and many international awards.

## 3. Oscar winning Czech Director Jiri Menzel passes away

- Oscar-winning Czech film director, Jiri Menzel passed away. His 1st feature film, 'Closely Watched Trains' won an Academy Award (Oscars) for Best Foreign Language film in 1968.
- Menzel won the Czech Lion for lifetime artistic contribution and was honoured by the Karlovy Vary festival. He is a recipient of the Medal of Merit, the French Order of Arts and Literature and a score of other international awards.
- He was awarded an IIFA Lifetime Achievement Award in November 2013.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### 1. International Day of Clean Air for blue skies: 7 September

- The world celebrated its first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on September 7. Part of a resolution taken by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on December 19, 2019, the day intends to emphasize on the ill-effects of air pollution and is a call to action against environmental evil.
- The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was introduced to acknowledge the threats posed by air pollution and to encourage every country in the world to take preventive measures.
- The day emphasises the need to improve air quality for long-term benefits for humankind.

### 2. International Literacy Day: 08 September

- Countries across the world celebrate International Literacy Day on 08 September. International Literacy Day-2020 will focus on Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond with a focus on the role of educators and changing pedagogies.

- This day was declared International Literacy Day by UNESCO on 26th October 1966 at the 14th Session of UNESCO's General Conference.
- It was celebrated for the first time in 1967 and its main aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with at least 773 million adults worldwide lacking basic literacy skills.
- According to the UNESCO's 'Global Monitoring Report on Education for All' (2006), South Asia has the lowest regional adult literacy rate, at 58.6 percent and the causes for this illiteracy range from severe poverty and the prejudice against women.

### **3. International Day to Protect education from attack observed on 09 September**

- International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on 9th September. The day is being observed for the first time in 2020.
- The Day draws attention to the plight of more than 75 million 3-to-18-year-olds living in 35 crisis-affected countries and to their urgent need of educational support.
- It expresses concern over the effects of continued violence on these children and their ability to access education, whose consequences require special attention beyond the needs of learners whose establishments were temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The day was established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly, calling on UNESCO and UNICEF to raise awareness of the plight of millions of children living in countries affected by conflict.

### **4. World Suicide Prevention Day: 10 September**

- The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) observes World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) on 10 September every year. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented.
- 2020 theme 'Working Together to Prevent Suicide'.
- According to WHO, nearly eight lakh people die by suicide every year. Furthermore, for each suicide, there are more than 20 suicide attempts. The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) is a Non-Governmental Organization dedicated to preventing suicide and suicidal behaviour, alleviating its effects and providing a forum for academics, mental health professionals, crisis workers, volunteers and suicide survivors.

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