



IEM's Academia of Success (I.A.S.)

PRESENTS

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINER

August 2020

~~Department of General Studies, UEM Kolkata~~





BANKING & FINANCIAL AWARENESS

1. **FamPay**, a neo-bank for teenagers that brings cashless convenience to millions of teens and their parents, on Thursday announced the launch of a numberless card - **FamCard**.
 - ✓ With FamPay and its numberless card, minors can make online (UPI & P2P) and offline payments without the need to set up a bank account. Every transaction is protected with device locks like fingerprint, Face ID, pattern lock or PIN.
2. **Punjab National Bank** has launched a nation-wide campaign to distribute face masks and sanitizers to prevent the spread of COVID19.
 - ✓ The PNB's campaign was launched by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan.
 - ✓ This campaign has been launched by PNB under the Corporate social responsibility (CSR).
3. **Bharti AXA General Insurance** has launched the **“Bohot Jaruri Hai”** crop insurance campaign for farmers to encourage them about their yield protection and financial security.
4. **MobiKwik** has launched **mpay.me**, a UPI payment link service that allows users to send and receive money from any UPI payment app.
5. **AXAA is an** AI-powered multilingual voice bot has been launched by Axis Bank to resolve customer queries. The BOT has been launched in collaboration with Bengaluru startup **Vernacular.ai**, an AI-based SaaS voice automation platform
6. Life Insurance Corporation of India(LIC) has acquired 4.23% Stake of **Yes Bank**
7. **Punjab National Bank** has launched ‘DIGITAL APNAYEN’ campaign to encourage customers to use digital banking channels.
8. **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)** is going to launch India's first bullion index named **“Bulldex”**.
9. The Reserve Bank of India has lifted restrictions on the remuneration of the Bandhan Bank's MD & CEO **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh**.



MoU's SIGNED

1. **Union Bank of India** announced a corporate agency agreement with **LIC India** to distribute policies.
2. **Airtel Payments Bank** partnered with the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** to train and skill young people in rural areas on financial services.
3. **Reliance Power** and Japanese energy major **JERA** have inked a pact with a group of banks for financing their new gas-fired thermal power generation project in **Bangladesh**.
4. **Canara Bank** has partnered with **New India Assurance Company Ltd**, **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co Ltd** and **HDFC ERGO Health Insurance** to offer individual short-term **Corona Kavach** policy
5. Recently, the Atal Innovation Mission (**AIM**) has launched an incubator capabilities enhancement program '**AIM-iCREST**' in collaboration with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** and **Wadhvani Foundation**.
6. **Flipkart** signed an MoU with **IIT Patna** to support the industry focused applied research in the fields like Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning.



APPOINTMENTS

1. **PR Jaishankar** has been appointed as the as the Managing Director (MD) of the **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)** for 3 years. He will serve as the MD of IIFCL for a period of 3 years. He has earlier served as the executive director of the National Housing Bank.
2. **Hamed Bakayoko** has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast.



3. **Urjit Patel** has been appointed as the additional and independent director of Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd.
 - ✓ Recently, he has authored a book titled '**Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver**'. The book will be published by HarperCollins India.
4. **Varun Sridhar** has been appointed as the New Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Money.
5. **Pradeep Kumar Joshi** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
6. The 74-year-old Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) leader **Mahinda Rajapaksa** has been appointed as the PM of Sri Lanka.
7. **Alexander Lukashenko** has won the presidential election in Belarus.
8. **Ashok Lavasa** has stepped down from the constitutional post of Election Commissioner of India. Lavasa is set to join the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank as the vice-president from September 2020



OBITUARIES

1. Veteran Actor **John Saxon** passed away recently.
2. Renowned folk singer **Sonam Tshering Lepcha** passed away recently.
3. Veteran actress **Kumkum** passed away recently. Her real name was Zaibunnissa. She has featured in over 100 Hindi films like Mother India, Kohinoor, Ek Sapera Ek Lootera, Naya Daur, Ujala, Raja Aur Runk, Lalkar, Aankhen, Geet, among others.
4. **Shyamal Chakraborty** passed away due to COVID-19 infection. He was a former governor of West Bengal.
5. Noted personality **Rahat Indori** passed away recently, he was a veteran Urdu Poet
6. Chetan Chauhan passed away recently, he was associated with Cricket. He was Minister for youth and sports in the state of Uttar Pradesh Cabinet in 2018 and has also served as Minister of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, PRD and Civil Security in the UP Cabinet.



7. Veteran vocalist **Pandit Jasraj** passed away recently. Pandit Jasraj was a recipient of India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 1975; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1987 and Padma Bhushan in 1999. In the year 2000, the government of India conferred him with Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honour in the country.



IMPORTANT DAYS

1. **1st August** : World Cancer Day
2. **6th August**: World Hiroshima Day
3. **7th August**: National Handloom Day
4. **10th August**: World Bio-fuel Day
5. **12th August**: International Youth Day
6. **12th August**: World Elephant Day
7. **19th August**: World Humanitarian Day
8. **19th August**: World Photography Day
9. **20th August**: Akshay Urja Day or Renewable Energy Day
10. **20th August**: World Mosquito Day



NATIONAL NEWS

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a video blogging competition my '**My Life, My Yoga**' which is a joint by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Ministry of AYUSH.
2. U.S.-headquartered **Zoom Video Communications** announced opening of a new technology centre in **Bengaluru**, India. It selected Bangalore as the location for the centre because of the exceptional engineering and I.T. talent.



