

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS (AUGUST 09 TO AUGUST 15)

IMPORTANT EVENTS

- **AUGUST 9 - QUIT INDIA DAY**
- **AUGUST 11 - KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI**
- **AUGUST 12 - WORLD'S ELEPHANT DAY**
- **AUGUST 13 - INTERNATIONAL LEFT HANDERS DAY**
- **AUGUST 15 - INDEPENDENCE DAY**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INDIA

1st Kisan Rail from Devlali to Danapur flagged off

- **Indian Railways** unveiled the first “**Kisan Rail**” from Devlali to Danapur on 7th August 2020 from Devlali. Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchyati Raj Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar and Railways and Commerce & Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal flagged off the train via video conferencing.
- The Kisan Rail will run on a weekly basis with an initial composition of 10 +1 VPs. Kisan Rail was announced in the 2020 budget.
- Agriculture produce needs the best possible distribution and returns.

<i>Indian Railways</i>	Railway company
<i>Headquarters</i>	New Delhi
<i>Founded</i>	16 April 1853, India
<i>Number of employees</i>	13,08,000 (2016-2017)

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India has launched Virtual Office Network to Spearhead Tribal Socio-Economic Development

- **TRIFED** under **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, has launched its own Virtual Office Network to Spearhead Tribal Socio-Economic Development on the occasion of its

33rd Foundation Day on August 6, 2020. TRIFED has doubled its efforts to offer its help and support the tribal people in employment and livelihood generation.

- The TRIFED Virtual office network has 81 online workstations and 100 additional converging State and agency workstations that will help the team of TRIFED warriors work with their partners across India on Mission-mode with an aim to bring the tribal people closer to mainstream development.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs Officeholder

Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor (Minister of State)

Founded

October 1999

Headquarters

Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi - 110 011

Jurisdiction

India

Indian Railways is to operate 1st transport dyes to Bangladesh from Gujarat after Chillies from AP

- Indian Railways is to operate 1st parcel special train to Bangladesh under Ahmedabad division. The train is to traverse 2,110 km to reach the Benapole in Bangladesh. The Western Railways sent goods train earlier with loaded wagons of onion to Bangladesh.
- The Western Railway Zone has achieved record by sending a parcel train from Gujarat to Bangladesh. The train is to carry denim cloth, dyes and colours. This is to generate a revenue of Rs 31 lakhs.

Indian Railways

Railway company

Headquarters

New Delhi

Founded

16 April 1853, India

Number of employees

13,08,000 (2016-2017)

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India(FSSAI's)'Eat Right India' movement wins Food System Vision Prize

- On August 9, 2020 FSSAI said it has been awarded the 'Food System Vision Prize' by the Rockefeller Foundation of US for its 'Eat Right India' movement's vision, along with nine other finalists.
- Eat Right India's vision for 2050 aims to create a culture of safe, healthy and sustainable food.

FSSAI

Government ministry

Founded

August 2011

Agency executive

Rita Teotia (Chairperson)

Parent agency

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI

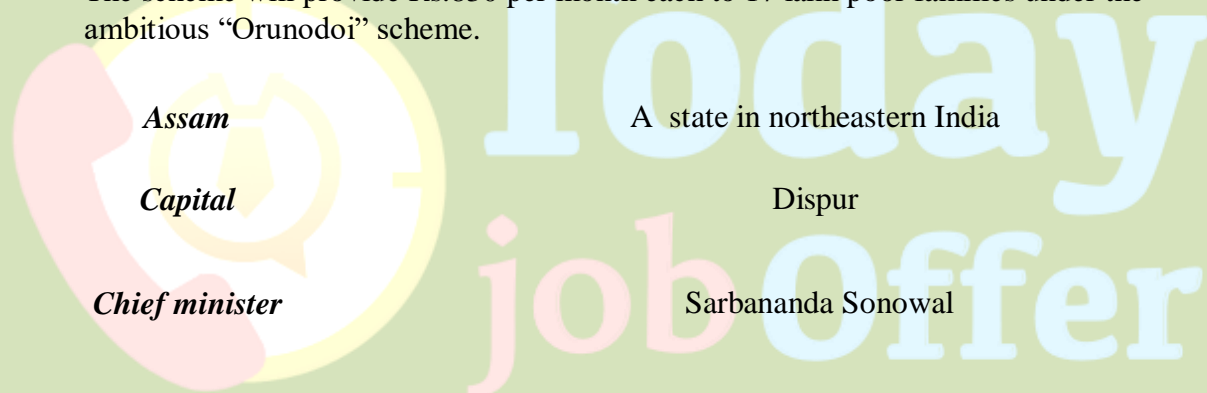
Andhra Pradesh Govt launched a new State Industrial Development Policy 2020-23

