Current Affairs PDF- August 22, 2020

National
Santosh Gangwar launches official Logo of “Labour Bureau”
- Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, Santosh Gangwar has launched the official Logo of “Labour Bureau”.
- It displays the three goals that Labour Bureau aspires to achieve in producing quality data i.e. Accuracy, Validity and Reliability.
- It also indicates that the Labour Bureau is a data-based organization which deals in data pertaining to workers and work.

NPCI launches its subsidiary firm – NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched its wholly-owned subsidiary firm named NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL).
- Ritesh Shukla has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NIPL.
- NIPL will venture into newer international markets and co-create payment systems with participating nations.
- The primary focus of NIPL would be the internationalization of RuPay and UPI, along with a few more offerings of NPCI.

Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot launches ‘Indira Rasoi Yojana’
- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on August 20, 2020, launched the ‘Indira Rasoi Yojana’ in order to provide quality nutritious food to poor people at just Rs. 8.
- The newly launched scheme will be rolled in 213 urban local bodies of the state which will include 10 locations each in the state capital’s c greater and heritage area.
- Under Indira Rasoi Yojana, fresh and nutritious food will be provided at Rs. 8 per plate.

Awards
‘Am I?’ wins 1st prize in Online Short Film Contest of I&B Ministry & NFDC
- Short film ‘Am I?’ has won the first prize in the Online Short Film Contest that was organized by Information and Broadcasting Ministry along with NFDC - National Film Development Corporation.
- The film has been directed by Abhijit Paul.

Obituary
Former Indian cricketer Gopala swamy Kasturirangan passes away
- Former Cricketer, Administrator and Pitch Curator, Gopala swamy Iyenger Kasturirangan passed away.
- He began his career in the 1948-49 season representing Mysore in the Ranji Trophy and retired from first-class cricket after the 1962-63 season.
• Kasturirangan was also the former BCCI Curator and Vice President of Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).

**Sports**

INOX Group becomes sponsor of Indian team for Tokyo Olympics
• The governing body for the Olympic Movement in India, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and INOX Group has signed a sponsorship agreement to support Team India for Tokyo Olympics, which was rescheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021.
• The partnership agreement will further support team India’s promotions through the Group’s entertainment company, Inox Leisure Limited.

**Appointments and Resignations**

Rajiv Kumar appointed as new Election Commissioner
• Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed new election commissioner. He will replace Ashok Lavasa, who resigned earlier this week. Mr Kumar will take charge the day Mr Lavasa leaves his office on August 31.
• Rajiv Kumar is a 1984-batch IAS officer from Jharkhand cadre. He was designated as finance secretary in July 2019 and during his tenure he played a major role in merging 10 public sector banks into four. He has also served as establishment officer (EO) in the personnel ministry.

Equatorial Guinea Re-elects Francisco Asue as PM of the country
• Francisco Asue has been reappointed as Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea.
• This is Asue’s third consecutive term as PM. He was first appointed as PM of Equatorial Guinea in 2016.

**Days**

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
• The second annual International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is being observed on 22 August 22, 2020.
• The international day aims to remember the victims and survivors of evil acts on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.
• The day was adopted at the 73rd UN General Assembly on 28 May 2019 as proposed by Poland.

**Current Affairs PDF- August 21, 2020**

**National**

Tribal Affairs Minister launches “Trifood Project” of TRIFED
• The tertiary processing centres of “Trifood Project” of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been virtually launched by the Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.
• The Trifood project has been launched in Raigad, Maharashtra and Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.
This project is expected to help in encouraging the tribal entrepreneurship.

- Two Minor Forest Produce (MFP) processing units will be set up in order to achieve the targets of the “Trifood Project”.

**First rockets produced by private sector successfully test fired**

- The Indian Army successfully test-fired the first ever privately manufactured Pinaka rockets recently from the firing range in Pokharan, which achieved the desired results by accurately hitting targets.
- The rockets have been manufactured by Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL) and are the first ammunition of its kind made by the private sector in India.
- Six Pinaka rockets were test fired as part of the final developmental trials.
- This development will enable Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to do away with its single-source dependency on Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for the rockets and also boost Make in India initiative.

**International**

**Apple Becomes First U.S. Company to reach $2 Trillion Market Cap**

- Apple Inc. has become the first publicly traded U.S. company to reach a market capitalization of over $2 trillion, after its share price climbed above $467.77 on 19 August 2020.
- Apple is also the world’s only second company to hit $2 trillion in market cap. Before this, Oil Major Saudi Aramco was the world’s first and only publicly listed company to reach a $2 trillion market value in December 2019.
- Apple was also the first publicly traded U.S. company to reach a $1 trillion market cap.

