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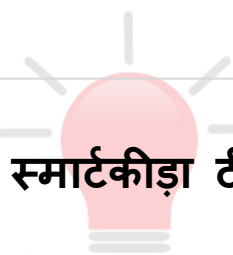
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill 100 of July 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if 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 पढ़ना, 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



## 701. International Affairs

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das has inaugurated a reconstructed 300-years-old Sri Sri Joy Kali Matar Mandir in Natore District in northern Bangladesh. An MoU for the reconstruction of 'Sree Sree JoyKali Matar Temple' was signed on October 23, 2016. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India inaugurated – a reconstructed 300-years-old 'Sri Sri Joy Kali Matar Mandir' – in Natore, Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

## 702. International Affairs

SABIC's polycarbonate facility in Spain is set to become the world's first large scale chemical production plant and it will run entirely on renewable power after a major agreement was signed with Iberdrola, an electricity utility company. The plant is expected to be completely operational by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SABIC Chemical Plant (Spain) = set to become the world's first large scale chemical production plant
- Agreement was signed with – Iberdrola
- Plant is expected to be completely operational – by 2024
- HQs of SABIC – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | CEO – Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyan

## 703. Schemes & Initiatives

Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of Agarbatti and to develop village industry under the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana'. Each targeted cluster of artisans will be supported with about 50 automatic agarbatti making machines and 10 mixing machines. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- MSME launched a programme – under 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana' – to benefit artisans manufacturing Agarbatti
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

## 704. National & States Affairs

Mizoram is among the five states where the Green- Agriculture project, funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF), is being implemented. The other states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. The project will be implemented in Dampa Tiger Reserve and Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary in Mizoram. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Green- Agriculture project – funded by GEF – launched in Mizoram
- Dampa Tiger Reserve & Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary – in Mizoram
- Other states – Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai



### 705. Obituaries

Malayalam Actor Anil Murali has passed away in Kochi, Kerala due to liver-related ailments. He was 56. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Anil Murali (Kerala) – passed away – Malayalam Actor
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

### 706. Obituaries

Veteran actor 'Zaibunnissa', known as 'Kumkum', who featured in over 100 Hindi Films has passed away recently in July. She was 86. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Kumkum or Zaibunnissa – An Actress – passed away

### 707. National & States Affairs

The Union Cabinet has approved National Education Policy 2020 bringing major reforms in higher education including a target of 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) by 2035 and provision for multiple entries and exits. New Policy aims for Universalization of Education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 % GER in school education by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- As per New "National Education Policy-2020" – Target of 50% GER in higher education – by 2035
- Target of 100% GER in pre-school to secondary level education – by 2030

### 708. International Affairs

The government has extended the safeguard duty on Chinese solar power equipment by one more year till July 29, 2021 to help boost local manufacturing. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Indian government extended the safeguard duty – on Chinese solar power equipment – till July 29, 2021
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

### 709. Current GK

To mark the 72nd Van-Mahotsav, the Department of Wildlife Protection has kick started the Green J&K Drive 2020 at Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary on 29th July of 2020. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Department of Wildlife Protection – started 'Green J&K Drive 2020' – at "Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary"
- Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary – J & K
- July 29 – 72nd Van-Mahotsav
- J & K Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu



## 710. Acquisitions & Mergers

Tata Capital will invest Rs 225 Cr or \$30 million for acquiring 0.85% stake in Biocon's biosimilar business Biocon Biologics. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Tata Capital – to acquire 0.85% stake (Rs 225 Cr or \$30 million) – in Biocon Biologics India
- HQs of Tata Capital – Mumbai | CEO – Rajiv Sabharwal
- HQs of Biocon Biologics – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Dr. Christiane Hamacher

## 711. National & States Affairs

The Bombay Flying Club has become the first DGCA-approved drone training school in India. However, the club will have to fulfill certain conditions regarding aerial photography, safety, insurance and take clearances. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bombay Flying Club – became the 1st DGCA-approved drone training school in India

## 712. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to an agreement between India and Zimbabwe on cooperation in the field of traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy. The MoU was signed on November 3, 2018. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India + Zimbabwe = agreement on cooperation in traditional systems of medicine & homeopathy (MoU-2018)
- Zimbabwe – Harare – Dollar

## 713. Science & Technology

In the fight against the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, the Mumbai Division of Central Railway (CR) has designed a health assistant robot 'Rakshak' who can remotely communicate between doctor and patient. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Mumbai Division of Central Railway – designed a health assistant robot 'Rakshak'
- HQ of Central Railway Zone – Mumbai, MH



## 714. Amount & Agreements

As per Minister of Chemicals & Fertilisers DV Sadananda Gowda, Department of Pharmaceuticals is finalising guidelines to select locations of upcoming 3 bulk drugs parks and 4 medical devices parks in the country. Union Cabinet on March 12, 2020 had approved scheme for development of 3 bulk drug and 4 medical device parks, in which the government will extend grants-in-aid to states with a maximum limit of Rs 1,000 Cr per bulk Drug Park and Rs 100 Cr per Medical Device Parks. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- DV Sadananda Gowda – finalised guidelines to select locations of 3 bulk Drugs Parks & 4 Medical Devices Parks
- Outlay: Rs 1,000 Cr per bulk Drug Park (Total Rs 3000 Cr for 3 Parks)
- Outlay: Rs 100 Cr per Medical Device Parks (Total Rs 400 Cr for 4 Parks)

## 715. National & States Affairs

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has announced 'Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Development Programme' to address the issues of shortage of working capital and availability of credit faced by start-ups and small entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Kerala announced – 'Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Development Programme'
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

## 716. Important Days & Dates

The "World Day against Trafficking in Persons" is observed on July 30 every year in order to raise awareness about the condition of victims of human trafficking and to promote and protect their rights. It was observed for the first time in 2013 by United Nations General Assembly. This year, the theme is "Committed to the Cause: Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking". [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- July 30 – "World Day against Trafficking in Persons" – by UNGA
- Theme – "Committed to the Cause: Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking"
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkır

## 717. Appointments & Resignations

Investment and wealth management "Paytm Money" the subsidiary of Paytm, has appointed Varun Sridhar as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to head and launch the company's foray into equity brokerage business. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Varun Sridhar – appointed as the CEO of – Paytm Money
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO of Paytm – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar
- CEO of Paytm Payment Bank – Satish Kumar Gupta
- CEO of Paytm General Insurance Ltd. – Vineet Arora





## 718. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The SIDBI has launched an online knowledge portal "MSMESaksham" for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in partnership with credit information company TransUnion CIBIL. It will guide MSMEs seeking seamless and quick access to finance. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SIDBI + TransUnion CIBIL = launched an online knowledge portal "MSMESaksham" – For MSMEs
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa
- HQs of TransUnion CIBIL – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Kumar

## 719. Appointments & Resignations

Tata Motors Ltd has appointed Thierry Bollore as the new Chief Executive Officer of its British luxury arm Jaguar Land Rover (JLR). He will replace Ralf Speth and will assume office effective September 10, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Thierry Bollore – has been appointed – as the new CEO of – Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)
- HQs of JLR – Coventry, UK

## 720. Amount & Agreements

The State Bank of India (SBI) is providing liquidity support of USD 16.20 million for local businesses and deferred loan repayment for over 200 retail accounts in Maldives. On the occasion of Independence Day of the Maldives on July 26, Indian High Commissioner Sunjay Sudhir said India will soon announce another substantial financial assistance package to support the Maldivian economy. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SBI – providing liquidity support of USD 16.20 million – For local businesses in Maldives
- July 26 – Independence Day of the Maldives | Sunjay Sudhir – Indian High Commissioner to Maldives
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

## 721. National & States Affairs

Walmart-owned Flipkart has launched a hyperlocal 90-minute delivery service called "Flipkart Quick" in Bengaluru across categories including grocery, mobiles, electronics and home accessories. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Flipkart launched – "Flipkart Quick" a hyperlocal 90-minute delivery service – in Bengaluru
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala





## 722. Science & Technology

FinTech company 'MobiKwik' has launched "mpay.me" - a UPI payment link service to send and receive money from any UPI payment app. Founded in 2009 by Bipin Preet Singh and Upasana Taku, MobiKwik has raised over \$100 million in funding from marquee investors. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- MobiKwik launched – "mpay.me" - a UPI payment link service
- HQs of MobiKwik – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder, CEO & Director – Bipin Preet Singh

## 723. International Affairs

Out of the over 2,00,000 people who became Australian citizens in 2019-2020, 38209 were Indians, a 60% increase from the previous year and the largest diaspora group to be granted the country's citizenship. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 38209/2,00,000 people were Indians – who became Australian citizens in 2019-2020 (60% increase from PY)
- India – the largest diaspora group to be granted Australia's citizenship
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

## 724. International Affairs

Poland has submitted a request to begin the process of withdrawing from the treaty, known as the Istanbul Convention on prevention and combatting of home violence against women. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Poland – decided to withdraw from 'Istanbul Convention' treaty
- Poland – Warsaw – Zloty | President – Andrzej Duda

## 725. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) has collaborated with Fiserv Inc. to advance its digital strategy and keep pace with rapidly changing consumer expectations and support the release of a variety of non-high-tech products, including contactless credit cards, tokenisation, and integration with brand wallets and virtual credit cards. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- BFSL + Fiserv = collaboration for digital transformation
- HQs of BFSL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Manish Banerjee
- HQs of Fiserv – Brookfield, USA | Executive Chairman – Jeffery W. Yabuki



## 726. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has virtually launched a report titled 'India Report-Digital Education June 2020', on the innovative measures adopted by the states and union territories to bridge learning gaps during the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched – a report titled 'India Report-Digital Education June 2020'
- Ministry of HRD – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

## 727. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) has signed an MoU with Industrial Extension Bureau (iNDEXTb) of Government of Gujarat focused on accelerating industrial development in the state. It will also aim to proactively enhance the business environment and strengthen collaboration with British businesses in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- UKIBC + Gujarat = an MoU for accelerating industrial development in the state
- HQs of UKIBC – London, UK | New CEO – Jayant Krishna
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

## 728. National & States Affairs

Union Cabinet has approved to change the name of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to Ministry of Education. The HRD Ministry is currently headed by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Human Resource Development – renamed as – Ministry of Education
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' | Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand

## 729. International Affairs

India has handed over 10 broad-gauge (BG) locomotives to Bangladesh, aiming to help handle the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations in the neighbouring country. The locomotives were flagged off virtually by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India handed over 10 broad-gauge (BG) locomotives – to Bangladesh
- Flagged off by – S. Jaishankar & Piyush Goyal
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



### 730. Defence Affairs

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has fired a missile from a helicopter targeting a replica aircraft carrier in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Iranian commandos also fast-roped down from a helicopter onto the replica in the footage from an exercise called "Great Prophet 14". [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard – fired an underground ballistic missiles
- "Great Prophet 14" military exercise – Iran
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

### 731. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Telangana state government has won a gold award and a silver award in Governance Category and another gold award for a blockchain-based property registration project at the 66th SKOCH Summit. 'T-Chits' is a blockchain-based system to govern chit fund operations across the State. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Telangana – 2 Gold awards = in Governance Category + for a blockchain-based property registration
- Telangana – 1 Silver award – in Governance Category
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

### 732. International Affairs

China has announced the suspension of Hong Kong's extradition treaties with Canada, Australia and Britain in a tit-for-tat move following similar decisions by them over a controversial national security law. Australia, Britain and Canada, New Zealand & the USA are part of the Five Eyes (FVEY), which is an intelligence-sharing alliance between these 5 countries. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- China announced the suspension of – Hong Kong's extradition treaties – with 'Canada + Australia + Britain'
- Five Eyes (FVEY) countries: Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, USA
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Hong Kong – City of Victoria – Hong Kong dollar

