

Weekly One Liners 17th August to 23rd of August 2020

India Independence Day 2020: PM Narendra Modi Speech

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** unfurled the national flag and delivered his seventh consecutive Independence Day speech from the iconic Red Fort. In the 1 hour 26-minute speech, he focused on the themes of **“Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)”**, **“Vocal for local”** and **“Make in India to Make for World”**.

In his address to the nation on the occasion of India's 74th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauded frontline workers fighting against novel coronavirus. PM Modi highlighted the importance to make India self-reliant, saying it was not just a word but should be a “mantra” for all countrymen. The Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort was attended by over 4,000 people, including diplomats, officials and media personnel. Safety protocols were in place for the event, including social distancing and wearing masks.

21 Gun Salute:

The unfurling of the tri-colour is synchronised with the 21 Gun Salute fired by the gunners of the elite 2233 Field Battery (Ceremonial). Major Shweta Pandey assisted the PM in unfurling the National Flag. The ceremonial battery is being commanded by Lt Col Jitendra Singh Mehta and the Gun Position Officer is Naib Subedar (AIG), Anil Chand. The PM also received the Guard of Honour contingent, consisting of one officer and 24 men each from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Delhi Police.

Key highlights on PM's speech:

- The Prime Minister winds up his speech with chants of **Bharat Mata ki Jai, Vande Mataram, Jai Hind!**
- PM Narendra Modi announces the launch of the **National Digital Health Mission**, under which all Indian would get a **unique health ID**. Every Indian will be given a health ID which will contain all your information. What disease you suffer from, which doctor has been consulted, what medicines you are on will all be included in your health ID.

- **Optical fibre network** to be extended to all villages. In the last 5 years, 1.5 Lakh village panchayats have been connected with optical fibre. Within the next 1000 days, India will take optical fibre to 6 lakh villages.
- India is one of the top 5 nations in renewable energy. India is working to decrease pollution in the country. India is manufacturing 2000 crore ethanol, which will benefit the entire country.
- PM Modi announced that the centre has set up a committee to reconsider the minimum age for marriage of girls.
- India to focus on the two types of dolphins in Indian rivers, under **Project Dolphin**.
- India to develop Ladakh into the carbon-neutral state, just like Sikkim.
- India to focus on neighbourhood first. **ASEAN** also a part of India's focus.
- **Coastal Infrastructure** is important for the security of the nation. Andaman and Nicobar Islands provided with high-speed internet. In the next **1000 days, Lakshadweep** will also be connected with high-speed internet.
- The Prime Minister further highlighted the role of women empowerment and spoke about the initiatives taken by the government to give further impetus to the growth of India's women. He highlighted how now women have the opportunity to get a permanent employment in the **Indian Army and Indian Navy**.

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- The Prime Minister spoke one year of revoking of **Article 370**. He stated that this one year has paved the way for a new journey of development for Jammu and Kashmir.
- Under '**Jal Jeevan Mission**', India has been able to provide clean water to over 2 crore families, especially in far-flung areas.
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund was created to provide modern infrastructure to the farmers. The fund is worth **Rs 1 lakh crore**.
- With the identification of **110 aspirational districts**, special efforts are being taken to ensure that people get access to better education, better health facilities and better employment opportunities.
- The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of education in working towards created an '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**'. He highlighted that the newly launched New Education Policy, which has been launched after almost 3 decades, will make Indian students global citizens.
- India has broken all its past FDI records. India saw **18 per cent jump in FDI** even during a pandemic.
- India is developing three COVID-19 vaccines, which are currently under trials. The Prime Minister assured that he will ensure that the vaccines reach everyone once they get all the required approval.

Cabinet approves setting up of National Recruitment Agency

The establishment of "**National Recruitment Agency**" has received the Union Cabinet's approval. The National Recruitment Agency (NRA) will result in transformational reform in the recruitment process for central government jobs. NRA will comprise of representatives of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the **SSC, RRB as well as IBPS**. NRA is expected to be a specialist body which will offer the state-of-the-art technology and best practices to the field of Central Government recruitment. A sum of **Rs. 1517.57 crore** has been sanctioned by the Government of India for the National Recruitment Agency (NRA).