- The Andhra Pradesh Government has launched a new State Industrial Development Policy for the year 2020-23. The policy aimed to create employment for youth and match national average in industrial GVA per capita.
- The previous Industrial Development Policy of the state was implemented between 2015-20

Andhra Pradesh	State of India
Governor	Biswabhusan Harichandan
Chief minister	Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

Assam State Govt has launched Orunodoi scheme for womens financial empowerment

- **Assam State Govt** launched "**Orunodoi scheme**", a mega scheme for women's financial empowerment. Under the mega scheme, a district-wise selection of beneficiaries will begin from August 17.
- The beneficiaries will receive the amount in the bank account of a female family member on the first day of every month. The scheme will begin from the month of October 2020.
- The scheme will provide Rs.830 per month each to 17 lakh poor families under the ambitious "Orunodoi" scheme.



Lok Sabha officials to started beginner-level course in French

- **Lok Sabha** has started a beginner-level course in **French** for the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat at the Parliament House. More than 57 officials have registered for the course.
- The course was launched as it is considered to interconnect the world and is a necessary skill for success in different fields. The move comes as the language brings people together and helps improve their efficiency and skill as languages enrich and bring people together.

Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE)

It was established in 1976. It was aimed to provide training to parliamentary staff, officials, & other parliamentarians in various disciplines of parliamentary institutions. It conducts various activities including orientation programmes, round table discussions, & lectures for Members of Parliament (MP).

Atal Innovation Mission AIM, Dell Technology has launched Student Entrepreneurship 2.0 Programme

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with **Dell Technologies** has launched **Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0)** for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).
- The programme was launched following the success of SEP 1.0. It was launched by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; Alok Ohrie, President and MD, Dell Technologies; R. Ramanan, Mission Director, AIM; and Dr Anjlee Prakash, Chairperson, Learning Links Foundation.

<i>NITI Aayog Formed</i>	January 1, 2015
<i>Jurisdiction</i>	Govt of India
<i>Headquarters</i>	New Delhi
<i>Chairperson</i>	Narendra Modi

Agriculture Minister has virtually launched Krishi Megh

- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually launched the **Krishi Megh (National Agricultural Research & Education System - Cloud Infrastructure and Services)**.
- Krishi Megh is in line with the digital agriculture of New India. Also, he launched **KVC ALUNET (Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Chhatr Alumni Network)** and **Online Accreditation System for Higher Agricultural Educational Institutions (HEI)**.

<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>	Government ministry
<i>Founded</i>	1947
<i>Jurisdiction</i>	India
<i>Head Quarters</i>	New Delhi

Uttar Pradesh: PFC has signed agreement to construct Modular Operation Theatres at District Hospital, Siddharthnagar

- Govt-owned **Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)**, India's leading NBFC, signed a Memorandum of Association (MOA) with District Siddharthnagar in Uttar Pradesh for construction of two Modular Operation Theatre Rooms in the District Hospital, Siddharthnagar.
- Shri M. Prabhakar Das, CGM (CSR&SD), PFC, and Dr. Dinesh Kumar Chaudhary, Dy. CMO, Siddharthnagar signed the agreement on behalf of respective organizations.
- Under the MoA, PFC will provide financial assistance of close to Rs.94,00,000 for the execution of the Project to the District Administration, Siddharthnagar under its Corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Power Finance Corporation Ltd(PFC)	Company
Headquarters	New Delhi
Owner	Government of India (52.63%)
Founded	July 1986

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL

Russia is planning to conduct 1st meeting of Russia-India-China summit

- **Russia** has proposed to host the first meeting of **Russia-India-China (RIC) Defence Ministers** in Moscow, Russia in September. The meeting will provide an opportunity for India and China to keep their communication channels open amid the Line of Actual Control (LAC) standoff.
- Russia will organize a RIC summit on the sidelines of the G20 meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Riyadh in November 2020 amid the rising tension between India and China.

Russia President	Vladimir Putin
Currency	Russian Rouble
Prime minister	Mikhail Mishustin
Capital	Moscow

United States: Senator Kamala Harris named Democratic Party's Vice-Presidential candidate

- Joe Biden (77), Democratic Party's candidate for forthcoming US Presidential election, selected Indian-origin senator Kamala Harris (55) as his choice as Vice-President.
- Harris was born to a Jamaican father and Indian mother and was elected to the Senate for the first time in 2016.

