

Top 20 Current Affairs of 17 July 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

NITI Aayog & USAID Co-chaired Sustainable Growth Pillar Meeting; India Energy Modeling Forum Launched



On July 2, 2020, a joint working group meeting of the Sustainable Growth (SG) Pillar was co-chaired by NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The meeting on SG Pillar will boost the India-US Strategic Energy Partnership. During the meet, an **India Energy Modeling Forum (IEMF)** was launched which will provide a platform to examine important energy and environmental related issues, and facilitate exchange of ideas. Notably, in the initial stage, **NITI Aayog** will coordinate the activities of the forum and finalize its governing structure.

Defence Minister of State Shri Shripad Naik inaugurated 5th edition of conference on Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies



On 15th July, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State Defence inaugurated the 5th edition of conference on Aerospace and Defence (A&D) Manufacturing Technologies in New Delhi. The conference was jointly organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Tamil Nadu Technology Development and Promotion Centre (TNTDPC) and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

Theme of 5th edition: Empowering India with 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Mission'.

Defence Ministry Entrust Power to Armed Force to Make Emergency Purchase Worth Rs.300 crores



On 15th July 2020, The Defence Acquisition Council (**DAC**) headed by Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence has once again decided to entrusted the power to the armed forces to make an emergency purchase worth upto Rs.300 crores to meet the operational requirement.

15th India-EU (Virtual) Summit held virtually; co-chaired by Narendra Modi, Charles Michel & Ursula von der Leyen



On 15th July 2020, the 15th summit between India and the European Union (EU) was held virtually where India was represented by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, the EU was represented by **Charles Michel**, President of the European Council, and **Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission. During the meet India and the European Union were stated as “natural partners” and encouraged cultural exchanges and educational cooperation between India and the EU.

- India, EU adopted declaration on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy
- India-EU endorsed Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025
- High-level dialogue set up Piyush Goyal and Phil Hogan to address trade issues
- COVID-19: India, EU to enhance cooperation on health security, pandemic crisis response

Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya reviews deployment activities of Vallarpadam Terminal, Cochin Port



On 15th July 2020, Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya, Minister of State (I/C) for the Ministry of Shipping reviewed the development activities of the **Vallarpadam Terminal** of Cochin Port which is proposed to develop as **India’s first** and **Asia’s leading** trans-shipment port to ensure that Indian cargoes are trans-shipped through Indian Port.

Atal Innovation Mission Teams with Ministries to Support Startups with COVID-19 Solutions



- i. On 14th July 2020, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), flagship initiative of NITI Aayog teamed with other Ministries and its partners, organised the series of **Virtual COVID-19 Demo Days** to find the **potential startups** with innovative COVID-19 solutions and provide support to develop and scale up the solutions.
- ii. The initiative was launched under the directions of Dr Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and Dr Vinod Paul, Member Health of NITI Aayog.

Govt to Increase Public Health Expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025



In a meeting with the 15th Finance Commission the Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** highlighted that the government aims to gradually increase the public health expenditure to **2.5%** of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) **by 2025**.

Statements made by Harsh Vardan: -The National Health Policy 2017 anticipates to raise public health spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2025. The policy recommends that the state govt must spend nearly 8% of their total budget on the health sector by 2020.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India & Bhutan Opens New Trade Route to Improve Trade and Connectivity



On 15th July 2020, India and Bhutan opened a new trade route between Jaigaon in West Bengal and Ahlay, Pasakha in Bhutan to establish easy connectivity and to increase trade between India and Bhutan amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF India Partners with SAP India to Provide Career Counselling to Young People



On 15th July 2020, World Youth skills Day, The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) India announced its partnership with SAP India, to provide career counseling to young people. UNICEF India collaborates with **YuWaah** -

UNICEF's **Generation Unlimited** initiative to provide digital education and skills required for employment.

BANKING & FINANCE

NABARD Launched Development Projects worth Rs 44 lakhs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands



National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(**NABARD**) launched **development projects** of **Rs 44 lakhs** in **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** to strengthen the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative through rural entrepreneurship. The development projects include formation and development of Self-Help Groups(SHG). The development project will help in skill development of SHGs members to promote rural entrepreneurship at the micro level.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

The Committee to Protect Journalists Announced 2020 International Press Freedom Awardees



The Committee to Protect Journalists(CPJ) has announced that 4 Journalists, **Shahidul Alam** from **Bangladesh**, **Mohammad Mosaed** from **Iran**, **Dapo Olorunyomi** from **Nigeria** and **Svetlana Prokopyeva** from **Russia** will be honoured with the 2020 International Press Freedom Awards for their courageous act. In addition to them lawyer Amal Clooney will be honoured with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award 2020. The award will be conferred to them on November 19, 2020, at CPJ's annual benefit gala which will be virtually held.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Tunisian Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh Resigns



On July 15, 2020 **Tunisian Prime Minister (PM) Elyes Fakhfakh** resigned, who was appointed in January, 2020. He presented his resignation letter to President **Kais Saied**. He also served as a Minister of Tourism and as the Minister of Finance. He is a member of Democratic Forum for Labour and Liberties (referred to as Ettakatol). **Reason for resignation**– The Ennahda party and other blocs have withdrawn the confidence from the government. It is to be noted that there was an alleged conflict of interest scandal over him.