**India, Japan and Australia to launch Supply Chain Resilience Initiative to counter China**

- India, Australia, and Japan have started the discussions for the launch of a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in order to reduce the dependency on China. The initiative which was first proposed by Japan might be executed.
- The officials have been working on the dates to hold the first meeting of the commerce and trade ministers of the three countries. Earlier, Japan through its Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry had approached India and had pressed on the urgency of taking the initiative forward.
- In the light of China’s aggressive moves in the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, the Indian government has decided to consider the proposal quite seriously. As per the sources, Tokyo was in favour of launching SCRI by November 2020.

**Banking and Economy**

**Google launches ‘Kormo’ app in India to help people find jobs**

- Google has launched its employment application named ‘Kormo Jobs’ in India. It would help millions of Indians to get entry-level jobs. Kormo Jobs will help to provide entry-level jobs to thousands of people, to help those who have lost their jobs during the pandemic and young professionals who are looking for jobs.
- Google had first launched the employment application in Bangladesh in 2018 and further
expanded it to Indonesia in 2019. In 2019, Google had also tested this app in India but under the brand ‘Spot’ on Google Pay app, which saw more than 2 million verified jobs posted on the platform, including from companies like Zomato and Dunzo.

**Appointments and Resignations**

**Luis Rodolfo Abinader sworn in as President of Dominican Republic**
- Luis Rodolfo Abinader has been sworn in as 54th President of the Dominican Republic on 16 August 2020.
- The 53-year-old economist and businessman Abinader succeeds Danilo Medina, who served the country from 2012 to 2020.

**Ranking**

**Swachh Survekshan 2020: Indore ranked 1st as cleanest city**
- Indore city of Madhya Pradesh has been ranked as the cleanest city of India under the Swachh Survekshan 2020. It has won the Cleanest city tag for the fourth consecutive year.
- 2020 Swachh Survekshan is the 5th edition of the annual exercise and covered 4,242 cities. The results were announced on 20 August by the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA), Hardeep Singh Puri.
- Surat (Gujarat) and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) are the second and third most cleanest city, respectively in the ranking.

**India ranked 1st in number of organic farmers, Sikkim 1st state to be fully organic**
- India has been ranked first in the number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming.
- Sikkim has become the first state in the world to become fully organic. Other states including Uttarakhand and Tripura have also set similar sustainability targets.
- North-east India has traditionally been organic and the consumption of chemicals is far less than the rest of the country. The tribal and island territories are also being encouraged to take forward their organic methods.

**Days**

**World Senior Citizen Day**
- The World Senior Citizen Day is observed globally on 21st August every year. This day is celebrated to raise awareness about issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and the abuse of the elderly and support, honour and show appreciation to seniors and to recognize their achievements.
- The Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1990.
- The World Senior Citizen's Day also recognises and acknowledges the contributions of older people to society.

**International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism**
- The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is a UN recognised day observed on August 21 to pay tribute to the individuals across the globe who have been attacked, injured, traumatized or lost their lives because of terrorist attacks.
The day was designated by United Nations General Assembly in 2017 and first time the day was observed in 2018.

Current Affairs PDF- August 20, 2020

National
Cabinet approves setting up of National Recruitment Agency
• The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to set up a National Recruitment Agency (NRA).
• NRA will be the nodal agency to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for jobs in the government and state-owned banks. NRA will comprise of representatives of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB as well as IBPS.
• NRA is expected to be a specialist body which will offer the state-of-the-art technology and best practices to the field of Central Government recruitment. A sum of Rs. 1517.57 crore has been sanctioned by the Government of India for the National Recruitment Agency (NRA).
• The NRA will hold online exams every year for non-gazetted government posts and each district will have at least one exam centre. The score in these exams would be valid for three years and the candidate would have the option of taking the exam again to improve the score. The best of the three scores would be used during the selection process.

Banking and Economy
Fino Payments Bank launches Jan BachatKhata
• Fino Payments Bank has launched Jan BachatKhata (JBK), which is an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account that brings neo-banking experience to consumers.
• Under the JBK, customers can transact at a Fino branch or merchant point with fingerprint and OTP combination, while at non-Fino points they need Aadhaar authentication.
• Earlier, Fino Payments Bank had introduced Shubh and Bhavishya, subscription-based savings accounts targeted at specific customer segments.
• Neo bank means– A bank without any branches. A bank that is entirely online rather than being physical. Neo banking provides complete digital banking experience through mobile applications.

