

## Weekly One Liners 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Ministry of Culture announces 7 new circles of ASI

- The Union Minister of State for **Culture and Tourism** (IC), Shri **Prahlad Singh Patel** has announced **7 new circles** of **Archaeological Survey of India**.
- These new circles have been formed in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Gujarat.
- Along with the 7 new circles, the minister also added that the **Hampi Mini Circle** in Karnataka has been **converted** into a **full fledged circle**.

#### Here is the list of all 7 new circles:

- Trichy in **Tamil Nadu**
- Raiganj in **West Bengal**
- Rajkot in **Gujarat**
- Jabalpur in **Madhya Pradesh**
- Jhansi in **Uttar Pradesh**
- Meerut in **Uttar Pradesh**
- Hampi in **Karnataka**

### NITI Aayog releases report on Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020

- **NITI Aayog** has released the report on **Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020** in partnership with the **Institute of Competitiveness**.
- **Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu** occupied the **top three ranks** in the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020.
- It evaluates the export preparedness and performance of Indian states.
- It identifies the challenges and opportunities; improve the effectiveness of government policies; and promote a facilitative regulatory framework. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu occupied the top three ranks in the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020.

The structure of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 comprises of **4 pillars**:

- **Policy**
- **Business Ecosystem**
- **Export Ecosystem**
- **Export Performance**

According to the report, **India faces** the following **three fundamental challenges** in the export promotion:

- i) intra- and inter-regional disparities in export infrastructure
- ii) poor trade support and growth orientation among states
- iii) poor R&D infrastructure to promote complex and unique exports.

### National News

- Union Minister for road transport and highways, Nitin Gadkari has launched a mobile app named '**Harit Path**' to monitor plantation along national highways.
- An online system of **Registration and Renewal of Jewellers** has been launched along with the online system of recognition and renewal of the **Assaying and Hallmarking Centres**. These systems are expected to bring about ease of doing business for the jewellers as well as the entrepreneurs. **Hallmarking** of precious metals will become mandatory from **1st June 2021**.
- "**Tribes India Showroom**" has been e-inaugurated in Indian Globe Chambers of LIC Western Zonal Office, Fort, **Mumbai**. It is an initiative of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to promote the livelihood of the tribal people marketing.
- **TRIFED** has launched the "**Tribes India on Wheels**", a van which brings various kinds of immunity boosting products like wild honey, organic haldi, amla, ginger, black pepper etc. It will boost the sales and enhance tribal income in these challenging times.

- The **longest river ropeway of India** has been inaugurated in Assam. It is **1.8 Km long** and connects Guwahati and North Guwahati over Brahmaputra river.
- The India Component of the **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)-Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA)** will be launched by the **NITI Aayog**. It aims to set up a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to decarbonize transport in India.
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal has virtually launched the **“National GIS-enabled Land Bank system“**.
- **“Chunauti”**, a Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest has been launched to further boost startups and software products with special attention on Tier-II towns of India.
- Government of **India**, the Government of **Maharashtra**, **Mumbai** Railway Vikas Corporation and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (**AIIB**) has signed a loan agreement for a **\$500 million** Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III.
- **Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare** has decided to **integrate** the electronic Pension Payment Order (e-PPO) with **Digi Locker**.

### States in the News

- **WWF-India Kerala** State Office is joining hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuranam for the first-ever state **“Dragonfly Festival”** in Kerala, christened **“Thumbimahotsavam 2020”**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched the **NRI unified portal**. It will enable Overseas Indians and NRIs to get their issues resolved with the help of this portal in cooperation with local administration or the State Government.
- Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan has commissioned the first-ever marine ambulance named **‘PRATHEEKSHA’** at Vizhinjam village of Thiruvananthapuram district in Kerala.

### International Affairs

- The **Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC)**, an independent body set up by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, has certified the **African** continent **free from wild Polio virus**.
- **China** has successfully launched 5th Earth observation satellite, **Gaofen-9 (05)**, from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.
- **Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe** has announced to **step down** from the post on 28 August 2020, because of the poor health conditions.

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Ministry of Tourism** has signed a formal MOU with the Travel Agents Association of India (**TAAI**) and **FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** with primary objective of **women empowerment**. The partnership aims to increase the participation of women in the tourism sector and make them an integral part of the tourism workforce of India.
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (**APEDA**) has signed **MoUs** with **AFC India Limited**, and National Cooperative Union of India (**NCUI**), Delhi, to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors.

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- **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**, Ministry of Electronics & IT has partnered with **CSC (Common Service Center)** e Governance Services India Limited to enable delivery of **UMANG** services to citizens through the network of 3.75 lakh CSCs.