3. **Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant-3**, located in Gujarat has reached its criticality.
 - ✓ The Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant began its commercial nuclear power production in 1993. In 2015, two of its units were shut down due to coolant leaks. Later, in 2018 the power plant reached partial criticality. The leaks were due to corrosion and cracks.
4. Acquisition of **Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited (KPCL)** by **Adani Group** has been the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
5. **AIIMS Nagpur** has designed and developed a 'smart wristband' for effective tracking and monitoring of Covid-19 positive and suspect patients.
 - ✓ The new device, a wristband is designed in collaboration with IIT Jodhpur and IIT Nagpur looks to overcome the limitations of existing online mobile apps used for tracking and monitoring coronavirus patients.
6. The Cotton Corporation of India decided to setup set up its own warehouse in **Vietnam** to boost cotton exports.
7. **Ministry of Earth Sciences** has launched a "**Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet)**" under the Digital India initiative of Government of India.
8. **Delhi** has approved '**Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana**', which will be launched in six to seven months and will be linked to Centre's 'one nation, one ration card' scheme.
9. **Mizoram becomes** the first state in the country to implement the Green-Agriculture (Green-Ag) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
 - ✓ Mizoram is first among the 5 states where the project is to be implemented.
 - ✓ The other states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
10. **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)** has developed '**Aashray**', a medical bed isolation system to combat COVID-19 by preventing or minimising the spread of the virus.
11. **DRDO** has launched "**Dare to Dream**" an innovative contest and open challenge that promotes innovators and startups in the country. It is launched to boost emerging technologies. The challenge promotes individuals and start-ups for innovation in aerospace technologies.



12. **Suraksha** is the name of the microorganism decontamination box developed by the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) along with AMESYS INDIA. The box sanitizes an object in the span of 10 – 15 minutes using heat and UVC light.
13. **Bharat Drone** is a series of drones that comes under one of the world's lightest and agile drone surveillance systems and is made in India by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
14. **CREDAI Awaas App** has been launched by Housing minister Hardeep Puri to market residential properties.
15. India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or **Kisan Rail** was from flagged off between which two stations **Devlali to Danapur**.
16. **Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu** has launched **E-Gyan Mitra** mobile application for online education. The app will have lectures and quizzes posted by teachers along with a system of monitoring in which teachers can monitor students' progress
17. **Uttarakhand** is set develop India's first Snow Leopard Conservation centre. The main aim of the centre is to conserve and restore Himalayan ecosystems. It also aims to conserve elusive snow leopards and other endangered Himalayan species.
18. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has developed device to remotely monitor the vital signs of patients, including those infected by COVID-19 in association with healthcare startup Helyxon
19. A new Platform, "**Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste**" to support the global reduction of food loss and waste has been launched by **FAO**
20. **My Handloom**, website portal has been launched the Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, for the individual weavers and organization.
21. **Delhi International Airport Limited** has developed AIR SUVIDHA, a first-of-its-kind portal allowing international arriving passengers to fill a mandatory self-declaration form and eligible passengers to apply for exemption from compulsory institutional quarantine for coronavirus
22. **Mumbai** has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.



23. Goa's Festive sweet dish '**Khaje**', spicy Harmal Chilli and Myndoli Banana (Moirā Banana) has obtained Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry.
24. **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully test fired an upper stage rocket engine "Raman".
 - ✓ With this, Skyroot Aerospace has become the first Indian private firm to exhibit the potential to build a home-grown rocket engine.
 - ✓ "Raman" is a 3-D printed rocket engine which has been named after Nobel laureate CV Raman
25. Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge across river Lajai in **Manipur**. The bridge which is being constructed across river Lajai near Noney is an engineering marvel because the tallest pier height will be 141 meter, and will surpass the existing record of 139 meter of Mala - Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.
26. The Central Water Commission (**CWC**) of India has launched the flood forecasting initiatives across India in association with **Google**.
27. The Madhya Pradesh state government has announced to name Gwalior-Chambal Expressway after **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
28. **Chhattisgarh** has launched a student centric scheme named as "**Padhai Tuhar Para**".
29. **Indore** became India's cleanest city for the fourth year in a row in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Maldives signed an agreement to establish "Emergency Medical Services" in Male with **India**.
2. Union Minister of Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad attended **G20 Digital Ministers' Meet** hosted by **Saudi Arabia**.



3. **China** has successfully launched “**Tianwen-1**” its first independent mission to Mars.
4. Three hundred year-old Kali temple is being reconstructed in **Bangladesh** with the support of India.
5. India collaborated with **Israel** to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds.
6. **Barakah Nuclear Plant** which has achieved first criticality and successfully started up is located in **UAE**.



HONOR & AWARDS

1. **Greta Thunberg** has been awarded with the ‘Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2020’.
2. **Sunil Ydv SS** been conferred with the Karmaveer Chakra Award instituted by the United Nations and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO).
3. **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)** has won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020, a national-level digital product building competition.
4. **Moothon** has won the Best Film Award in the 20th edition of New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) of Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC).
5. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recognized Venkataipur and Noliasahi, villages of **Odisha** as ‘**Tsunami Ready**’ for their overall preparedness to face the tsunami. Odisha became the first state in the India and India became the 1st Country in the Indian Ocean region to achieve the honour from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
6. **INOX** will be the official sponsor Indian team for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympic.



SPORTS NEWS

1. India's 2018 Asian Games mixed relay medal upgraded to gold after disqualification of **Bahrain**.
2. **Haryana** will host 4th edition of the ***Khelo India Youth Games*** after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.
3. **Jamie Vardy** has won the Premier Leagues Golden Boot award after netting 23 goals across the 2019/20 season.
4. **Mohun Bagan** became the country's first-ever football club to feature on NASDAQ billboards in New York's Times Square.
5. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the British Grand Prix (GP) 2020.
6. Former Indian cricketers **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** and **Suresh Raina** retires from international cricket.
7. **Lewis** Hamilton has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain.
