










# Current Affairs – July 2020

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- Government of India has extended medical assistance worth about USD 1 million in the form of anti-tuberculosis medicines to North Korea.
- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has been implemented in India since 20th July 2020. It has replaced Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The new act has been introduced to offer protection to buyers from traditional sellers as well as from the new e-commerce retailers/platforms.
- “Manodarpan” initiative has been launched by the Union HRD Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’. “Manodarpan” is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development launched to ensure mental well-being of the students.
- Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology- Kanpur for Training, Research, and Entrepreneurship Development in Smart Grid Technology.



- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan-Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (UBA-IITD) and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA), New Delhi has signed a tripartite MoU with CSIR. The signed MoU will offer access to CSIR rural technologies for UBA.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has partnered with UNICEF to strengthen the Government of India's resolution to mobilise 1 crore youth volunteers to attain the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has partnered with Facebook to launch a free and comprehensive training program for teachers and students of its affiliated schools in the first phase.
- The largest Solar Power Plant of Indian Navy was commissioned at Indian Naval Academy Ezhimala, Kerala.



- Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) tied-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India's 1st 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC). This centre is established to accelerate research on Artificial Intelligence and its commercial adoption.
- A fleet of five French-manufactured Rafale multi-role combat jets arrived in India. The fleet, which comprises three single seater and two twin seater aircraft, would be inducted into the IAF as part of its Ambala-based No 17 Squadron, also known as the 'Golden Arrows'.
- India has successfully conducted flight tests of its indigenously developed anti-tank guided missile 'Dhruvastra'. Dhruvastra' is an anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) which has been developed by the DRDO.



- Indian Navy has conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX), a high-end joint naval exercise with the US Navy in the Indian Ocean.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a working group to study and make recommendations on formation of an “Indian Pandemic Risk Pool”. These risks includes Business Interruption losses without concurrent Material damage loss, loss of employment would result in huge losses much beyond the capacity of Government /Insurers /Reinsurers.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the National Education Policy 2020. It has a target of 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio by 2035 and provision for multiple entry and exits. The recently approved National Education Policy 2020 will replace the thirty-four year old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986.



- Ministry of Human Resource Development has been renamed as Ministry of Education. The Union Cabinet has approved the change in the name of the ministry.
- Mausam app was launched on the occasion of the 14th foundation day of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). The mobile-based application will provide weather forecasts, nowcast and warning for various cities and locations.
- An e-Portal named “Automobile Solutions Portal for Industry, Research & Education (ASPIRE)” has been launched by the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)
- India’s first fully indigenously developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine (Pneumonia vaccine) has received the approval from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). It will be utilized for active immunization against invasive disease and pneumonia caused by “Streptococcus pneumonia” among infants.



- The Railways Minister Piyush Goyal has announced, India's first cable-stayed Railways bridge "Anji Khad Bridge" to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). This bridge is being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL).
- The Ministry of Railways is on a mission mode with the goal of transforming Indian Railways into Green Railways by 2030.
- Union Human Resource Development Ministry has released 'Pragyata' guidelines for Digital Education.
- Iran has dropped India from Chabahar rail project which comprises rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan. The Iranian government cited delays from the Indian side in funding and starting the project, for its decision of dropping India from the project.





- General and Health Insurance companies has received approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to launch short-term 'Corona Kavach' health insurance policies.
- Boeing India has delivered the last of the five AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Hindon Air Force Station.
- The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Jharkhand new administrative and the academic building have been named after Bharatiya Jan Sangh founder Late Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his 119th birth anniversary.
- The World Bank has signed a loan agreement of \$400 million with Government of India to enhance support for the Namami Gange programme.



- India's First No-Permission No-Takeoff (NPNT) compliant drone flight on the A200 Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) has been completed successfully by Quidich Innovation Labs and Asteria Aerospace.
- Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu has launched India's first social media super application, "Elyments". Elyments is a first Made-in-India social media super-app, developed by Bengaluru-based software company, Sumeru Software Solutions Pvt Ltd, in close competition with similar platforms like Facebook, Whatsapp and Instagram.



# BUSINESS & ECONOMY



- Acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited (KPCL) by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (Adani Ports) has been approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition by Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso) in HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (HCG).
- Amazon Pay has launched vehicle insurance in partnership with Bengaluru-based startup Acko General Insurance.
- Airtel Payments Bank Ltd and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have collaborated in order to train and skill young people in rural areas on financial services and helping them in finding jobs and become entrepreneurs in the sector.



- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed an MoU with the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to facilitate smoother bilateral exchange of data.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India (MoMSME). As per the signed MoU, CBDT will share certain Income-tax Return (ITR) related information with MoMSME.
- According to the new data released by the UK government in Department for International Trade (DIT) inward investment statistics for 2019-2020, India has become the second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the United Kingdom. USA remains the number one source of FDI for the UK.



- The Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) has the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as an observer.
- The World Bank has approved a \$750 million MSME Emergency Response program for MSMEs in India.



# BANKING AWARENESS



- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and SBI Card has launched a new Co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed an agreement for extending a \$400-million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka.
- India's third-largest public sector bank, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched 'Insta Click Savings Account', a 100 per cent paperless digital self-assisted online savings account.
- India's first Neobank for teenagers, FamPay has launched India's first numberless card, "FamCard".
- UPI AutoPay facility for recurring payment has been launched by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).





- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) organised its first 'Digital Choupal' to mark its 39th foundation day.
- Visa, a global leader in payments technology has tied-up with Federal Bank to launch "Visa Secure" to the bank's cardholders.
- According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Tamil Nadu has raised ₹30,500 crores in the fiscal 2020-21 and has topped market borrowings among States in the country.
- SBM Bank (India) Ltd has partnered with Mastercard to revolutionize domestic and cross-border payments and remittances services. The SBM Bank India customers will be able to make real-time domestic business-to-consumer transfers quickly and efficiently using 'Mastercard Send'.



- Bhavishya' savings account has been launched by the Fino Payments Bank Limited. This savings account scheme has been launched for minors aged between 10-18 years.
- YES Bank has launched a digital solution, "Loan in Seconds" for instant disbursement of retail loans. The account holders identified by the bank can avail this quick loan disbursal facility without any document.
- HDFC Bank offers instant car loans to existing customers through an initiative called "ZipDrive" in 1,000 cities.
- HDFC Bank has launched the 'e-Kisaan Dhan' app for farmers all over India. Through their mobile phones, the farmers will be able to access the services, both banking and agriculture.



- The Government of India has approved the Special liquidity scheme of Rs 30,000 crore for Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFCs)/ Housing Finance Companies (HFCs). The Special liquidity scheme has been launched with a prime objective of improving the liquidity position of NBFCs/HFCs via a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).





- The 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting was held under the Saudi Arabian Presidency through Video Conferencing.
- The India Global Week 2020 virtual conference was inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 3 days virtual conference has been organised in the United Kingdom with a theme of “Be The Revival: India and a Better New World”.
- The fourth edition of the virtual Ministerial on Climate Action was co-chaired by European Union, China and Canada.
- The 36th edition of the biannual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit 2020 was held via video conferencing in Hanoi, Vietnam. The theme of the Summit was “Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN”.



- India and Maldives have signed an agreement for the establishment of 'Emergency Medical Services' in Male, Maldives.
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Bakamla RI (Indonesian Coast Guard) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 'Maritime Safety and Security' to boost maritime relations.
- India and Bangladesh has signed an agreement for the formation of a 50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC). This 50:50 Joint Venture Company has been formed for LPG business in Bangladesh.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved USD 4.3 billion to South Africa in emergency funding, the largest amount is given to any country yet to fight the coronavirus pandemic.



- The Central American country, Republic of Nicaragua became the 87th country to sign the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement.
- World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council has granted the “Observer” status to the central Asian country Turkmenistan.
- Pakistan and China have signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project on the Jhelum river in Sudhoti district of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- According to the World Health Organisation’s (WHO), South-East Asian Region (SEAR) office, Maldives and Sri Lanka were verified for having eliminated measles and rubella.
- The United States has formalized to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO) on July 6, 2021.



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY





- Russia has conducted a successful flight test of an MGTD-20 gas turbine 3D-printed aircraft engine. The flight tests were held at Kazanbush aviation centre in Tatarstan.
- SpaceX has successfully launched South Korea's first military satellite "ANASIS-II". The satellite was deployed into a geostationary transfer orbit (GTO) by a Falcon 9 rocket.
- A mission titled as "Hope" has been launched to "Mars" by the United Arab Emirates. With the help of mission, UAE aims to provide a complete picture of the Martian atmosphere for the first time, studying daily and seasonal changes.
- China successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite via a Long March 3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center.



