

Week 2 Current Affairs Update

8th- 14th July 2020

EVENTS

NATIONAL

SOCIAL

NTPC WINS 2019 CII-ITC SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



Date: 12th July, 2020

Key Points

- India's largest energy conglomerate the NTPC limited wins CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019.
- The PSU conferred the award under the category Corporate Excellence for Outstanding Accomplishment.
- NTPC also received a Commendation for Significant Achievement in the category of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- NTPC's flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program known as 'Girl Empowerment Mission', a four weeks residential program has been institutionalized in the vicinity of its power stations for the benefit of school going girls to support in their overall development.
- NTPC has also initiated Contractors' Labour Information Management System through which payment to contract labourers is paid on the last day of the month at project sites.
- CII-ITC Sustainability Award was instituted in 2006.
- CII-ITC Sustainability Awards recognize and reward excellence in sustainability practices.

- It is considered to be the most credible platform for sustainability recognition in the country.

MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT'S ROKO -TOKO CAMPAIGN



Date: 14th July, 2020

Key Points

- Madhya Pradesh government is all set to run a Roko -Toko campaign
- Roko -Toko literally means stop and campaign and aimed at for those who do not wear masks.
- In view of the global Covid-19 pandemic the use of masks is mandatory in all public places.
- Through this Roko-Toko program the selected voluntary organizations will provide masks to the people who do not wear masks in public places and will charge an amount of Rs 20 per mask from the concerned defaulter.
- The voluntary organizations in the district for this work will be selected by the concerned Collector.
- The selected organizations will be provided 100 masks created under 'Jeevan Shakti Yojana' on credit.
- On sale of the mask, the organizations will pay the concerned urban body at the rate of Rs 11 per mask.

UNICEF INDIA AND FICCI'S REIMAGINE CAMPAIGN



Date: 14th July, 2020

Key Points

- UNICEF India has announced its partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) for Reimagine Campaign.

- Socio Economic Development Foundation (SEDF) of FICCI aimed at to support the most vulnerable populations and children during the COVID-19 response and its after-math in India with the Reimagine Campaign.
- The UNICEF-FICCI partnership will also help avoid potential long-term damage to business operations and employment pipelines, and their most important resource, their personnel, their children and their families
- SEDF will reach out to its membership base to garner support for the campaign and leverage its resources to mobilize funds to help the most vulnerable population affected due to COVID disruption.
- The UNICEF-FICCI partnership will also help avoid potential long-term damage to business operations and employment pipelines, and their most important resource, their personnel, their children and their families
- FICCI SEDF and UNICEF geared up for collectively reimagine initiatives and actions that will benefit all children.
- Both the organisations will work on an action plan based on the document that is being developed jointly by the International Chambers of Commerce and UNICEF.

ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS MINISTER LAYS FOUNDATION STONES OF 11 NATIONAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN HARYANA



Date: 14th July, 2020

Key Points :

- Union Minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 national highway projects in Haryana.
- These highway projects are worth over Rs 20,000 crore
- A total of 11 projects with a cumulative length of 669 km were inaugurated in a virtual meeting.
- The projects for inauguration include 35.45 km 4-lane Rohna/ Hasangarh to Jhajjar section of NH 334B costing Rs 1,183 crore, 70 km 4-laning of Punjab-Haryana Border to Jind section of NH 71 (Rs 857 crore), and the 85.36

km 2-lane with paved shoulders Jind-Karnal Highway on NH 709 (Rs 200 crore).

- The projects for laying foundation stone include 227 km 6-lane access controlled Greenfield expressway from Ismailpur to Narnaul on NH 152D in 8 packages costing Rs 8,650 crore, 46 km 4-lane Gurugram Pataudi-Rewari section of NH 352W (Rs 1,524 crore) and 14.4 km 4-lane Rewari bypass for Rs 928 crore.
- According to the minister the ongoing term of the present government highway projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore will be developed in the State.