### 733. Science & Technology

NASA has launched its latest mission to Mars with a United Launch Alliance (ULA) 'Atlas V 541 rocket' carrying the spacecraft into orbit and beginning a 7-month journey to the red planet. The rocket is carrying the rover "Perseverance", which will be the 9th robot that NASA has landed on Mars. The rover will land on Jezero Crater of Mars on February 18, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- NASA's latest mission to Mars: Rocket – Atlas V 541 | Rover – Perseverance (9th robot of NASA landed on Mars)
- HQs of NASA – Washington, D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

### 734. International Affairs

The leak at the petrochemical plant of French Lavera refinery has spilled 200 gallons or more toxic chemical namely 'Iron chloride' into Mediterranean Sea. An orange-brown chemical sheet spread over 15 acres (6 hectares) of a nationally recognized marine life area. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- The leak at petrochemical plant of Lavera refinery (France) – spilled 200 gallons chemical – into Mediterranean Sea

### 735. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

India's first solar ferry - "Aditya" has been declared winner for 'Gustave Trouve' or 'Gussies' Awards-2020, under category III - excellence in electric boats designed for paying passengers. The Aditya was selected as the world's most successful commercial ferry model. It has been designed and manufactured by NavAlt Solar and Electric Boats. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- India's first solar ferry - "Aditya" – won 'Gussies' Awards-2020
- "Aditya" – world's most successful commercial ferry model – manufactured by "NavAlt Solar & Electric Boats Ltd"
- HQs of NavAlt Solar & Electric Boats Ltd – Kochi, Kerala

### 736. National & States Affairs

Following the Prime Minister's appeal, a public awareness campaign called "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" means "One Mask-Many Lives" will be conducted till August 15 in many districts of Madhya Pradesh. The Mask Bank will also be established under the Ek Mask-Anek Zindgi Campaign. In this mask bank, masks will be collected from donors and distributed free of cost to the poor people. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" – a public awareness campaign – conducted in Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

### 737. Books & Authors

"Padi Bhavajaalalu" - a Telugu translation of 'Ten Ideologies' book authored by former Union Minister 'S Jaipal Reddy' was unveiled on the occasion of his first death anniversary by Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- "Padi Bhavajaalalu" - a Telugu translation of 'Ten Ideologies' book – authored by 'S Jaipal Reddy'



### 738. National & States Affairs

The Union Cabinet has approved the National Education Policy 2020. This is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the 34 year old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. NEP emphasises on setting up of 'Gender Inclusion Fund' and also 'Special Education Zones' for disadvantaged regions and groups. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- NEP-2020 – will replace NEP-1986 (after 34 years)
- NEP-2020 emphasizes to set up = 'Gender Inclusion Fund' + 'Special Education Zones' for disadvantaged groups

### 739. International Affairs

China has claimed the "Diaoyu islands" as Chinese territory and it has the right to conduct law enforcement activities in the area. Japan has accused China of 'relentless' intrusions in waters around the groups of island. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- China claimed – "Diaoyu islands" as Chinese territory & has the right to conduct law enforcement activities
- Japan accused China – of 'relentless' intrusions in waters
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Shinzo Abe

### 740. International Affairs

India has planned to build a Solar Power Park in Sri Lanka as part of a strategy to project its presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) amid Chinese attempts to lure nations into its 'Belt and Road' initiative. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- India planned to build – Solar Power Park – in Sri Lanka
- 'Belt and Road' initiative – of China
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa



## 741. Sports & Games

Delhi all-rounder Rajat Bhatia has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket bringing an end to a first-class career spanning almost two decades. He last played a first-class match in 2019 Ranji Trophy. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Rajat Bhatia – announced retirement – From Cricket (2019 Ranji Trophy)

## 742. Science & Technology

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Organization has celebrated the Start of Assembly of the ITER Tokamak with a ceremony on 28th July 2020 at Saint-Paul-Lez-Durance, France. It is the world's largest fusion reactor device. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ITER Organization – celebrated the Start of Assembly of the ITER Tokamak – at Saint-Paul-Lez-Durance, France
- ITER – the world's largest Fusion Reactor Device – located in France
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

## 743. Persons in News

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched 'CREDAI Awaas App' and NAREDCO's online portal 'HousingforAll.com' to market residential properties. Hardeep Singh Puri has also released the knowledge pack of the government's 'Affordable Rental Housing Complexes' (ARHCs) programme to provide rental accommodations to migrant and urban poor. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Hardeep Singh Puri launched – 'CREDAI Awaas App' & NAREDCO's online portal 'HousingforAll.com'
- Hardeep Singh Puri also released – ARHCs programme

## 744. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science have been announced. This year the Life Time Excellence Award has been awarded to Professor Ashok Sahni for his significant contribution in the field of Geology, Vertebrate Paleontology and Biostratigraphy. The National Award for Ocean Science and technology is being awarded to Dr. V. V. S. S. Sarma. The National Award for Atmospheric Science and technology will be presented to Dr. S. Suresh Babu. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 'Life Time Excellence Award' in National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science – to Prof. Ashok Sahni
- National Award for Ocean Science and technology – to Dr. V. V. S. S. Sarma
- National Award for Atmospheric Science and technology – to Dr. S. Suresh Babu
- Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)



#### 745. Amount & Agreements

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 3 million (about Rs 22 Cr) grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to further support the government's emergency response to COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- ADB – approved USD 3 million (about Rs 22 Cr) grant – to India – From ‘Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund’
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | VP – Ashok Lavasa

#### 746. Appointments & Resignations

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi has handed over charge as the Commandant of Indian Naval Academy (INA) to Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi on 27 July 2020. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- MA Hampiholi – took charge as the Commandant of – Indian Naval Academy (INA)
- He will replace – Dinesh K Tripathi
- Location of Indian Naval Academy – Ezhimala, Kannur, Kerala

#### 747. Defence Affairs

First 5 out of 36 French-made Rafale fighter jets have landed at the ‘Ambala Air Force Station’ in Haryana. They are received by the Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria. They will be inducted in the No. 17 Squadron, ‘Golden Arrows’. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- First 5 out of 36 French-made Rafale fighter jets – landed at the ‘Ambala Air Force Station’ (Haryana)
- The Rafale was manufactured by – Dassault Aviation (France)
- They will be inducted in – No. 17 Squadron - ‘Golden Arrows’
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

