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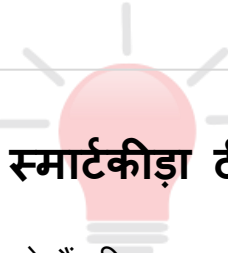
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill 100 of July 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

The Question Bank

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF जुलाई माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill 100 में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



601. Persons in News

The Lucknow Municipal Corporation has renamed a road and a crossing in the city after former Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon. The Chauk Chauraha will now be known as 'Lalji Tandon Chauraha' and the Lucknow-Hardoi Road will be known as 'Tandon Marg'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chauk Chauraha (in Uttar Pradesh) – renamed as – 'Lalji Tandon Chauraha'
- Lucknow-Hardoi Road (in Uttar Pradesh) – renamed as – 'Tandon Marg'
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

602. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

The Air Force Commanders' Conference (AFCC) was conducted from 22-24 July 2020 at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan) in New Delhi. The theme of the conference was "IAF in the Next Decade". The AFCC was chaired by the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AFCC was conducted – at Vayu Bhawan, New Delhi (from 22-24 July)
- Theme – "IAF in the Next Decade"
- Chaired by – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria (Chief of the Air Staff)



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603. Important Days & Dates

In order to raise awareness about nature and ensure sustainable life on earth, "World Nature Conservation Day" is observed on July 28 every year. The aim of marking the World Nature Conservation Day is to save our trees, water and other resources. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 28 – "World Nature Conservation Day"

604. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

As per new research revealed by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), as many as 22 million children from South Asian countries, including India, have missed out on early childhood education in their critical pre-school year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per UNICEF – almost 22 million children from South Asian countries – missed out on early childhood education
- UNICEF HQs – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore



605. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Liverpool's Premier League title winning captain 'Jordan Henderson' was named "England's Footballer of the Year" in the annual vote of the Football Writers' Association (FWA) for the 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jordan Henderson (Football) – "England's Footballer of the Year" – in Football Writers' Association (FWA)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

606. Current GK

NTPC's 1,600 MW "Lara Super Thermal Power Station" in Chhattisgarh has been fully operational after 800 MW Unit-2 of the project was made fully functional. Earlier in September, the 800 MW Unit-1 of the project was made commercially operational. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC's 1,600 MW "Lara Super Thermal Power Station" – in Chhattisgarh
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

607. National & States Affairs

The ministry of shipping has decided to waive waterway usage charges for a period of 3 years with immediate effect considering the government of India's vision to promote inland waterways as a supplementary, eco-friendly and cheaper mode of transport. The decision is aimed at increasing the inland waterway traffic to 110 million tonne (MT) in 2022-23 from 72 MT in 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Shipping – decided to waive Waterway Usage Charges – For 3 years
- Aim: inland waterway traffic to 110 million tonne (MT) – in 2022-23
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Shipping – Mansukh L. Mandaviya

608. Amount & Agreements

India and European Union have renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the next five years (2020-2025). This has been done by exchange of 'Note Verbale' between two sides. The Agreement was initially signed in on 23 November 2001 and renewed two times in past in 2007 and 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + EU = renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation – For next 5 years
- It was done by exchanging – 'Note Verbale' | Agreement initially signed in – in 2001
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27



609. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The state-owned Bank of Maharashtra has joined hands with 'Uniken' to secure its Internet banking channels as also mobile, card, call centres and ATMs, among others, against cyber fraud. The bank will use Uniken's "REL-ID technology" for Omni-channel security. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoM + Uniken = partnership for Omni-channel security
- Technology to be used by BoM – "REL-ID technology"
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – One Family One Bank
- HQs of Uniken – New Jersey, USA | CEO – Bimal Gandhi

610. National & States Affairs

Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the 'World Class State of Art Honey Testing Laboratory,' established by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Anand (Gujarat), with support of National Bee Board (NBB), through video-conference. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated – 'World Class State of Art Honey Testing Laboratory' – in Anand, Gujarat
- Established by – National Dairy Development Board (HQs of NDDB – Anand, Gujara) | Chairman – Dilip Rath
- HQs of National Bee Board (NBB) – New Delhi | Chairman – Shri Sanjay Agarwal



611. Amount & Agreements

Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has held a meeting to review the performance of the Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH). The fund has so far approved 81 projects with an investment of Rs 8767 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 81 projects with an investment of "Rs 8767 Cr" – approved under "SWAMIH" Investment Fund
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

