

Current Affairs Weekly Capsule

1st to 7th September

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National Nutrition Week is conducted every year from September 1 to September 7

National Nutrition Week is conducted every year from September 1 to September 7 to provide knowledge among people about the importance of nutrition for better health.

World Coconut Day is observed on 2 September

World Coconut Day is observed on 2 September. The main objective of celebrating this day is to create awareness across the globe about the importance of the coconut and its benefits. The day is especially marked in countries under Asian and Pacific regions by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) as they house most of the world's coconut growing production centres. The first celebration of World Coconut Day was in the year 2009. The theme of World Coconut Day this year is – 'Invest in Coconut to save the world'.

3 September – Skyscraper Day

Skyscraper Day marks the ability of the man to construct an industrial masterpiece. It is celebrated in the memory of William Can Aien on his birthday. William Can Aien is a genius behind the construction of the Chrysler Building which is one of the iconic landmarks in New York City.

5 September – Teachers Day

Teachers Day in India celebrates the birth anniversary of India's second President Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. On this occasion, students appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of teachers in shaping their future.

7 September – Brazilian Independence Day

Brazil got its independence from the Portuguese on September 7, 1822. However, in 1889, Brazil accepted to become a republic government and it ended its monarchical system. This is the reason why they celebrate September 7 as its Independence Day.

Madhya Pradesh govt launches campaign 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo'

In Madhya Pradesh, a massive 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo' campaign was launched by the State Government. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh said that this campaign has been given the shape of a mass movement. The campaign was divided into five themes- Cleanliness Oath, Continuous reduction in urban waste emissions, Cleanliness in COVID conditions, Separation of waste from sources of houses and Launching a special cleanliness campaign for public places.

Jammu & Kashmir Administration issues New Excise Policy for 2020-21

In Jammu & Kashmir, the Union Territory Administration has issued New Excise Policy for 2020-21 effective from 1st of September till 31st March next year. The new policy aims at rationalizing the tax structure to optimize revenues besides encouraging transition from High to Low Alcoholic drinks. The policy also aims at providing choice of brands to consumers and level playing field to those in the trade and 50 per cent Additional Excise Retail Duty commonly known as Corona Tax has been waived off.

UP govt decides to set up exclusive anti-electricity theft police stations in every district

Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up exclusive anti-electricity theft police stations in every district of state to address the problem of frequent cases of power theft. An order issued by home department said that one police station dedicated to deal with the issue of power theft will be opened in all 75 districts out of which 63 has already started functioning. The government has also raised the number of enforcement teams from 33 to 88 to launch a crackdown against those involved in power pilferage. As many as 53 teams are already functioning.

Odisha govt passes resolution to request Centre to accord classical status to Odishi music

Odisha Government has passed a resolution to request the Centre to accord classical status to Odishi music. The resolution was passed in the Heritage Cabinet meeting held yesterday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Government of Odisha has already recognised it as a classical form of music since 2008. After Odishi dance and Odia language, now is the turn for Odishi music to claim classical status.

Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat programme: Goa paired with Jharkhand

Under Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat, Goa is paired with Jharkhand. Lot of exchange activities are happening on this front. During lockdown, the intensity of programmes is less and focus is laid on virtual events.

'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Abhiyan' connects people of Manipur & Madhya Pradesh emotionally

Manipur and Madhya Pradesh have been paired for implementing the Centre's ambitious scheme Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Abhiyan. The people of both the States are involved in various activities for understanding art and culture, education, literature and traditions of each other. One of such activities- a Yuva Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Camp was held in Imphal where 50 youth from Madhya Pradesh participated and explored Manipur for 15 days.

Prakash Javadekar virtually addresses 60th Annual Convention of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar today virtually addressed the 60th Annual Convention of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, SIAM. Mr Javadekar spoke on reviving demand in the Automobile sector. He said, government is working with all stakeholders on ways and means to boost demand.

