



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**SEP 2020
2nd Week**

SEPTEMBER 8-15

PracticeMock

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NATIONAL

1. The apex telecom regulatory body **TRAI** intended to set up an industry body and recommended a “light-touch regulatory framework” for cloud service providers. The Department of Telecom has been given the green light to initiate the process in this regard and asked the service providers to become its member.
2. On September 15, 2020, PM Modi inaugurated seven projects under **Namami Gange and AMRUT** Schemes in Bihar. Four of these projects were related to water supply, one to river front development and two of the projects were related to sewerage treatment.
3. Atal Innovation Mission (**AIM**), a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog, has partnered with **Freshworks** Inc., a customer-engagement software company to provide robust support to innovators and entrepreneurs in India. AIM has also collaborated with ScooNews, one of India’s largest education media houses to share and spread inspiring stories of grassroots innovations.
4. Union Minister of Culture and Minister of Tourism of India, Prahlad Patel announced the formation of an expert committee to conduct a study on the origin and evolution of Indian culture. The committee consists of 16 members that include **K.N. Dikshit, Chairman**, Indian Archaeological Society.
5. Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has virtually announced the 4th edition of **State Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) Ranking** for 2018-19 which was released by Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of commerce and industry. In accordance with that, Andhra Pradesh (AP) topped the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) ranking 2019, followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Telangana at 2nd & 3rd place respectively.
6. **FutureSkills**, an initiative of IT-ITES (Information technology – IT enabled services) Sector Skill Council National Association of Software and Services Companies (**NASSCOM**) partnered with **Microsoft** to launch Artificial Intelligence (AI) Skilling initiative “AI classroom series” to skill 10 lakh students in India by 2021 to make India a global hub for AI skilled talents and create jobs through upskilling and reskilling

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STATES

7. The first ever **Cannabis Medicine project** that is to be set up in **Jammu and Kashmir** in collaboration with **Canada** is to be the first foreign investment in the union territory. The project is to be set up at the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine in Jammu and Kashmir.
8. The Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) in association with the Government of Punjab, is soon coming up with an alternative for **paddy stubble utilisation**. Stubble burning is one of the biggest problems in north India to curb this, the Punjab government's own agency.
9. Chief Minister of **Odisha**, Naveen Patnaik launched a first-of-its-kind state-wide scheme called "**GARIMA**" to ensure the safety and dignity of core sanitation workers of the state.

INTERNATIONAL

10. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** announced that five Public Sector Undertakings will join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action. Highlights The five PSUs to join the ISA are **Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, GAIL India Limited**. These five PSUs are to focus on clean energy transition. The companies will deploy solar panels.
11. On September 10, 2020, India and Japan signed Logistics agreement on "Reciprocal Provision Supplies and Services" to allow the armed forces of India and Japan to coordinate closely in supplies and services. The agreement will increase the interoperability between armed forces of India and Japan.
12. **India, Israel and the Unites States** recently held a summit virtually. During the summit, the countries decided to work together in **5G technology**. Highlights The trilateral summit was initiated by PM Modi during his visit to Israel in 2017.
13. **Byte Dance** a Chinese Company which owns a popular video-sharing app called **TikTok** in its recent merger deals choose **Oracle** a US-based firm.
14. The permanent representative of **India** to the United Nations, Sh. TS Tirumurti confirmed India's **entry** as a member of the United Nation's **Commission on Status of Women** (CSW). It is a body of the prestigious Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
15. Recently, United Nations warned about the major consequences of COVID-19 if not dealt properly. The UN officials were found stating, that the world may witness more conflict, poverty and starvation and how deeply it may impact the fragile nations of the world. What may trigger conflict.

16. Sri Lanka has ban cow slaughtering.
17. Recently, Global Economic Freedom Index 2020 report was released. India witnessed a sharp fall of 26 spots and landed to the **105th** position. As per the last year ranking the country was at the 79th spot. About the report It is an annual index created in 1995 first by the Heritage Foundation and the Wall Street Journal.

