

TOPIC
Major News and Events: July 2020

MAJOR NEWS AND EVENTS: JULY 2020

01 July 2020

- Senior diplomat Indra Mani Pandey has been appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva.
- ICC chairman Shashank Manohar has stepped down after the completion of tenure and Deputy Chairman Imran Khwaja will assume responsibilities on a temporary basis. Manohar took charge as ICC Chairman in November 2015.
- KK Venugopal has been re-appointed as Attorney General of India for a period of one year.

02 July 2020

- Government has decided to reopen all monuments to the public from next Monday for the first time since the country went into lockdown in March to fight the spread of coronavirus.
- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today inaugurates the first Plasma Bank of the country for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. The facility has been set up at Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has won presidential polls in his bid to stay in power until the middle of the next decade. The vote paves the way for Putin, who has ruled for two decades, to remain President until 2036.
- Legendary West Indies batsman Everton Weekes died today at the age of 95. He was hailed as "a founding father" of the sport in the Caribbean.
- More than 126 miners are reported to be killed in a Jade mine collapse in Hpakant township in Kachin State of northern Myanmar.

03 July 2020

- frontline fighter jets, missile systems and other military hardware worth ₹ 38,900 crore to boost the combat capability of the Indian Armed Forces amid heightened tensions between India and China at the border.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Ladakh on July 3 amid the rising tensions between India and China at LAC border. The Prime Minister was accompanied by CDS General Bipin Rawat and the Chief of India Army MM Naravane. During his visit, PM Modi interacted with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Indian Army and Air Force.

05 July 2020

- Guru Purnima is celebrated today in India.
- Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Bajaj inaugurates world's largest COVID Care Centre at Radha Soami Satsang Beas in Delhi. The centre has over ten thousand beds.

06 July 2020

- China has withdrawn troops by at least a kilometer in the tense Galwan river valley in eastern Ladakh. Indian soldiers have also pulled back and a buffer zone has been created between the troops of both sides.
- Himachal Pradesh becomes the first State in India to have LPG Gas connection in every household within a state.

07 July 2020

- A Himalayan butterfly named Golden Birdwing is now the largest butterfly in India. For the last 88 years, Southern Birdwing butterfly is considered the largest butterfly in India.
- India's Covid recovery rate crosses 61%.
- The Union Home Ministry has permitted conduct of examinations by Universities and Institutions.

08 July 2020

- Nirav Modi's assets worth over ₹329 crore confiscated under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act.

- International cricket has returned after a gap of nearly 4 months, with the first Test between England and West Indies at Southampton starting today.

09 July 2020

- The Union Cabinet approves 12 thousand 450 crore rupees investment in three public sector general insurance companies Oriental Insurance Company Limited, National Insurance Company Limited and United India Insurance Company Limited.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today inaugurated six new bridges built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in the Jammu Division of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through Video Conference. All the six bridges with strategic importance along the International Border and Line of Control were constructed in record time.
- Indian Army has directed all personnel to remove 89 apps, including Facebook and Instagram, from their mobile phones by July 15.

10 July 2020

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Asia's largest solar energy project in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa. The Solar Park has been developed over a total area of 1500 hectares, by the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL). RUMSL is a Joint Venture of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and Madhya Pradesh UrjaVikas Nigam Limited (MPUVN). This solar power plant has a total of three units. Each unit is producing 250 megawatts of electricity.
- From now onwards, Foreign and Indian coaches for training Indian Athletes will now have a four-year contract in alignment with the Olympic cycle.
- India recorded 1.2 million snakebite deaths in the 20-year period from 2000 to 2019 with an average of 58,000 deaths caused by snakebite annually.

11 July 2020

- India's 2018 Tiger Census has made it to the Guinness Book of World Records for being the world's largest on-camera wildlife survey. The fourth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation 2018 estimated 2,967 tigers or 75 per cent of the global tiger population in the nation.

- The 2020 General Elections of Singapore is conducted today for its 105 seats unicameral Parliament. With 83 seats win, incumbent Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will continue as the Prime Minister of Singapore.

12 July 2020

- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has become the **world's 7th richest person** after overtaking legendary investor tycoon Warren Buffett in terms of net worth.
- Bollywood Megastar Amitabh Bachchan and his actor son Abhishek Bachchan, both, have tested positive for COVID-19 and have been hospitalized

13 July 2020

- Technology giant Google today announced a India Digitization Fund, via which the company will invest \$10 billion (about ₹75,000 crore) over the next five-seven years.
- Central Board of Secondary Education announces result of class 12th examination. The pass percentage of Class 12 students was 5% higher than the previous year, with 88.8% of students passing the exam in comparison to 83.4% in 2019.
- West Indies won the first international cricket match since the sport's return after the coronavirus outbreak, beating hosts England by 4 wickets in the first Test.

14 July 2020

- The Congress party has dismissed Sachin Pilot from Rajasthan State Cabinet and also from the post of party's state president.
- India's richest man Mukesh Ambani surged past Silicon Valley tech titan Elon Musk as well as Alphabet co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page to become the world's sixth-richest person.
- Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction of a rail line from the Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the Iran-Afghan border, without the aid of India, citing concerns over delays and funding from the Indian side.

15 July 2020

- Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa has been appointed as a Vice President of the Asian Development Bank.
- CBSE has announced the results of Class X Examinations. The overall pass percentage is 91.46 percent.
- US President Donald Trump has signed a bill to impose sanctions on Chinese officials implementing oppressive law against Hong Kong.
- The UK has banned its companies from sourcing 5G equipment from Chinese telecom company Huawei.