South American country Suriname elects Indian-origin 'Chan' Santokhi as President



Chandrikapersad “Chan” Santokhi (61), an Indian-origin former police chief has been elected as the president of Suriname, a country in South America. Santokhi leads the Progressive Reform Party of the country. Santokhi will be sworn in as the President from 16, July 2020. Ronnie Brunswijk will serve as the vice-president.

- Santokhi won Desi Bouterse, former military strongman of National Party of Suriname (NPS) in the general elections held in May.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

CCI Approved Acquisition of upto 58.92% Stake in HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited by Aceso



Competition Commission of India

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved acquisition of upto **58.92%** stake by Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (**Aceso**) in HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (**HCG**), under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.

Proposed Combination: -As per the Proposed combination, the acquisition will happen by in the following way:

- Aceso will subscribe the equity shares and warrants (representing the right to subscribe to the equity shares) of HCG.
- An offer will be made to the public shareholders as per the regulations of The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DRDO developed fully indigenous P7 Heavy Drop System for IL 76 aircraft



As a part of Make in India programme, DRDO has developed P7 Heavy Drop System (HDS) which is capable of para dropping military stores ((vehicle/ ammunition/ equipment) up to 7-ton weight class from IL 76 aircraft [Ilyushin Il-76 or Gajraj (elephant king)]. The design of this fully indigenous system has been developed by **Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE)**, a pioneer Research & Development (R&D) lab of DRDO based in Agra, Uttar Pradesh (UP). It's platform system was manufactured by **L&T (Larsen & Toubro)** while parachutes manufactured by **Ordnance Factory**.

Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' E-Launched "Corosure" – World Most Affordable COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit Developed by IIT Delhi



On 15th July 2020, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', the Union Minister of Human Resource Development(MoHRD) E-launched the **world's most affordable** Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (**RT-PCR**) based COVID-19 diagnostic kit developed by the

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi(**IIT-D**). The kit was approved by Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) and Drugs Controller General of India (**DCGI**). This is the **first probe-free** COVID-19 diagnostic kit approved by ICMR.

DCGI Approves India's 1st Fully Indigenously Developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine



The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW) informed that, the Drug Controller General of India(**DCGI**) has given approval to **India's first fully indigenously** developed vaccine against pneumonia, **Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine**. The vaccine has been developed by **M/s. Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd**, Pune. DCGI has also granted permission to manufacture the vaccine domestically.

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) to construct world's 1st fully automatic electric ferries for Norway's ASKO Maritime

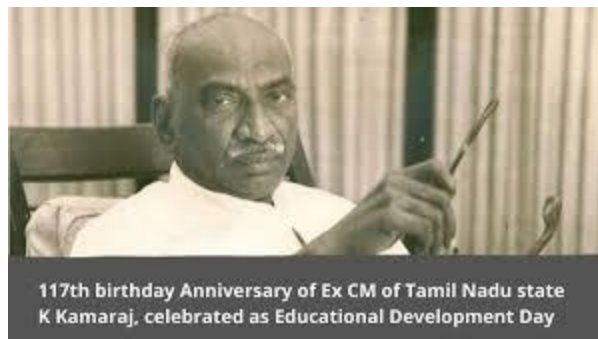


India's largest commercial shipbuilder Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has signed a contract to build the world's first fully automatic electric vessel for ASKO Maritime, Norway. In this

regard, CSL will construct and supply two autonomous electric ferries to ASKO Maritime, with an option to build two more identical vessels. The value of two ships is **Rs 125 crore**, the cost does not include the value for two optional ships. The project, partially funded by the Norwegian Government, aimed at **emission-free transport** of goods across the Oslofjord, inlet in Norway. The vessels are designed by **Naval Dynamics Norway**, using Kongsberg Maritime systems, with detailed engineering to be carried out by CSL. They will be built under **DNV GL Classification**.

STATE NEWS

117th birth Anniversary of Former CM of Tamil Nadu K Kamaraj, observed as Educational Development Day – July 15



On 15th July 2020, the **117th birth anniversary** of the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu “**King Maker**” K.Kamaraj was observed as TamilNadu’s **Educational Development Day** to remember his contribution to enhance the school education facilities of Tamil Nadu.

Telangana Police launch 'CybHER', Virtual Awareness Campaign to Tackle Cyber Crime against Women & Children



On July 15, 2020 Women Safety Wing (WSW), **Telangana Police** along with Telangana Director General of Police(DGP) Mahender Reddy, IPS launched '**CybHER**', a month-long **virtual awareness campaign** to make **cyberspace safe** for women and children. The campaign is organised by **WSW** in collaboration with Legal Aid Centre, **Symbiosis Law School**, Hyderabad.

Note– Cyber Expert Rakshit Tandon, will lead the campaign.

AC GAZE

Cartoonist Avad Bin Hassan Jami passes away

Renowned cartoonist Avad Bin Hassan Jami, popularly known as "Jami" passed away at the age of 77 years in Jamnagar, Gujarat. For more than two decades, his cartoons were published in leading Gujarati daily newspapers and news magazines.