ECONOMY

QUALCOMM VENTURES TO INVEST RS 730 CRORE IN JIO PLATFORMS



Date: 13th July, 2020

Key Points:

- The Qualcomm Ventures, the investment arm of Qualcomm Incorporated, will invest Rs 730 crore in Jio Platforms
- The US-based investment arm of chipmaker will invest the above mentioned amount for a 0.15 % stake
- This is the 12th investor to pick up a stake in Reliance Industries Ltd' (RIL's) telecom and digital business in less than two months.
- Qualcomm Ventures' stake buy will take the total investments in Jio Platforms to Rs 1,18,318.45 crore for a combined 25.24 % holding.
- Jio Platforms houses RIL's telecom business under Reliance Jio Infocomm, the largest in the country with nearly 400 million subscribers
- Qualcomm's investments come at a time when RIL is pivoting itself as a consumer technology company
- With this investment and Qualcomm's deep technology knowhow and insights will help Jio delivering the 5G vision and the digital transformation of India.



PEOPLE

NATIONAL

RAHUL JOHRI

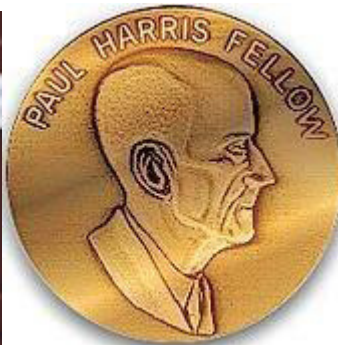


Date: 10th July

Keypoints :

- The Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) has accepted the resignation of Rahul Johri.
- Rahul Johri was working as the chief executive officer and tendered his resignation in December 2019.
- Earlier the resignation was not accepted by the BCCI and was given an extension till April 30th and finally this time the resignation has been accepted.
- IPL chief operating officer Hemang Amin has been appointed as the interim chief executive officer.
- Rahul Johri joined the Cricket Board in 2016 and had earlier put in his papers after the Supreme Court appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) had made way for the Sourav Ganguly as President.

EDAPPADI K PALANISWAMI



Date: 11th July

Keypoints :

- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has been honoured with the Paul Harris Fellow recognition.
 - It has been conferred by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.
 - The recognition is in the honour of Rotary founder, Paul Harris who contributed to The Rotary Foundation.
- The recognition is accorded to honour people who render efficient and basic services to its people.
- The services include providing drinking water, sanitation, prevention of diseases, environment, world peace etc.
 - The recognised fellow receives a certificate along with a lapel pin.

DR K SIVAN



Date: 11th July

Keypoints :

- Dr K Sivan has been named as the as the recipient of the Von Karman Award of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) 2020.
- The Von Karman Award is the highest distinction of the IAA.
- The award has been named after Theodore von Karman who was the founder and first president of the academy.
- Von Karman is notably known for his key advances in aerodynamics.
- The international award is given annually to recognize outstanding lifetime achievements in any branch of science without limit of nationality or gender.
- ISRO chief will be conferred with the award in French Capital next Year.
- Former ISRO Chiefs Dr K Kasturirangan and Dr. U.R. Rao have also been recipients of this prestigious award.

JACK CHARLTON



Date: 12th July

Keypoints :

- Famous England Footballer Jack Charlton dies at the age of 85 following a long time illness.
- Jack Charlton was a member of the World Cup winner in England's famous 1966 team.
- He was associated with more than two decades at Leeds United.
- Charlton made 773 appearances for Leeds over a 23 year period and won 35 caps for England, playing in every match during the 1966 World Cup.
- England clinched their only ever World Cup trophy in 1966 beating West Germany.
- Charlton also associated with management of various teams like Middlesbrough, Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle United and the Republic of Ireland's national team.