The National Recruitment Agency (NRA) would be a multi-agency body which be responsible to conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET). Some important features of CET:

- The **CET** will be conducted to shortlist candidates for the **Group B and C (non-technical) posts**.
- The scores received by the candidate in CET shall be valid for a period of **3-years** from the date of declaration of the result.
- There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts to be taken by a candidate to appear in the Common Eligibility Test subject to the upper age limit.
- Separate CET each for the three levels of matriculate (**10th pass**), higher secondary (**12th pass**) and the graduated candidates.
- Based on the screening done at the CET score level, the final selection for recruitment shall be made via separate specialised **Tiers (II, III etc)** of examination which shall be conducted by the respective recruitment agency.
- Candidates will be able to reap the advantage of registering on a common portal and give a choice of Centres.
- CET would be available in a number of languages.
- CET is expected to significantly reduce the recruitment cycle.

IIT Madras Tops Atal Rankings (ARIIA) 2020

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained the top position in the '**Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements, (ARIIA) 2020** for being the best centrally funded institution in India. The 2020 '**Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA),**' was released by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, in presence of Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank,' in a virtual event on 18 August 2020.

The top five centrally funded institutions in the list:

S. No.	Winner
1	IIT Madras
2	IIT Bombay
3	IIT Delhi
4	IISc Bengaluru
5	IIT Kharagpur

For the first time, ARIIA 2020 rankings had a special prize category for women-only higher educational institutions. The winners of this category included:

S. No.	Winner
1	Avinashilingam Institute For Home Science And Higher Education For Women
2	Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women

ARIIA 2020

In 2020, 674 Institutions of National Importance, Central Universities and centrally funded technical institutions participated in the rankings, as compared to 496 in 2019.

2020 ranking is based upon an evaluation on seven parameters which includes

- Budget and funding support,
- Infrastructure and facilities,
- Awareness, promotions, and support for idea generation and innovation,
- Promotion and support for entrepreneurship development,
- Innovative learning methods and courses,
- Intellectual-property generation, technology transfer and commercialization and
- Innovation in the governance of the institution.

The award was given in the following 6 categories:

- Centrally Funded Institutions
- Women (only higher educational institutions)
- Private Institutions
- Private/Deemed Universities
- State-Funded Autonomous Institutions
- State-Funded Universities

About ARIIA:

The ARIIA ranking was launched in 2019 by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The objective of ARIIA is to rank higher education institutions and universities in India as per Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Startup, and Development amongst faculty and students.

Swachh Survekshan Awards 2020 Announced

Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards have been announced and **Indore** became India's cleanest city for the fourth year in a row. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the Swachh Survekshan 2020 result at

the Award Ceremony '**Swachh Mahotsav**' in the national capital being organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA). This is the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of the country. A total of 129 awards will be handed out to the top-performing cities and states.

Swachh Survekshan was started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016. While **Mysuru** won the award for the cleanest city of India in 2016, Indore retained the top spot for three consecutive years in **2017, 2018 and 2019**. One city has been given only one Award. Cities population is as per 2011 Census.

Ranking Methodology:

- Cleanest City
- Self Sustainable City
- Maximum Citizen Feedback
- Best Citizen Feedbacks
- Fastest Mover
- Best Innovation Award
- Best Citizen Led Initiative

Here is the list of the all the winners across several categories:

Cleanest city awards for cities with a population above 1 lakh:

- Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
- Surat (Gujarat)
- Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)

Cleanest city awards for cities with a population below 1 lakh:

- Karad (Maharashtra)
- Saswad (Maharashtra)
- Lonavla (Maharashtra)

Cleanest state with more than 100 cities:

- Chhattisgarh

Cleanest state with less than 100 cities:

- Jharkhand

Cleanest Ganga town:

- Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)

Maximum citizen participation in keeping city areas clean:

- Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh)

The cleanest megacity with more than 40 lac population:

- Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

Best self-sustainable cities with a population above 40 lakh:

- Bengaluru (Karnataka)
- Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh)

Fastest-moving city in terms of cleanliness:

- Jodhpur (Rajasthan)

Self-sustainable city in terms of cleanliness (more than 10 lakh population):

- Rajkot (Gujarat)

Self-sustainable city in terms of cleanliness (less than 10 lakh population):

- Mysuru (Karnataka)

Cleanest small cities:

- Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)
- Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh)

The cleanest city with a population between 1 lakh to 3 lakh:

- Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)

Cleanest capital city:

- New Delhi (Union Territory of New Delhi) and the NDMC.

