

Top Current Affairs of 30 & 31 August 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Department of Economic Affairs & UNDP India Launched Sustainable Finance Collaborative to Promote Sustainable Finance in India



On August 26, 2020, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance in partnership with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** India launched the Sustainable Finance Collaborative (SFC). In this regard, a three days consultation centered on the broad scope of **Sustainable Finance architecture in India** was held to accelerate green finance by bringing together leading experts and organizations. The thematic discussions included critical elements such as the barriers to deploying new and innovative financing such as impact investing, role of blended finance instruments, green finance instruments for sustainable development, need for taxonomy of environmentally sustainable activities, among others.

IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad Launched “Chunauti”, Next Generation Start-up Contest; Foundation stone laid for NIELIT at Muzaffarpur, Bihar



On August 28, 2020, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched next-generation startup Challenge contest “Chunauti” to encourage startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns. This contest is a part of **Rs 95 crore programme**, spanning over 3 years, will hunt for around 300 startups working in identified areas and to provide them seed funds of **up to Rs 25 lakh** and other support from government through the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI). The minister also laid the foundation stone of the digital training and skilling center of the **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** at Muzaffarpur in Bihar which will be developed by the Ministry at a cost of Rs 9.17 crore.

Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Addresses Inaugural session of World Urdu Session



On 27th August, 2020 Union Minister for Education (formerly known as Human Resource Development, HRD Ministry), Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ addressed the inaugural session

of the two-days World Urdu Conference organised by **National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)** from August 27-28, 2020.

India granted 4th Tranche of US\$5mn to Myanmar for India-Myanmar Border Area Development

On August 28, 2020, India granted 4th tranche of \$5 million to Myanmar for the development of the India-Myanmar Border Area. In this regard, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar **Saurabh Kumar** handed over the ceremonial cheque to **Lt-Gen Ye Aung**, Minister for Border Affairs, Myanmar. This funding is on the lines of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by ex-Prime Minister **Dr. Manmohan Singh** in 2012 according to which India would grant a total of **\$25 million** to Myanmar, divided into five tranches of \$5 million each annually, starting 2017, for projects on India-Myanmar border. The Myanmar-India Border Area Development Programmes include providing infrastructure and socio-economic development in Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Region.

Kerala to set up India's First International Women's Trade Centre



On 25th August 2020, Biju Prabhakar, IAS, Secretary, Department of Social Justice, Women & Child Development announced that **Kerala** will set up **India's First** International Women Trade Centre (**IWTC**) in accord with the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) of the United Nations (**UN**) at Angamaly, Kochi, Kerala. This announcement was made during the webinar on "Scaling up Opportunities for MSME women Entrepreneurs in Kerala" organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) Kerala State Council.

IWTC:

Aim:

To accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity while providing them a safe place to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.

India, Singapore commit to further enhance security partnership at 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue



On 28th August, 2020 India and Singapore carried out a review of their defence ties at the virtual meet of the **14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue(DPD)**. The DPD was co-chaired by India's Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Mr Chan Heng Kee.

Key Points: -Both the countries decided to boost their defence and security partnership with focus to boost bilateral maritime security cooperation. During the DPD, the Implementing Arrangement on **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** was signed between the two countries.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Virtually Attended the 8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM)



On August 28, 2020, 8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) was held virtually which was attended by Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Meeting was chaired by **Tran Tuan Anh**, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam. From Indian side it was attended by **Piyush Goyal**, Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry. During the meet discussions were held to accelerate economic growth, maintain supply chains and market stability, and strengthen the economic resilience of the EAS region post COVID-19.

India co-sponsors UNSC Resolution for Greater Participation of Women in Peacekeeping Forces



On 29th August, 2020 India co-sponsored United National Security Council Resolution for Greater Participation of women in peacekeeping forces. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution called on full, effective and meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping operations. The resolution was tabled by Indonesia has been seconded by India, which is the **fifth largest troop contributor** to UN peacekeeping operations. The resolution has been passed by a consensus.

India Ranked 72nd on Global List with Average Monthly Wage of Rs 32,800, Switzerland Tops: Picodi.com



In accordance with the global ranking of average wages prepared by Picodi.com, India ranked 72nd among 106 countries with an average monthly wage of Rs 32,800 (USD 437). Picodi.com is an international e-commerce platform, headquartered in Poland, provides discount coupons. The ranking has been topped by Switzerland, where the average wage converted into rupees amounts to Rs 4,49,000 (USD 5,989). On the other hand the average monthly wage of **Cuba** is the lowest at Rs 2,700 (USD 36). Among Asian countries, India ranked **10th** out of 16.

Kiren Rijiju attends Sports Ministers Meeting of BRICS Nations; India to host BRICS Games 2021 with Khelo India Games



On 26th August, 2020 Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju attended the meeting between the Sports Ministers of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) nations. During the meeting, the Ministers assessed the impact of COVID-19 on sports and discussed ways to bring back normalcy in the industry.

India to host BRICS Games 2021 with Khelo India Games : -After the meeting, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju announced that India may host the BRICS **Games in 2021** and may align it with the Khelo India Games in India. Haryana will host the fourth edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG). India is set to get the chairmanship of the five-nation independent international group in 2021. During the BRICS Games 2021, member countries will be invited to showcase their traditional **indigenous games** during the inaugural or closing ceremony of the games.

BANKING & FINANCE

Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance & Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank Entered into a Strategic Partnership through VC to Offer Life Insurance

Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce(OBC) Life Insurance Company Limited (**Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance**) and Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank (**APGB**) have entered into a strategic tie up virtually. The distribution tie up is to sell life insurance, health and

pension products at all the branches of APGB. It is the 1st virtual launch of Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance tie up with APGB.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Noor Inayat Khan, Britain's World War II Spy Became the 1st Indian-origin woman to honoured with a Memorial Blue Plaque



Noor Inayat Khan(Noor-un-Nissa Inayat Khan or Nora Baker), Britain's World War II spy, who served in the Special Operations Executive(SOE) became the **1st Indian-origin woman** to be honoured with a memorial **Blue Plaque** at her former family home in London, United Kingdom(UK). She is **1st muslim war heroine** of Britain and **1st female wireless operator** sent from the UK into Nazi-occupied France to aid the French Resistance during World War II.

SBI to Receive Human Capital Management Excellence Award 2020 for its HR initiative, "Nayi Disha"



State Bank of India (SBI) to receive **Brandon** Human Capital Management(**HCM Excellence Award**(also known as the Academy Awards of Learning & Development)**2020**, a global recognition for its HR initiative, "**Nayi Disha**". The award winners will be honored at Brandon Hall Group's annual HCM Excellence Conference, January 26-28, 2021 at the Hilton West Palm Beach, Florida. 'SBI has won the award in **The HCM Spring Program** under 'Excellence in Learning and Development' in **3 categories**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CISF launched 'Pensioners Corner' Mobile App for its Pensioners

The Central Industrial Security Force (**CISF**) has created & launched an in-house mobile Application (app), '**Pensioners Corner**' to get in touch with the **pensioners** and to bring them to the digital platform as a one stop solution. It will also cater to the needs of its pensioners. It is a part of its 'e-karyalay' , an electronic office app launched in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.