ISSUES

INTERNATIONAL

POLITY

US FORMALLY NOTIFIES ITS WHO WITHDRAWAL



Date: 8th July, 2020

Key Points

- The United States formally notified Congress and the United Nations that it is formally withdrawing from the World Health Organization (WHO).
- According to the official sources the notice of formal withdrawal has been submitted to the UN Secretary-General, who acts as the depository for the WHO
- The rules for exit include a one-year prior notice and fully meeting the payment of assessed financial obligations.
- With this the US will formally exit from the organisation in July 2021.
- Although the Trump administration move has drawn criticism from bipartisan lawmakers, medical associations, advocacy organizations and allies abroad.
- Health experts and policy makers have warned that withdrawal in the current pandemic could also interfere with clinical trials essential for developing vaccines, as well as efforts to trace the spread of the virus globally.

INDIA DROPPED FROM IRAN'S CHABAHAR RAIL PROJECT



Date: 14th July, 2020

Key Points :

- India has been dropped out of Iran's Chabahar rail project.
- According to reports Iran has gone ahead with the construction of the Chabahar rail project on its own without India's assistance.
- The reason for dropping was cited as funding delay from India.
- Interestingly, the sudden development seems suspicious as Iran and China finalised a 25-year, \$400 billion strategic partnership.
- These developments have its further implications as India and China recently engaged in a border-dispute that witnessed casualties from both side.
- The move is seen as a setback for India as Chabahar was its strategic response to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- The railway project was meant to be part of India's vow to the trilateral deal between India, Iran and Afghanistan to develop an alternate trade route to Afghanistan and Central Asia bypassing a hostile Pakistan.
- The project was signed between Iranian Railways and the Indian Railways Construction (IRCON) and the trilateral deal for Chabahar port was signed in 2016.
- Chabahar is the only seaport Iran has in its energy-rich Sistan-Balochistan province by the Gulf of Oman and consists of two ports with five berths each.
- Chabahar port is said to be counter to Pakistan's Gwadar port, which is being developed with the Chinese investment.

SOCIAL

SOFI REPORTS 690 MILLION PEOPLE WENT HUNGRY IN 2019



Date: 13th July, 2020

Key Points :

- According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020 report nearly 690 million people went hungry in 2019.
- The number is alarming as it is 8.9% of the world's population and an increase of 10 million since 2018 and of nearly 60 million since 2014.
- The report warned that the COVID-19 pandemic may add an additional 83 to 132 million people to the ranks of the undernourished in 2020.
- The report also warns that in the present situation it is difficult to reach the target of achieving zero hunger by 2030.
- The United Nation's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 report presents the most recent and authoritative estimates of the extent of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition across the globe.
- This annual flagship report is jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO
- The report targets a wide audience, including policy-makers, international organizations, academic institutions and the general public.
- This year the report includes a special focus on transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets.



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Nurturing Ambitions

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

BDL SIGNS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OF AKASH MISSILE



Date: 8th July, 2020

Key Points

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed Licence Agreement and Transfer of Technology (ToT) for Akash Missile Weapon System of Indian Army Variant with Defence Research and Development Laboratory of DRDO.
- The agreement was signed by Director of DRDL (DRDO) Production Director of BDL.
- Akash missile system is the first medium range Surface to Air missile (SAM) produced in India which can engage multiple targets from multiple directions.
- The missile flies at a speed of nearly 860 meters per second at a maximum altitude of 18km.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Date: 8th July, 2020

Key Points :

- India's largest data centre building, Yotta NM1 inaugurated in panvel, Maharashtra.
- It is the largest Tier IV Data Centre certified by Uptime Institute in Asia and second largest in the world.
- The ultramodern building, supported by a highly redundant on-site power infrastructure shall soon be powered by its own captive solar power plant.
- Yotta NM1 is first of the five data center buildings coming up at Integrated Yotta Data Center Park, which, once fully built, will have an overall capacity of 30,000 racks and 250 MW power.
- The centre can offer a high scale infrastructure which is capable of hosting global cloud, content and Over-the-top (OTT) operators besides the critical applications of the government and other organisations.
- It has been built by Yotta Infrastructure.