Youth uncertain of their future career prospects due to Covid-19: ILO Survey

- Half of the world's youth population is subject to anxiety or depression-causing circumstances and more than a third are uncertain of their future career prospects due to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the 'Youth and Covid-19: impacts on jobs, education, rights and mental well-being' survey by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

International Labour Organization	Geneva, Switzerland
Headquarters	
Founder	Paris Peace Conference
Founded	1919

Parent organizations

United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council

Heads

Guy Ryder, Juan Somavía

China extends anti-dumping Tariff on Indian Fibre Optic Product

- The Ministry of Commerce announced that China is extending anti-dumping tariff on fibre optic products made in India.
- The tariff is to take effect on August 14, 2020 and is to last for five years. The tariffs are to range between 7.4% and 30.6%. Earlier China had slapped anti-dumping tariff on Indian products five years till August 2019 and had then reviewed.

Ministry of Commerce Departments

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

India extends ONE million USD to Antigua & Barbuda to combat COVID-19

- India extended 1 million USD to Antigua and Barbuda to combat COVID-19 outbreak. This is aimed at improving health infrastructure in the country.
- India has also offered same level of assistance, that is, 1 million USD to each of Caribbean Community under CARICOM. CARICOM is a group of 20 developing countries in the Caribbean region.
- Under the 1 million USD assistance, the countries are to be assisted with disposable impervious gowns, full cover goggles, ventilators, face shields, examination gloves, disposable masks, etc. Also, Antigua and Barbuda are to receive 10,000 Hydroxychloroquine tablets.

Chinese President Xi Jinping launches a new version ‘Clean Your Plate Campaign’

- China has officially launched a new version of “Clean Your Plate Campaign” flagged by Chinese President Xi Jinping. “Different from the previous campaign, which was aimed at putting an end to officials’ extravagant feasts and receptions, the 2.0 version calls for the public to stop wasting food,” state-run Global Times reported on August 13, 2020.

China

Country in East Asia

Official language

Mandarin

Capital

Beijing

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AGRICULTURE

Prime Minister Modi was launch financing facility under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- PM Modi is to launch financing facility of Rs 1 lakh crore under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund via video conferencing. Along with the facility the Prime Minister will also release sixth installment of funds of Rs 17,000 Cr. This is to benefit more than 8.5 crore farmers under PM-KISAN scheme.
- The funding facility is to catalyse creation of post-harvest management community and infrastructure farming assets such as collection centres, cold storage, processing units, etc. The assets will enable farmers to get greater value for their produce.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS

India's Govt to promote manufacturing of selected products to boost market share

- India's govt plans to promote the manufacturing of selected products, especially lines in which China enjoys a big share in the global market, as part of efforts to reduce imports and push exports, a cabinet minister said on Monday.
- Aims to attract foreign investments in pre-identified areas, promote joint ventures and support local businesses to expand India's share of global markets, Nitin Gadkari, India's minister for MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises), told a virtual conference.

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)

Officeholders

Annual budget

Government ministry

Giriraj Singh (MOS independent charge), Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister)

6,552.61 crores INR (2018-19 est., US\$920 million)

CURRENT AFFAIRS: DEFENSE

“Make in India”: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was launches Atma Nirbhar Bharat Saptah

- The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched Atma Nirbhar Bharat Saptah. The scheme aims to shift India towards local manufacturing and aid “Make in India” initiative.
- The idea of the scheme is to give importance to domestic production in the country. The idea of observing a week will provide impetus to Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The Defence Minister recently introduced import embargo on 101 defence items to boost indigenisation of defence production. Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was launched to make India self-reliant based on Economy, Demography, System, Infrastructure, and Demand.

Indigenous platforms in negative list to avoid imports: Defence Ministry

- Several military platforms like the Light Combat Aircraft, Pinaka rocket launchers and Akash missile systems, which have been indigenously developed, were included in the negative list of imports to ensure that the Services do not go in for procurement of similar systems by imports, the Defence Ministry said on August 10, 2020.
- On August 9, the Defence Ministry had issued a 101-item negative defence import list which must be domestically procured in a phased manner.

Defence Minister has launches various initiatives of DPSUs & OFB

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on August 10, 2020 launched the initiatives of a number of modernisation and up-gradation of facilities as also new infrastructure creation by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) through digital link in New Delhi.
- The Defence Ministry is celebrating Atma-Nirbharta (self-sufficiency) week from August 7 to 14.

<i>Defence Minister</i>	Agency
<i>Preceding Ministry</i>	Department of Defence (1938–47)
<i>Founded</i>	15 August 1947
<i>Headquarters</i>	New Delhi

Union Defence Minister launched portal, "Opportunities for Make In India in Defence"

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched a portal for '**Opportunities for Make In India in Defence**' through video conferencing. The facility was launched as part of 'Atmanirbharta Saptah' (Atmanirbharta Week).
- The portal aims to promote the indigenization in defence sector.
- The Ordnance Factory Nalanda, Defence Production unit of Bihar, launched an indigenous portal which will attract vendors on the stop shop online market.