Acquisitions and Mergers
Reliance Retail acquires majority stake in online pharmacy Netmeds for Rs 620 crore
• Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the subsidiary company of Mukesh Ambani owned Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has acquired a majority equity stake in online pharmacy Vitalic Health Pvt Ltd and its subsidiaries (commonly known as Netmeds) for a cash consideration of around Rs 620 crore ($83.08 million).
• The announcement regarding this was made by the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). Reliance Retail Director Isha Ambani stated that the deal is in line with the commitment to
provide digital access to all in the country.

- Chennai-based Netmeds is a licensed e-pharma portal, incorporated in 2015, that offers authenticated prescription and over the counter (OTC) medicine along with other health products in India.

**Obituary**

**Computer Scientist Russell A. Kirsch, who Invented Pixel, passes away**

- Computer scientist Russell A. Kirsch, the inventor of the pixel, and developer of the first digital photograph has passed away. He was 91 years old.
- His pioneering contributions to computer science made digital imaging possible.
- He created a small, 2-by-2-inch black-and-white digital image of his son, which was among the first images ever scanned into a computer. Pixels are the digital dots that are used to display photos, video and more on phone as well as computer screens.

**Sports**

**England World Cup winner Laura Marsh retires**

- England World Cup winner all-rounder, Laura Marsh has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket. She was a key member of the England Women's team that won the 2017 World Cup.
- Marsh had played in 103 one-day internationals, 67 T20 and 9 Test matches during her career.

**Appointments and Resignations**

**Rohit Sharma appointed Oakley's brand ambassador in India**

- Sports eyewear brand “Oakley” has appointed Indian cricketer, Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador for a period of two years in India.
- With this appointment, Sharma joins the likes of athletes such as Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and Milind Soman who have endorsed the brand before.

**Days**

**Indian Akshay Urja Day 2020**

- Indian Akshay Urja Day or Renewable Energy Day is observed on 20th August every year. Indian Akshay Urja is observed to mark the importance of renewable energy resources in India.
- This day marks the birthday anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

**World Mosquito Day**

- World Mosquito Day is observed on 20 August annually to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented.
- The day also commemorates the discovery made by British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

**Sadbhavana Diwas**

- Every year on 20th August, the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi is celebrated as
Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day. This year on 20th August 2020, we are going to celebrate the 76th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

- The Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award in 1992, a year after his death.

**World Photography Day**

- The World Photography Day is celebrated on 19 August every year to promote photography as a hobby and also inspire photographers around the globe to share a single photo with the rest of the world.
- The first official World Photo Day was observed on August 19, 2010.
- The origin of World Photo Day comes from the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicephore Niepce in 1837.

**Current Affairs PDF- August 19, 2020**

**Banking and Economy**

**India’s GDP to contract 16.5 per cent in April-June quarter**

- State Bank of India’s research report Ecowrap expects the country’s GDP to contract by 16.5 per cent during the first quarter of the current fiscal.
- Earlier in May, Ecowrap had estimated Q1 FY21 GDP contraction at over 20 per cent and now pegs it at much lower contraction of 16.5 per cent for the quarter.

**RBI releases framework for authorisation of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments**

- Reserve Bank of India has released the ‘framework for authorization of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments’ in India.
- This means that RBI has allowed companies/entities to apply to RBI to set-up pan-India umbrella entity/entities focussing on retail payment systems in India. After receiving approval from RBI, the entity may start functioning as an Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments in India just like NPCI.
- Presently NPCI is the only Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments in India.

**Awards**

**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020**


**Sports**

**Kevin de Bruyne named Premier League Player of the Season 2019-20**

- In Football, the Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne has been named as the Premier League Player of the Season 2019-20.
- He is the only third Belgian footballer to win the award for the league’s top performer, after

- Other awards includes:
  - Young Player of the Season – Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool)
  - Manager of the Season – Jurgen Klopp (Liverpool)
  - Goal of the Season – Son Heung-min (Tottenham Hotspur)
  - Premier League 2 (PL2) Player of the Season – Curtis Jones (Liverpool)

**Dream 11 wins title sponsorship rights of IPL 2020**

- The title sponsorship rights of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 has been bagged by the fantasy gaming start-up “Dream 11”. The fantasy gaming start-up has bagged the title sponsorship rights for Rs 222 crore.
- This comes after the previous sponsor, Vivo backed out of IPL 2020. The IPL will be held from September 19 to November 10, 2020.

