

Week 1 Current Affairs Update

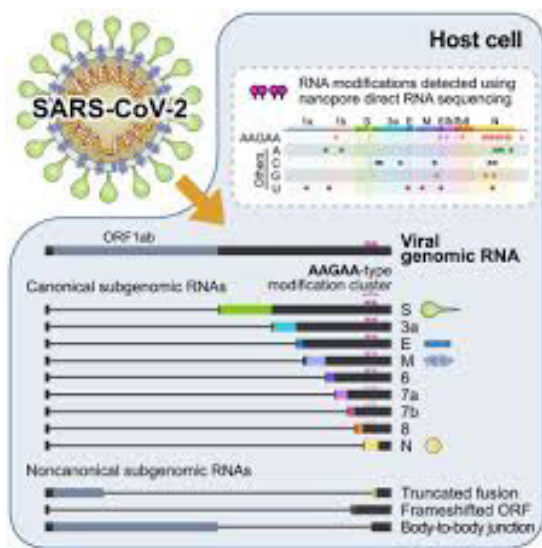
1st- 7th August 2020

EVENTS

NATIONAL

HEALTH

NATION SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES FIRST PAN INDIA 1000 GENOME SEQUENCING OF SARS- CoV-2



Date: 1st August, 2020

Key Points

- India successfully completes first Pan India 1000 Genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2.
- It was announced by the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan.
- The information in the database will help in improving the present understanding about the behaviour of the virus and containment of the CoVid-19 transmission.
- In May 2020 the Department of Biotechnology had launched a Pan-India 1000 SARS-CoV-2 RNA Genome sequencing programme by DBT institutes in collaboration with national laboratories and clinical organisations.
- The sequence data will be released in Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID) for use by researchers across the globe.

TRIBAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY RECEIVES 66TH SKOCH GOLD AWARD



Date: 2nd August, 2020

Key Points

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs received SKOCH Gold Award for “Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes”.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs participated in Digital India & E-Governance - 2020 Competition
- The title of the 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition was “India Responds to Covid through Digital Governance”
- The ministry has integrated all 5 Scholarship Schemes with DBT Portal under the guidance of DBT Mission.
- About Rs. 2500 Cr were directly transferred to student’s Bank accounts through DBT to approximately 30 lakh students in 31 States and UTs under these Scholarship schemes during 2019-20.
- The portal provides facility to States for data sharing through Web services and States can up-load proposal, UCs and SOE online.
- This has brought paradigm shift from Paper based UC monitoring mandated for budget release to data enabled budget release and monitoring process.
- This also led to considerably reduced scholarship release time and benefited lots of students.

MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT APPROVES MAGNET PROJECT



Date: 3rd August, 2020

Key Points

- The Maharashtra Government approves ambitious Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MagNet) project.
- This Rs 1,000-crore project aimed mainly at perishable product (fruit and vegetable) producers.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) is collaborating with the state Government in this project.
- ADB will provide 70% of the funds as loan, and the rest will be contributed by the state government.
- The main motive behind Magnet project is for improvement in processing and prevents the losses of perishable products.
- The project will be implemented in all the districts of the Maharashtra will be implemented in the next six years.

INTERNATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

RUSSIA PRESIDES 6TH BRICS ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING



Date: 1st August, 2020

Key Points

- Environment Ministers of the BRICS countries participated in the 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting through a video conference under the presidency of Russia.
- Environment Ministers of five BRICS nations, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa participated in the meeting through a video conference.
- The meeting was preceded by the BRICS Working Group meeting.
- Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar represented India.
- He underlined the importance of sharing of best practices among the BRICS nations towards attainment of Sustainable Development Goals.
- The meeting adopted BRICS Environment Ministers' Statement.



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Nurturing Ambitions

PEOPLE

NATIONAL

LEE TENG-HUI



Date: 1st August

Key points:

- Former President of Taiwan Lee Teng-hui passed away at the age of 97.
- He was dubbed as “Mr. Democracy” due to his important role in constitutional reforms including direct presidential elections.
- In 1996 the first direct presidential election in Taiwan he was democratically elected for a second term with a landslide victory.
- He served as president of Taiwan, from 1988 to 2000.
- He ended autocratic rule in favour of pluralism and democracy.
- Lee Teng-hui attempted to delink the island from China sparked tensions with Beijing.

