

Top 20 Current Affairs of 29 July 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

GoI funded 10 Broad Gauge Locomotives handed over to Bangladesh by Indian Railways in a virtual ceremony



On July 27, 2020, Indian Railways handed over the specifically modified 10 railway broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh, which will help in handling the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations in Bangladesh. All locomotives can attain speed of up to 120 km per hour and have residual life of 28 years or more. The locomotives were flagged off virtually to Bangladesh by External Affairs Minister **Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** and Railway Minister **Piyush Vedprakash Goyal**. From Bangladesh, the online ceremony was attended by Minister of Railway Md Nurul Islam Sujan and Minister of Foreign Affairs Abul Kalam Abdul Momen.

PM Modi Launched High Throughput COVID-19 Testing Facilities at Kolkata, Mumbai & Noida



On 27th July 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched three high throughput COVID-19 testing facilities at Kolkata, Mumbai and Noida to increase the test capacity by 10000 tests per day in each city.

Govt released guidelines for 4 schemes to boost domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs & medical devices Parks



On July 27, 2020, In order to boost domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices parks in India, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, **Devaragunda Venkappa Sadananda Gowda** launched guidelines for four schemes of Department of Pharmaceuticals (under ministry of chemical & fertilizers), two each for Bulk Drugs and Medical Devices parks, on the lines of making India Atma Nirbhar (self-reliant) in pharma sector.

- Scheme for Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks: Rs. 3,000 cr outlay to create 3 drug parks
- Scheme Promotion of Medical Devices Parks: Rs 400 cr outlay for 4 Medical Device Parks
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Promoting Domestic Manufacturing of Medical Devices: Outlay Rs. 3,420 cr
- PLI scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of KSMs, DIs, & APIs in India: Outlay Rs 6,490 cr

Participants at launch event: Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya , Minister of State-MoS (Independent Charge) for Shipping and MoS for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Amitabh Kant, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Niti Ayog, Dr P D Waghela, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals.

Central Govt. with World Bank decides to convert ravines of Chambal region into arable land



On 26th July 2020, Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare announced that the Central Government in collaboration with the World Bank has decided to convert the area of ravines in the region of Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh into cultivable land. The decision was made through a virtual meeting with Adarsh Kumar, representative of the World Bank.

India's GDP boosts to 2.5% by AI : Report by ICRIER, Google & NASSCOM



According to The report titled, '**Implications of AI on the Indian Economy**' by National Association of Software and Services Companies (**NASSCOM**) along with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (**ICRIER**) and **Google** stated that: A unit increase(measured as the ratio of AI to total sales) in Artificial Intelligence(AI) intensity can result in a **2.5% increase** in India's Gross Domestic Product(**GDP**) in the immediate term.

India to set up Solar Power Plant in Sri Lanka



Under the aegis of International Solar Alliance(**ISA**) NTPC Ltd, Largest power generation utility of India plans to establish solar power plants in Sri Lanka as a part of the strategy to exhibit the presence of India in the Indian Ocean Region (**IOR**) amid China's attempt to attract nations into the "**Belt and Road**" initiative.

GAIL and CCSL signs MoU to partner in Compressed BioGas projects in India



On 23rd July 2020, GAIL(India) limited and Carbon Clean Solutions Limited (CCSL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to explore the project development opportunities in the Compressed Biogas(**CBG**) value chain in India. Santanu Roy, Executive Director (Business Development) of GAIL and Aniruddha Sharma, CEO of CCSL signed the MoU

Home Minister Amit Shah Distributed 100 Electric Potters Wheels to Artisans of Gujarat



On 24th July 2020, Under the '**Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana**' of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (**KVIC**) Union Home Minister Amit Shah distributed 100 electric potters wheels to 100 trained artisans of Gujarat in a programme at the Gandhinagar constituency through video conferencing from New Delhi.

BANKING & FINANCE

IRCTC and SBI Card launched a Co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform



Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (**IRCTC**) and **SBI Card** launched a **co-branded contactless credit card**, IRCTC -SBI Platinum Card on RuPay Platform to reward the frequent railway(train) travellers. The card is equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology by which users can facilitate their transactions at the

point of sale(POS) machines by Tap and Pay Option. This enables consumers to transact safely and securely online.