Fastest moving cleanest capital city:

- Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

Fastest moving self-sustainable cleanest capital city:

- Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)

Cleanest Ganga towns:

- Kanauj (Uttar Pradesh)
- Chunar (Uttar Pradesh)

Cleanest city in the North Zone:

- Gangaghat (Uttar Pradesh)

Cleanest city in the North Zone (pop. 25k - 50k):

- Nawashahar (Punjab)

Cleanest city in the North Zone (pop. below 25k):

- Awagarh (Uttar Pradesh)

Cleanest city northeast Zone:

- Jorhat (Assam)

Cleanest city in the northeast Zone (pop. 25k - 50k):

- Mokukchung (Nagaland)

Cleanest city in the northeast Zone (pop. below 25k):

- Jiribam (Manipur)

Cleanest Cities in the east zone:

- Dhamtari (Odisha)
- Jashpur Nagar (Chhattisgarh)
- Patan (Gujarat)

Cleanest Cities in the south zone:

- Palamaneru (Andhra Pradesh)
- Medchal (Telangana)
- Periyapatna (Karnataka)

Cleanest Cities in the western zone:

- Ratnagiri (Maharashtra)
- Shirdi (Maharashtra)
- Panhala (Maharashtra)

Cleanest cantonments in the country:

- Jalandhar Cantt.
- Delhi Cantt.
- Meerut Cantt.

Cities awarded for citizen-led awareness towards cleanliness:

- Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)
- Karimnagar (Telangana)
- Sihora (Madhya Pradesh)



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Best performing state with more than 100 cities:

- Maharashtra

Best performing state with less than 100 cities:

- Madhya Pradesh

National Sports Awards 2020 announced

National Sports Awards are conferred every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. The Government of India has announced the list of winners of the National Sports Awards 2020, as per the recommendation of the Selection Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) **Mukundakam Sharma** (former Judge of Supreme Court of India). Honourable President of India will confer the awards to the awardees at a specially organized function through virtual mode from **Rashtrapati Bhawan on 29th August, 2020.**

Here is the complete list of winners of the award:

- **RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD:** This award is being conferred for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

S.No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1	Shri Rohit Sharma	Cricket
2	Shri Mariyappan T.	Para Athletics
3	Ms. Manika Batra	Table Tennis
4	Ms. Vinesh	Wrestling
5	Ms. Rani	Hockey

- **ARJUNA AWARD:** This award is being conferred for consistent outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

S.No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1	Shri Atanu Das	Archery
2	Ms. Dutee Chand	Athletics
3	Shri Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy	Badminton
4	Shri Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty	Badminton

S.No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
5	Shri Vishesh Bhriguvanshi	Basketball
6	Subedar Manish Kaushik	Boxing
7	Ms. Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing
8	Shri Ishant Sharma	Cricket
9	Ms. Deepti Sharma	Cricket
10	Shri Sawant Ajay Anant	Equestrian
11	Shri Sandesh Jhingan	Football
12	Ms. Aditi Ashok	Golf
13	Shri Akashdeep Singh	Hockey
14	Ms. Deepika	Hockey
15	Shri Deepak	Kabaddi
16	Shri Kale Sarika Sudhakar	Kho Kho
17	Shri Dattu Baban Bhokanal	Rowing
18	Ms. Manu Bhaker	Shooting
19	Shri Saurabh Chaudhary	Shooting
20	Ms. Madhurika Suhas Patkar	Table Tennis
21	Shri Divij Sharan	Tennis
22	Shri Shiva Keshavan	Winter Sports
23	Ms. Divya Kakran	Wrestling
24	Shri Rahul Aware	Wrestling
25	Shri Suyash Narayan Jadhav	Para Swimming
26	Shri Sandeep	Para Athletics
27	Shri Manish Narwal	Para Shooting

- **DRONACHARYA AWARD:** This award is being conferred to coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.