#### 748. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Around 28 important road-projects along with other construction works worth Rs 175 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna 2 (PMGSY-II) were inaugurated by Jitendra Singh in Jammu and Kashmir. Himachal Pradesh has topped in terms of performance under PMGSY II followed by Jammu & Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

##### Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh inaugurated – Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna 2 (PMGSY-II) – in J & K
- Ranks: Topped by – Himachal Pradesh | 2nd – J & K
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya
- J & K Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu





## 749. Science & Technology

Northeast has got its first-ever manhole cleaning robot named 'BANDICOOT' to end manual scavenging. The robot is given by Indian Oil Corporation and has been procured by Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Northeast – got its first-ever manhole cleaning robot named 'BANDICOOT' (Guwahati – 1st city)
- Given by – IOC | Procured by – GMC

## 750. Persons in News

Dr Harsh Vardhan has released an e-book titled "Standard Treatment Guidelines for the Management of Substance Use Disorders and Behavioural Addictions" through video conference, in the presence of Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS (HFW). It aims to tackle substance abuse and behavioural addiction in the country. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – released an e-book titled "Standard Treatment Guidelines for the Management of Substance Use Disorders and Behavioural Addictions"
- Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi
- MoS for Health & Family Welfare – Ashwini Kumar Choubey

## 751. Persons in News

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has constituted a Selection Committee for selecting awardees for the "National Sports Awards-2020" including Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Dronacharya Awards, Arjuna Awards, Dhyan Chand Awards, Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Award & Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA). Retired Justice of Supreme Court Justice Mukundakam Sharma is the Chairperson of the Committee. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports constituted – a Selection Committee for "National Sports Awards-2020"
- Chairperson – Justice Mukundakam Sharma
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – Kiren Rijiju (Constituency – Arunachal West)

## 752. National & States Affairs

Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched its crop insurance campaign 'Bohot Zaroori Hai' for farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka to encourage them about their yield protection and financial security. The company has secured the mandate to insure the farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka for a period of 3 years under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY)'. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bharti AXA – launched 'Bohot Zaroori Hai' crop insurance campaign – For farmers in Maharashtra & Karnataka
- HQs of Bharti AXA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjeev Srinivasan



### 753. National & States Affairs

Consumer affairs minister Ram Vilas Paswan has launched a mobile app "BIS-Care" while terming it as a tool to empower the consumers. People can check the authenticity of ISI and Hallmark quality of products before buying them. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Ram Vilas Paswan launched – "BIS-Care" mobile app – to check the authenticity of ISI and Hallmark quality
- Ram Vilas Paswan – Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Constituency – Hajipur, Bihar)

### 754. Banking & Economic Affairs

Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched "Kona Kona Umeed", a two-month long festival or campaign of offers and discounts designed to ignite hope and optimism among its customers. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Group launched – "Kona Kona Umeed" 2-month long festival/campaign
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Uday Kotak

### 755. National & States Affairs

The first government-run intrastate chopper (helicopter) service in Uttarakhand that connects Dehradun to Garhwal hills was flagged off to boost tourism to Badrinath. Badrinath is one of the four Char Dham shrines. The flight on the Dehradun-New Tehri-Srinagar-Gauchar route which is operated by the state-run Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) under "Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN)" Scheme was flagged off virtually by minister of civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri and Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- The first government-run intrastate Helicopter service – flagged off – in Uttarakhand (Dehradun to Garhwal hills)
- The flight operated by – Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) – under UDAN scheme
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

### 756. National & States Affairs

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched 'Dare to Dream 2.0', which is an innovation contest. The contest was launched on the 5th death anniversary of renowned scientist and former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on July 27. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- DRDO launched – 'Dare to Dream 2.0' innovation contest – on the 5th death anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam
- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy



## 757. International Affairs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth have jointly inaugurated the new Supreme Court building at Port Louis in Mauritius completed with Indian assistance as part of New Delhi's thrust on cooperation with countries in the Indian Ocean Region. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi + Pravind Kumar Jugnauth = inaugurated new Supreme Court building – at Port Louis, Mauritius
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

## 758. National & States Affairs

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has released a booklet on “Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)” of Department of Land Resources (DoLR) under Ministry of Rural Development. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar released – a booklet on “Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)” – of Dept. of Land Resources (DoLR)
- DoLR – works under ‘Ministry of Rural Development’ (Narendra Singh Tomar – Morena, Madhya Pradesh)

## 759. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

The meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved the decision to host the Bank's 2021 annual meeting in the UAE during Dubai Expo. The announcement was made during the UAE's participation in the virtual annual meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which convened on July 28, under the theme ‘Connecting for Tomorrow’. India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the Lead Speaker at the roundtable discussion. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 5th Virtual annual meeting of AIIB – conducted on July 28
- Theme – ‘Connecting for Tomorrow’
- UAE – to host 6th annual meeting of AIIB – in 2021
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

## 760. Current GK

For the second time in a week, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) had to reduce water production capacity by 25% after high levels of ammonia were detected in the Yamuna river. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Delhi had to reduce water production capacity – by 25% due to ammonia detected – in Yamuna River
- Yamuna River originates from – Uttarakhand (the second-largest tributary river of the Ganga)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



## 761. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar has released the detailed report of the 4th All India Tiger Estimation-2018 on the eve of 'Global Tiger Day' in New Delhi. LIDAR survey technology will be used for the first time for effective fodder and water augmentation in forest area. India's tiger population now stands at 2967 which is 70% or 7 out of every 10 tigers in the world. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar released – 4th “All India Tiger Estimation-2018” report
- July 29 – Global Tiger Day
- LIDAR survey technology – to be used for the first time in forest area
- India's tiger population – 2967 (70% of world's tiger population)

## 762. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

According to report titled "The Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of potential" released by UNICEF along with Pure Earth, India has over 275 million children with blood lead levels higher than considered safe. This is also the highest number of lead poisoning cases in children of any country. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "The Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of potential"
- Report released by = UNICEF + Pure Earth
- India – the highest number of lead poisoning cases in children (over 275 million children)
- UNICEF HQs – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of Pure Earth – New York, USA | President – Richard Fuller