Delhi paired with Sikkim under 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' programme

'Unity in diversity' is the global identity of India. To celebrate and strengthen this identity, Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat Abhiyan focused campaign is underway in the country. National Capital Delhi has been paired with Sikkim under Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat programme. Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat initiative has strengthened the bond of oneness between Delhi and Sikkim.

Assam govt relaunches SVAYEM scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths of state

In Assam, the State Government re-launched a scheme to provide self-employment to around two lakh youths of the state. Known as Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SVAYEM), it would provide 50 thousand rupees each as seed money to selected youths to start business ventures. Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the Assam Government is launching the redesigned SVAYEM with a budget of 1,000 crore rupees which will be spent in the next three months without any banking linkage. He said, the beneficiaries would have to be part of self-help groups, joint liability groups.

UP govt to allocate outlets under Public Distribution System to women SHGs

In a major step towards self-reliance of the women in the state, Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to allocate outlets under Public Distribution System to women self-help groups. These are the outlets which are lying unattended in state. The move will expedite the food distribution to the needy hit by the pandemic. The State Government has decided to give women self-help groups priority during reallocation of PDS shops in rural and urban areas. Currently, there are more than 2,000 PDS shops ready for reallocation in the state whose licences have been cancelled earlier due to different reasons.

Madhya Pradesh paired with Manipur and Nagaland under 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'

The 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat' programme aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and Union Territories in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them. Under 'Ek Bharat, Shresht Bharat', Madhya Pradesh is paired with Manipur and Nagaland. Lot of exchange activities are happening on this front.

Govt announces 3rd phase of 'Back to Village' programme from October 2 to 12 in J&K

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the government announced the third phase of ambitious Back to Village (B2V) programme from October 2 to 12, this year. The announcement was made by Principal Secretary, Power Development and Information Departments, Rohit Kansal who is also government spokesperson, at a press conference in Srinagar.

Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu selected as fully Digital Economy district

Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu, which houses a large number of small and medium

enterprises, especially in the fire crackers and allied sectors, has been selected by the Central Government as the state's first Fully Digital Economy district. All industrial units and commercial establishments in the district are at present implementing various forms of cashless transactions. These include widespread use of ATM debit cards, increased usage of internet banking, widespread use of QR codes etc.

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat campaign: Mizoram paired with Bihar

Under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat campaign, cultural exchange is arranged to bolster mutual friendship, peace and harmony among the people of different states to build a New India. Under the campaign, people from paired states happily shared their experiences.

PM Modi to inaugurate Patrika Gate in Jaipur through video conference

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Patrika Gate in Jaipur through video conference. The iconic gate is built by the Patrika group of newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur.

Ministry of Textiles plans to organize another Mega Virtual Show - 'Textile India 2020' - in J&K

In Jammu and Kashmir the Ministry of Textiles is planning to organize another Mega Virtual Show - 'Textile India 2020' - in November to bring the exporter and business community related to handicrafts and handloom sector on the global platform. Organizations like India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) and Invest India will be involved for branding and promotion of the mega event across the globe.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami pledges to donate his eyes

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami has donated his eyes. Coinciding with the National Eye Donation fortnight, he has pledged to donate his eyes. Tamil Nadu remains at the forefront in eye and organ donation nationally.

Indian power market goes green with launch of pan-India GTAM in electricity

Indian power market has gone green today with the launch of pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity. It will benefit buyers of renewable energy through competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement. It will also benefit renewable energy sellers by providing access to the pan-India market. GTAM contracts will allow additional avenues to the renewable energy generators for sale of energy.

Dept. of Fertilizers to observe Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st to 15th September

The Department of Fertilizers is observing Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st to 15th September. All Public Sector Undertakings and other Organisations under the Department are participating in the Swachhta Abhiyan.