**Appointments and Resignations**

**Ashok Lavasa resigns as Election Commissioner of India, appointed as ADB Vice President**

- Ashok Lavasa resigns as Election Commissioner of India to join the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its Vice-President in September 2020.
- Earlier on 15th July 2020, Lavasa was appointed as the Vice President of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

**Satya Pal Malik appointed as Governor of Meghalaya**

- Satya Pal Malik, Governor of Goa, has been appointed as the Meghalaya Governor, succeeding Tathagata Roy. Roy completed his 5-year tenure by serving as Tripura Governor for 3 years and the Governor of Meghalaya for the remaining two years.
- Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been asked to perform duties of Goa Governor for the time being.

**SEBI appoints G P Garg as Executive Director**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said it has appointed G P Garg as executive director (ED).
- Prior to his promotion as ED, Garg was Chief General Manager in Sebi and has handled several assignments since joining in January 1994.

**Ranking**

**IIT Madras Tops Atal Rankings (ARIIA) 2020**

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained the top position in the ‘Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,’ (ARIIA) 2020 for being the best centrally funded institution in India.
- The premier institute has topped in the list of top centrally funded innovative educational institutes in India for the second consecutive year. IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IISc Bengaluru and IIT Kharagpur are the among the top five centrally funded institutions in the list respectively.
The ARIIA ranking was launched in 2019 by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The objective of ARIIA is to rank higher education institutions and universities in India as per Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Startup, and Development amongst faculty and students.

**Days**

**World Humanitarian Day**
- The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed every year on 19 August to pay tribute to humanitarian personnel and those workers who lost or risked their lives while doing humanitarian service. In 2020 we are celebrating the 11th WHD.
- The theme for 2020 WHD is #RealLifeHeroes. The theme is a tribute and a heartfelt thanks to all aid and health workers who have committed their lives to helping others, during this difficult time of pandemic.

**Books and Authors**

**Former Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam pens book titled “Full Spectrum: India”s Wars, 1972-2020”**
- Retired Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam has written a book which throws light on comprehensive account of war and conflict in contemporary India over the past five decades next month.
- The book titled “Full Spectrum: India”s Wars, 1972-2020” is a sequel to his previous book “India”s Wars: A Military History, 1947-1971”. It has been published by HarperCollins India and will be released in September 2020.
- The new book covers every major operation that the armed forces have participated in since 1972, including the Kargil conflict of 1999

**Current Affairs PDF- August 18, 2020**

**National**

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs launches Tribal Health & Nutrition Portal – ‘Swasthya’**
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named ‘Swasthya’. It is a first of its kind e-portal, providing all health and nutrition-related information of the tribal population of India in a single platform.
- Apart from this, an e-newsletter on health and nutrition ALEKH was also announced. It is a quarterly newsletter.
- Opening of National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal (for inviting online applications for the academic year 2020-21) was another important announcement that was made.

**Ministry of AYUSH launches campaign “Ayush for Immunity”**
- The Ministry of AYUSH launched a campaign on “Ayush for Immunity”. It is a three-month campaign and aims to promote Ayush solutions in the entire world for a healthier and happier life.
The theme of the event is: accessible and affordable health for all, through Ayush solutions
The campaign was rolled out during a webinar that featured the participation of more than 50 thousand people. The webinar was streamed by the Ministry of AYUSH on its new digital communication platform Ayush Virtual Convention Centre (AVCC).

**Banking and Economy**

**MCX to launch India’s first bullion index named “Bulldex”**
- Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), India’s largest commodity derivatives exchange, will launch India’s first bullion index named “Bulldex”, on August 24, 2020. Bullions, viz. gold and silver are already being traded as individual commodities on the country’s premier commodity exchange.
- With gold and silver as underlying, Bulldex will have a market lot size of 50 and be a cash-settled futures contract. MCX had tested bullion index futures trade in mock trading exercises in July.

**HDFC Bank launches Shaurya KGC Card**
- The largest private sector bank in the country, HDFC Bank, launched ‘Shaurya KGC (Kisan Gold Credit) Card, a loan product for the armed forces.
- This is the first-of-its-kind scheme meant for the army personnel in the country and is based on the Kisan Credit Card guidelines of the government. This credit card comes with a life cover of Rs 10 lakhs.

