

Top Current Affairs of 23 & 24 August 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ministry Of Tourism Inked MoU with TAAI & FICCI Ladies Organisation for Women's Economic Empowerment through Tourism



Ministry of Tourism
Government of India

On August 21, 2020, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organisation (FLO) inked a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Tourism for women empowerment through video conference. The MoU was inked in the presence of Minister of State (MoS) for Tourism (Independent Charge-IC), Prahlad Singh Patel. This decision has been taken to organise training, impart digital awareness and develop skills among women, including those in rural and remote areas, in order to encourage their participation in the development of tourism which include the areas of homestays, tourist facilitators, catering business and more, through on Sustainable Tourism practices. FLO and TAAI will be the **facilitators** in the process connecting women with the relevant stakeholders.

National Commission on Population: Projects India's Population to be More Feminine by 2036



The National Commission on Population under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) submitted the Report of the Technical group on population projections July 2020, titled “**Population projections for India and States 2011- 2036**”. The report projected that the India’s sex ratio of the total population (females per 1000 males) is expected to be more feminine in 2036 compared to the population as of 2011. Youth population (15-24 years) is expected to increase from 23.3 crores in 2011 to 25.2 crores in 2021 and then continue to decrease to 22.7 crores in 2036.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

6th Round Table of ASEAN-India network of think tanks (AINTT) held



On August 20-21, 2020, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand organized the two-day long 6th Round Table of **ASEAN-India**

Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) through video conference on the theme “**ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era**”. ASEAN is an acronym for Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It was inaugurated by Union External Affairs Minister **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand **Don Pramudwinai**. ASEAN Secretary General **Dato’ Paduka Lim Jock Hoi** also addressed the inaugural session. SOM (Senior Officials Meeting) Leaders / their representatives from all ten ASEAN Member States were also present in the Session. The organizing partners of the Round Table were ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at the Research and Information System for Development Countries (RIS) and ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC) at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

WHO Urged Developed Nations to Join Covax Facility to Counter “Vaccine Nationalism”



In order to provide rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has invited countries to join its Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility by August 31, 2020. This facility is led by the WHO, along with the GAVI vaccine alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation), and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). Its aim is to deliver 2 billion doses of effective, approved COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2021. Notably, COVAX is part of a broader program, called the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator that ensures the availability of vaccines, treatments, diagnostic tests and other healthcare resources to combat the pandemic.

BANKING & FINANCE

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and SBI General Insurance Co Ltd Signed MoU to Sell General Insurance Products



Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (**KVGB**) and **SBI General Insurance Co Ltd** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) in Dharwad, Karnataka to **sell general insurance products** through the branches of KVGB. The MoU was signed by BC Ravichandra, General Manager of KVGB, and Mahendra Tripathi, Head (Compliance and Legal), SBI General Insurance Co Ltd. As per the MoU the customers of KVGB will be able to avail bouquet of products that can cover their health, home, motor, property through the range of solutions that the company offers.

RBL Bank Partnered with Accenture to Accelerate its Digital Transformation



RBL Bank has entered into a **strategic partnership** with **Accenture** to transform and enhance the future readiness of the bank's Information Technology (IT) systems and **accelerate** its **digital transformation** journey. The alliance will enable RBL Bank to offer next-generation banking services, boost the resilience and scalability of its systems and business processes, and also to improve its operational efficiency.

Major Highlights: -As a part of this partnership, Accenture will provide managed services and enable RBL Bank to modernize and integrate its large and diverse applications environment. This will help to streamline and automate key business processes such as finance and compliance, human resources and sales. To enable the continuous roll-out of improved digital capabilities and long-term system improvements, Accenture will create a flexible and more responsive technological backbone for RBL Bank by utilizing its expertise in DevOps and Agile working methodology. Accenture will help the bank to manage IT costs more effectively.

SBI Partners with AddaCorner to Launch 'Online Home Carnival'



State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with India's First Real-Time Group Negotiation E-Platform, AddaCorner to launch 'Online Home Carnival', which will help in boosting the Real Estate market in Bangalore. Along with the launch of 'Online Home Carnival', AddaCorner was also launched. The Carnival will invite potential home-buyers to come together as a group and directly negotiate with empanelled real estate sellers on a real time basis. The Developers empanelled on AddaCorner platform include Brigade Group, Purvankara, Shriram Properties, Salarpuria, Assetz and Sumadhura. The Carnival will enable buyers to unlock group pricings and negotiate the best deal on property, while also allowing developers to close sales in bulk.

Tata Capital Ltd Launched a New Service, 'Swift Insta Personal Loans' on Whatsapp



Tata Capital Ltd (Tata Capital), the financial services arm of the Tata Group launched its new service called, '**Swift Insta Personal Loans**' (SIPL) on **WhatsApp**. Through the new service, the existing customers can easily apply for loans and receive sanctions for personal loans (on a single platform) using **TIA**, a chatbot of Tata Capital on Whatsapp. **Note**-TIA was recently launched on WhatsApp as a service platform to facilitate customer requests, including queries about Equated Monthly Installment (EMI) details or updating customer records.

Key Info: -Currently the platform will be available in a comprehensive manner offering only personal loans. The platform will also be expanded to other loan categories. Through the company's WhatsApp number (7506756060) for TIA, customers can apply for SIPL. SIPL is the latest edition to Tata Capital's suite of instant loan offerings. As TIA on Whatsapp was successful & also on the basis of the growing number of service requests and feedback from the customers SIPL was launched.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

National Sports Awards 2020 Announced; 73 Awardees in 7 Categories



On August 21, 2020, National Sports Awards 2020 were announced by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The awards were recommended by the Selection Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) **Mukundakam Sharma** (former Judge of Supreme Court of India) and after due scrutiny, the Government has decided to confer awards upon the deserving sportspersons, coaches and entities under various categories: The total of **73 awardees in 7 categories** will receive their awards from the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind at a specially organized virtual function from Rashtrapati Bhawan on August, 29 2020 i.e. on National Sports Day. Notably, this is the **first time** in the history of National Sports awards that 5 sportsperson named for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award and 27 athletes conferred with Arjuna Award.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award:

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
Rohit Sharma	Cricket
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Para Athletics
Manika Batra	Table Tennis

Vinesh Phogat	Wrestling
Rani Rampal	Hockey

Anand Mahindra, Shantanu Narayen to Receive 2020 Leadership Awards from USISPF



On 21st August, 2020, **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** announced that Mahindra Group Chairman, **Anand Mahindra** and Adobe Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), **Shantanu Narayen** will receive the **2020 Leadership Awards** for their exemplary vision and effort towards the promotion of US-India Bilateral Ties.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Ashwani Bhatia Appointed as Managing Director of SBI; Succeeds PK Gupta



The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed **Ashwani Bhatia**, Deputy Managing Director (DMD), State Bank of India (SBI) as the **Managing Director** (MD) of **SBI**, effective from his date of assumption upto the date of his superannuation (May 31, 2022) or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He succeeds **PK Gupta**, who superannuated on March 31, 2020. Ashwani Bhatia is currently serving as MD and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at SBI Mutual Fund.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Nitin Jairam Gadkari launched 'Harit Path', Mobile App developed by NHAI to monitor highway plantation



On 21st August 2020, Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways launched the mobile app, "**Harit Path**" for monitoring plantations and transplantation of trees along the highway, during the meeting to review the New Green Highway Policy (Plantation). The mobile app was developed by the National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**), a Public Sector Undertaking (**PSU**) under the Ministry of Road and Transport.