Indian Railways solarises more than 960 stations

In order to achieve its objective of becoming 100 per cent self sustainable for all its power needs, Indian Railways has solarised more than 960 stations till date. Orders have been placed for 198 MW solar rooftop capacity for 550 stations which are under

execution. This will contribute to national solar power needs. Some of the stations solarised are Varanasi, New Delhi, Old Delhi and Jaipur, Secunderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Howrah.

New Vande Bharat trains to have up to 75% local component

The government will soon float a new tender for 44 sets of Vande Bharat Trains, which will have up to 75% indigenous content, line with the government's Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative. The previous tender, which was cancelled on 21 August, had a provision of up to 50% indigenous content.

Government blocks 118 Mobile Apps including PUBG

Government has blocked 118 Mobile Apps including PUBG which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, Defence of India, Security of State and Public Order. The move will safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users. This decision is a targeted move to ensure safety, security and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace. PUBG MOBILE Nordic Map: Livik, PUBG MOBILE LITE, WeChat Work, WeChat reading, Cyber Hunter, LifeAfter and Warpath are among the 118 banned mobile apps.

Govt. says, all calendars, diaries and similar materials to be digital now

Government said that all calendars, diaries and similar other materials, which were earlier printed in physical format, will now be done digitally. All Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Undertakings and all other organs of the government have to adopt innovative means to use digital or online methods.

Cabinet gives nod to 'Mission Karmayogi', National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building

Cabinet gave its nod to Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building. The scheme will lay the foundation for capacity building for Civil Servants so they remain entrenched in Indian culture while they learn from best practices across the world. Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian Civil Servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.

Govt launches eight immunity boosting products under PMBJP for sale through Janaushadhi Kendras

Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda today launched eight immunity boosting products under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Priyojana for sale through Janaushadhi Kendras across country.

Railways to offer reliable, fast, affordable & easy to handle parcel services for logistics & courier agencies

Railways Minister Piyush Goyal today held a meeting with top courier service agencies to facilitate robust partnership with Railways Freight and Parcel service. The meeting was called to discuss and explore the possibilities of expanding the business of private

parcel services through Indian Railways. During the meeting it was informed that Railways will offer reliable, fast, affordable and easy to handle parcel services for logistics and courier agencies.

Cabinet approves Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building

The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its nod to Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building. The scheme will lay the foundation for capacity building for Civil Servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian culture while they learn from best practices across the world. Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian Civil Servants for future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.

Transport Ministry proposes to make FASTags mandatory for old vehicles sold before Dec 2017

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified draft notification to seek comments and suggestions from the stakeholders on making FASTag mandatory for old vehicles sold before 1st December, 2017. The amended provision in Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 is proposed to be put in force with effect from 1st January 2021.

Govt to make FASTag mandatory to avail third party vehicle insurance from 1 April

The road transport and highways ministry plans to FASTag mandatory for availing a new third-party vehicle insurance from 1 April, 2021, to drive faster adoption of the electronic toll collection device.

President gives away National Awards to distinguished teachers; Says teachers are true nation builders

Teachers' Day is being celebrated throughout the country. The day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of educationist and former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. President Ram Nath Kovind has said that teachers are the true nation builders who lay the foundation of character-building in our sons and daughters to make them enlightened citizens. He said, teachers are instrumental in building the character and knowledge of the children.

Thaawarchand Gehlot to launch 24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline 'KIRAN'

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot will launch the 24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline "KIRAN". The helpline number is 1800-500-0019. This Helpline has been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to provide relief and support to persons with Mental Illness.

India now got world's 2nd largest road network

India has now the second largest road network in the world being fuelled by the tremendous growth in construction of expressways and highways. Road, Transport and

Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said this while addressing the 60th annual convention of SIAM through video conference. He informed that the current rate of road building per day has averaged to 30 Kilometre a day, with the highest being 40 Kilometre per day of highways.