612. Sports & Games

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has extended the suspension of India's National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) by another 6 months citing non-conformation to international standards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WADA – extended the suspension of NDTL – by another 6 months
- HQs of WADA – Montreal, Canada | President – Sir Craig Reedie
- HQs of NDTL – New Delhi | CEO – RS Julaniya



613. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

The Reserve Bank of India has released its 'Financial Stability Report' on July 24, 2020 and has warned that the Gross Nonperforming Assets (GNPA) ratio of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) may increase from 8.5% in March 2020 to 12.5% by March 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released “Financial Stability Report” – GNPA may increase to 12.5% by March 2021
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

614. Amount & Agreements

India and Russia have signed a Defence Logistics Sharing Pact that can enable seamless access to each other's military bases and support facilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shyok river – in Ladakh
- Ladakh Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

615. International Affairs

United Kingdom PM Boris Johnson has launched 'Jet Zero Council' to cut airline emissions as part of a wider 350-million pound plan to step up efforts to tackle climate change. The UK has targeted to reach net zero by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK launched – Jet Zero Council – to cut airline emissions
- UK's target to reach net zero – by 2050
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

616. Amount & Agreements

India has extended medical assistance worth about \$1 million in the form of anti-tuberculosis medicines to North Korea in response to a request received from the World Health Organisation (WHO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India extended – medical assistance of \$1 million – to North Korea
- Under World Health Organization (WHO) anti-tuberculosis programme
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won | President – Kim Jong-un
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194



617. Appointments & Resignations

Somalia's Deputy Prime Minister Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid has announced his appointment as the interim prime minister following the vote of no confidence against the previous head of government, Hassan Ali Khaire. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid – appointed as the interim Prime Minister – of Somalia
- Somalia – Mogadishu – Dollar/Shilling | Interim PM – Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid | President – Md Abdullahi

618. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

India has successfully brought down Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) by 9 points in one year, as per data released by the Registrar General of India. Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are among the states that have shown most decline. According to Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the ratio has declined from 122 in 2015-17 to 113 in 2016-18 (7.4 % decline).” [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maternal Mortality Ratio – declined by 9 points in one year – to 113 in 2016-18 (7.4 % decline)
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

619. National & States Affairs

Karnataka has decided to set up "Karnataka Digital Economy Mission", a company under section 8, and this state government will have 49% share while industries will hold 51% share. There are more than 7,000 startups in Karnataka and they were operating under Technology Mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka decided to set up – "Karnataka Digital Economy Mission"
- Share holdings: 49% shares – by State Government | 51% shares – by Industries
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

620. Important Days & Dates

The Income Tax department has marked the 160th "Income Tax Day" or "Aaykar Diwas" on July 24. It has been celebrated in India since 2010. On July 24, 1860, income tax was introduced in India by Sir James Wilson to compensate the British government for the losses incurred during the First War of Independence in 1857. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 24 – 160th "Income Tax Day" or "Aaykar Diwas" (since – 2010)
- Income tax introduced in India by – Sir James Wilson – in 1860



621. National & States Affairs

Madhubani-based artist, Raman Kumar Mishra, was flooded with orders for his handmade masks painted with Mithila artwork after word spread about his work on a microblogging sites. Mithila painting, also known as Madhubani painting, is done using fingers, twigs, brushes and nib-pens, wherein sketches are made with folk motifs of Mithila. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhubani-based artist (Bihar) – became famous for making masks with hand-painted – Madhubani motifs
- Madhubani Paintings origin in – Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

622. National & States Affairs

Union Home minister Amit Shah has distributed 100 electric potter wheels among as many trained artisans in Gujarat under the 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana' of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – distributed 100 electric potter wheels – among trained artisans in Gujarat
- Under the 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana' of – KVIC
- KVIC works under – Ministry of MSME (Nitin Gadkari – Nagpur, Maharashtra)
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

623. National & States Affairs

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), along with the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) and the Government of India's Department of Biotechnology, has begun a study of the migration of the "Pied Cuckoo" from Africa to India and back, by tagging two of the birds with satellite transmitters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WII + IIRS + Dept of Biotechnology = began a study of the migration of the "Pied Cuckoo" – From Africa to India
- HQs of WII – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | Director – Dhananjai Mohan
- HQs of IIRS – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | Director – Dr Prakash Chauhan

624. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

Jharkhand state government has passed an ordinance mandating Rs 1 lakh fine and 2-year jail term for violation of Covid-19 safety protocols like wearing masks and social distancing etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – mandated Rs 1 lakh fine and 2-year jail term – For violation of Covid-19 safety protocols
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu



625. Obituaries

Actor John Saxon, best known for character roles in Westerns and horror films, has passed away recently due to pneumonia. He was 83. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- John Saxon (USA) – passed away – Actor

626. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

The 'Legend of Animation' Award instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG) as part of the Animation Masters Summit (AMS) 2020 - Digital Edition has been posthumously conferred to the legendary animation director Arnab Chaudhuri. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arnab Chaudhuri – posthumously conferred with – The 'Legend of Animation' Award – by Toonz Media Group
- HQs of TMG – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala | CEO – P. Jayakumar

627. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Reliance Industries has overtaken ExxonMobil to become the world's second most valuable energy company after its market capitalisation scaled to a record high of over Rs 14 lakh Crore. Reliance was ranked 48th and was behind ExxonMobil. Then its share price scaled an all-time high taking the company to 46th position. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Industries – became 2nd most valuable energy company in the world – to hit Rs 14 lakh Cr Market Cap
- 1st most valuable energy company in the world – Saudi Aramco
- RIL – became the 46th largest company by market-cap
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

628. Appointments & Resignations

Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), the self-regulatory organization (SRO) for the microfinance industry has announced that Alok Misra will be taking over as its chief executive officer and director from August 1, 2020. He will take over from the present CEO, Harsh Shrivastava. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alok Misra – appointed as the CEO and Director of – Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) – From August 1
- He will replace – Harsh Shrivastava
- HQs of MFIN – Gurgaon, Haryana | Vice President – Dibyajyoti Pattanaik



629. Appointments & Resignations

Tata AIA Life Limited has announced Naveen Tahilyani's appointment as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Managing Director (MD). He will take over from the current CEO Rishi Srivastava. Until 2019, Naveen Tahilyani served as the CEO of Hong Kong's AIA Group's partnership business distribution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naveen Tahilyani – appointed as the MD & CEO of – Tata AIA Life Limited
- He will replace – Rishi Srivastava
- HQs – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Naveen Tahilyani

630. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Nagpur in collaboration with IIT Jodhpur and IIT Nagpur has indigenously designed and developed a smart wristband for effective tracking and monitoring of COVID positive and suspect patients. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIIMS Nagpur + IIT Jodhpur + IIT Nagpur = designed and developed a smart wristband for suspect patients

631. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have agreed to partner toward a 'green recovery' for members confronting the harsh economic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + GCF = agreed to partner toward a 'green recovery'
- ADB: HQs – [Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | President – [Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | Member countries – 68
- HQs of GCF – Incheon, South Korea | Executive Director – Yannick Glemarec

632. Appointments & Resignations

Tunisia's President Kais Saied has appointed the 'Hichem Mechichi' as the new Prime Minister. Mechichi will succeed Elyes Fakhfakh, who resigned recently in July due to allegations of conflict of interest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hichem Mechichi – appointed as the new Prime Minister – of Tunisia
- He will succeed – Elyes Fakhfakh
- Tunisia – Tunis – Dinar | President – Kais Saied | New PM – Hichem Mechichi



633. Defence Affairs

The Central government has issued the formal sanction letter for grant of permanent commission to women officers in the Indian Army, paving the way for empowering them to shoulder larger roles in the organisation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government – granted permanent commission to women officers – in Indian Army
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – SK Saini

634. Science & Technology

Indian and Israel have joined hands to work together to develop rapid testing for Covid-19 in under 30 seconds. Merging Israeli technology with Indian development and production capabilities aims to allow a swift resumption of normal life alongside the virus.” [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian + Israel = to develop rapid testing for Covid-19 – in under 30 seconds
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

635. Science & Technology

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has begun work on a balloon that will carry a 2.5-meter telescope into the stratosphere to observe wavelengths of light. The mission is named “ASTHROS - Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Submillimeter-wavelengths” and it will tentatively be launched by December 2023 from Antarctica. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – will launch “ASTHROS” mission – by December 2023 – from Antarctica (with 2.5-meter telescope)
- NASA HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

636. Current GK

The National Green Tribunal has issued notices to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Assam State Biodiversity Board, Assam State Pollution Control Board and Oil India Limited (OIL) asking how environmental clearances for the seven proposed drilling sites in the “Dibru- Saikhowa National Park” were given without a Biodiversity Impact Assessment as mandated by the Supreme Court in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dibru- Saikhowa National Park – Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



637. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

India has ranked third among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade, as per the latest Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) by the FAO. The assessment examined employment in the forestry sector in which India has reported the maximum employment in the forestry sector in the world. India accounts for 2% of the total global forest area. Globally, 12.5 million people were employed in the forestry sector. Out of this, India accounted for 6.23 million, or nearly 50%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Latest Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) – by the FAO
- Indian ranked – 3rd – among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas
- India – reported the maximum employment in the forestry sector
- India accounts for – 2% of the total global forest area.
- Global Employment in Forestry Sector – 12.5 million | India – 6.23 million (50%)
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu

638. Current GK

The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court has recently noted that the “Nag river”, from which Nagpur city derives its name, is now polluted due to industrialisation and urbanisation and alienation of the river. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Nag river” – in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

639. International Affairs

U.S. President Donald Trump has unveiled an expansion of the “Operation Legend” program to include cities such as Chicago and Albuquerque, New Mexico, in a further effort by federal officials to tackle violence. The program involves deploying federal law enforcement agents to assist local police in combating a “surge” of violent crime. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Donald Trump – unveiled an expansion of the “Operation Legend” program – to tackle violence
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump



640. Amount & Agreements

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed \$400 million currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The agreement signed under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2019-22 would be valid till November 13, 2022. The SAARC currency swap framework came into operation on November 15, 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI + Central Bank of Sri Lanka = signed \$400 million currency swap agreement (valid till November 13, 2022)
- SAARC currency swap framework came into operation – in 2012
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- SAARC HQs – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary Generals – Esala Weerakoon

641. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

IIT-Delhi and Wells Fargo have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of a peptide-based 'ELISA' test - a home kit for Covid-19 testing. ELISA is short for 'serological enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT-Delhi + Wells Fargo = to develop peptide-based 'ELISA' test - a home kit for Covid-19 testing
- HQs of Wells Fargo – California, USA | CEO – Charles W. Scharf

642. Current GK

The coal ministry has withdrawn 'Bander mine' in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra from the list of 41 coal blocks put up for auction for commercial mining as the mine lies in the eco sensitive zone of 'Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Coal Ministry withdrew – 'Bander mine' – in Chandrapur, Maharashtra – From the list of 41 coal blocks
- 'Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve' – Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

643. International Affairs

Croatia's parliament has approved a new government that is led by Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic who belongs to Conservative Party that won a parliamentary election in July, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Croatia – approved a new government – led by PM Andrej Plenkovic (Conservative party)
- Croatia – Zagreb – Kuna | PM – Andrej Plenkovic | President – Zoran Milanovic



644. Appointments & Resignations

India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das has been appointed as the Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. She will succeed Vijay Thakur Singh, who superannuates on September 30. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Riva Ganguly Das – appointed as the Secretary (East) in – Ministry of External Affairs
- She will replace – Vijay Thakur Singh
- India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh – Riva Ganguly Das

645. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has signed an exclusive worldwide marketing and management agreement with IMG Reliance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shikhar Dhawan + IMG Reliance = signed an exclusive worldwide marketing and management agreement
- HQs of IMG Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra

646. Sports & Games

The Indian 4x400m mixed relay team's silver medal in the 2018 Asian Games has been upgraded to gold after the disqualification of original winners Bahrain on account of a doping ban handed to one of its runners. Bahrain, which had topped the 4x400 mixed relay final, was disqualified after Kemi Adekoya was handed a four-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian 4x400m mixed relay team's silver medal in the 2018 Asian Games – upgraded to Gold
- Kemi Adekoya (Bahrain-Runner) – banned for 4 years – by AIU
- HQs AIU – Monaco
- World Athletics HQs – Monaco | President – Sebastian Coe
- HQs of Athletics Federation of India – New Delhi | President – Adille J. Sumariwalla

647. National & States Affairs

In Gujarat, Ahmedabad Railway Division has successfully introduced a unique concept of Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping at Ahmedabad Railway Station. It is a first of its kind across the Indian Railways. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ahmedabad Railway Division (Gujarat) – introduced a unique concept of Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat



648. Appointments & Resignations

Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed as a new Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. He will succeed Preeti Sudan. In another move, Mines Secretary Sushil Kumar has been appointed secretary of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Ram Kumar Mishra has been appointed as Women and Child Development secretary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajesh Bhushan – appointed as Secretary in Health Ministry (He will succeed – Preeti Sudan)
- Sushil Kumar (Mines Secretary) – appointed as Secretary of – National Commission for SC (NCSC)
- Ram Kumar Mishra – appointed as Secretary of – Women and Child Development
- NCSC under – Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Thawaar Chand Gehlot – Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh)