Life- Time Category

S.No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1	Shri Dharmendra Tiwary	Archery
2	Shri Purushotham Rai	Athletics
3	Shri Shiv Singh	Boxing
4	Shri Romesh Pathania	Hockey
5	Shri Krishan Kumar Hooda	Kabaddi
6	Shri Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar	Para Powerlifting
7	Shri Naresh Kumar	Tennis
8	Shri Om Parkash Dahiya	Wrestling

Regular Category

S.No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1	Shri Jude Felix Sebastian	Hockey
2	Shri Yogesh Malviya	Mallakhamb
3	Shri Jaspal Rana	Shooting
4	Shri Kuldeep Kumar Handoo	Wushu
5	Shri Gaurav Khanna	Para Badminton

- **DHYAN CHAND AWARD:** This award is being conferred for the life time contribution towards the development of sports.

S.No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1	Shri Kuldip Singh Bhullar	Athletics
2	Ms. Jincy Philips	Athletics
3	Shri Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe	Badminton
4	Ms. Trupti Murgunde	Badminton
5	Ms. N. Usha	Boxing
6	Shri Lakha Singh	Boxing
7	Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu	Football

S.No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
8	Shri Ajit Singh	Hockey
9	Shri Manpreet Singh	Kabaddi
10	Shri J. Ranjith Kumar	Para Athletics
11	Shri Satyaprakash Tiwari	Para Badminton
12	Shri Manjeet Singh	Rowing
13	Late Shri Sachin Nag	Swimming
14	Shri Nandan P Bal	Tennis
15	Shri Netarpal Hooda	Wrestling

- **RASHTRIYA KHEL PROSAHAN PURUSKAR:** This award is being conferred to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) as well as individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and its development.

S.No.	Category	Entity recommended for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar, 2020
1	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent	1. Lakshya Institute 2. Army Sports Institute
2	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd.
3	Employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures	Air Force Sports Control Board
4	Sports for Development	International Institute of Sports Management (IISM)

- **MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD (MAKA) TROPHY:** This award is being conferred to the overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments.

1. Panjab University, Chandigarh

- **TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARDS 2019:** It is being awarded to recognize the spirit of adventure among the people of the country.

S.No.	Name of the Sports person	Category
1	Ms. Anita Devi	Land Adventure
2	Col. Sarfraz Singh	Land Adventure
3	Shri Taka Tamut	Land Adventure
4	Shri Narender Singh	Land Adventure
5	Shri Keval Hiren Kakka	Land Adventure
6	Shri Satendra Singh	Water Adventure
7	Shri Gajanand Yadava	Air Adventure
8	Late Shri Magan Bissa	Life Time Achievement

National Affairs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the **“One Sun, One World, One Grid” (OSOWOG) plan.** Under this, there will be a trans-national electricity grid, for supplying solar power across the globe.
- A campaign on **“Ayush for Immunity”** has been launched by the Ministry of AYUSH. The campaign was rolled out during a webinar which featured the participation of More than 50 thousand people. The webinar was streamed by the Ministry of AYUSH on its new digital communication platform **Ayush Virtual Convention Centre (AVCC).**
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal **“Swasthya”** and e-newsletter on health and nutrition **“ALEKH”.** The ministry has also announced the opening of **National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal.**
- An **“Innovation Challenge Fund”** of £3 Million has been launched by the government of **United Kingdom (UK) in India.** The newly launched fund aims to support research and development (R&D) proposals to address the challenges posed to the economy and the environment, by the **COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Drone based surveillance system** has been introduced by the Indian Railways for Railway security. The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has decided to employ large number of drones for the purpose of Railway security.