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Axis Bank** has launched a new initiative named '**Gig-a-Opportunities**' that aims to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country.
- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company** and **Bharti AXA General Insurance Company** have announced the **merger** of their businesses which would result in an entity with a combined annual premium of Rs 16,447 crore and a market share of nearly 8.7%.
- **SBI General Insurance** has launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product called '**Shagun – Gift an Insurance**', which is a unique gift of Personal Accident policy. The policy can be gifted to anyone and is not necessary for the policy buyer to be related to the insured.
- **ICICI Bank** has become the **1st bank** in India to **use satellite data** to assess the creditworthiness of farmers.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development** has revealed a dedicated debt and credit guarantee product named as "**Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program** for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC)-Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)". It will offer undisturbed flow of credit to the last mile in rural areas hit by the pandemic.
- **Axis Bank** has introduced '**Liberty Savings Account**' for the Indian Youth, to address the ever-changing lifestyle needs of young and digitally interested Indians.
- **HDFC Bank** has announced a strategic partnership with **Adobe** to enhance the Digital Experiences of its Customers. The partnership will help HDFC Bank to deliver personalised digital experiences to existing as well as new customers, at any time and anywhere.

- Acquisition by **Lightstone Fund S.A.**, for and on behalf of Lightstone Global Fund (**LGT**) of certain equity stakes of 91Streets Media Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (**91Streets**), Ascent Health and Wellness Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (**Ascent**), API Holdings Pvt. Ltd. (**API**), Aahaan Commercials Pvt. Ltd. (**Aahaan**) and Lokprakash Vidhya Pvt. Ltd. (**Lokprakash**) has been approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) under **Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.**

### Appointments/Resignations

- Government of India has appointed **Ashwani Bhatia** as the managing director (**MD**) of the State Bank of India (**SBI**). He will replace PK Gupta.
- Renowned Indian scientist, **G Sathesh Reddy** was given a two-year extension as the **chairman** of Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**).
- Indian Energy Exchange (**IEX**), Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, **Rajiv Srivastava** has resigned from the post. **Satyanarayan Goel** has been given the additional charges as the interim MD and CEO of the company.
- **TikTok CEO, Kevin Mayer** has **stepped down** from the post.

### Awards and Recognitions

- Government of India Navratna, **NLC India Limited (NLCIL)** has bagged the "**Swachhta Hi Seva award**" for transforming Neyveli Township into a plastic-free, clean and green campus.
- Hyderabad's, **Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda** has bagged the first-ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations World Cup (MCWC) by Mind Sports Olympiad (**MSO**).
- Dutch Author, **Marieke Lucas Rijneveld** has won the International **Booker Prize 2020** for her debut novel '**The Discomfort of Evening**'. The book was in Dutch in 2018 and was translated into English by **Michele Hutchison**.

The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator to give equal recognition to both.

- **Ms. Sudha Painuli** has been selected for **National Award to Teachers 2020**. She is the **first NAT Awardee** from the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (**EMRS**) established under Ministry of Tribal Affairs. She is among the 47 outstanding teachers selected for the award.

### Summits & Conferences

- The **17th meeting** of the **India-Vietnam Joint Commission** on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held virtually. It was **co-chaired** by External Affairs Minister Dr. **S. Jaishankar** and his Vietnamese counterpart **Pham Binh Minh**.
- National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (**NCPUL**) has organised the **“World Urdu Conference”** in **New Delhi**.

### Ranks & Reports

- According to the data provided by Ministry of Finance to Rajya Sabha, Tamil Nadu has topped the list of **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** (PMMY) in availing loans to women. It was followed by **West Bengal** and **Karnataka**.

### Sports News

- Legendary **South African all-rounder Jaques Kallis**, **Pakistan** batting great **Zaheer Abbas** and Pune-born former Australian captain **Lisa Sthalekar** have been inducted into the **International Cricket Council’s Hall of Fame**
- Australian all-rounder **Cameron White** has announced his retirement from all forms of professional cricket.
- German professional sports club, **Bayern Munich** has won the **UEFA Champions League 2019-20** title by defeating Paris Saint-Germain 1-0.
- German Golfer **Sophia Popov** has won the **Women’s British Open 2020** title (rebranded as 2020 AIG Women’s Open).

- Indian Table Tennis star, **Poulomi Ghatak** has announced **retirement**.
- England’s **James Anderson** has become the first-ever fast bowler to take **600 wickets** in a **Test Match Cricket**.
- The most successful men’s doubles pair in tennis history, **Mike Bryan** and **Bob Bryan** have announced their **retirement** from the sport.
- **India** will host the **BRICS Games 2021**, which will be aligned with the **Khelo India Games** scheduled for next year.
- West Indies All-Rounder, **Dwayne John Bravo** has become the first bowler to scalp **500 wickets in Twenty20 cricket**.
- **Sri Lankan** Opening batsman, **Nishad Tharanga Paranavitana** has announced **retirement** from all forms of International Cricket.

### Books & Authors

- **Chetan Bhagat** has authored a book titled **‘One Arranged Murder’**.
- Union Minister, Jitendra Singh has released a book on cancer named **“Gastric Cancer”** edited by Dr **Ashok K. Vaid**.
- A book titled **“Who painted my lust red?”** has been authored by **Sree Iyer**.
- A book title **‘Cricket Drona’** on renowned coach **Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe** or Vasoo Paranjape is written by his son and current national selector **Jatin Paranjpe** along with Cricket Journalist **Anand Vasu**.