Ministry of Shipping directs all major ports to procure or charter only 'Made in India' tug boats

The Ministry of Shipping has directed all major ports to procure or charter tug boats which are only made in India. All procurements being done by major ports will now need to be carried out as per the revised Make in India Order.

148th Birth Anniversary of 'Indian Helmsman' V O Chidambaranathan Pillai being observed

148th Birth Anniversary of V O Chidambaranathan Pillai (VOC), also known as the "Indian Helmsman". He paved a new path in the annals of Indian History by starting the first ever indigenous shipping service between Tuticorin and Columbo.

Prakash Javadekar to chair webinar on first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar will chair a webinar on the first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. Mr Javadekar will also review the progress of activities under National Clean Air programme, NCAP during the course of the webinar. The webinar will be joined by Principal Secretaries of the Urban Development Departments and Environment Departments of 28 states and 8 Union Territories.

3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah being celebrated this month to address malnutrition among young children and women

The 3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah is being celebrated this month to address malnutrition among young children and women. The objective of the Poshan Maah is to encourage Jan Bhagidaari to ensure health and nutrition for everyone. Women and Child Development Ministry said the Poshan Maah is celebrated every year under POSHAN Abhiyaan, which was launched in 2018. Considering the prevalent COVID situation in the Country, the Ministry is encouraging all stakeholders to use digital platforms for celebrating Poshan Maah.

States mandated to set up panel on Content Regulation of Govt Ads

As per directions of the Supreme Court, States are mandated to set up their three member committees on Content Regulation of Government Advertisements. State-level committees have already been constituted by Karnataka, Goa, Mizoram and Nagaland. The Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising, CCRGA in its 19th meeting held last week took a serious note of delay in constituting state level Committees by other states.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh holds bilateral talks with his Iranian counterpart Brigadier General Amir Hatami in Tehran

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with his Iranian counterpart

Brigadier General Amir Hatami on Saturday. Mr Singh was on a transit halt in Tehran enroute from Moscow to New Delhi. The meeting between the two Ministers took place in a cordial and warm atmosphere. Both the leaders emphasized upon the age-old cultural, linguistic and civilizational ties between India and Iran. They discussed ways to take forward bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional security issues, including peace and stability in Afghanistan.

1st International Day of Clean Air for blue skies being commemorated

The first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is being commemorated around the world, following the recognition by the United Nations General Assembly of the importance of clean air for the health and day-to-day lives of people.

India to receive development assistance loan worth Rs 3,500 Cr from Japan to fight COVID-19

Japan has committed an official Development Assistance loan of 3 thousand 500 crore rupees for the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support. The Notes were exchanged between the Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs Dr C.S. Mohapatra and Ambassador of Japan to India Suzuki Satoshi for a Health sector programme loan to fight the COVID-19 crisis.

Bangladesh Announces National Mourning in Honour of Former President Pranab Mukherjee

The government of Bangladesh has announced national mourning to honour the memory of the former President of India Pranab Mukherjee. Bangladesh had conferred the honour of 'Bangladesh Muktijuddho Sommanona' on the former President Pranab Mukherjee in 2013 for his valuable contribution to Bangladesh's Liberation War of 1971.

First ever direct flight between Israel and UAE lands in Abu Dhabi

The first commercial direct flight between Israel and the UAE landed in Abu Dhabi after the two countries announced normalisation of relations. The El Al airliner made the three-hour trip carrying a top level Israeli delegation led by National Security Adviser Meir Ben Shabbat while the US delegation was headed by US President Donald Trump's adviser Jared Kushner and US NSA Robert O'Brien. The flight was allowed to cross Saudi Arabian airspace, normally blocked to Israeli air traffic.

Trade and Commerce Ministers of India, Australia and Japan interact through video conferencing

India reaffirmed its determination to take lead in delivering a free, fair, inclusive and stable trade environment along with partner countries Australia and Japan. In a meeting between the Trade and Commerce Ministers of the three countries held today through video conferencing, they pledged to promote non-discriminatory, transparent, and stable investment environments in addition to keeping their markets open.