JOHN HUME



Date: 4th August

Key points:

- Prominent Northern Ireland politician and Nobel Peace Prize winner John Hume dies at the age of 83

- He was seen as the principal architect of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace agreement.
- Hume was winner of Nobel Peace Prize, Gandhi Peace Prize and the Martin Luther King Award and prominent Northern Ireland politician John Hume passes away
- Hume's diplomacy offered the impetus to the peace process that led to the 1998 Good Friday accord.
- The Catholic leader shared the Nobel Prize with the Protestant leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, David Trimble, for their efforts to end the sectarian violence in the region

SASHIDHAR JAGDISHAN



Date: 5th August

Key points:

- RBI has approved the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the next MD of HDFC Bank.
- He will succeed Aditya Puri to the post and going to complete his term in October 2020.
- The appointment is for a period of 3 years beginning October 27, 2020
- In 2019 HDFC management named Jagdishan as a "change agent" and made him the head of all important portfolios of the bank.
- He is currently the Group Head of Finance, Human Resources, Legal & Secretarial, Administration, Infrastructure, Corporate Communications, Corporate Social Responsibility and the Strategic Change Agent of the Bank.

G C MURMU



Date: 6th August

Key points:

- President appointed Girish Chandra Murmu as the 14th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
- He replaces Rajiv Mehrishi who is completing his term.
- G C Murmu served as the first Lieutenant Governor of newly formed Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
- He is a 1985 Indian Administrative Service Officer of Gujarat cadre will
- CAG is primarily entrusted with the responsibility of auditing the accounts of the central and state governments.
- CAG is appointed for a term of six year or till the person attains 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.

MANOJ SINHA



Date: 7th August

Key points:

- Manoj Sinha has been appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.
- He served as the Minister of State for Railways and Minister of Communications in Union Cabinet during Modi Cabinet between 2014-2019.
- He replaced G.C. Murmu as L.G. of J &K following his sudden resignation.
- He was elected to Member of Parliament in 11th, 13th and 16th Lok Sabha.
- Sinha has been among the best performing members of Parliament and in the 13th Lok Sabha
- Recently he was placed among the seven most honest members of Parliament.



ISSUES

NATIONAL

POLITY

PAKISTAN RELEASES NEW POLITICAL MAP INCLUDES INDIAN TERRITORY AS ITS OWN



Date: 4th August, 2020

Key Points:

- Pakistan released its new political map showing the Indian territories as its own.
- It includes entire Jammu & Kashmir and parts of Gujarat in the map that seems as a provocation to India.
- India dismissed the map and termed it as ridiculous assertions that have neither legal validity nor international credibility.
- The Line of Control had been extended to the Karakoram Pass, clearing showing Siachen as part of Pakistan.
- The J&K had been described as Disputed Territory Final status to be decided in line with relevant UNSC resolutions.
- The controversial changes in the map were made a day before the first anniversary of India's decision to revoke the special status of J & K on August 5, 2019.

SOCIAL

BIHAR GOVT RECOMMENDS CBI PROBE INTO SSR DEATH



Date: 5th August, 2020

Key Points

- The Bihar Government recommended a CBI inquiry into actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case.
- The state government took the decision on the basis of the case filed by late actor's father.
- Rajput's father had on July 25 lodged a police complaint against Rhea Chakraborty her family, Samuel Miranda and Shruti Modi for abetment of suicide and other charges at Rajiv Nagar Police Station in Patna.
- On the basis of the complaint, an FIR was registered by the Patna police and an investigation was started
- The Mumbai Police on the other hand, had filed an Accidental Death Report on June 14 and was already investigating the case.
- The handling of the case by Mumbai Police comes into scanner as Patna City SP heading the team was forcefully quarantined by the BMC after he reached Mumbai to probe the SSR case.
- The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on the plea of Chakraborty seeking transfer of an FIR.

INTERNATIONAL

ECONOMY

ADB PREDICTS LOSS OF \$108.6 BILLION OF GLOBAL REMITTANCES IN 2020



Date: 2nd August, 2020

Key Points:

- According to the Asian Development Bank remittances across the world could decline by \$108.6 billion.

- The decline is caused by global pandemic and which lead to job losses and trimming of payrolls of employees.
- The Asian region could also suffer hardly as money sent to this region from migrants working outside is expected to fall by \$54.3 billion.
- Asia accounts for one third of total work force of global migrant workers.
- Tonga, Samoa and other Pacific nations could face severe effects as the share of remittances to the GDP and per capita remittances of are quite high.
- Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Nepal and the Philippines will also be badly hit due to fall in remittances.