## 763. National & States Affairs

Shri Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi Bridge over river Ganga in Bihar through video conference. Over 5.5 kilometres long, the 4 lane bridge lies on NH-19 between Patna and Hajipur. It is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 1742 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari inaugurated – upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi Bridge – over river Ganga in Bihar
- 5.5 kilometres long & 4 lane bridge – lies on “NH-19” – between Patna & Hajipur (at cost of Rs. 1742 Cr)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan



## 764. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

GAIL (India) and Carbon Clean Solutions (CCSL) have signed an MoU for exploring project development opportunities in Compressed Biogas (CBG) value chain in India. The MoU aims at building a closer strategic partnership between the two companies by jointly working on CBG projects. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- GAIL + CCSL = MoU for exploring project development opportunities in CBG value chain in India
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | CMD – Manoj Jain
- HQs of CCSL – London, UK | CEO – Aniruddha Sharma

## 765. Defence Affairs

Defence Ministers' Dialogue between India and Indonesia was held in New Delhi. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the Indian delegation while the Indonesian delegation was led by their Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India + Indonesia = held "Defence Ministers' Dialogue" – in New Delhi
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

## 766. Appointments & Resignations

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara has appointed Defence Minister Hamed Bakayoko as prime minister after his predecessor died suddenly in July, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Hamed Bakayoko – appointed as the PM of – "Ivory Coast" or "Cote d'Ivoire"
- He will succeed – Amadou Gon Coulibaly (passed away)
- Cote d'Ivoire – Yamoussoukro – CFA franc | President – Alassane Ouattara

## 767. Amount & Agreements

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is looking to provide loans worth USD 3 billion for various large infrastructure projects in India over the next 12 months. India is the largest borrower, which accounts for 25% of the total lending by AIIB. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- AIIB – to provide loans worth USD 3 billion – to India – over the next 12 months
- India (25%) – the largest borrower of AIIB
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun



## 768. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The Centre, in collaboration with the World Bank, has decided to convert large area of ravines in Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh into arable (cultivable) land. It will also create employment opportunities and lead to substantive development of the region. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Government + World Bank = to convert large area of ravines into arable (cultivable) land
- Ravines Landform – in Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh

## 769. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

England all-rounder Ben Stokes has become the No. 1 all-rounder in Tests after beating West Indies captain Jason Holder to the top spot. He has also jumped to the 3rd spot in ICC Test rankings for batsmen. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ben Stokes (England) – became No.1 all-rounder in latest ICC test ranking
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Shashank Manohar | CEO – Manu Sawhney

## 770. Sports & Games

The 32-year-old Benedikt Howedes has retired from Soccer. He was a defender who helped Germany win the World Cup title in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Benedikt Howedes (Germany) – retirement from – Football

## 771. Persons in News

Archana Soreng, a climate activist from India, has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders who will provide perspectives and solutions to tackle the worsening climate crisis as part of the COVID-19 recovery efforts. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Archana Soreng – became member of Antonio Guterres's "Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change"
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

## 772. Sports & Games

England veteran Stuart Broad has become the 7th bowler to enter the 500 wickets club in Test cricket during the ongoing match against West Indies at Old Trafford. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Stuart Broad (UK) – became the 7th bowler – to enter the 500 wickets club in Test cricket
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson



### 773. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

Piyush Goyal has inaugurated the National Digital Conference on “Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat” organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the Department for Promotion of Investment and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to create a true Single Window System, which is completely digital and provides for unified and integrated business procedures. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal inaugurated – National Digital Conference on “Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat”
- It was organised by – CII & DPIIT – to create a true Single Window System
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)

### 774. National & States Affairs

The Indian Railways has recently installed Automatic Lighting Systems at three railways stations in Madhya Pradesh for energy conservation. Those three railways stations are at Jabalpur, Narsinghpur and Bhopal which fall under the West Central Railway zone. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Indian Railways installed – Automatic Lighting Systems – at 3 railways stations in Madhya Pradesh
- Three railways stations: Jabalpur, Narsinghpur & Bhopal (West Central Railway zone)
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi

### 775. International Affairs

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) now has 10 members and 9 prospective members from Africa after its Board of Governors approved the application of Liberia to join the Bank. AIIB now has 103 approved members from around the world. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- AIIB approved the application – of “Liberia” to join
- Now: 10 members & 9 Prospective members from Africa | 103 – Approved members

### 776. Obituaries

Folk Musician and Padma Shri awardee ‘Sonam Tshering Lepcha’ has passed away at Kalimpong, West Bengal to old age ailments. He was 92. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Sonam Tshering Lepcha (West Bengal) – passed away – Folk Musician (Padma Shri awardee)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar





### 777. Current GK

Two rhinos were spotted in a residential area near 'Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary' in Assam on July 28. Forest areas remain flooded following rainfall in Assam. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Two rhinos – spotted in an area near 'Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary' (Assam)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

### 778. Science & Technology

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed 'Aashray', a medical bed isolation system to combat COVID-19 by preventing or minimising the spread of the virus. It is a low cost, reusable solution to maintain proper isolation of COVID-19 patients. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- DIAT developed – 'Aashray' a medical bed isolation system to combat COVID-19
- HQs of DIAT – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairperson – C. P. Ramanarayanan

### 779. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has received 'SKOCH Gold Award' for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project of Scholarship Division of the Ministry. The 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition was entitled "INDIA RESPONDS TO COVID THROUGH DIGITAL GOVERNANCE" and MoTA chose to participate in DIGITAL INDIA & E-GOVERNANCE - 2020 Competition. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – received 'SKOCH Gold Award' – at the 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

### 780. Appointments & Resignations

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)'s board of governors has elected Jin Liqun as the President for the second term. AIIB President Jin's second five-year term will begin on January 16, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Jin Liqun – reappointed as the President of AIIB – For the second term (From January 16, 2021)
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun



### 781. International Affairs

India has signed an MoU to export 1.5-2 million bales (of 170 kilograms each) of cotton to Bangladesh and will also set up its own Cotton Warehouse in Vietnam to boost cotton exports. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- India – to export 1.5-2 million bales of cotton – to Bangladesh
- India – to set up its own Cotton Warehouse – in Vietnam
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM - Nguyen Xuan Phuc

### 782. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Sunil Yadav SS is Founder & CEO of 'SS Motivation' which is one of the most Subscribed Motivational Telegram channel in India. He has been honoured with "Karamveer Chakra Award" instituted by International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO) & United Nations. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Sunil Yadav SS – honoured with "Karamveer Chakra Award" – instituted by iCONGO & UN

### 783. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

Union Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar along with the Environment Ministers of the five BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa has participated in the 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting through a video conference under the presidency of Russia. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – participated in the 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting (Presidency – Russia)
- Presidency of BRICS in 2021 – India
- BRICS Countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Constituency – Maharashtra)

### 784. Important Days & Dates

25th July is celebrated as the "World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day" every year to mark the greatest innovation in the field of reproductive medicine. Louise Brown's birth is one of the biggest landmarks in the field of infertility treatment on July 25, 1978 in England. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- July 25 – "World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day"
- Louise Brown – the world's first test tube baby or IVF baby – born on July 25, 1978 in England

## 785. National & States Affairs

Union Cabinet has discontinued Master of Philosophy (MPhil) courses as per the new National Education Policy during its meeting. The new education policy also envisions increasing public investment in education sector to 6% of the GDP. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Union Cabinet discontinued – MPhil courses – as per the new National Education Policy-2020
- Increase in public investment in education sector to – 6% of the GDP
- The current 10+2 system to be replaced by a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure
- Teaching up to at least “Grade 5” to be in mother tongue or regional languages
- A new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education – NCFTE 2021 – to be formulated by the NCTE + NCERT
- Sanskrit – to be offered at all school levels and higher education as option – including in 3-language formula
- PARAKH – Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development

## 786. Science & Technology

China has formally launched full global services of its “BeiDou-3” Navigation Satellite System (BDS) to rival the widely-used American GPS. It will provide independent navigation structure for its increasingly modernising military. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- China launched – “BeiDou-3” Navigation Satellite System – to rival ‘American GPS’
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

## 787. International Affairs

Hanna, the first hurricane of the 2020 Atlantic season and made landfall on the Texas coast, threatening one of the nation's largest COVID-19 hot spots with storm surge and flooding. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Hanna” hurricane – has hit Texas coast (USA)

## 788. Amount & Agreements

The CSIR, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and the Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) have signed a tripartite agreement that will provide access to the research body's rural technologies. The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) is a flagship national programme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- CSIR + UBA + VIBHA = signed a tripartite agreement
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan – a flagship of Ministry of HRD (Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande



## 789. Amount & Agreements

Maharashtra has approved Rs 1,000 Crore (\$142.9 million) "Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MagNet) project" for boosting fruit and vegetable production in the state. In this project, 70% would be lent by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the balance will come from state government. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Maharashtra + ADB (70%) = Rs 1,000 Cr (\$142.9 million) "Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MagNet) project"
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | VP – Ashok Lavasa

## 790. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

As per the report titled "Status of Tigers Co-predators and Prey in India" released by Environment Ministry, Uttarakhand's "Corbett Tiger Reserve" has reported the highest tiger density among India's 50 reserves with 14 tigers per 100 sq km and total 231 inside the reserve. Out of the 50 tiger reserves in the country, 3 reserves - Dampa (Mizoram), Buxa (West Bengal) & Palamau (Jharkhand) have no tigers left now. There are currently 13 tiger range countries in the world. In the state-wise distribution of tigers, Madhya Pradesh was found with maximum tigers at 526 followed by Karnataka at 524 and 442 in Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Corbett Tiger Reserve" reported the highest Tiger density per 100 sq km (231) – located in Uttarakhand
- State-wise distribution of tigers: 1st Madhya Pradesh | 2nd – Karnataka | 3rd – Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

## 791. Sports & Games

Bangladesh's pacer Qazi Onik Islam has been banned for two years for failing a dope test during the National Cricket League in November 2018. As per a report in ESPNcricinfo, Onik had tested positive for Methamphetamine. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Qazi Onik Islam (Bangladesh-Cricketer) – banned – For 2 years
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

## 792. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

As per the report titled, "Implications of AI on the Indian Economy" released by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), a substantial increase in Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Indian firms can result in a 2.5% increase in India's GDP in the immediate term. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Implications of AI on the Indian Economy" report – by ICRIER
- Substantial increase in AI by Indian firms can increase India's GDP – by 2.5%
- HQs of ICRIER – New Delhi | Chairperson – Isher Judge Ahluwalia



### 793. Sports & Games

From the next Test series, "Wisden Trophy" tournament between England and West Indies will be renamed as "Richards-Botham Trophy" after Vivian Richards and Ian Botham, two iconic cricketers from both teams. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- "Wisden Trophy" tournament – between England and West Indies – renamed as "Richards-Botham Trophy"

### 794. Obituaries

Tamil writer and documentary filmmaker Sa Kandasamy has passed away due to heart attack in Chennai. He was 80. In 1998, his "Vicharanai Commission" won the Sahitya Akademy award for the best Tamil novel. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Sa Kandasamy (Tamil Nadu) – passed away – Tamil Writer & Documentary Filmmaker

### 795. National & States Affairs

The Income Tax Department will share PAN and bank account details of any entity with 10 investigative and intelligence agencies, including the CBI and the NIA, under the integrated counter-terrorism platform - National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID). [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Income Tax Department – will share PAN and bank account details - with 10 intelligence agencies
- NATGRID comes under – Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Amit Shah – Gandhinagar, Gujarat)

### 796. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and Praj Industries have announced signing an MoU under which they will jointly drive application development of advanced biofuels for use in industry and transportation. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- ARAI + Praj Industries = an MoU to jointly drive application development of advanced biofuels
- HQs of ARAI – Pune, Maharashtra | HQs of Praj Industries Ltd – Gandhidham, Gujarat