Bangladesh to set up authority for regulating online media

The government of Bangladesh will set up an authority to regulate the online media. Briefing media after a meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

in Dhaka on Monday, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said that the Online Media Policy has a provision to set up a Commission for regulating the online media. Till the time the Commission is formed, the Ministry of Information will set up an authority for regulating the online media.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal addresses US-India Strategic Partnership Forum through virtual conference

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has invited the US business and industry to work with their Indian counterparts to take the bilateral trade to greater heights. Addressing the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum through a virtual conference today, Mr Goyal said the two democracies share deep commitment with each other, at the Government, Business and people to people levels.

Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and Japan for improving quality of Indian textiles for Japanese market

Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Japan for improving quality and testing of Indian textiles and clothing for the Japanese market. The MoU would enable M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan in assigning Textile Committee as their cooperative Testing and Inspection service providers in India for Textiles and Apparel products.

Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and Finland for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources

Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Finland for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources. The MoU facilitates cooperation in the field of geology, training, mineral prognostication and suitability analysis with the intent of reinforcing and strengthening scientific links.

India to host key meeting of Russia, China led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

India will be hosting one of the key meetings of the Russia and China led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) regional grouping on 30 November. The summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Governments will take place in New Delhi, Secretary (West) in the Indian foreign ministry Vikas Swarup said at a webinar.

Google partners with Bangladesh for flood forecasting

Google has partnered with Bangladesh Water Development Board to bring the flood warning services to the country. Announcing this on its official blog on Tuesday Google said that it currently covers more than 40 million people in Bangladesh and it is working to expand its coverage to the whole of the country.

Rajnath Singh meets Defence Ministers of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Defence Minister of Tajikistan Colonel General Sherali Mirzo in Moscow. Rajnath Singh also had a meeting with Kazakhstan counterpart Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev in Moscow. Mr Singh said, he

discussed ways to add further momentum to India-Kazakhstan defence cooperation with Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev.

Japanese companies relocating to Bangladesh from China to get govt subsidy

Bangladesh has been added to the list of countries which will qualify for subsidy for the Japanese companies which shift their production base out of China. In order to diversify its supply chain, Japan has decided that Japanese manufacturers will now be eligible for subsidies if they shift production out of China to India or Bangladesh, reports the Nikkei Asian Review. The supplementary budget of Japan for the fiscal year 2020 has earmarked dollar 221 million for companies that move production to Southeast Asian countries.

First trial run on newly opened inland waterways from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in India completes successfully

The trial run of the newly opened inland river route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in Tripura was successfully completed. The newly opened 93 kilometers long route on the river Gumti marks another major step in enhancing connectivity between India and Bangladesh.

Germany joins Indo-Pacific club aimed at securing trade routes from aggressive China

Germany has joined the Indo-Pacific club. The move is aimed at securing the trade routes from aggressive China. Germany has drafted a 40-page guidelines as it formally adopts a strategy for the Indo-Pacific region. The move makes it the second European nation after France to formally adopt a strategy for the Indo-Pacific region.

RBI to set up innovation hub for finance sector

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is in the process of setting up an innovation hub which will focus on future technology in the financial services space. Detailed guidelines in this respect are expected to be released soon.

Banks sanction loans of ₹1.61 lakh cr to MSMEs under credit guarantee scheme

The Finance Ministry on Monday said banks have sanctioned loans of about ₹1,61,017 crore under the ₹3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector reeling under the slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by the Finance Minister in May. The loan amounts sanctioned by PSBs increased to ₹78,067.21 crore, of which ₹62,025.79 crore has been disbursed as of September 3.

RBI to conduct simultaneous purchase & sale of govt securities under OMO for Rs 10,000 crore each on Sept 10

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under the Open Market Operation (OMO) for Rs 10,000 crore each on September 10. The central bank today said it would be selling three securities

totalling Rs 10,000 crore and also purchasing equal number of securities of the same amount.