SOCIAL

MASSIVE EXPLOSIONS IN BEIRUT



Date: 4th August, 2020

Key Points:

- Massive explosions occurred at the port of the city of Beirut, killing more than 100 dead and 4,000 injured.
- The massive shook the whole city, killed at least 113 people and injured more than 4,000 others.
- The explosion occurred after a fire at the port, and it was substantial and felt 240 km away on the island of Cyprus, in the eastern Mediterranean.
- Several buildings and homes have been reduced to an uninhabitable mess of glass and as many as 300,000 people have been left homeless.
- According to official sources the blast was caused by 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored unsafely in a warehouse.
- Lebanon was already reeling from an economic crisis that triggered anti-government protests starting in October 2019 that led to resignation of PM Saad Hariri in January 2020.
- The Lebanese Government has declared state of emergency for two-weeks.



IDEAS

NATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

HARYANA GOVERNMENT DEPLOYS DRONES FOR AERIAL SEEDING IN ARAVALI AND SHIVALIK HILLS



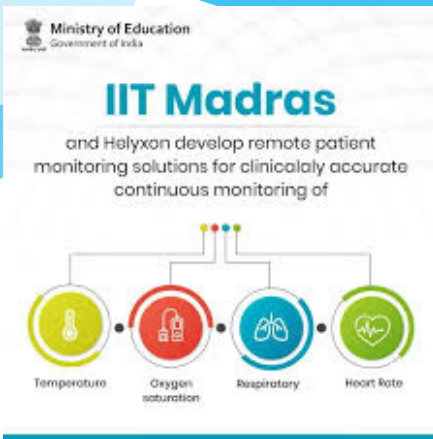
Date: 2nd August, 2020

Key Points :

- Haryana Government is using drones for aerial seeding in Aravalis and Shivaliks.
- The state forest department is using aerial seeding through drone to increase the green cover in inaccessible terrains of Aravali and Shivalik hills.
- In the process of aerial seeding, seeds covered with a mixture of clay, compost, char, and other components (seed balls) are dispersed by low-flying drones in a targeted area.
- The low-flying drones used for dispersal of these seed balls in a targeted area
- The areas which are difficult to reach or inaccessible or where traditional methods of plantation is difficult are benefitting from this strategy.
- The coating on the seeds provide the weight for the seeds to airdrop on the target area without blown by wind as well as protection from birds, rats, etc.
- These seed balls/ pellets also eliminates the need for any ploughing and digging holes in the soil as they are already surrounded by sufficient soil, nutrients etc.
- By preparing these seed balls local community also getting employment.
- The project was started on a pilot basis to regenerate the areas with low vegetation density on inaccessible site of Aravali and Shivalik hills

HEALTH

IIT-M DEVELOPS REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING SOLUTIONS FOR COVID-19



Date: 6th August, 2020

Key Points:

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras in collaboration with Helyxon announced successful deployment of remote patient monitoring solutions for CoVid-19.
- The Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC) at IIT-M in collaboration with Helyxon, a healthcare startup developed remote patient monitoring solutions.
- This remote monitoring device is unique and first in the market that measures accurate and continuous monitoring of four critical clinical parameters Temperature, Oxygen Saturation, Respiratory Rate and Heart Rate.
- The core technology was validated by a year-long multi-centric study at various Chennai-based medical institutions for the accuracy and performance with reference to current standards.
- It will help in savings in PPE and other contact monitoring equipments and less chances of infection to health staff.

KARNATAKA GETS ITS FIRST MOBILE RT-PCR COVID-19 TESTING LAB



Date: 7th August, 2020

Key Points

- Karnataka's first ICMR approved mobile RT-PCR CoVid-19 testing lab inaugurated in Bengaluru.
- These mobile labs can conduct 400 RT-PCR CoVid-19 tests daily and whose results can be obtained within 4 hours.

- With around 80000 active cases Karnataka is at the third spot in the country after Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and mobile labs will be very useful.
- The van can easily be deployed to CoVid-19 hotspots to increase testing in these areas.
- The mobile lab will prove to be very helpful in CoVid-19 hotspots.
- The lab can also be utilised for testing other diseases like HIV, TB, swine flu, Hepatitis etc.

INTERNATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

NASA LAUNCHES MARS ROVER TO STUDY ANCIENT SIGNS OF LIFE



Date: 1st August, 2020

Key Points :

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the US federal space agency launched its latest Mars rover, Perseverance to potentially find signs of ancient microbial life on the red planet.
- The launch took place from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.
- This is space program's most sophisticated rover to the Mars which will collect rock and soil samples to seek the ancient microbial life.
- Perseverance is scheduled to land on Mars in February 2021.
- It will land on Jezero Crater which seems as a potential place for finding signs of life.
- The rover is set to spend at least one Mars year exploring the Red planet.
- Perseverance will also study advanced technologies for future exploration on the planet.