INTERNATIONAL

HEALTH

SRI LANKA AND MALDIVES ELIMINATES MEASLES, RUBELLA AHEAD OF TARGET



**World Health
Organization**

Date: 9th July, 2020

Key Points :

- Sri Lanka and Maldives becomes the first two countries in the South-East Asia region to eliminate both measles and rubella.
- These two countries eliminated the diseases ahead of the target year 2023.
- WHO South-East Asia regional director Poonam Khetrpal Singh informed the achievement and hailed the importance of joint efforts.
- Maldives and Sri Lanka reported its last endemic case of measles in 2009 and 2016 respectively.

- Sri Lanka reported its last endemic case of rubella in March 2017 while Maldives reported its last case in 2015
- Since 2017, nearly 500 million more children in the South East Asia have been vaccinated for measles and rubella.
- For a country to be declared eliminated of the above disease when there is no evidence of endemic transmission of the causative viruses for more than 3 years.



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Weekly Multiple Choice Questions

8th- 14th July 2020 (WEEK 2)

- Which of the following companies wins CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019?**
 - NHPC
 - Infosys
 - Wipro
 - NTPC
- Which of the following companies announced to invest Rs 730 crore in Jio platforms?**
 - Amazon
 - Qualcomm Ventures
 - L Catterton
 - Vista Equity Partners
- Which State Government is all set to launch Roko -Toko campaign aimed at those not wearing masks?**
 - Bihar
 - Rajasthan
 - Haryana
 - Madhya Pradesh
- Reimagine Campaign is launched by.....?**
 - CII
 - ASSOCHAM
 - FICCI
 - NASSCOM
- Recently highway projects worth..... launched in Haryana ?**
 - Rs 500 crore
 - Rs 1000 crore
 - Rs 10,000 crore
 - Rs 20,000 crore
- Consider the following statements with respect to Von Karman Award of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)**
 - Only I
 - Only II
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II
- Which of the following persons has recently been recently honoured with Paul Harris Fellow recognition?**
 - O. Panneerselvam
 - Edappadi K Palaniswami
 - Dr. U.R. Rao
 - Dr K Kasturirangan
- Whose resignation as the chief executive officer of BCCI has been accepted recently?**
 - Jay Shah
 - Hemang Amin
 - Shashank Manohar
 - Rahul Johri
- Jack Charlton was the member of England team which won the FIFA world cup in..... ?**
 - 1958
 - 1962
 - 1966
 - 1970
- Who assumed as the interim CEO of BCCI?**
 - Jay Shah
 - Hemang Amin
 - Rahul Johri
 - Rahul Dravid
- Consider the following statements about the withdrawal of United States from WHO**
 - The United States formally submitted its notice of formal withdrawal to the UN Secretary-General
 - The US will formally exit from the WHO in July 2021.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

 - Only I
 - Only II
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II
- Consider the following statements with regard to State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020 report**
 - This annual flagship report is jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO
 - This year the report includes a special focus on transforming diets to prevent obesity.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

 - Only I
 - Only II
 - Both I and III
 - Neither I nor II
- Which of the following countries was not part of Chabahar port project trilateral deal signed in 2016?**
 - Afghanistan
 - India
 - Iran
 - Tajikistan
- According to the 2020 SOFI report about what percentage of the world's population remained hungry in 2019?**

(a) 6%	(b) 9%
(c) 11%	(d) 12 %
- What is the period for the recent \$400 billion strategic partnership deal between Iran and China?**
 - 5 years
 - 10 years
 - 25 years
 - 50 years

16. Consider the following statements about recent technology transfer of Akash Missile

- I. The agreement involves BDL and ISRO
- II. Akash missile system is the first medium range Surface to Air missile (SAM) produced in India which can engage multiple targets from multiple directions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