Infosys to hire 12,000 American workers by 2022

Information technology (IT) major Infosys Ltd said it will hire 12,000 American workers over the next two years, creating a 25,000 strong workforce in the U.S over five years. This is part of its strategy to increase local hiring in the country.

Adani Green is largest solar power developer globally

With 8GW of SECI contracts, Adani Green is largest solar power developer globally. In June, Adani Green Energy Ltd bagged a manufacturing-linked solar contract from the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop 8 GW of projects. The transaction is valued at ₹45,000 crore, or \$6 billion.

Uber makes face-mask selfies mandatory for mask slackers

Uber unveiled a new policy stipulating that if a driver reports to Uber that a rider wasn't wearing a mask, the rider will have to take a selfie with one strapped on the next time they summon a driver. Mask slackers will now have to provide photographic proof they're wearing a face covering before boarding an Uber.

Adani to acquire Mumbai airport

Adani group will take control of India's second-busiest airport of Mumbai, in the biggest-ever thrust to its ambition to become a top airports operator. Adani will buy GVK Airport Developers' debt, against which a 50.5% stake in MIAL is pledged.

Indian Bank announces cut of 5 basis points in MCLR for one-year tenure

State-owned lender Indian Bank has announced a cut of 5 basis points in its marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) for one-year tenure. The bank has decided to reduce the MCLR for one-year tenure by 5 basis points to 7.30 per cent effective from September 3, 2020, Indian Bank said in a regulatory filing.

ICICI Bank launches 'Home Utsav'

ICICI Bank announced the launch of 'Home Utsav', a virtual property exhibition that digitally showcases real estate projects by renowned developers from key cities across the country. The exhibition is available for everyone, including ICICI Bank's customers and those who are not customers of the Bank. It offers them enhanced convenience, as they can simply browse through these projects online, from the comfort of their home and office. They can also avail exclusive offers such as attractive interest rates, special processing fees and digital sanction of loans, on buying a property through this exhibition.

Flipkart launches digital B2B marketplace

Homegrown e-tailer Flipkart has launched its digital business-to business (B2B) marketplace as e-commerce firms boost such operations, digitising kiranas and leveraging online sales to take advantage of India's large consumer base. Flipkart Wholesale claims to be a one-stop solution which will offer businesses products at

significant value to help them grow. It is available for fashion retailers, especially footwear and apparel, in Gurugram, Delhi, Bengaluru.

Banks, post offices can now check your ITR filing status for deducting TDS

Banks can now check the status of income tax returns or ITRs of their customers based on their Permanent Account Number (PAN). Through this facility banks or post offices can get the applicable rate of TDS under Section 194N of the Income-tax Act, 1961 by entering the PAN of the person who is withdrawing cash. The income tax department said data on cash withdrawal indicated that huge amount of cash is being withdrawn by the persons who have never filed income-tax returns.

RBI introduces weightage in priority sector loans to assist neglected districts

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday revised its priority sector lending (PSL) guidelines to include a system where higher weightage will be assigned to fresh priority sector loans in districts with low flow of such credit. In order to harmonise various instructions issued to commercial banks, small finance banks, regional rural banks, urban cooperative banks and local area banks, RBI made these changes.

RBL Bank offers cardless cash withdrawal facility through ATMs

RBL Bank has launched cardless cash withdrawal facility for customers through the IMT System. RBL Bank has tied up with Empays Payment Systems, a global financial technology provider, to offer the service. RBL Bank customers can withdraw cash without their debit cards from 389 IMT-enabled ATMs of RBL Bank. To avail the service a customer has to log into RBL Bank's MoBank app.