## 797. National & States Affairs

Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan has given his assent to The AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of all Regions Bill-2020 and APCRDA (Repeal) Bill-2020, paving the way for the Legislative Capital in Amaravati, Executive in Visakhapatnam and, Judicial in Kurnool. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Biswa Bhusan Harichandan – gave his assent to 3 state-capital bills and CRDA Repeal Bills 2020
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

## 798. Appointments & Resignations

Domestic rating agency ICRA has appointed N Sivaraman as its new Managing Director and group Chief Executive Officer. Sivaraman has spent over 34 years with engineering major L&T. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- N Sivaraman – appointed as the MD & CEO of – ICRA rating agency
- HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – N Sivaraman

## 799. Obituaries

Bollywood Action Director 'Parvez Khan' has passed away after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 55. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Parvez Khan – passed away – Action Director

## 800. National & States Affairs

SBI Card and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have launched a co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay platform for secure and fast transactions. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SBI Card + IRCTC = launched a Co-branded Contactless Credit Card – on RuPay
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Mahendra Pratap Mall
- HQs of RuPay – New Delhi | Launched by – NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)
- HQs of SBI Card – Gurugram, Haryana | New MD & CEO – Ashwini Kumar Tewari (From 1 Aug)



### 801. National & States Affairs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 'High throughput Covid-19 testing facilities' or 3 new labs at Noida, Mumbai and Kolkata. These facilities will increase testing capacity in the country and will be able to test over 10,000 samples in a day. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – launched 'High throughput Covid-19 testing facilities' – at Noida, Mumbai & Kolkata

### 802. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed an agreement with IIT Kanpur for training, research, and entrepreneurship development in smart grid technology. As per the memorandum of association, the PFC will provide financial assistance of Rs 2.38 Cr to IIT-K under its CSR initiative. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- PFC + IIT Kanpur = Training, research, and entrepreneurship development in smart grid technology – Rs 2.38 Cr
- HQs of PFC – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon

### 803. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of 'Aspirational Districts' ranked by government think-tank Niti Aayog for the February-June 2020. Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh) have been placed at the second and third positions respectively. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- The list of 'Aspirational Districts' – released by Niti Aayog (for Feb-June 2020)
- 1st – Bijapur (Chhattisgarh) | 2nd – Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) | 3rd – Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

### 804. Important Days & Dates

A much-awaited occasion to celebrate the special relationship between friends, Friendship Day was celebrated on August 2 in India this year. The United Nations has declared July 30 as the "International Friendship Day". In India, it is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of the month of August. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- July 30 – International Friendship Day – by UN
- August 2 – Friendship Day – in India (First Sunday of August)





## 805. Sports & Games

Indian Grandmaster P Harikrishna has finished 2nd in the 53rd Biel International Chess Festival in Switzerland by defeating David Anton Guijarro of Spain in the seventh and final round. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- P Harikrishna (Chess) – stood at the 2nd – in the 53rd Biel International Chess Festival (Switzerland)
- Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Simonetta Sommaruga

## 806. Banking & Economic Affairs

Yes Bank has taken possession of Reliance Centre, the headquarters of the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) in Mumbai. The possession of the building took place as on 22 July under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFESI). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Yes Bank took possession of – Reliance Centre (The HQs of ADAG – in Mumbai) – Under 'SARFESI Act'
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"

## 807. Obituaries

Former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui, considered the "father of Taiwan's democracy", has passed away recently in July. He was 97. He served as president of Taiwan, from 1988 to 2000. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Lee Teng-hui (Taiwan) – passed away – Former President of Taiwan
- Taiwan – Taipei – New Taiwan dollar | President – Tsai Ing-wen

## 808. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

World's prominent Financial software solution provider, "Craft Silicon" has announced a partnership with 'PayU' to innovate and accelerate digital loan repayment solutions for Small Finance Banks, Micro-Lending institutions and NBFCs. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Craft Silicon + PayU = partnership to innovate and accelerate digital loan repayment solutions for SFBs & NBFCs
- HQs of Craft Silicon – Nairobi, Kenya | CEO – Kamal Budhabhatti
- HQs of PayU – Netherlands | CEO – Laurent le Moal



### 809. Current GK

The ecologically sensitive Thudiyurulippara hill has been given the status of biodiversity heritage site on the recommendations of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB). [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Thudiyurulippara hill – located in Kerala – has been given the status of ‘Biodiversity Heritage Site’
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

### 810. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

The West Bengal CMO’s public grievance system for “E-Samadhan” was awarded the prestigious and highest Digital India Platinum Award by Skoch Foundation at the 66th Skoch Summit in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- “E-Samadhan” – CMO’s public grievance system of West Bengal – awarded with ‘Skoch Platinum Award’
- 66th Skoch Summit held in – New Delhi
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

### 811. Appointments & Resignations

The government has appointed former chairman of Coal India, Anil Kumar Jha, as a member of the Expert Appraisal Committee that deals with violation of environment rules and formed by the Environment Ministry. The panel was earlier constituted in June 2017 for three years. Its tenure has now been extended till June 2021. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Anil Kumar Jha – appointed as a member of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Formed by Environment Ministry)
- The tenure of the panel extended till – June 2021

### 812. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

According to a report released by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) and an international anti-slavery organisation Walk Free, Commonwealth countries accounts for about 40% of people living in conditions of modern slavery in the world and 54 nations were found lacking in actions to eradicate modern slavery by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- According to a report released by = CHRI + Walk Free
- Commonwealth countries accounts for about = 40% of people living in conditions of modern slavery
- HQs of CHRI – New Delhi | Director – Sanjoy Hazarika



### 813. Appointments & Resignations

Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd has appointed former RBI Governor Urjit Patel as an additional and independent director for a term of 5 years. Urjit Patel had served as the 24th governor of the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Urjit Patel – appointed as an additional and independent director of Great Eastern Shipping Company – for 5 years
- Urjit Patel – 24th governor of the RBI
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)
- HQs of GESC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – K. M. Sheth