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REPORTS & SCHEMES

18. Recently, the United Nations released “**Levels and Trends in Child Mortality**” report. The report says that **child mortality rate** of India has declined between 1990 and 2019. It was 126 in 1990 and has now declined to **34 in 2019**.
19. On September 10, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. Along with the scheme, the PM also launched **e-Gopala** application. The scheme focuses on sustainable development of fisheries in India. It is to be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25. The funds allocated to fisheries under the scheme is **Rs 20,050 crores**. This is the highest ever allocated to that of the fisheries sector. The scheme aims to enhance fish production to 70 lakh tonnes by 2024-25. The scheme will reduce the post harvest losses of fisheries sector from 20% -25% to 10%
20. On September 10, 2020, the Department of Posts launched a scheme called the “**Five Star Villages**”. The scheme ensures universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of India. The scheme is to be implemented by a team of **Gramin Dak Sevak**. The schemes that are to be covered under Five Star Villages Scheme are:
- Savings Bank Account, NSC or KVP certificates, Recurrent Deposit Accounts
 - Sukanya Samridhi Account,
 - Funded Post Office Savings Account that are linked to India Post Payments Bank Accounts,
 - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana account or Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana account
 - Postal Life Insurance Policy or Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy
21. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched **22 bamboo clusters** in nine states. They are Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Assam, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Tripura and Karnataka. Six of the 22 clusters are located in Maharashtra, five in Tripura, two each in Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland, three in Odisha and one each in Karnataka, Assam, Gujarat, and Uttarakhand. The restructured National Bamboo Mission was adopted in 2018-19.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

22. Recently Government of India released a notification outlawing the export of all kinds of onions. The ban is imposed three months after the central government made changes in the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**.
23. The Government of India recently extended Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme to provide an insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs to COVID-19 health care providers. The scheme was announced in March 2020 for a period of 90 days. It has now been extended for another 180 days.

FINANCE AND BANKING

24. The government introduced the new **Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020**, that intended to give the powers to restructure cooperative banks to the Reserve Bank of India. The power of RBI's banking regulations will be extended to the cooperative banks after the ratification of the bill.
25. **Securities and Exchange Board of India** which is responsible for regulating the Indian market in order to revamp its IT infrastructure network and communication system shortlisted top companies which includes, **Bharti Airtel and Wipro** and others.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

26. A week after his mediation between **Israel** and **UAE** (United Arab Emirates) US President Donald Trump has been nominated for the Noble Peace Prize 2021. The nomination was submitted by a right-wing Norwegian politician and parliamentarian Christian Tybring Gjedde.

PERSON IN NEWS

27. National Democratic Alliance candidate and Janata Dal (United) Member of Parliament **Harivansh Narayan Singh** has been once again elected as **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha** by Voice vote.
28. **UNICEF** (United Nations International Children Education Fund) appointed **Ayushmann Khurrana** as its celebrity advocate for promoting and supporting its work around ending violence against children.
29. **Yoshihide Suga** is elected as the new prime minister of **Japan** after Shinzo Abe resigned. Background The longest serving Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe resigned in August 2020 due to health reasons.

OBITUARIES

30. Govind Swarup who is regarded as Father of India's Radio Astronomy passed away due to age related complications in Pune Maharashtra. He was the founding director of National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

31. Swami Agnivesh, a renowned social activist, scholar, former MLA and Cabinet Minister for Education of Haryana passed away due to cardiac arrest. He served as the president (2004–2014) of the World Council of Arya Samaj, which is the highest international body of the Arya Samaj. He was born on 21st September 1939 in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh. He founded the Bonded Labour Liberation Front-BLLF.
32. Former Union Minister for Rural Development, **Raghuvansh Prasad Singh** passed away at New Delhi due to post COVID complications. He was born on 6th June 1946 in Bihar. He served as the Union minister for Rural development from 2004 to 2009 in the cabinet led by Manmohan Singh.
33. Eminent producer-director **Johnny Bakshi** who was born in Pune, passed away at the age 82 due to Cardiac arrest.

IMPORTANT DAYS

34. Every year **International Literacy Day** is celebrated on **September 8** by the UNESCO and other world organizations. The day was first celebrated in 1967. The main aim of celebrating the day is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals. This year, in 2020, the day is celebrated under following theme: **Literacy teaching and learning in COVID-19 crisis and beyond**
35. Every Year, **September 10** is observed as **World Suicide Prevention Day**. The objective of this day is to create awareness about the mental health and prevent suicides. Suicides Global Condition Suicide is 10th leading cause of death worldwide and more than 1 million people die by suicide every year globally.
36. Hindi Diwas or **Hindi Day** is being celebrated on **September 14, 2020** across India in order to mark the adoption of Hindi as one of the official languages of India and to make people aware of the language.

SPORTS

37. The 140th Edition of American Open took place in New York, United States from August 31, 2020 – September 13, 2020. **2020 US Open Winners:**

Category	Winner	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Dominic Thiem (Austria)	Alexander Zverev(Germany)

Women's Singles	Naomi Osaka (Japan)	Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	Mate Pavic (Croatia) & Bruno Soares (Brazil)	Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands)& Nikola Mektic (Croatia)
Women's Doubles	Laura Siegemund (Germany) & Vera Zvonareva (Russia)	Nicole Melichar (United States) & Yifan Xu (China)

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