StartupXseed launches ₹200 crore second fund to invest in deep tech startups

Bengaluru-based StartupXseed Ventures has launched its second fund of ₹200 crore, that will focus on early-stage investment in start-ups focused on deep technologies. The sector agnostic seed and early stage venture capital fund was founded five years back by B. V. Naidu, former director, Software Technology Parks of India, Mohan Das Pai, co-founder of Aarin Capital, Ravi Thakur and other entrepreneurs. Out of ₹200 crore, ₹65 crore has been raised from individual technocrats and the balance amount will be raised over the next 6-9 months.

Women writers, debuts dominate the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 longlist

Six books by women writers, four debuts and two works in translation feature in the longlist of the JCB Prize for Literature 2020. The ten books cover a range of genres as well—from Samit Basu's fantasy novel Chosen Spirits to Deepa Anappara's internationally acclaimed experimental novel Djinn Patrol On The Purple Line to Malayalam writer S. Hareesh's avant-garde novel Moustache, translated into English by Jayasree Kalathil.

Vice Admiral S R Sarma assumes charge as Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy

Vice Admiral S R Sarma assumed charge as the Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy. Admiral Sarma during his illustrious career spanning over three and a half decades has

served onboard Indian Naval ships Vindhyagiri, Rana, Krishna and Mysore in various capacities.

Rajeev Kumar assumes charge as new Election Commissioner of India

Mr Rajeev Kumar assumed charge as the new Election Commissioner of the country. A 1984 batch IAS officer, Mr Kumar retired as the Finance Secretary. Mr Kumar joins the Election Commission of India with Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra.

India ranks in top 50 countries for 1st time in Global Innovation Index

India ranked in the top 50 countries for the first time in the Global Innovation Index, which was released today. India jumped four positions to rank at 48th since 2019. The index compiled by World Intellectual Property Index (WIPO) presented the latest global trends and annual innovation ranking for 131 countries.

Andhra Pradesh tops chart among all Indian States and UTs in BRAP 2019 rankings

Andhra Pradesh topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings. Uttar Pradesh and Telangana bagged second and third positions respectively.

Shailendra Dashora joins as new Chief Postmaster General in Jammu

Shailendra Dashora, an Indian Postal Service (IPoS) Officer of 1989 batch joined as the new Chief Postmaster General, Jammu and Kashmir Circle in Jammu today. AIR correspondent reports that Dashora was welcomed by Gaurav Srivastava, Director of Postal Services (Headquarters), J&K. Soon after taking over as Chief Post Master General, J&K Circle, Dashora reviewed the functioning of Postal Department in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Chandrayaan-1 reveals presence of rusty minerals on Moon's surface

MoS Space Jitendra Singh said that ISRO's maiden mission to the Moon has sent images, which show that Moon may be rusting along the poles. The sign of this finding is that even though the surface of the Moon is known to have iron - rich rocks, it is not known for the presence of water and oxygen, which are the two elements needed to interact with iron to create rust. NASA say that this could be because the Earth's own atmosphere is lending a helping hand which, in other words, means that the Earth's atmosphere could be protecting the Moon as well.

IIT Guwahati researchers design engineered surfaces to detect, prevent covid-19

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati have developed methods to detect and prevent the novel coronavirus using bio-interface interactions between the virus and the surface spike protein.

China's 1st reusable spacecraft lands after 2-day flight

China's first reusable spacecraft landed Sunday after two days in orbit, a possible step toward lower-cost space flight, the government announced. The secretive, military-run

space program has released few details of the craft, which was launched Friday aboard a Long March 2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China's desert northwest. The craft landed as planned at Jiuquan.

Chandrayaan-3 launch likely in early 2021

Minister of State for Space Dr Jitendra Singh said that the launch of Chandrayaan-3 may now take place somewhere in early 2021. Chandrayaan-3 will be a mission repeat of Chandrayaan-2 and will include a Lander and Rover similar to that of Chandrayaan-2, but will not have an orbiter.