**Obituary**

**Renowned classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj passes away**
- Indian classical vocalist, Pandit Jasraj passed away. He was born in Haryana in 1930, his musical career spanned eight decades. His performances of classical and semi-classical vocals have become albums and film soundtracks.
- Jasraj has taught music in India, Canada, and the US. Pandit Jasraj was an Indian classical vocalist, belonging to the Mewati Gharana. His musical career spanned for more than eight decades. Many of his performances of classical and semi-classical vocals have now become albums and film soundtracks.
- Pandit Jasraj was a recipient of India’s fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 1975; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1987 and Padma Bhushan in 1999. In the year 2000, the government of India conferred him with Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honor in the country.
- In 2019, the International Astronomical Union had named a minor planet after Pandit Jasraj. The minor planet is located between Mars and Jupiter.

**Filmmaker Nishikant Kamat passes away**
- Director-actor Nishikant Kamat passed away. He made his directorial debut in 2005 with Marathi movie Dombivali Fast, which won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Marathi.
- Nishikant had directed some popular Bollywood movies like Force, Drishyam, and Madaari. He made his silver screen debut in 2004 with the Hindi movie Hava Aney Dey. In 2008,
Kamat helmed his first Bollywood film Mumbai Meri Jaan.
- As an actor, he was known for his performances in Daddy, Rocky Handsome, Julie 2, and Bhavesh Joshi.

**Appointments and Resignations**

**Rakesh Asthana becomes new DG of BSF**
- The government of India has appointed Rakesh Asthana as the new director-general of the Border Security Force (BSF). Currently, DG Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP) chief S S Deswal was holding the additional charge of BSF since March this year.
- Asthana is currently heading the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) with an additional charge of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

**The central bank of India appoints Ashwini Kumar Shukla as Chief Risk Officer**
- The central bank of India has appointed Mr. Ashwini Kumar Shukla as Chief Risk Officer.
- As part of the reform agenda announced by the Ministry of Finance last year in August 2019, the Central bank of India is the first one to appoint a CRO from the market.

**Current Affairs PDF- August 17, 2020**

**National**

**PM Modi Announces One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative**
- PM Modi in his speech of Independence Day 2020, announced the “One Sun, One World, One Grid” (OSOWOG) plan. Under this, there will be a trans-national electricity grid, for supplying solar power across the globe.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi first announced this idea of OSOWOG in 2018 during the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- As per the draft plan prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the OSOWOG will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power.

**International**

**European Union’s 1-Million-Euro ‘Nirmanshree’ Project To Skill Women In Housing Sector**
- European Union has launched project ‘Nirman shree’ for enhancing the women skill towards housing construction sector. This is the first-of-its-kind sustainable housing on a large scale in India with 1-million-euro. The project will be implemented in Beed and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra and the Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts of Odisha.
- A non-profit organisation, Habitat for Humanity India has also join hands with EU for funding this project.
- The total cost of the project is EUR 9,49,694 (INR 7,40,85,628 or US$1,075,307). 90 percent of fund provides by EU and remaining 10 percent will be issued by Habitat for Humanity India.
- 3,000 women will be trained for technical and entrepreneurial skills in housing sector which focus on area such as masonry, plumbing and electrical fitting, among others.
Science and Technology

Chandrayaan-2 captures crater on Moon, ISRO names it after Vikram Sarabhai

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday announced that Chandryaan-2 has captured images of the Moon, and named one of the craters after Vikram Sarabhai. Sarabhai is the father of the Indian space programme.
- Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh said that it is a fitting tribute to his legacy, who completed his birth centenary year on August 12. Singh also lauded the achievements of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which has put India in a leading position for space research.
- The Sarabhai Crater is around 250 to 300 kilometres east of the crater where the Apollo 17 and Luna 21 Missions had landed.

ISRO and IISc Researchers develop sustainable process for making ‘Space Bricks’ on Moon

- Team of researchers of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, Karnataka and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) developed a sustainable process for making brick-like structures named “Space Bricks” on the surface of the moon. The process uses the lunar soil, bacteria and guar beans to make the space brick.
- The process uses the Urea – sourced from human urine and lunar soil as the raw materials for the construction on the lunar surface which reduces the overall expenditure.

Obituary

Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh Minister Chetan Chauhan

- Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister Chetan Chauhan has passed away due to multiple organ failure. He was 73.
- Chauhan played 40 Tests matches for India, during his 12-year-long cricket career, scoring 2084 runs with 16 half-centuries and two wickets.
- He was Minister for youth and sports in the state of Uttar Pradesh Cabinet in 2018 and has also served as Minister of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, PRD and Civil Security in the UP Cabinet.