649. National & States Affairs

The Indian Railways will use Radio-Frequency Identification tags (RFID) for tracking of all wagons by 2022. A total of 23,000 wagons have been covered under the RFID project so far and the target is to cover all wagons by December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – to use 'RFID Project' for tracking of all wagons – by 2022
- RFID – Radio Frequency Identification
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi

650. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched RuPay commercial card for entrepreneurs and business owners. Fintech startup EnKash and SBM Bank India will become the first two organisations to offer this card. The card is powered by API platform Yap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI + EnKash + SBM Bank India + Yap = launched 'RuPay Commercial Card'
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe
- HQs of EnKash – Mumbai



651. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

With almost 30 cameras for every 1,000 people, Hyderabad has made it to the world's top 20 most surveilled cities. It has got the 16th position. The List was topped by Taiyuan, China. The Comparitech research has also highlighted the 20 most populated cities in the world. Delhi ranked 2nd and the list was topped by Tokyo, Japan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'World's Most Surveilled Cities' list = Topped by – Taiyuan, China | Hyderabad – 16th
- 'World's Most Populated Cities' list = Topped by – Tokyo, Japan | Delhi – 2nd
- HQs of Comparitech – London

652. National & States Affairs

Kerala-based NBFC, Muthoot Finance Ltd, has launched a portal "Restartindia", a free mentoring platform to help the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector to restart businesses across the country. Muthoot Fincorp and INKtalks have jointly conceptualised "RestartIndia", which is an open platform for advisory support. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Muthoot Fincorp – "Restartindia" portal – a free mentoring platform to help MSMEs
- Muthoot Fincorp + INKtalks = jointly conceptualized it
- HQs of Muthoot Finance – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – George Alexander Muthoot

653. Current GK

Over 100 litres of fuel could have leaked into Russia's Lake Baikal from a banked vessel. Baikal Lake is the deepest lake in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Possibility of over 100 litres of fuel leakage – into "Baikal Lake" (Russia)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

654. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

The Fintech Convergence Council (FCC), the fintech committee of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IMAI), in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Payments Council of India (PCI) has hosted "Global Fintech Festival" with a theme "Fintech: With and Beyond COVID". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FCC + NPCI + PCI = hosted "Global Fintech Festival"
- Theme – "Fintech: With and Beyond COVID"
- HQs of FCC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Naveen Surya
- HQs of IMAI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Dr. Subho Ray
- HQs of PCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vishwas Patel
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe



655. Science & Technology

China has sent a new high-resolution mapping satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern province of Shanxi. The “Ziyuan III 03 satellite” was launched by a Long March-4B rocket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – sent “Ziyuan III 03 satellite” – a new high-resolution mapping satellite – by Long March-4B rocket
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

656. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

UK and India have agreed to remove barriers to trade as part of a roadmap to a Free Trade Agreement at the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting. It was co-chaired by Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Vedprakash Goyal and UK Secretary of State for International Trade, Elizabeth Mary Truss. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK + India = Free Trade Agreement – at the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

657. Sports & Games

Haryana will host the 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, as per the announcement of chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and union sports minister Kiren Rijiju. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – will host the 4th edition of ‘Khelo India Youth Games’ after ‘2021 Tokyo Olympics’
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

658. Important Days & Dates

On the occasion of the 21st anniversary of India’s victory over Pakistan in the Kargil war, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes and recalled the valour of the Indian armed forces on "Kargil Vijay Diwas" that was observed on 26 July 2020. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has also paid tributes to the Kargil soldiers at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 26 – 21st anniversary of "Kargil Vijay Diwas"
- National War Memorial – New Delhi



659. National & States Affairs

In the next 12 months, the world's first electrified rail tunnel fit to run double-stack containers will be operational in the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor of India. This 1 km long tunnel connects the Mewat and Gurugram district of Haryana and negotiates a steep gradient on the uphill and downhill slope of the Aravalli range. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's 1st electrified rail tunnel fit to run double-stack containers will be operational – in 12 months – in India
- It is located near – Haryana

660. International Affairs

India has received the first tranche of 4,475 oxygen concentrators from Singapore's Temasek Foundation. The Foundation has offered to donate 20,000 oxygen concentrators to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – received the first tranche of 4,475 oxygen concentrators – from Temasek Foundation (Singapore)
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

661. Obituaries

Tanzania's former President 'Benjamin Mkapa' has passed away recently in July. Mr Mkapa became Tanzania's president following the country's first multiparty election in 1995 and went on to lead the country up to 2005. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Benjamin Mkapa (Tanzania) – passed away – Former President of Tanzania
- Tanzania – Dodoma – Tanzanian shilling | President – John Magufuli