### 814. National & States Affairs

The forest department of Haryana has taken up a new approach of "Aerial Seeding" to plant seeds across Aravalli hills that are hard to access and makes plantation difficult. Aerial seeding is a process where seed balls are sprayed on the ground with the help of drones, helicopters and planes. The 'Seeding Drone' is designed by IIT Kanpur backed startup. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Haryana – took up a new approach of "Aerial Seeding" to plant seeds across – Aravalli hills
- Seeding Drone designed by – IIT Kanpur
- Guru Shikhar – the highest peak in Aravalli range
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

### 815. Amount & Agreements

The Maldives has launched 9 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP), including a bottled water plant, which will use a \$5.6 million grant from the Indian government. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Maldives launched – 9 HICDPs – by using \$5.6 million grant – From India
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

### 816. Important Days & Dates

"World Ranger Day" is observed worldwide every year on July 31 to commemorate the rangers killed or injured in the line of duty. A ranger is a person charged with protecting and preserving protected parklands and forests. It is promoted by the International Ranger Federation (IRF). [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- July 31 – "World Ranger Day"
- HQs of IRF – Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland | President – Chris Galliers | Member Countries – 54



### 817. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

French energy giant Total SA and the country's top oil firm Indian Oil Corp (IOC) have announced a 50:50 joint venture partnership to manufacture and market high-quality bitumen derivatives and specialty products for the growing road-building industry in India. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

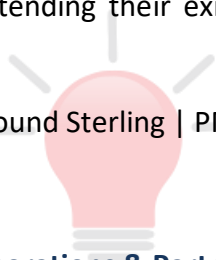
- Total SA + IOC = Joint Venture partnership – to manufacture and market high-quality bitumen
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- HQs of Total SA – Paris, France | Chairman & CEO – Patrick Pouyanne

### 818. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The United Kingdom and India are extending their existing scientific research collaboration with 5 new medicinal research projects worth 8 million pounds to tackle anti-microbial resistance (AMR). [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- India + UK = extending their existing scientific research collaboration with 5 new projects – worth 8 million pounds
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson



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### 819. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Reliance Power has signed a loan agreement, along with Japanese utility JERA, for \$642 million with banks for a new 745 megawatt gas-based project in Bangladesh. This is a natural gas combined-cycle power plant. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Reliance Power + JERA = loan agreement to set up 745 megawatt gas-based project – in Bangladesh
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- HQs of JERA – Tokyo, Japan | CEO – Toshiro Kudama

### 820. Books & Authors

Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey is writing a book titled "Greenlights" based on life-changing adventures. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- "Greenlights" book – authored by 'Matthew McConaughey' (USA)



### 821. National & States Affairs

The Odisha government has renamed "Bilung" village in Odisha's Sambalpur district 'Rangabati Bilung' after a popular folk song "Rangabati" to honour the songwriter Mitrabhanu Gauntia. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Odisha – renamed "Bilung" village after a popular folk song "Rangabati" – to honour 'Mitrabhanu Gauntia'
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

### 822. Obituaries

West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee President Somendra Nath Mitra has passed away recently in July. He was 78. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Somendra Nath Mitra (West Bengal) – passed away – Politician (Congress Committee President)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

### 823. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has joined hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation to launch "AIM iCREST" - an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focused on creating high performing Startups. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- AIM + Bill & Melinda Gates + Wadhvani = launched "AIM iCREST" an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program
- AIM Director – Ramanan Ramanathan
- Atal Innovation Mission – under "NITI Aayog" (HQs – New Delhi)
- CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of Wadhvani Foundation – Bangalore, New Delhi & Palo Alto, USA | President & CEO – Ajay Kela

### 824. Appointments & Resignations

A 2010-batch IAS officer Hardik Satishchandra Shah has been appointed the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is currently serving as a Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- Hardik Satishchandra Shah – appointed the Private Secretary – to Prime Minister's Office (PMO)



## 825. Science & Technology

Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), along with AMESYS INDIA has developed a microorganism decontamination box named as 'Suraksha'. UVC light and heat are used in the box. It can sanitize an object in 10-15 minutes. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- CSIR-CSIO + AMESYS INDIA = developed 'Suraksha' - a microorganism decontamination box
- HQs of CSIO – Chandigarh | Director – S. Anantha Ramakrishna

## 826. Persons in News

A 'Committee for the Draft National Education Policy' was constituted in June 2017 under the Chairmanship of famous scientist Dr. K. Kasturirangan, who submitted the Draft National Education Policy, 2019 to the Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister on 31st May, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 'Committee for the Draft National Education Policy' was constituted – in June 2017
- Chairmanship – K. Kasturirangan

## 827. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

According to research published in the Nature Climate Change journal, Polar bears could go extinct by 2100. There are approximately 25,000 polar bears left in the wild today. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- According to research published in 'Nature Climate Change' journal – "Polar bears" may go extinct – by 2100

## 828. Books & Authors

Dubai-based Indian-origin author Avni Doshi released her book in India last year as 'Girl in White Cotton' and it gets a UK release as 'Burnt Sugar'. She is among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2020 Booker Prize for her debut novel 'Burnt Sugar', alongside double Booker winner Hilary Mantel for 'The Mirror and The Light'. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 'Girl in White Cotton' or 'Burnt Sugar' – authored by Avni Doshi (Dubai-based Indian-origin)
- Avni Doshi – shortlisted for the "2020 Booker Prize" – For her novel "Burnt Sugar"
- 'The Mirror and The Light' – authored by Hilary Mantel (UK)



### 829. National & States Affairs

A National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. States will prepare an implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools for all learners by grade 3 by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy – will be set up by MHRD
- Implementation plan for all learners by grade 3 – by 2025
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' | Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand

### 830. National & States Affairs

The ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs would go beyond the list of 100 smart cities in different states to include two more cities - Leh and Kargil in Ladakh. The ministry of housing and urban affairs has formed a 5-member central team under Smart Cities director Rahul Kapoor to handhold Ladakh in formulating detailed projects reports for both the cities. [{Read more}](#)

#### Key Points:

- MoHUA – additionally selected – Leh and Kargil cities (Ladakh) – to develop them as smart cities
- 5-member central team under – Rahul Kapoor (Smart Cities Director)
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri







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