17. Consider the following statements about the Yotta NM1

- I. It is the largest Data Centre in the world.
- II. It is located in Pune, Maharashtra

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

18. Recently which of the following countries eliminated both measles and rubella?

- (a) India
- (b) China
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Indonesia

19. India's largest data centre building is located in which of the following states?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Maharashtra

20. Which of the following is South-East Asia regional director of World Health Organisation?

- (a) Dr Soumya Swaminathna
- (b) Dr Gagandeep Kang
- (c) Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh
- (d) Dr Harsh Vardhan



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Answers and Explanation

1. **(d)** India's largest energy conglomerate the NTPC limited wins CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019.
2. **(b)** The Qualcomm Ventures, the investment arm of Qualcomm Incorporated, will invest Rs 730 crore in Jio Platforms. The US-based investment arm of chipmaker will invest the above mentioned amount for a 0.15 % stake
3. **(d)** Madhya Pradesh government is all set to run a Roko -Toko campaign. Roko -Toko literally means stop and campaign and aimed at those who do not wear masks.
4. **(c)** Socio Economic Development Foundation (SEDF) of FICCI aimed at to support the most vulnerable populations and children during the COVID-19 response and its after-math in India with the Reimagine Campaign.
5. **(d)** Union Minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 national highway projects in Haryana. These highway projects are worth over Rs 20,000 crore.
6. **(a)** The Von Karman Award is the highest distinction of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). The award has been named after Theodore von Karman who was the founder and first president of the academy. Dr K Sivan has been named as the as the recipient of Award for 2020.
7. **(b)** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has been honoured with the Paul Harris Fellow recognition. It has been conferred by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. The recognition is in the honour of Rotary founder, Paul Harris who contributed to The Rotary Foundation.
8. **(d)** The Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) has accepted the resignation of Rahul Johri as the chief executive officer.
9. **(c)** Famous Footballer Jack Charlton dies at the age of 85 following a long time illness. He was a member of the World Cup winner in England's famous 1966 team.
10. **(b)** IPL chief operating officer Hemang Amin has been appointed as the interim chief executive officer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after resignation of Rahul Johri.
11. **(c)** The United States formally notified Congress and the United Nations that it is formally withdrawing from the World Health Organization (WHO). The notice for formal withdrawal has been submitted to the UN Secretary-General and the country will formally exit from the organisation in July 2021.
12. **(a)** The United Nation's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 report presents the most recent and authoritative estimates of the extent of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition across the globe. This annual flagship report is jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. This year the report includes a special focus on transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets.
13. **(d)** The trilateral deal for Chabahar port was signed in 2016 between India, Iran and Afghanistan.
14. **(b)** According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020 report nearly 690 million people went hungry in 2019. The number is alarming as it is 8.9% of the world's population.
15. **(c)** Iran and China finalised a \$400 billion strategic partnership deal for 25 year period.
16. **(b)** Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed Licence Agreement and Transfer of Technology (LAToT) for Akash Missile Weapon System of Indian Army Variant with Defence Research and Development Laboratory of DRDO. Akash missile system is the first medium range Surface to Air missile (SAM) produced in India which can engage multiple targets from multiple directions.
17. **(d)** India's largest data centre building, Yotta NM1 inaugurated in panvel, Maharashtra. It is the largest Tier IV Data Centre certified by Uptime Institute in Asia and second largest in the world.
18. **(c)** Sri Lanka and Maldives becomes the first two countries in the South-East Asia region to eliminate both measles and rubella. Since 2017, nearly 500 million more children in the South East Asia have been vaccinated for measles and rubella.
19. **(d)** India's largest data centre building, Yotta NM1 is located in panvel, Maharashtra. It has been built by Yotta Infrastructure. The centre can offer a high scale infrastructure which is capable of hosting global cloud, content and OTT operators.
20. **(c)** Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh is the South-East Asia regional director of World Health Organisation