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Today Current Affairs for Competitive Exams - Current Affairs 2020-2021 Online

US wrestler James 'Kamala' Harris dies

- US wrestler James "Kamala" Harris, passed away in August 2020.
- He was best known for his appearances in the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) era, in the mid-1980s and early 1990s.
- He fought with Hulk Hogan, The Undertaker and Andre the Giant among others.
- In his era, Harris was a popular opponent for The Undertaker.
- The two men battled at the 1992 Survivor Series in a 'casket match'.

KN Ananthapadmanabhan included in ICC's panel

- India's KN Ananthapadmanabhan has been included in ICC's international panel of umpires following compatriot Nitin Menon's promotion to the elite panel.
- The former Kerala spinner joins fellow Indians C Shamshuddin, Anil Chaudhary and Virender Sharma in the international panel.
- He is now eligible to officiate in the ODI and T20 internationals apart from umpiring in the junior World Cup.

LG India launches online store

- Electronics major LG has announced the launch of 'direct-to-consumer' online store to deliver directly at the customer's doorsteps.
- The company has launched its direct-to-consumer (D2C) channel at a time when online sales are on the rise after the coronavirus outbreak.
- LG India D2C channel would initially cater to only select cities with a limited number of products.

Google launches virtual visiting card feature

- Google, on 11 Aug 2020, announced a new feature that allows people to add themselves to Search.
- While the feature is primarily meant for influencers, entrepreneurs and more, it's actually available to anyone.
- Using this, you can make a virtual visiting card for yourself, which will show up when someone searches for you on Google.
- The feature is called People Cards.

Sinovac launches trial for potential vaccine

- China's Sinovac Biotech Ltd has launched a late-stage human trial involving as many as 1,620 patients in Indonesia for a COVID-19 vaccine candidate that it is developing with Indonesian state-owned Bio Farma.
- The candidate, known as CoronaVac, is among few potential vaccines that have entered late-stage trials for a large-scale study.
- It is already undergoing a late-stage trial in Brazil.

NIP Online Dashboard inaugurated

- Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the National Infrastructure Pipeline, NIP, Online Dashboard in New Delhi.
- It is envisaged as a one-stop solution for all stakeholders looking for information on infrastructure projects in New India.
- The dashboard is being hosted on the India Investment Grid, IIG www.indiainvestmentgrid.gov.in.

Patanjali Jha: Chief Commissioner Income Tax



- IRS Officer Patanjali Jha has assumed charge as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Mumbai.
- He has worked in Mumbai in an earlier stint from May 1997 to April 2007.
- Mr Jha has wide experience of different verticals in the Income Tax Department like Administration, Investigation, Assessment and TDS.
- He possesses a Masters Degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics.

India, Maldives ink contract

- India and Maldives have signed a contract for development of 5 eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll of the island nation.
- These zones are part of the grant projects being implemented under the High-Impact Community Development project scheme.
- The scheme involves total grant assistance of \$5.5 million to the Maldives.
- Currently, there are 9 such high-impact projects being implemented there.

Lebanon's PM Hassan Diab resigns

- Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab has resigned from his post in the wake of a major blast in Beirut that has triggered public outrage.
- An explosion in Beirut's port took place on 4 Aug 20, that decimated the facility and caused widespread destruction, killing more than 160 people and injured about 6000.
- Diab's govt was formed in January 2020 after Saad Hariri, stepped down in Oct 2019.

World Biofuel Day: 10 August

- World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August.
- It creates awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and to highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the biofuel sector.
- The World Biofuel Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.

Defence Minister launches various initiatives

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on 10 Aug 2020 launched the initiatives of a number of modernisation and up-gradation of facilities of Defence Public Sector Undertakings, DPSUs and Ordnance Factory Board OFB through a digital link in New Delhi.
- It was part of the Atmanirbhar Week celebration of the Ministry of Defence.
- Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik also participated in the event.

FSSAI's Eat Right India movement wins a prize

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been awarded the Food System Vision Prize for its 'Eat Right India' movement's vision.
- The prize is for organizations across the globe that have developed an inspiring vision of the regenerative and nourishing food system that they aspire to create by the year 2050.
- Its vision aims to create a culture of safe and sustainable food.

Verstappen wins 70th Anniversary Grand Prix

- Red Bull racer Max Verstappen has won the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix to become the first non-Mercedes driver to win a race in 2020.
- Verstappen defeated Mercedes pair of Lewis Hamilton and polesitter Valtteri Bottas after an incredible display at Silverstone.
- Verstappen had been the only driver in the top 10 to begin the race on the hard tyres.

Laishram Manitombi Singh passes away

- Former India and Mohun Bagan footballer Manitombi Singh passed away in August 2020.
- He was a key member of the Stephen Constantine-coached India Under-23 side that lifted the LG Cup in 2003 by defeating Vietnam 3-2 in Ho Chi Minh City.
- It was India's first international triumph since their victory at an eight-nation tournament in Singapore in 1971.

AIFF join hands with CPSFI

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) organised a webinar for representatives from the Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation of India (CPSFI) as well as



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members from the International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF).

- It was held on 8 August 2020.
- Representatives from CPSFI from different countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives also joined the webinar.

Chhattisgarh to provide urban forest land

- Chhattisgarh govt has decided to provide urban forestland under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, to the tribals and other traditional forest-dwellers for household purposes.
- Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation (JMC) is the first in the country, which has provided land entitlement.

Gujarat government launches new scheme

- The Gujarat government has launched a new scheme Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana.
- Under this, farmers facing crop losses due to drought, excess rain or unseasonal rain will get compensation without the collection of any premium from them.
- It will replace the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for 2020 only.
- This new scheme will benefit all the 56 lakh farmers of the state.

Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh memorial and museum

- Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel laid e-foundation of the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh memorial and museum.
- It is to be built at a cost of Rs 25,66,00,000 crores in Purkhouti Muktangan, Nava Raipur.
- Apart from the memorial, a state-level anthropological museum will also be built here.
- The Museum will become a platform to preserve and display the culture and society of different communities.

Indira Van Mitran scheme

- Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel on 9 August 2020 announced the launch of 'Indira Van Mitran Yojana' to make forest-dwellers self-reliant.
- Under the scheme, dedicated groups of youth will be constituted in around 10,000 villages in tribal-dominated areas to manage forest-based economic activities.
- Each group will consist of 10-15 members.

Rail Museum inaugurated in Hubballi

- Minister of Railways and Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal dedicated Railway Museum at Hubballi through video conferencing on 9 August 2020.
- This Rail Museum is first of its kind in North Karnataka and second in South Western Railway after historic Mysuru Rail Museum at Mysuru.
- The museum aims at preserving and portraying the glorious heritage of various branches of Railways.

IFC to invest \$10m in Endiya Partners fund

- Endiya Partners has announced receiving a commitment of Rs 75 crore (approx \$10 million) from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), member of the World Bank Group.
- The partnership with IFC will provide Endiya portfolio companies with financial and strategic support resulting in increased access to growth opportunities and sustainable scalability.

UAE waives visa fines of stranded Indians

- The UAE has waived thousands of dirhams in fines of Indian expatriates whose visas had expired before Mar 1, 2020, helping them return home without additional expenses amidst the COVID outbreak.
- Already 145 Indians have availed the benefits of the scheme which was proposed by the Indian missions in UAE.
- People living without proper documents for years can now return home without penalties.





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