

Top Current Affairs of 21 August 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Cabinet Approvals on August 19, 2020



On August 19, 2020, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the following proposals: Cabinet approves setting up of National Recruitment Agency to conduct Common Eligibility Test; Rs. 1517.57 cr sanctioned Cabinet approves proposal for leasing out three airports – Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram of AAI through PPPV Cabinet approves FRP of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for the sugar season 2020-21 at Rs 285 per quintal Cabinet approves liquidity measure in the Power Sector amid financial stress caused by COVID-19

NSC, JCI Sign MoU for Supply of Certified Jute Seeds to Farmers in 2021-22



The Jute Corporation of India Ltd.

On 19th August, 2020 National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and Jute Corporation of India (JCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to improve the production and productivity of raw Jute in the country. The MoU was signed virtually in the presence of Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Minister for Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani.

Report of NCRP 2020: Cancer in India may rise from 13.9 Lakh in 2020 to 15.7 lakh in 2025



On 18th August 2020, The Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) – National Centre for Disease Informatics & Research (**NCDIR**), Bengaluru released a new Report of National Cancer Registry Programme 2020. The report estimates that cancer in India will rise by 25% in 2020 and may rise 12% from the 1392179 cases in 2020 to 1569793 cases in 2025 and tobacco related cancers are estimated to constitute around 27% of all cancers. The report contains data of 5 years (2012-2016) from 28 Population Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs) and 58 Hospital Based Cancer registries (HBCRs) working under NCRP.

IIT Roorkee, BIS Sign MoU to Cooperate in Standardisation and Conformity Assessment



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee and Bureau of India Standards (BIS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration in areas of Standardisation and Conformity Assessment based on equality and reciprocity. The collaboration will include several fields like Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical, Earthquake Engineering, Development and Management of Water Resources and Renewable Energy Projects, Infrastructure Development, Medical Biotechnology and Nanotechnology biomaterials.

L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering Signed MoU with NTPC Ltd for CO₂ to Methanol Demonstration Plant



L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering (**LTHE**), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with power utility major **NTPC** Ltd(formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited), a Maharatna PSU. As per the MoU LTHE will be the engineering, procurement and construction management partner to build a carbon dioxide (**CO₂**) to **methanol demonstration plant** in NTPC Power Station. Under this MoU, LTHE and NTPC will further collaborate to accelerate the development and then commercialise CO₂-to-methanol plants.

NRDC and NAL Partners to Establish Incubation Centre for Startup in Aerospace Technologies



On 19th August 2020, The National Research Development Corporation (**NRDC**) under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (**DSIR**) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research- National Aerospace Laboratories (**CSIR-NAL**), partnered to establish an innovation cum incubation center to promote the startup in the field of aerospace technologies.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India Ranked 57th in Digital Quality of Life 2020, Denmark tops: DQL Index 2020 by SurfShark

In accordance with the 2nd edition of global research “Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2020” released by online privacy solutions provider Surf Shark, India ranked 57th out of 85 countries in terms of overall category “Digital Quality of Life 2020” with 0.5 index points which has been topped by **Denmark** with 0.79 points. The DQL Index 2020 analyzes 85 countries around the world covering 6.3 billion people or 81% of the global population in terms of five core pillars: internet affordability, internet quality, e-infrastructure, e-security, and e-government, and results are premised on 12 different factors.

Rank	Country
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Digital Quality of Life 2020	
57	India
1	Denmark
2	Sweden
3	Canada
Internet Affordability	
9	India
1	Israel
2	Canada
3	Azerbaijan

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India and Israel Signed Cultural Agreement to Strengthen Bilateral Relations to Promote People to People Exchange



On 20th August 2020 India signed a cultural agreement with Israel, which outlines a three year programme of cooperation for 2020 to 2023, to strengthen the strategic bilateral relations through promoting the people to people exchange. VGabi Ashkenazi, Foreign Minister of Israel and Sanjeev Singla, India's Ambassador to Israel signed the agreement at the foreign Ministry in Israel. This is one of a series of agreements which will be followed by the signing of a water agreement by our Ambassador in India.

The ILO's "Youth and COVID-19: Impacts on Jobs, Education, Rights and Mental Well-being": 50% of World's Youth Are Under Anxiety or Depression



On 11th August 2020, the United Nations (UN)'s International Labour Organization (ILO) published the survey report titled "Youth and COVID-19: Impacts on Jobs, Education, Rights and Mental Well-being" which found that 50% of young people across the world are possibly subject to anxiety or depression and around 17% of them are already affected by it. and 38% of youths do not have a clear idea about the career or future. **Note:** Around 12000 responses from 112 countries were received with a major contribution from the educated youths.

BANKING & FINANCE

**NPCI Launched its Subsidiary Firm, 'NPCI International Payments Limited';
Appointed Ritesh Shukla as its CEO**



The National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) has launched a wholly-owned subsidiary, NPCI International Payments Limited (**NIPL**) to **internationalize** (or export to foreign markets) NPCI's **indigenously** developed **offerings** and **technological acumen**, i.e. real-time payment system, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and card payment network, RuPay along with a few more offerings of NPCI. It is also responsible to co-create payment technologies with other countries. NPCI has appointed **Ritesh Shukla** as Chief Executive Officer(**CEO**) of NIPL.