Bharti AXA General Insurance Launched Crop Insurance Campaign, 'Bohot Zaroori Hai' for Farmers



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. It aims to create awareness to farming communities about the relevance and significance of crop insurance, which can alleviate rural distress caused by crop failure or damage. Bharti AXA General Insurance had received Rs 800 crore worth crop insurance mandate from the governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka to insure their farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

SBI provided USD 16.20 million liquidity support for local businesses in Maldives as COVID-relief



On the occasion of Independence Day of the Maldives on July 26, 2020, the largest Indian public sector bank, State Bank of India (SBI) provided liquidity support of USD 16.20 million as a COVID-relief for the Government of Maldives to overcome liquidity shortage. The fund will support economic relief measures by utilizing it for local businesses and defers loan repayment for over 200 retail accounts. The growing relationship between both nations is premised upon the '**India First**' policy of Maldives and '**Neighbourhood First**' policy of India.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Indian oil and France's Total formed 50:50 JV to make superior quality bitumen



Indian Oil Corporation (**IOC**) has formed an equal (50:50) Joint Venture (**JV**) with France's **Total S.A.** to manufacture and market high-quality innovative **bitumen** derivatives and superior quality products like polymer-modified bitumen, crumb rubber modified bitumen among others for the growing road-building industry in **India**.

Key Info

- The JV will commence by taking over an existing plant of Total at Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- After which it will invest Rs 226 crore to set up 6 new plants at locations in northern, eastern and southern India with cost-effective logistics solutions

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Former Coal India chief Anil Kumar Jha to head Expert Appraisal Committee



On July 28, 2020, the government has appointed former chairman of Coal India Ltd. (CIL), Anil Kumar Jha, as a member of **Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)** that deals with violation of environment rules. The EAC formed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) appraises projects that are commissioned without obtaining prior environmental clearance and have been termed as cases of violation. The panel was earlier constituted in June 2017 for three years. Its tenure has now been extended till June 2021.

Indian climate activist Archana Soreng becomes a member of António Guterres's new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change



The United Nations Secretary-General **António Guterres** named **Archana Soreng** among 7 members to his new **Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change**. They will advise him

regularly on accelerating global action and also provide solutions to tackle the worsening climate crisis. This is to mobilize climate action as part of the COVID-19 recovery efforts. The members are between the ages of 18 and 28 years old

Tata AIA Life Insurance Appointed Naveen Tahilyani as its new MD & CEO



On July 23, 2020, **Mr. Naveen Tahilyani** was appointed as the new Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive officer (**CEO**) of the Tata American International Assurance (**AIA**). His appointment was under regulatory approval from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**). Tahilyani succeeds **Rishi Srivastava** who has been moved to the Group Agency Distribution, AIA Group, Hong Kong, as CEO.

Alok Misra Appointed as CEO and Director of MFIN

On 22nd July 2020, Microfinance Institutions Network (**MFIN**), a Self-Regulatory Organisation (**SRO**) for the microfinance industry announced that Dr. Alok Misra will take over the present CEO, Harsh Shrivastava on 1st August 2020 as the New Chief Executive Officer(**CEO**) and Director. Alok Misra is currently serving as the Professor and Chairperson of public policy and governance at Management Development Institute (**MDI**), Gurgaon.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ram Vilas Paswan launched 'BIS-Care' App to Check the Authenticity of ISI and Hallmark Quality Certified Products



Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution **Ram Vilas Paswan** launched the Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App, '**BIS-Care**', by which consumers can check the authenticity of the ISI and hallmarked products and also lodge complaints using this app. In addition to this, he also launched **3 portals** of e-BIS: standardisation, conformity assessment and training Portals on www.manakonline.in for consumers.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hepatitis Day 2020 – July 28



World Health Organisations(**WHO**s) **World Hepatitis Day** is annually observed on **28th July** to encourage the national and international efforts towards **hepatitis** and to educate

the individuals and general public about the need for global response outlined by WHO's Global hepatitis report 2017. The **first** World Hepatitis Day was observed on **28th July 2011**. The theme of 2020 World Hepatitis Day is "**Hepatitis-free future**" focusing on prevention of Hepatitis B among mothers and newborns.

World Nature Conservation Day 2020 – July 28



July 28th of every year is celebrated as the World Nature Conservation Day. This day is celebrated all **over the world** to create awareness about the conservation of natural resources and on environmental issues.

Aim: To focus our efforts on preserving our natural environment and keeping our home, Earth, healthy.

International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystems 2020 – July 26



The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystems is celebrated worldwide on July 26th of every year. The day was adopted by the General Conference of **UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) in the year **2015**. This day is also known as '**World Mangrove day**'

Aim: To raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as “**a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem**” and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.