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has signed a joint communication with Ministry of Rural Development to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities. Through the joint communication, both ministries will together promote sustainable livelihood opportunities among tribal women **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** under **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).**

States in the News

- Chief Minister of **Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio** has launched **“Yellow Chain”** a centralized e-commerce system to provide the people of the state integrated platform to build sustainable businesses either in products or services from their own locations for sustainable economic activity.
- **Chhattisgarh government** has announced to launch a student centric scheme named as **“Padhai Tuhar Para”.** The scheme will enable the school students to study with the help of community in their localities and villages, in view of the suspension of classes due to coronavirus outbreak.
- Quality Control Lab has been set up by the **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)** in **Porbandar, Gujarat.** The Quality Control Lab will offer tests for seafood processors as well as exporters to confirm to product safety as per international regulatory requirements.
- The tertiary processing centres of **“Trifood Project”** of **TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has been virtually launched by the Union Tribal Affairs Minister **Arjun Munda.** The Trifood project has been launched in **Raigad, Maharashtra and Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.** This project is expected to help in encouraging the tribal entrepreneurship.
- The Chhatarpur Police of Madhya Pradesh has been running a campaign **“Ek Sankalp-Bujurgo ke naam”** in the midst of corona infection in the state. **“Ek Sankalp-Bujurgo ke naam”** i.e. ‘a commitment for elders’ is proving to be a boon for the elderly and helpless people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

International Affairs

- Malian President, **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita** has resigned and dissolved parliament hours after mutinying soldiers detained him at gunpoint, plunging a country already facing an insurgency and mass protests deeper into crisis.
- **Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona** has been sworn in as the 54th President of Dominican Republic. He succeeds **Danilo Medina of Liberation Party**.
- **Keith Rowley** sworn in as **Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago** for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term. He is from the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).
- **Francisco Pascual Eyegue Obama Asue** was reappointed as the Prime Minister of the **Republic of Equatorial Guinea** for 3rd consecutive term.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- An Memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed by India's homegrown ecommerce player "Flipkart" with **Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Patna**. The MoU will encourage industry focused applied research in the areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML).
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and Business Sweden** on behalf of India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre has signed a virtual Statement of Intent (SoI) to expand the culture of innovation in the country.
- **Ministry of Skill Development** has inked an MoU with **Ministry of Shipping to promote skill development in port and maritime sector**. The partnership between the two ministries seeks to skill, re-skill and up-skill the manpower for the growing maritime industry as well as development of coastal community.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the **Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K)** with the Switzerland-based **HELP Logistics**.
- **Uttar Pradesh government** has signed a 'plan of cooperation' with **Israel government** to resolve water crisis in Bundelkhand region.

Books and Authors

- Retired Air Vice Marshal, **Arjun Subramaniam** has authored a new book titled, "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020". It is the sequel to his 1st book, '**India's Wars: A Military History, 1947-1971**'.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Punjab National Bank** has launched a campaign named '**DIGITAL APNAYEN**' to encourage customers to use digital banking channels. The campaign launched by the bank's Managing Director **S S Mallikarjuna Rao** on the occasion of Independence Day is till March 31, 2021.
- **HDFC Bank** has launched "**Shaurya KGC Card**" for Indian armed forces personnel. The card will offer agriculture loans for military and paramilitary professionals. A first-of-its-kind product for over 45 lakh Indian armed forces personnel.
- Fino Payments Bank has launched **Jan BachatKhata (JBK)**, which is an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account that brings neo-banking experience to consumers.
- '**Loan against Securities**' is an unique digital solution launched by the **YES Bank** under its loan in seconds platform. "**Loan against Securities**" will enable customers to avail loan facility against the securities that they hold.
- **Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB)** has launched **LVB DigiGo**, a digital initiative to enable the opening of savings account instantly. LVB's new initiative will help people to avail the most required banking services instantly through the website.