Indian astronomers discover one of the farthest Star galaxies in universe

Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe in a landmark achievement. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today said it is a matter of pride that India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers led by Dr Kanak Saha from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

India successfully test fires Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle

India conducted a successful test flight of the indigenously developed Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), joining an elite group of countries i.e. the US, Russia and China, who possess the technology. India first tested the HSTDV last year in June. The HSTDV is an unmanned scramjet technology demonstrator that can cruise up to a speed of mach 6 (or six times the speed of sound) and rise up to an altitude of 32 kilometres in 20 seconds.

Sumit Nagal becomes 1st Indian to win grand slam singles main draw match in 7 years

Sumit Nagal stormed into the second round of the ongoing US Open Tennis last night. Nagal defeated Bradley Klahn of USA 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the US Open to progress further into the tournament. With this result, the 23-year-old Nagal has become the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last seven years. In 2013, Somdev Devvarman had reached the second round of the Australian Open, French Open and US Open.

Sports training camps in Uttar Pradesh to start from 1st October

In Uttar Pradesh, sports training camps will start from 1st October and will continue till March next year. The state Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Upendra Tiwari said that sports activities will be back on the track once the situation normalises.

BCCI signs on Cred as official partner for IPL in three-year deal

Cred, a digital community of creditworthy individuals, merchants and institutions, announced that it has become the official partner of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020. Cred will start a variety of offers around credit card bill payments during the tournament.

Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee, Indispensable Man of Indian Politics, Dies at 84

Pranab Mukherjee, an Indian politician who rose to high office alongside one of India's longest-serving prime ministers, Indira Gandhi, died on Monday at a hospital in New Delhi. He was 84. A journalist turned politician, he was India's president from 2012 to 2017 and wore many hats during a career that spanned political generations.

IIT Delhi incubated startup launches "Chakr DeCoV" to decontaminate N95 masks

IIT Delhi incubated startup Chakr Innovation has launched 'Chakr DeCoV' to decontaminate N95 masks. Designed in the shape of a cabinet, Chakr DeCoV is built with an innovative decontamination mechanism, which utilises the high penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask, ensuring complete decontamination of its intricate layers.

IISc researchers develop low-cost, on demand printing technique

The researchers at the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering in the Bengaluru based Indian Institute of Science have developed a low cost, on demand printing technique. This new technique replaces the nozzles of an inkjet printer with a mesh covered chemically treated nano wires that repel water.

Nepal's Finance Minister Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada resigns

Finance as well as Communication Minister of incumbent government in Nepal, Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada has resigned from his post. Khatiwada had tendered his resignation to Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Friday late afternoon which was accepted by evening, Press Advisor to Oli, Surya Thapa confirmed.

Global CEO Sandeep Mathrani joins WeWork India board

Real estate veteran Sandeep Mathrani, who was appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of shared workspace provider WeWork in February, has joined the board of the Indian arm at a time when the company seeks to tide over the covid-induced disruptions and become profitable.

Actor Akshay Kumar launches multi-player mobile game FAU-G

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar took to micro blogging platform Twitter to announce the launch of a multi-player action game called 'Fearless And United-Guards' or FAU-G. The game has been developed by nCore, a mobile games and interactive entertainment company, based out of Bengaluru. The announcement came after India on Wednesday banned Chinese mobile gaming app PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds, popularly known by the acronym PUBG, and 117 others.

Serena Williams wins in US Open Tennis Tournament

In the US Open tennis tournament, Serena Williams won in straight sets again. She moved into an all-American showdown against Sloane Stephens.

World Cup host Qatar set to play in Gold Cup next year in US

World Cup host Qatar is set to play in the Gold Cup next year in the United States after accepting an invitation from soccer's governing body for North and Central America and the Caribbean. The Asian Football Confederation issued a statement today saying the Asian Cup champion will participate in the 2021 and 2023 Gold Cup tournaments as a guest under a memorandum of understanding signed in Bahrain in 2017.



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