- Israel Defence Ministry has announced the successful launch of a new “Ofek 16” spy satellite into orbit by using a locally-developed Shavit rocket from a launch pad at Palmachim airbase in central Israel.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will launch Brazil’s Amazonia-1 satellite.
- The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K), has developed a wearable hand band Known as the “Veli Band” that helps in maintaining social distancing by sending out an alarm in case of proximity with another person.



# PERSONS IN NEWS



- Paytm Money has appointed Varun Sridhar as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company.
- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has appointed the Governor of Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel to discharge the functions of the Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- Naveen Tahilyani has been appointed by Tata AIA Life Limited as its Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- Government of India has appointed Partha Pratim Sengupta as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).
- Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) has appointed Alok Misra as its new Chief Executive Officer & Director.



- Prakash Chandra Kandpal has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of the Non-life insurer SBI General Insurance.
- Sumit Deb has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).
- Board of Directors of the Karur Vysya Bank has appointed Ramesh Babu Boddu as a Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the bank.
- SBI Cards and Payment Services has appointed Ashwini Kumar Tewari as its new Managing Director and chief executive officer.
- India's wealthiest woman, Roshni Nadar Malhotra becomes the new chairman of Noida-based IT company, HCL Technologies.



- Manipur's, Gyanendro Ningombam named as the new Officiating President of Hockey India.
- Union Bank of India gives managing director and CEO, Rajkiran Rai an extension of two-years.
- The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) has appointed Jayant Krishna as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the group.
- Injeti Srinivas has been appointed as first chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for a period of three years.
- Hichem Mechichi has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Tunisia.



- Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda has been appointed as the first woman prime minister of Gabon.
- Andrzej Duda has been re-elected as the President of Poland.
- Lee Hsien Loong has become the Prime Minister of Singapore after the ruling People's Action Party won the General Elections held in the country.
- Jean Castex has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of France.
- President of Russia, Vladimir Putin has recorded a victory in the recently held Presidential polls. With a victory, he is set to stay in power until the middle of the next decade i.e. until 2036.
- Gudni Th. Johannesson has been re-elected as the President of Iceland.







- Indian Grandmaster, P Harikrishna has finished second in the rapid section of the 53rd Biel International Chess Festival in Switzerland. Radoslaw Wojtaszek of Poland ranked first.
- England cricketer, Stuart Broad becomes 7th bowler to take 500 wickets in Test cricket. Stuart Broad achieved an elusive milestone on Day 5 of the third Test against West Indies in Manchester.
- Jamie Vardy has bagged the Premier Leagues Golden Boot football award after netting 23 goals across the 2019/20 season.
- Bangladeshi pacer, Kazi Anik Islam has been handed a 2-year ban by the national cricket board for failing a dope test in 2018.



- The silver medal of the Indian 4×400 mixed relay team's 2018 Asian Games, Jakarta has been upgraded to gold. The medal was upgraded to gold following the disqualification of Bahrain squad that finished first in the 4×400 mixed relay final. The Bahrain squad was disqualified as Kemi Adekoya of Bahrain has been handed a 4-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit for failing a dope test.
- Haryana will host the 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.
- International Cricket Council's (ICC's) announced, the T20 Men's World Cup, scheduled to be played in Australia in October-November 2020, has formally been postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19.



- Lewis Hamilton won the Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary. Max Verstappen (Dutch-Red Bull) was second, followed by Valtteri Bottas
- Spanish professional football club, Real Madrid has been crowned La Liga Champions for the 34th time after defeating Villarreal 2–1 at Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano in Madrid.
- The Youth Olympic Games in Dakar will be celebrated in 2026 after Senegal and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) “mutually agreed” to postpone the Games from 2022.



- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Britain) has won the Styrian Grand Prix 2020 at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) finished second while Max Verstappen (Red Bull- Belgium) was third.
- Mercedes's, Valtteri Bottas (Finland) has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2020 at Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria. Leclerc finished second for Ferrari while McLaren's Lando Norris came third.
- At the Cricket South Africa annual awards 2020, Quinton de Kock was named as the men's cricketer of the year, while Laura Wolvaardt was named as the women's cricketer of the year.
- India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was named as the country's 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) of the 21st century by Wisden.