662. National & States Affairs

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched its one-stop fintech payment solution - "UPI AutoPay" in a virtual event of Global Fintech Fest. Customers have to authenticate their account through UPI PIN for one-time and subsequent monthly payments would be debited automatically for transactions less than Rs. 2,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI – launched "UPI AutoPay" one-stop fintech payment solution
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe



663. National & States Affairs

In line with the government's initiative of 'National Solar Mission' to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022, the Indian Navy has so far between May-July installed large Solar Power Plants in 3 Commands. The Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawal, Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief, Southern Naval Command (SNC) has employed the 3 MegaWatt (MW) largest Solar Power Plant at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Navy's 3 MegaWatt (MW) largest Solar Power Plant – inaugurated at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala • Kerala: CM – Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of Southern Naval Command – Kochi, Kerala | FOC-in-Chief – V. Admiral Anil Kumar Chawal
- Location of Indian Naval Academy – Ezhimala, Kannur, Kerala

664. Obituaries

Eminent dancer and choreographer Amala Shankar has passed away recently in July. She was 101. Eminent dancer and choreographer Amala Shankar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amala Shankar (West Bengal) – passed away – Dancer & Choreographer

665. Persons in News

The HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has set up "Stay in India and Study in India" committee under UGC chief 'D P Singh' to give suggestion on retaining Indian students in the country's institutions and to increase seat capacity in all premier institutions by 50% by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HRD minister set up a committee – headed by D P Singh – to give suggestion on retaining Indian students
- Increase in seat capacity in all premier institutions by 50% – by 2024
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

666. Current GK

The conservation efforts undertaken at "Mudumalai Tiger Reserve" (MTR) have led to the reserve being recognised as home to the highest population of tigers in Tamil Nadu. MTR has a population of 103 adult tigers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve – recognised as home to the highest population of tigers in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



667. National & States Affairs

Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has announced the launch of a 'Macadamisation Program' for the improvement of roads across Jammu and Kashmir. Murmu has approved a program for 100% macadamisation of all roads in the Union Territory including 11,000 km of fair-weather roads. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Girish Chandra Murmu – 'Macadamisation Program' – to improve roads in Jammu & Kashmir
- J &K Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu

668. Persons in News

The Reserve Bank of India has placed on its website the 'Report of the Committee for Analysis of QR (Quick Response) Code'. The Committee was constituted by RBI on December 23, 2019 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Deepak B. Phatak (Professor Emeritus, IIT-Bombay) to review the prevalent system of QR Codes in India for facilitating digital payments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released 'Report of the Committee for Analysis of QR Code'
- Under the Chairmanship of – Prof. Deepak B. Phatak (at IIT-Bombay)
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

669. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has entered into a partnership with IIT Delhi under the HRD Ministry's flagship 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' (UBA). It will boost livelihood opportunities and income generation for tribal communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + IIT Delhi = partnership to boost livelihood opportunities
- 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' is a flagship of – HRD Ministry (Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna

670. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

In a bid to bring increased investments into the state, the Tamil Nadu government has signed 16 MoUs worth Rs 5,137 crore aimed at creating employment opportunities for over 6,555 people. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – signed 16 MoUs – to create employment opportunities in the state
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



671. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

A 59 year old Indian origin nurse 'Kala Narayanasamy' in Singapore has been conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was among the five nurses given the award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Kala Narayanasamy' – a Nurse – conferred with the "President's Award" of Singapore
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

672. Schemes & Initiatives

The average completion time of houses being built under the restructured "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin" (PMAY-G) has come down to 114 days from the earlier 314. The objective of the scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016, aims to build 2.95 crore houses and achieve 'Housing for All' by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The average completion time of houses being built under 'PMAY-G' – come down to 114 days (From 314 days)
- The PMAY-G scheme launched in – 2016 | Aim: To achieve 'Housing for All' – by 2022

673. Important Days & Dates

Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched mobile-based application "MAUSAM" and a Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCN) on the occasion of 14th foundation day of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). It will relay weather forecasts and warnings for multiple cities and locations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched – "MAUSAM" application
- July 27 – 14th foundation day of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & MoES – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

674. International Affairs

China has ordered the closure of the US consulate in the southwestern city of Chengdu in retaliation for America shuttering Beijing's diplomatic mission in Houston. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China ordered the closure of the US consulate – in Chengdu
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping



675. Important Days & Dates

“The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem” was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015. It is celebrated each year on July 26 and aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangroves as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 26 – “The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem” – by UNESCO – since 2015
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

676. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Demand for electricity in India will be lower by 7 to 17% due to covid-19 by 2025, as per a new report by TERI. All 10 of India's largest power-consuming states will see a demand drop between 5 to 15%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per TERI – Demand for electricity in India will be lower by 7 to 17% due to covid-19 – by 2025
- HQs of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Ajay Mathur

677. Important Days & Dates

On July 28, “World Hepatitis Day” is commemorated every year in order to increase the awareness of viral hepatitis. It is an inflammation of the liver which causes a series of health problems, including liver cancer. The theme of World Hepatitis Day 2020 is “Hepatitis-Free Future” with a strong focus on preventing hepatitis B among mothers and new-borns. According to WHO, ‘325 million people are living with viral hepatitis B and C globally’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 28 – “World Hepatitis Day”
- Theme – “Hepatitis-Free Future”
- According to WHO: 325 million people – living with viral hepatitis B and C globally

678. Obituaries

Annabella Allan popularly known as ‘Annie Ross,’ a British-American Jazz Vocalist (Singer) & Actress of the 1950s, has passed away recently in July. She was 89. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Annabella Allan or ‘Annie Ross’ (British-American) – passed away – Jazz Vocalist (Singer) & Actress



679. National & States Affairs

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has conducted the first ever "Indian Scholastic Assessment Test 2020" (IND-SAT) recently under the new 'Study in India' programme. Students who score well in the IND SAT 2020 will get admission into Indian universities and will get scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes as per their marks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

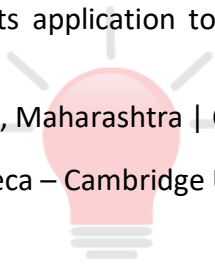
- Ministry of HRD – conducted the first ever "Indian Scholastic Assessment Test 2020" (IND SAT)
- Under – 'Study in India' programme
- Ministry of HRD – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

680. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The Serum Institute of India has partnered with 'AstraZeneca' for manufacturing the Oxford vaccine candidate for COVID-19. It has submitted its application to the DCGI, seeking permission for conducting the phase 2 and 3 trials of the potential vaccine 'Covidshield'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SII + AstraZeneca = to manufacture Oxford vaccine candidate for COVID-19
- 'SII' submitted its application to the DCGI – For conducting the phase 2 and 3 trials of 'Covidshield' vaccine
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla
- HQs of AstraZeneca – Cambridge UK | CEO – Pascal Soriot



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681. International Affairs

Vietnam has put a ban on all imports of wildlife dead or alive and includes eggs and larvae. It also merits tougher penalties for crimes involving the trade in wildlife. It would close wildlife markets in response to renewed concerns about the threat from diseases that can jump from animals to humans, such as the virus that causes COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vietnam – put a ban on all imports of wildlife dead or alive
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM - Nguyen Xuan Phuc

682. Books & Authors

The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has made some remarks in his new book "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World", about India's foreign policy that carries "three major burdens". The book is scheduled for release on September 7. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World" book – S Jaishankar
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat



683. Important Days & Dates

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the CRPF personnel and their families on the 82nd raising day of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on July 27, 2020. The Central Reserve Police Force came into existence as Crown Representative's Police on 27th July 1939. It became the Central Reserve Police Force on enactment of the CRPF Act on 28th December 1949. It has completed 81 years of glorious history. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 27 – 82nd raising day of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Enactment of the CRPF Act – in 1949
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari

684. Books & Authors

Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Viral Acharya has alleged in his new book "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India" that former Governor Urjit Patel quit prematurely because of attempts to weaken the central bank's autonomy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India" book – Viral Acharya (Former RBI Deputy Governor)

685. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

The Centre has amended the Rule 144 of 'General Financial Rules – 2017' titled "Fundamental principles of public buying" to restrict public procurement from countries which share a land border with India on grounds of national security, a move squarely aimed at China. India shares its land border with 7 countries – Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Centre – amended the Rule 144 – of 'General Financial Rules – 2017'
- India shares its land border with – 7 countries

686. National & States Affairs

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar has launched 'National Transit Pass System (NTPS)' for issuing transit permits for timber, bamboo and other forest produce. The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana for now. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Environment – launched 'National Transit Pass System (NTPS)' – for issuing transit permits
- Pilot project will be functional in – Madhya Pradesh & Telangana
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Constituency – Maharashtra)



687. Amount & Agreements

The Department of Science and Technology has launched Rs 15 Cr fund to support India-Russia collaboration joint R&D for tech development. India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialisation Programme has been jointly launched in partnership with FICCI and the Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE) of the Russian Federation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dept of S & T + FICCI + FASIE = launched Rs 15 Cr fund – to support India-Russia collaboration joint R&D
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Science
- Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sangita Reddy | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy

688. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

As per "Cooling Emissions and Policy Synthesis Report" released on July 17, 2020 by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), the world will need more than 10 billion new cooling appliances by 2050. An estimated 3.6 billion appliances are currently in use. The report was authored by nine experts under the guidance of a 15-member steering committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Cooling Emissions and Policy Synthesis Report" – released by UNEP & IEA
- The world will need more than 10 billion new cooling appliances – by 2050 (currently 3.6 billion appliances in use)
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol

689. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Facebook Inc's WhatsApp is planning to team up with more Indian lenders to expand banking services in rural areas and for lower income individuals. WhatsApp, which counts India as its biggest market with 400 million users, has already tied up with banks including ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WhatsApp – to team up with more Indian lenders – to expand banking services in rural areas
- India – the biggest market for Whatsapp – with 400 million users
- HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum



690. Obituaries

Olivia de Havilland, a two-time Oscar winner and an off-screen fighter has passed away recently in July in Paris. She was 104. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Olivia de Havilland (British-American) – passed away – Actress

691. National & States Affairs

IIT BHU (Banaras Hindu University) will develop a 'Biotechnology-based water treatment system' for the purification of sewage water flowing into the rivers Ganga and Godavari under a joint project namely "SPRING - Strategic Planning for Water Resources and Implementation of Novel Biotechnical Treatment solutions and Good Practices". It is funded by India and the European Union. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT BHU – to develop a 'Biotechnology-based water treatment system' – for Ganga and Godavari
- Project 'SPRING' funded by = India + European Union
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27

692. International Affairs

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its "Covid-19 Law Lab" to gather and share pandemic-related legal information from over 190 countries across the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – launched "Covid-19 Law Lab" – to gather and share pandemic-related legal information
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

693. National & States Affairs

The DRDO has established a COVID-19 testing facility at the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) in Leh to augment the existing capacity for identification of coronavirus cases in the union territory of Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – established a COVID-19 testing facility – at DIHAR in Leh, Ladakh
- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur



694. National & States Affairs

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched a job portal called "Rozgar bazaar" for both job seekers as well as recruiters. Those searching for jobs can also register on this website, enlisting their experience, qualifications, and areas in which they are interested in finding work. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi launched – "Rozgar bazaar" a job portal – For job seekers & recruiters
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

695. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

Dr. Harsh Vardhan has digitally participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Health Minister's Digital Meet at Nirman Bhawan. The meet was chaired by Mr. Mikhail Murashko, Minister of Health of the Russian Federation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated – in SCO Health Minister's Digital Meet
- The meet was chaired by – Mr. Mikhail Murashko (Health Minister of the Russia)

696. Amount & Agreements

The Punjab Cabinet has approved a USD 285.71 million project for canal-based water supply for Amritsar and Ludhiana. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the lending arm of world bank would finance USD 200 million (70%) and Punjab Government USD 85.71 million (30%). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab + World Bank(70%) = approved a USD 285.71 million Project – for water supply in Amritsar and Ludhiana
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

697. National & States Affairs

"The five-day Sub-Tropical Fruit Expo 2020" was organized by the Haryana Horticulture Department at the Centre for Sub-Tropical Fruit (Indo Israel Project), Ladwa, district Kurukshetra from July 18 to 22. The event was aimed at providing a platform for farmers to learn the latest technologies in the field. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana Horticulture Department organized – "The five-day Sub-Tropical Fruit Expo 2020" – in Kurukshetra
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya



698. National & States Affairs

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has signed up for the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) becoming the first Indian port to commit to set science-based emissions reduction targets. It is collaboration between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APSEZ – First Indian port – to sign up for the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi)
- HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani

699. National & States Affairs

The Odisha state government has increased the retirement age of doctors from 62 years to 65 years. Retirement age of allopathic insurance medical officers working under labour department has also been revised to 65 years. The retirement age of medical teachers is already 65 years in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha increased the retirement age of doctors – from 62 years to “65 years”
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

700. Current GK

The colour of “Lonar lake” water in Maharashtra’s Buldhana district turned pink due to a large presence of the salt-loving ‘Haloarchaea’ microbes. Haloarchaea or halophilic archaea is a bacteria culture which produces pink pigment and is found in water saturated with salt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Lonar lake” water (Maharashtra) – turned Pink – due to ‘Haloarchaea’ microbes
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari





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