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- Indian Army Chief, General Manoj Mukund Naravane has released a book titled “**National Security Challenges: Young Scholars’ Perspective**” penned by university students.

### Science and Technology

- **Indian Space Research Organisation** and Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), **Odisha**, have signed a MoU to set up the first of its kind innovation cum incubation centre, **VSSUT Space Innovation Centre (VSSIC)** to promote space research.
- **Indian Institute of Technology’s Alumni Council** has signed an agreement with **Russia’s Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU)** and Russoft to build the world’s largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India.

### Defence News

- Chief of the Air Staff, **Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria** has launched a mobile application named ‘**MY IAF**’ to provide career-related information and details to the aspirants who wish to join the Indian Air Force.
- **India Pavilion** at the **Army-2020 International Military and Technical Forum** was inaugurated by Secretary (Defence Production) Raj Kumar and Indian Ambassador DB Venkatesh Verma at Moscow, Russia.
- The **14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD)** was held virtually. Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Mr Chan Heng Kee co-chaired the virtual dialogue.
- Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile **Training App** has been launched to provide support in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets as it has been affected adversely due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

### Important Days

- United Nations observes **23 August** every year as “**International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**”.
- The **World Water Week 2020** is observed as the World Water Week at Home (WWWeek at Home) from **24th August to 28th August 2020** with the **theme** ‘Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action’.
- The 100th anniversary of the **Women’s Equality Day** is being observed in the United States on **August 26**, to commemorate American women getting the constitutional right to vote.
- **International Day against Nuclear Tests** is observed globally on **29th August** every year.
- **India** observes **29th August** every year as **National Sports Day**. The day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of **Major Dhyhan Chand**, who was the star of Indian hockey team.

### Obituaries

- Former President of the Republic of Congo, **Pascal Lissouba** passed away.
- Writer-journalist, Commentator and Pop sociologist, **Gail Sheehy** passed away.
- **Arnold Meyer Spielberg**, a pioneered computer designer & an innovative engineer passed away.
- Black Panther movie actor, **Chadwick Boseman** passed away. He made his acting debut in the TV series “All My Children” in 2003.
- Former Supreme Court judge Justice, **A.R. Lakshmanan** passed away.

### Miscellaneous News

- An innovative feature ‘**Open API Service**’ has been introduced by **Aarogya Setu** to help the people, businesses and the economy in its efforts to return to normalcy.
- **Tata Group** is launching a new app named “**Super App**” purported to bring together the country’s disparate sales sector to offer a range of consumer goods.
- **Baggage Sanitization & Wrapping machine** has been launched by the **Ahmedabad**

- Railway Division** at Ahmedabad Railway Station, Gujarat. It uses ultraviolet radiation for 360 degree sanitization of the luggage.
- The **Agriculture Department of Jammu and Kashmir** has set up an e-auction portal to enhance trading of GI-tagged '**Kashmir Saffron**'. The portal will assure buyers to have access to quality 'Kashmir Saffron'.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed a "**Vendor Performance Evaluation System**" to create a transparent and comprehensive 'Performance Rating' System for its Consultants, Contractors and Concessionaires.
- Delhi Government** has launched the Fitness Campaign "**Healthy Body, Healthy Mind**" fitness campaign, for the students who are confined in their homes amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)** celebrated its **Golden Jubilee Anniversary on 28th August, 2020**. It was raised on 28th August, 1970, through a resolution of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

### Static Takeaways

- CEO of ICC: Manu Sawhney; Chairman: Imran Khwaja (Interim).
- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant.
- Chief Minister of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor: Jagdish Mukhi.
- President of China : Xi Jinping; Capital: Beijing; Currency: Renminbi.
- HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Axis Bank MD and CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry.
- Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development: Govinda Rajulu Chintala.
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi.
- SBI General Insurance MD and CEO: Prakash Chandra(P.C.) Kandpal; Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Bharti AXA General Insurance MD and CEO: Sanjeev Srinivasan; Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance MD & CEO: Bhargav Dasgupta; Headquarter: Mumbai, Maharashtra..
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman of State Bank of India: Rajnish Kumar.
- Director of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language: Dr Aquil Ahmed.
- Chairman of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority: Diwakar Nath Misra.
- Managing Director, AFC India Ltd.: B.Ganeshan.
- Union Minister of State for Tourism (I/C): Prahlad Singh Patel.
- Chairperson of Competition Commission of India: Ashok Kumar Gupta.
- President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: Jin Lique.
- Director General National Cadet Corps (NCC): Lt General Rajeev Chopra.
- Prime Minister of Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong.
- President of Russia: Vladimir Putin.
- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Aditya Nath; Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- Chief Minister of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.
- President of IIT Alumni Council: Ravi Sharma.
- Chairman of ISRO: K.Sivan; Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Director General of Bureau of Police Research and Development: V.S.K. Kaumudi.
- Chief Minister of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal; Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.

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