- The founder of SS Motivation, Sunil ydv SS was honoured with “Karamveer Chakra Award” by Global Fellowship Award instituted by United Nations and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO)
- India’s first solar-powered ferry, Aditya has won the prestigious Gustave Trouve Award for Excellence in Electric Boats and Boating. The ferry was adjudged the world’s best electric boat in the category of ferries designed for paid passenger service.
- Greta Thunberg has been named winner of the inaugural Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity.
- The ‘Legend of Animation’ award instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG) as part of the Animation Masters Summit (AMS) 2020 – Digital Edition will be posthumously conferred to the legendary animation director Arnab Chaudhuri.



- Guinean doctor Morissana Kouyate and Marianna Vardinoyannis of Greece are the winners of the 2020 Nelson Mandela Prize.
- Tata group chairman, Natarajan Chandrasekaran and Chief Executive Officer and President of Lockheed Martin, Jim Taiclet to receive the US-India Business Council(USIBC) Global Leadership Award 2020.
- Rail Infra and Mobility Business Digital Awards (RIMBDA) has awarded Ved Parkash Dudeja with the coveted 'Infra Business Leader of the Year' award for 2020.
- Sachin Awasthi has been honoured with the “Top Publicist” award in the Global Humanitarian Awards 2020, through webinar that took place in London.
- Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO) Chief, Kailasavadivoo Sivan has named for Von Karman Award 2020 by the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA).



- Arunachal Pradesh filmmaker Kezang D Thongdok has bagged the Dada Saheb Phalke Award 2020 for a short documentary “Chi Lupo”. Chi Lupo, documented by Kezang D Thongdok is a short documentary on honey hunting.
- NTPC Ltd has been awarded with the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019. The central PSU under Ministry of Power has been awarded under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category.
- Indian battalion (INDBATT) stationed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has won an environment award for a project that aims to decrease waste generation, reuse plastic, build greenhouses and compost pits.
- Freya Thakral has received the 2020 Diana Award for her “Recycler App”. She developed this App to connect users with waste-handlers as a measure to help the ragpickers of Delhi.





- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced that its new headquarters in Lausanne has been awarded the European 2020 US Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership Award. Olympic House, which also holds the rigorous LEED Platinum certification, is one of the most sustainable buildings in the world.
- Indian Americans Pulitzer Prize-winning physician author, Siddhartha Mukherjee and Harvard economist Raj Chetty figure among 38 naturalized US citizens on Carnegie Corporation of New York's 2020 list of 'Great Immigrants' for their role in combating COVID-19 pandemic.
- Former Reserve Bank of India governor, Chakravarthi Rangarajan has been conferred with the first Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award in Official Statistics for lifetime achievements.



# BOOKS & AUTHORS



- Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India - Viral Acharya
- The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World” - S Jaishankar
- Suraj Kade Marda Nahi’ (sun never dies) - Baldev Singh Sadaknama
- The Endgame - S Hussain Zaidi
- A Song of India’ - Ruskin Bond
- If It Bleeds” - Stephen King
- Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver’ - Urjit Patel



- “Future of Higher Education - Nine Mega Trends - CA V Pattabhiram
- “Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India” - R C Bhargava





- Jones Lang LaSalle's (JLL) has released its biennial Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETl). India ranked 34th in GRETl 2020. UK ranked first followed by USA and Australia.
- India is the third top-most country in the Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020. The annual Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report was released by the US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield, to rank the most suitable locations for global manufacturing. China and the United States retained the top two positions respectively.
- Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts in Overall Delta Ranking by government think-tank Niti Aayog for the February-June 2020 period. Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh) have been placed at the second and third positions. The delta rankings took into account incremental progress made by over 112 aspirational districts across six developmental areas during February-June this year.



# IMPORTANT DAYS

# Important Days



- July 1 - National Doctors Day  
National Postal Workers Day  
National Chartered Accountants Day
- July 2 - World Sports Journalists Day
- July 4 - International Day of Cooperatives (first Saturday of July)
- July 11 - World Population Day
- 
- July 15 - World Youth Skills Day
- July 17 - World Day for International Justice



# Important Days



- July 18 - Nelson Mandela International Day
- July 20 - World Chess Day
- July 26 - Kargil Vijay Diwas
- July 28 - World Hepatitis Day
- July 30 - World Day against trafficking in persons



**THANK YOU!**