



**WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**AUG 2020**  
**3rd Week**

**AUGUST 16-23**

**PracticeMock**

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## NATIONAL

1. Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched **Tribal Health and Nutrition portal** called "**SWASTHYA**". Also, the ministry launched the "**ALEKH**" e-newsletter on health and nutrition. SWASTHYA portal is first of its kind. It provides information related to health and nutrition of tribal population in India.
2. National Highway Authority of India launched the mobile application called "**Harit Path**" for geo tagging the trees along the highways. So far 7,800 plants have been geo-tagged using the application.
3. During his speech at the 74th Independence Day celebrations, PM Modi announced that Govt is to unveil a new National **Cyber Security Policy, 2020** soon. It envisages to create secure cyber space in India and is to be ready by the end of 2020.
4. The Prime Minister Modi in his Independence Day address mentioned the mega plan of "**One Sun One World One Grid**" project. It is a trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power project. The idea of the project was first introduced by PM Modi in 2018 during the International Solar Alliance.
5. The Indian Railways is constructing **world's tallest pier bridge** in the state of **Manipur**. The bridge is 141 metres high. It has surpassed the record of 139 metres tall Mala-Rijeka bridge in Montenegro, Europe. The bridge is a part of the 111 km long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal railway line project.
6. United Kingdom launched **3 million pounds of Innovation Challenge Fund in India**. The funds were launched to support Indian scientists in industries and academia to tackle COVID-19 and climate change. The funds invite innovators to connect to the Artificial Intelligence Clusters in Karnataka and future mobility cluster in Maharashtra.
7. Ministry of **Railways** announced that the **drone-based surveillance system** is to be introduced for the purpose of railway security. The Railway Protection Force has so far procured drones at a cost of Rs 32 lakhs. The drones are to be implemented in Central Railway, South Eastern Railway, Central Railway and South Western Railway.
8. Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) on August 20 said that the second lunar mission of India **Chandrayaan-2 has completed one year** around the Moon in the lunar orbit
9. Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the "**Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge**". The challenge is being launched to achieve self-reliance or Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The challenge aims to design microprocessors that has the ability to address global challenges. These challenges mainly include technological glitches and security.

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## STATES

10. State Minister of Assam, Siddhartha Bhattacharya is to inaugurate India's longest ropeway across river **Brahmaputra**. The ropeway is to cut short the travel time by almost an hour. It is 2 km long and the distance is covered in 7 minutes. One-way ride is to cost Rs 60.
11. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister announced that the State Government is to build an **industrial corridor between Mysuru and Bidar**. This is being done to augment the development of commerce and industry in the state.
12. **Nuakhai Juhar** festival was celebrated in **Odisha, Chhattisgarh** and other neighbouring states. It is celebrated to welcome the **new crop of the season**. It is also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat. Highlights During the festival, food grains are worshipped.
13. Uttar Pradesh Government launched the **Electronics Manufacturing Policy**. It aims to bring in Rs 40,000 crores of investment in five years. The policy aims to develop **Bundelkhand and Purvanchal** regions. The policy aims to make Uttar Pradesh a global electronics hub.
14. **Rajasthan** Government has launched the '**Indira Raso Yojna**' in order to pay special tribute to the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 76th birth anniversary on August 20. Indira Raso is a scheme to provide nutritious food to poor people in urban areas at affordable prices.
15. **Madhya Pradesh** will be offering jobs based on the marks secured by candidates in the common eligibility test (**CET**) by National Recruitment Agency (NRA). With this, Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to offer jobs on the basis newly approved CET.

## INTERNATIONAL

16. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended the **fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**. The conference was **organized by Parliament of Austria and Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva** with the support of United Nations. The Conference was conducted under the theme: **Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and the planet**.
17. The International Solar Alliance will hold **World Solar Technology Summit** for the first time on September 8, 2020. The summit aims to bring the world scientists and engineers together to address the challenges to make energy affordable.

18. **India and Israel** signed a new **cultural agreement** to strengthen people-to-people exchanges. This agreement was signed by India's Ambassador to Israel, Sanjeev Singla and Israel's Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi.
19. The **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative** is proposed by Japan. The initiative aims to reduce the dependency in China. Japan is to be joined by India and Australia. It is a direct response to companies that are concerned about Chinese political behaviour and disruption to supply chain.
20. On August 20, 2020, the External Affairs Minister S Jai Shankar attended **ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT)**. It was the sixth-round table conference between India and AINTT.
21. **India and UAE** held their 13th Joint Commission Meeting virtually. The five sub-committees from India and UAE participated in the meeting.
22. The **World Wide Fund** along with the **Bombay Natural History Society** launched the third edition of **Dragonfly festival, 2020**. The festival aims to create conservation of these insects. For the first time, the festival is to be organised in **Kerala as "Thumbi Mahotsavam 2020"**. This is a part of the National Dragonfly Festival.