Sports

Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Spanish Grand Prix 2020

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held on August 16, 2020. This was his 4th win of the season and the 88th win of his career.
- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) at third.

Appointments and Resignations

Kaushik Khona appointed as CEO of GoAir

- Kaushik Khona has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of GoAir. He will replace Vinay Dube.
- GoAir is an Indian low-cost airline based in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is owned by the Indian
business conglomerate Wadia Group.

Current Affairs PDF- August 16, 2020

National

GoI launches National Digital Health Mission
- While addressing the nation on 15 August 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of a new campaign called National Digital Health Mission, under which all Indians will be given health IDs.
- This Health ID will work as each Indian’s health account. Every test, disease and diagnosis, medicines prescribed by doctors and medical reports along with medicines will be stored in every citizen’s health ID.
- The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), has been launched under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- It is expected to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of health services in the country.

All villages to be connected with optical fibre in next 1,000 days: PM Modi
- PM Modi in his speech of Independence Day 2020, made the announcement that the project to connect all the villages of India with optical fibre network will be completed in the next 1,000 days.
- Under this project, more than six lakh villages will be connected with optical fibre network in the coming 1,000 days in India.
- Apart from this, a high-speed internet connectivity via submarine optical fibre cable will be extended to Lakshadweep in the next 1,000 days to provide high-speed internet services in the region.

NITI Aayog’s AIM, NASSCOM launch Artificial Intelligence Step-up modules for school students
- On August 14, 2020 National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Step-up module for school students.
- The module was launched in a virtual platform attended by CEO NITI Aayog Mr Amitabh Kant, Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission Mr R Ramanan and NASSCOM President Debjani Ghosh.

Banking and Economy

Punjab National Bank launches campaign named ‘DIGITAL APNAYEN’
- Punjab National Bank has launched a campaign named ‘DIGITAL APNAYEN’ to encourage customers to use digital banking channels. The campaign launched by the bank’s Managing Director S S. Mallikarjuna Rao on the occasion of Independence Day is till March 31, 2021.
- PNB encourage customers to use digital channels and participate in the noble cause of
Barclays Slashes India’s GDP growth to -6% in FY21
- Barclays has predicted India’s GDP to contract by 6% in 2020-21 (FY21). Earlier it had estimated a contraction of 3.2%.
- The reason for this downward revision of GDP is India’s rising C-19 infection curve.
- For FY22, Barclays has predicted India’s GDP at 7% as compared to 7.4% earlier.

LIC starts ‘Special Revival Campaign’ to revive lapsed policies
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced a special scheme to revive lapsed policies named ‘Special Revival Campaign’.
- Those policies that have lapsed during the premium-paying term and not completed policy term as on the date of revival, are eligible to be revived during the campaign.
- The campaign is launched to benefit those policyholders who were not able to pay the premium due to unavoidable circumstances and their policy lapsed.
- The policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from the date of the first unpaid premium subject to certain terms and conditions.

Sports
MS Dhoni retires from international cricket
- Former Indian skipper, MS Dhoni announcement his retirement from international cricket on August 15, 2020. The 39-year-old World Cup-winning captain made the announcement through his social media account.
- Dhoni shared this information on Instagram on August 15, 2020 as- “Thanks. Thanks for ur love and support throughout. from 1929 hrs consider me as Retired”
- Dhoni is the only Captain to win all three major International Cricket Council (ICC) trophies — the World Cup, the World Twenty20 and the Champions Trophy.
- Since he has announced retirement from International cricket, he will continue to play for Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Dhoni has been the recipient of many awards including the ICC ODI Player of the Year award in 2008 and 2009 (the first player to win the award twice), the Rajiv Gandhi KhelRatna award in 2007 and the Padma Shri, India’s fourth highest civilian honour, in 2009. Mahendra Singh Dhoni has emerged as one of India’s most successful cricket captains.

Suresh Raina retires from International Cricket
- Suresh Raina, a renowned Indian Cricket player has announced his retirement from international cricket on August 15, 2020.
- His announcement came right after MS Dhoni’s announcement of retirement from international cricket. Suresh Raina informed about his decision through his Instagram account, which shocked millions of his fans all around the country.
- He also especially acknowledged playing with MS Dhoni and mentioned that with pride he has decided to join in the journey of retirement with the former captain of the Indian Cricket team.
Suresh Raina became the first batsman in the world and the first Indian to hit the T20I century. He is also the only Indian to score centuries in both T20I and ODI World Cup.