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- **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)** will launch India's first bullion index named "**Buldex**", on August 24, 2020.
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a USD 1 billion (Rs 7,485 crore) loan to construct the modern, high-speed 82-kilometre (**Delhi - Meerut**) **Uttar Pradesh Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** in India.
- **Muthoot Finance** has tie-up with **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance** to offer COVID-19 insurance cover of up to Rs 1 lakh against the gold loan.
- **Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL)**, wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited has acquired majority equity stake in Chennai-based Vitalic Health Pvt. Ltd. as well as in its subsidiaries. Total transaction costed approximately Rs 620 crores.
- A "**Green Deposit Programme**" has been launched by the HSBC India. The "**green deposit programme**" has been launched exclusively for corporate clients. Under this programme, the bank will use the deposits to finance green initiatives and environment friendly projects.
- The proposed acquisition of C&S Electric Limited by Siemens Limited has received the approval of **the Competition Commission of India (CCI)**. The proposed combination envisions acquisition of 100% of the share capital of **C&S Electric Limited (C&S) by Siemens Limited (Siemens India)**.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Kaushik Khona** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of **GoAir Airline**. He will replace **Vinay Dube**. **GoAir** is an Indian low-cost airline based in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is owned by the Indian business conglomerate Wadia Group.
- **Amritsar** based e-mobility start-up, **eBikeGO** has appointed Indian cricketer **Harbhajan Singh** as its brand ambassador.
- Government of India has appointed **Rakesh Asthana** as the new director-general of the **Border Security Force (BSF)**.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** has appointed **GP Garg** as executive director (ED).
- **Ashok Lavasa** has stepped down as the Election Commissioner of India. He has submitted his resignation to President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has appointed **Satya Pal Malik** as the **Governor of Meghalaya** with effect from 18 August 2020. Prior to this, He was serving as the **Governor of Goa**.
- Sports eyewear brand "**Oakley**" has appointed Indian cricketer, **Rohit Sharma** as its brand ambassador for a period of two years in India.
- The **Government of India** has appointed **Rajiv Kumar** as the new **Election Commissioner of India**. He will be appointed as the election commissioner "with effect from the date he assumes the office. He will succeed Ashok Lavasa who has submitted his resignation to the Indian President.

Defence News

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has launched an **Interceptor Boat 'ICGS C-454'** in **Surat, Gujarat**. The Interceptor Boat 'ICGS C-454' has been built by Larsen and Toubro and it has a maximum speed of **45 nautical miles or 83 kilometers per hour**.

Ranks and Reports

- India has been ranked 57th in Digital Quality of Life Index 2020 with overall score of 0.5. Denmark has topped the index and was followed by Sweden.

Science & Technology

- **Google and Central Water Commission(CWC) of India** have launched the flood forecasting initiatives across India for the past several months.
- **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, DIAT (DU)** has launched two products namely "**Pavitrapati**" & "**Aushada tara**" to fight against COVID-19. "**Pavitrapati**" is an Ayurvedic based Biodegradable Face Mask which will act as a virus neutraliser in order to provide resistance against the bacteria / virus. These masks will be made available on online platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart etc.
- "**Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat**" has been launched by the Union Minister of Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad. It aims to invite innovators, startups and students to use two

microprocessors namely “**SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit)**” to develop various technology products. SHAKTI & VEGA microprocessors have been developed by **IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) respectively.**

Summit and Conference

- **Russia** chaired the **4th Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group.** The session which was held over video conference, featured the participation of delegates from Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa and India. **Rakesh Asthana**, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau led the Indian delegation that participated in the meeting.
- The **13th Session** of the **India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting on Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation** was held to review the continuing growth of broad based cooperation between the two countries. The session was co-chaired by Dr. **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, Minister of External Affairs of India and Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates.
- **5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP)** was held virtually. The **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, and the Parliament of Austria** jointly organized the two day Conference with the support of the United Nations (UN). Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** participated in the inaugural ceremony of the conference.

Sports News

- Former Indian Captain and the World Cup winner, **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** has announced his retirement from the International Cricket. He was the only captain to win all three major International Cricket Council (ICC) trophies i.e. the World Cup, the World Twenty20 and the Champions Trophy. He represented India in 350 ODI's, 98 T20 Internationals (T20Is) and 90 test matches.
- Indian batsman **Suresh Raina** has announced his retirement from the International Cricket. He made his international debut against Sri Lanka in 2005 and represented India in 226 ODIs, 78 T20Is and 18 Tests in his cricketering career that spanned over 13 years.