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## REPORTS & SCHEMES

23. The NITI Aayog, Atal Innovation Mission along with the collaboration of **NASSCOM** launched the **"ATL AI Step Up Module"**. It was launched on the eve of independence-day. The module is to drive AI education and innovation to next levels in schools all over India.
24. Central Government has directed to the State governments and the Union Territories that **all the disabled persons** should be included under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
25. The **Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana** is being implemented by Employee State Insurance Corporation. The scheme was approved under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. The **scheme aims to support the people who have lost their jobs due to changing employment pattern** due to an international crisis or a domestic crisis. Currently, the change in employment pattern is due to COVID-19. The scheme was introduced in 2018. The scheme provides **25% of average per day earning** in the previous four contribution periods.
26. On August 20, 2020, the results of Swachh Survekshan, 2020 were announced. For the fourth consecutive time, **Indore**, Madhya Pradesh bagged the **cleanest** city in the country. It was followed by Surat of Gujarat and Navi Mumbai of Maharashtra. Varanasi bagged the best "Ganga Town" in the survey. Mysuru won the award of cleanest city in India. The survey was held by **the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.

27. Union Cabinet approved to set up **National Recruitment Agency**. The agency is to conduct Common Eligibility Test for Public Sector Banks and Government Jobs. The Common Eligibility Test (**CET**) is to be conducted for non-gazetted posts in public sector banks and central government. The score of CET is valid for **three** years. Candidates qualifying the test can apply for higher level of examination.
28. The **Bureau of Indian Standards** has prepared a **draft standard for the supply of piped drinking water**. It has been named "**Drinking Water Supply Quality Management System-requirements for piped drinking water supply service**". The draft was prepared by the BIS Public Drinking Water Supply Services Sectional Committee.
29. On August 19, 2020, the **National Commission on Population** submitted its report on population projections for the period of 2011-36. The commission was set up by **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**. The report says that the sex ratio of the country is to increase from 943 (2011) to **957 (2036)**.
30. **The International Labour Organization** and the **Asian Development Bank** prepared a joint report on "**Tackling COVID-19 Youth employment crisis in Asia and Pacific**". The report says that around **41 lakhs of Indian youth** are to lose their job due to COVID-19 crisis.
31. Indian Council of Medical Research released "**National Cancer Registry Programme Report**", 2020. According to the report, the number of cancer patients in India are to **increase to 15.7 lakhs by 2025**. The report also says that by the end of 2020, there will be 13.9 lakh cancer patients in India. The highest incidence of cancer in India was observed in **North East region**. According to the report, one out of four persons between the age of 0 and 74 years in **Arunachal Pradesh** had the possibility of developing cancer.
32. Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), 2020 was released, recently. The rankings were announced by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu. The Vice President announced the top ten institutes in public funded and five institutes in private and self-reliance categories. **IIT Madras emerged as the best institute** under the institute of national importance category. The ARIIA is implemented by All India council for Technical Education (AICTE). Top 10 The institutions were:
- 1) Rank I-IIT Madras
  - 2) Rank II-IIT Bombay
  - 3) Rank III-IIT Delhi
  - 4) Rank IV-IISc Bengaluru
  - 5) Rank V-IIT Kharagpur
  - 6) Rank VI-IIT Kanpur
  - 7) Rank VII-IIT Mandi
  - 8) Rank VIII-NIT Calicut
  - 9) Rank IX-IIT Roorkee
  - 10) Rank X-University of Hyderabad.

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## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

33. According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) officials, in spite of agricultural production going up in the country, **the GDP is contracting**. This is the first time India is witnessing fall in GDP in spite of agricultural production going up.
34. Marine Products Export Development Authority (**MPEDA**) opened a Quality Control Laboratory in **Porbandar**. The laboratory is to test seafood processors and exporters.
35. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that the **CAMPA** funds shall be used only for plantation drives and afforestation. Also, the forest-based devolution funds are to be increased from 7% to 10%. CAMPA is Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management..
36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to review preparations for National Master plan on Multi-modal Connectivity of Economic Zones Project. This will boost infrastructure, productivity, economic progress and opportunity for youngsters.
37. The State-Owned Technology Parks in India (**STPI**) are to have the largest ecosystem to incubate new technologies. This is to be achieved by setting up **21 Centres of Excellence in these parks**. India has centres of excellence (CoE) for Internet of Things, electric vehicles, block chain, animation and gaming, etc.
38. **Ramesh Chand task force by Niti Aayog** has recommended to **link sugarcane prices to sugar rates**. The task force highlighted that it is essential to keep the industry in a good financial health. In its report, the task force has recommended for a one-time increase in the minimum **sugar price at Rs 33 per kg**.
39. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation announced that around **412 infrastructure projects each of worth Rs 150 crores** have been hit with cost over run of Rs 4.11 lakh crores.