16 July 2020

- Google has officially announced an investment of Rs 33,737 crore in Jio Platforms against the 7.7 percent stake. The announcement regarding the Google-Jio deal was made by RIL Chairman and MD Mukesh Ambani during its Annual General Meeting on July 15.
- India has asked Pakistan to provide it unconditional access for Kulbhushan Jadhav. The development came after Pakistan claimed that Jadhav, who is on a death row in Pakistan, had refused to file a review plea himself.

17 July 2020

- Real Madrid clinched a record-extending 34th La Liga title with one game to spare by beating Villarreal 2-1 at home.
- India's wealthiest woman Roshni Nadar Malhotra is appointed as the chairperson of HCL Technologies. She will replace her father, Shiv Nadar.

20 July 2020

- Intense rain and floods have killed at least 85 people and displaced more than 2.75 million since May, 2020 in Assam. The State Government of Assam announced that so far 108 animals of Kaziranga National Park died in the flood.

- The prestigious Ballon d'Or will not be awarded this year because the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the soccer season. Ballon d'Or has been given out every year since Stanley Matthews won the first one in 1956.

21 July 2020

- The iconic Amarnath Yatra, the annual Hindu pilgrimage to a Jammu and Kashmir shrine, will not take place this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon passed away while undergoing treatment in a private hospital in Lucknow. He was 85.

22 July 2020

- **Airborne transmission of COVID-19** is possible, warned Shekhar C Mande, Chief of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). Mande suggested wearing of masks even in enclosed spaces.
- Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced an investment of Rs. 75 thousand crore in India over the next 5 to 7 years through Google for India Digitisation Fund.

23 July 2020

- National Broadcasting Day is observed today in India. This day is observed as on this day in 1927, the first ever radio broadcast in the country went on air from the Bombay Station under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company.
- China has launched its first independent mission to Mars from the Wenchang spacecraft launch site. The Mars probe has been named Tianwen 1.

24 July 2020

- The human clinical trials of the indigenously developed Covid-19 vaccine candidate Covaxin, kicked off at the AIIMS. It is India's first Covid-19 vaccine trial.
- Government has issued detailed guidelines regarding celebration of Independence Day on 15th August amidst COVID-19.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has finalised the rescheduled window for Indian Premier League (IPL) from September 19 to November 8 in United Arab Emirates. The decision is pending for Government approval.

25 July 2020

- In flood hit Assam, over 50 thousand displaced people are taking shelter at relief camps. The current wave of floods affected 28 lakh people.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijju o Saturday announced Haryana as the host state for the fourth edition of Khelo India Youth Games.
- India has achieved a remarkable feat by conducting a record number of 4 lakh 20 thousand COVID-19 tests in a single day on Friday.

26 July 2020

- Nation pays tributes to war heroes on Kargil Vijay Diwas. The day marks India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil war.
- Maldives celebrates its 55th Independence Day today.

27 July 2020

- The first batch of five Rafale jets flew out of France today and will arrive in India on Wednesday, when the fighter jets will officially be inducted and join the Indian Air Force fleet in Haryana's Ambala.
- Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries toppled ExxonMobil Corporation to become the world's largest energy company after Saudi Aramco.
- Government has banned 47 more Chinese apps. Earlier, it had banned 59 China-based apps on the grounds of national security and data privacy.
- The Nation remembers former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam on his death anniversary today.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted all CRPF personnel on the 82nd Raising Day of the force.
- Juventus win their ninth straight Serie A title after a win over Sampdoria by 2-0.

28 July 2020

- World Hepatitis Day is observed today.

- England's Stuart Broad on Tuesday became only the 7th bowler in world cricket to pick 500 Test wickets when trapped West Indies batsman Kraigg Brathwaite during the final day of the on-going 3rd Test in Manchester.
- China announced the suspension of extradition treaties of Hong Kong with Canada, Britain and Australia.

29 July 2020

- The first five Rafale jets landed in Ambala Wednesday afternoon. Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command Air Marshal B Suresh welcomed the first five IAF Rafales at Air Force Station Ambala.
- The Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has approved the New Education Policy (NEP). The Cabinet also approved changing the name of the HRD Ministry to Education Ministry. There will be a National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. Either one of the mother tongues or the local/regional language will be the medium of instruction up to Class 5 in all schools, the government said.
- Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science have been announced. This year the Lifetime Excellence Award is being awarded to Professor Ashok Sahni for his significant contribution in the field of Geology, Vertebrate Paleontology and Biostratigraphy.
- The annual five-day Haj pilgrimage commences today in Saudi Arabia.
- International Tiger Day being observed today. The Day is celebrated every year across the globe to create awareness about tiger conservation.

30 July 2020

- The Delhi Cabinet has decided to slash Value Added Tax (VAT) rates on diesel effectively reducing its price to ₹73.64 down from ₹82 per litre.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the new Supreme Court building in Port Louis in Mauritius.

31 July 2020

- Jharkhand Chief Minister, Hemant Soren has announced the extension of lockdown in the state till August 31, 2020. The decision has been taken in the wake of rising cases of COVID-19 detected in the state
- Cabinet approved National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by replacing NEP, 1986; HRD ministry renamed as Ministry of Education