- **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain. **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull-Netherlands) came second followed by **Valtteri Bottas** (Mercedes-Finland) at third.
- “**Fit India Youth Club**” initiative has been launched by the Union Minister of Youth and Sports, **Kiren Rijiju**. Fit India Youth Club is a nation-wide initiative which has been launched to promote fitness among every citizen.
- **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** has launched the web platform “**E-Pathshala**” in partnership with the Sports Authority of India (SAI). It has been split into three parts: My Football Culture, My Skills and My Training.
- The title sponsorship rights of **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020** has been bagged by the fantasy gaming start-up “**Dream 11**”. The fantasy gaming start-up has bagged the title sponsorship rights for Rs 222 crore.
- England World Cup winner all-rounder, **Laura Marsh** has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket. She was a key member of the England Women's team that won the 2017 World Cup.
- The governing body for the Olympic Movement in India, **Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and INOX Group** has signed a sponsorship agreement to support Team India for **Tokyo Olympics**, which was rescheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021.
- **Ronnie O'Sullivan** defeated **Kyren Wilson** with a score of **18-8** to win the **World Snooker Championship 2020**. He has claimed his sixth **World Championship title** at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre.

Important Days

- **World Humanitarian Day (WHD)** is observed globally on **19th August** every year. This day is celebrated to pay tribute to humanitarian personnel and those workers who lost or risked their lives while doing humanitarian service. This year is the 11th edition of World Humanitarian Day.
- Every year on 20th August, the birth anniversary of **Rajiv Gandhi** is celebrated as **Sadbhavana Diwas** or Harmony Day. This year on 20th August 2020, we are going to celebrate the 76th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

- **Indian Akshay Urja Day** or Renewable Energy Day is observed on **20th August** every year. **Indian Akshay Urja** is observed to mark the importance of renewable energy resources in India.
- **World Photography Day** is celebrated every year on **August 19**. It is a day to recognise the importance of photography in our world. Pictures are a way to preserve memories, to capture a fleeting moment in time. In fact, it is said that a picture is worth a thousand words.
- United Nations observes 21st August every year as **International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism**.
- The **World Senior Citizen Day** is observed globally on **21st August** every year.
- On the **2nd death anniversary of the former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that the Gwalior-Chambal Expressway will be **named Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chambal Progressway**.
- Minister of State (I/C), Housing and Urban Affairs, **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched a mobile application for **Urban Local Bodies (ULB) functionaries**.
- **Delhi Police** has signed an Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, an autonomous Institute under Ministry of AYUSH. The MoU will offer Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health services in the residential colonies of Delhi Police through a mobile unit named '**Dhanwantari Rath**' and **Police Wellness Centres**.
- **India Post** has released a set of five commemorative **postage stamps and a miniature sheet** on **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** in India on 15th August 2020 on the occasion of **74th Independence Day**.
- Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, **Santosh Gangwar** has launched the official Logo of "Labour Bureau". It displays the three goals that Labour Bureau aspires to achieve in producing quality data i.e. Accuracy, Validity and Reliability.
- Google has launched its employment application named '**Kormo Jobs**' in India.
- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched a game on COVID-19 titled as "**The Corona Fighters**". The game has been launched with a target to influence the players' actions in the real world, reminding them to take the right precautions and escape infection.

Obituaries

- Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister, **Chetan Chauhan** passed away. He played 40 Tests matches for India, during his 12-year-long cricket career, scoring 2084 runs with 16 half-centuries and two wickets.
- Indian classical vocalist, **Pandit Jasraj** passed away. He was born in Haryana in 1930, his musical career spanned eight decades. He received several national and international awards in his career.
- Director-actor **Nishikant Kamat** passed away. He made his directorial debut in 2005 with Marathi movie Dombivali Fast, which won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Marathi.
- Computer scientist **Russell Kirsch** who invented the "pixel" and scanned the world's first digital photograph, passed away.
- Former British tennis player, two-time Grand Slam doubles champion and equal rights pioneer **Angela Buxton** has passed away.
- Former Cricketer, Administrator and Pitch Curator, **Gopalswamy Iyenger Kasturirangan** passed away.