## FINANCE AND BANKING

40. On August 18, 2020, the **Asian Development Bank** approved **1 billion USD loan** to support construction of modern high-speed **Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System** in India. The system is first of its kind. The system aims to help improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options connecting Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. The system is the first of the three priority rail corridors in the integrated transport network of NCR Regional Plan 2020-21.
41. Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has launched the National Strategy for Financial Education (**NSFE**) to be implemented for the period of next five years i.e. **2020 to 2025**. This is the second national strategy;

the first NSFE was launched in 2013. NSFE 2020-25 has been launched with an aim of achieving a financially aware and empowered India.

The bank came up with 5-Core Actions approach with this second national strategy. The five Cs highlighted by NSFE 2020-25 are **Capacity, Content, Communication, Community, and Collaboration**.

42. Union Cabinet approved redevelopment of three airports in Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati. The projects are to be developed by Adani Enterprises Limited. The Union Cabinet approved to provide Rs 1,070 crores to handle the redevelopment projects.
43. Reserve Bank of India released Framework for Authorisation of Pan-India Umbrella Entity for retail payments. The RBI will set up a new pan-India umbrella entity with a minimum paid-up capital of Rs **500 crores**. The entity will set up, operate, manage new payment systems that comprises of ATMs, Aadhaar based payments, label Point of Sales, remittance services. Also, it will develop standards, payment methods and technologies related issues. The entities are to be incorporated under Companies Act, 2013. Also, the entities are to be authorized under **Section 4 of Payment and Settlement Systems act, 2007**.

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## PERSON IN NEWS

44. The former finance secretary, **Rajiv Kumar** was appointed as the **Election Commissioner**. The outgoing Election Commission Ashol Lavasa is to join the Asian Development Bank as its vice president.
45. **Satya Pal Malik** was appointed as the **Governor of Meghalaya**. He replaced Tathagata Roy. Mr Malik served as Governor of Goa previously. With his transfer, the Governor of Maharashtra Bagat Singh Koshyari is to discharge the functions of Governor of Goa.

## RECOGNITION & AWARDS

46. None

## OBITUARIES

47. **Pandit Jasraj**, an **Indian classical vocalist**, belonging to the **Mewati gharana** (a musical apprenticeship tribe of Hindustani classical music) passed away at 90 in his home in New Jersey due to cardiac arrest. He was born on January 28, 1930 in **Pili Mandori**, a village in the **Hisar** district of **Haryana**.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

48. **Earth Overshoot Day 2020** is observed on **August 22, 2020**. Earth Overshoot Day is the date when the demands of biological resources and services of the year by humanity exceeds the generation capacity of Earth in that year. The first Global Earth Overshoot Day campaign was launched in 2006.



49. Every year 20th August is celebrated as the **Sadbhavana Diwas** to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, **Rajiv Gandhi**.
50. The **World Mosquito Day** is observed on **20th August** every year to raise awareness about the Causes and Prevention of Malaria and to commemorate the discovery made by **British Doctor Sir Ronald Ross** in **1897** that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit Malaria between humans.
51. The **World Photography Day** also known as **World Photo Day** is observed annually on **19th August** with an aim to inspire photographers across the globe to share a single photo with a purpose of sharing their world to the world. The day celebrates the arts, crafts, science and history of Photography.

## SPORTS

52. Indian Cricket players **M S Dhoni and Suresh Raina** announced their retirement from International Cricket. This means that they shall still play for games conducted within India.
53. Mercedes' **Lewis Hamilton** claimed his 156th Podium with a victory in **Spanish Grand Prix**. Lewis Hamilton now holds the **record for most podium finishes in F1** history surpassing Former F1-Great Michael Schumacher's record.
54. On August 22, 2020, the Government of India announced the National Sports Awards, 2020.  
**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award:** The award is presented to sportspersons with most outstanding performance in the field of sports for a period of four years. The following persons have been selected for the award for the year 2020
- Rohit Sharma
  - Para-Athlete Mariyannapn Thangavelu
  - Wrestler Vinesh Phogat
  - Indian Women Hockey Team Captain Rani Rampal

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