<i>Defence Minister</i>	Agency
<i>Preceding Ministry</i>	Department of Defence (1938–47)
<i>Founded</i>	15 August 1947
<i>Officeholders</i>	Rajnath Singh (Minister), Subhash Bhamre (Minister of State)
<i>Headquarters</i>	New Delhi

CURRENT AFFAIRS: ENVIRONMENT

77 new species of butterfly found in Maharashtra

- The study conducted by Bombay Natural History Society has found 77 new species of butterflies in the ecologically sensitive forest of Matheran hill station in Mumbai. With this the total number of butterfly species in the forest has gone up to 140.
- Matheran hill station is spread over 214 square kilo metres and is located at 80 km from the Maharashtra capital. The study was conducted between 2011 and 2019. This is the first study in the forest in 125 years.

SURAKHSYA: National Portal of “Project Elephant” launched

- The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched National Portal on Human Elephant conflict called “SURAKHSYA”. The portal aims to collect real time information and will also manage conflicts on real time basis.
- The National Portal was launched during the celebration of international annual event **World Elephant Day**. The World Elephant Day is celebrated every year on August 12 to create elephant conservation and share knowledge for better protection of wild captive elephants.
- The portal will help to set data collection protocols, data visualization tools and data transmission pipelines.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

COVAX Facility of WHO renews its invitation

- The COVAX Facility of the World Health Organization recently renewed its invitation to countries to join its COVID-19 vaccine facility. The COVAX facility is a mechanism designed to guarantee fair, rapid and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.
- COVAX is COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility. The facility is backed by Bill Gate Foundation. The foundation is working to make COVID-19 vaccines available to poor countries.

Main goals of COVAX?

- To actively manage portfolio of vaccines
- To deliver vaccines as soon as they are available
- To end acute phase of pandemic
- To rebuild economies

GVP-SIRC developed Indigenous AUM Photonic System developed for Real-Time Remote Monitoring of Air Quality

- **Scientific and Industrial Research Centre (GVP-SIRC)** and GVP College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam, has developed an indigenous photonic system for real-time remote monitoring of air quality parameters. The system titled **Air Unique-quality**

Monitoring (AUM) was developed under the Clean Air Research Initiative of the Department of Science and Technology.

- The AUM system is an innovative application of the principles of statistical mechanics, laser backscattering, optoelectronics, artificial intelligence (AI), machine/deep learning, and Internet of Things.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: ECONOMY

PM unveils ‘Honouring the Honest’ platform for Transparent Taxation

- PM Modi on August 13, 2020 launched a “Transparent Taxation — Honouring the Honest” platform that provides faceless assessment & faceless appeal and a taxpayers’ charter.
- Faceless assessment seeks to eliminate corrupt practices by eliminating the need for physical interface between assessing officers & assesses. The cases of scrutiny will now be allocated randomly to any official in any part of the country.

Retail inflation inches up to 6.93 percent in July

- Retail inflation inched up to 6.93 percent for the month of July as food prices shot up owing to disruption and floods in eastern India.
- The data for the month of June has been revised upwards to 6.23%.

PM SVANidhi Scheme: 5 lakh loan applications from street vendors

- The number of applications received by the Government of India under PM-SVANidhi Scheme crossed 5 lakhs in 41 days of its launch. The scheme was launched to benefit the street vendors. PM SVANidhi is PM Street Vendor’s Atma Nirbhar Nidhi.
- Under the scheme, the number of loans sanctioned has crossed 1 lakh. The Government aims to provide loans up to Rs 10,000 to the street vendors under the scheme. It was launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Corporate Affairs Ministry’s panel calls for renaming Business Responsibility Report

- A committee constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in 2018 has proposed that the Business Responsibility Report of corporates should be called as the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR).
- The committee has suggested two formats for disclosures by corporates — a comprehensive format and a “lite version”.

Reliance Foundation partners with USAID, W-GDP to bridge gender digital divide

- Reliance Foundation has partnered with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative,

which aims to reduce the gender digital divide in India, the philanthropic arm of the Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) said on August 12, 2020.

***United States Agency for
International Development
Headquarters***

Washington, D.C., United States

Agency executives

John Barsa, Acting Administrator; Bonnie Glick, Deputy Administrator;

Founder

John F. Kennedy

Founded

November 3, 1961

CURRENT AFFAIRS: TECHNOLOGY

COVID-19: Israel shares high end technology with AIIMS

- Israel recently shared its artificial intelligence (AI)-based technologies and high-end equipment with AIIMS, Delhi. This is a part of India-Israel cooperation fight against COVID-19.
- These technologies include AI video-oriented and voice operated autonomous personal robot and mobile applications that can be installed on any mobile phones of COVID-19 staff. Also, Israel has provided a 120-hour disinfection product called CPD. This stays active to protect surface against new attacks of contamination.