Miscellaneous News

- The **Union Territory of Puducherry** has celebrated its 59th anniversary of the "**De-Jure**" day on **16th August**. The Puducherry administration organized a function at the Keezhoor memorial where the referendum was signed to mark the occasion. So on that day, the "De-Jure" (The Legal Merger of the UT with the Indian Union) was effected.

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Static Takeaways

- Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh.
- Minister of State (I/C) for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy: Shripad Yesso Naik.
- Union Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda.
- Minister of State for Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta.
- Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal.
- Union Minister for Rural Development: Narendra Singh Tomar.
- Chief Minister of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio; Governor of Nagaland: R. N. Ravi.
- Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel; Governor: Anusuiya Uikey.
- Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority: K S Srinivas.
- Chief Minister of Gujarat: Vijaybhai R. Rupani; Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat.
- Chairman of TRIFED: Ramesh Chand Meena.
- Republic of Equatorial Guinea President: Teodoro Obiang.
- Republic of Equatorial Guinea Capital: Malabo.
- Republic of Equatorial Guinea Currency: Central African CFA franc.
- Dominican Republic Capital: Santo Domingo.
- Dominican Republic Currency: Dominican Peso.
- The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Capital: Port of Spain.
- The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Currency: Trinidad and Tobago dollar.
- The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago President: Paula-Mae Weekes.
- Republic of Mali Capital: Bamako; Currency: West African CFA franc.
- Chief Executive Officer of Flipkart: Kalyan Krishnamurthy.
- PNB Headquarters: New Delhi.
- PNB Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan.
- PNB Founders: Lala Lajpat Rai, Dyal Singh Majithia.
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We Understand Your World.
- Chairman of Fino Payments Bank: Prof Mahendra Kumar Chouhan.
- Fino Payments Bank established: 13 July 2006.
- MD & CEO of Fino Payments Bank: Rishi Gupta.
- Headquarters of Fino Payments Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- MD & CEO of Yes Bank: Prashant Kumar.
- Headquarters of Lakshmi Vilas Bank: Chennai.
- Lakshmi Vilas Bank MD & CEO: S Sundar (Interim).
- Muthoot Finance Head Office: Kochi, Kerala.
- Muthoot Finance Chairman: M.G. George Muthoot.
- Muthoot Finance Managing Director: George Alexander Muthoot.
- Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Kotak Mahindra General Insurance MD and CEO: Mahesh Balasubramanian.
- Founder & CEO of Netmeds: Pradeep Dadha.
- GoAir Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- GoAir Founder: Jehangir Wadia.
- GoAir Established: 2005.
- BSF formed: 1 December 1965; BSF Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi; Headquarter: Mumbai.
- Chief Election Commissioner of India: Sunil Arora.
- President of Asian Development Bank: Masatsugu Asakawa.
- Meghalaya National Park: Balphakram National Park, Nokrek National Park.
- Chief Minister of Meghalaya: Conrad Sangma.
- President of UAE: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi; Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham.
- Founders of Dream 11: Harsh Jain and Bhavit Sheth.
- (Interim) Chief Executive Officer of Board of Control for Cricket in India: Hemang Amin.
- President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India: Sourav Ganguly.
- Chief Minister of Puducherry: PV. Narayanasamy.

- Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry: Kiran Bedi.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- Chief Minister of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal; Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- CEO of Google: Sundar Pichai; Headquarters: California, United States.
- Central Water Commission Chairman: Rajendra Kumar Jain.
- Central Water Commission Headquarters: Sewa Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: Mahendra Nath Pandey.
- Ministers of State (I/C) of Shipping: Mansukh L. Mandaviya.
- Director-General of Indian Coast Guard: Krishnaswamy Natarajan.
- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Aditya Nath; Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- Prime Minister of Israel: Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Chairperson of Competition Commission of India: Ashok Kumar Gupta.

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