

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS (AUGUST 16 TO AUGUST 22)

IMPORTANT EVENTS

- **AUGUST 22 – Vinayagar Chartutrti**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INDIA

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Suresh Raina announced retire from International Cricket

- Indian Cricket players M S Dhoni and Suresh Raina announced their retirement from International Cricket. This means that they shall still play for games conducted within India.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni

Born

Test debut (cap 251)

Last ODI

Indian cricketer

July 7, 1981 (age 39 years), Ranchi

December 2, 2005 v Sri Lanka

9 July 2019 v New Zealand

President Ram Nath Kovind virtually unveils a portrait of Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee at ICCR Headquarters

- The **President of India Ram Nath Kovind** unveiled the portrait of **Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India** virtually on his second death anniversary, at the headquarters of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- From March 1977 to August 1979, the former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee served as the ex-officio President of ICCR, when he was Foreign Minister.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations(ICCR)

President

Founder

Government office

Vinay Sahasrabuddhe

Abul Kalam Azad

Director General

Shri Dineshk Patnaik

Chattisgarh CM launch Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme for School Students On Independence day

- The **Chief Minister of Chattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel** has announced the launch of the **Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme (Education up to your locality)**, a new scheme on 15th August, Independence Day. Under the scheme, the students will be able to study in their own neighbourhoods as classes were suspended due to the outbreak of covid-19.
- **Padhai Tuhar Para Scheme** - Padhai Tunhar Para scheme aims to teach children with the help of the community in the villages.

*Chhattisgarh
Founded
Chief minister
Governor*

A State of India
November 1, 2000
Bhupesh Baghel
Anusuiya Uikey

Ministry of Tribal Affairs Launched SWASTHYA Portal & ALEKH e-newsletter on Health

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched Tribal Health and Nutrition portal called “SWASTHYA”. Also, the ministry launched the “ALEKH” e-newsletter on health and nutrition.
- **About SWASTHYA** - The portal is first of its kind. It provides information related to health and nutrition of tribal population in India. It will also act as an integrated source of information about research studies, innovative practices, case studies and best practices that were collected from different parts of the country.

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

IIT-Madras has topped the ARIIA 2020

- The **Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu** announced **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020** virtually on 18th August 2020. ARIIA classified institutes into 2 broad categories and 6 subcategories.

Rankings - The institutions were ranked as follows

- Rank I-IIT Madras

- Rank II-IIT Bombay
- Rank III-IIT Delhi
- Rank IV-IISc Bengaluru
- Rank V-IIT Kharagpur
- Rank VI-IIT Kanpur
- Rank VII-IIT Mandi
- Rank VIII-NIT Calicut
- Rank IX-IIT Roorkee
- Rank X-University of Hyderabad.

ARIIA ARIIA, 2020 was launched by Ministry of Education. It is to be noted that the Ministry of Human Resources and Development was renamed to Ministry Education. This step was taken when the GoI unveiled National Education Policy, 2020. The ARIIA is implemented by All India council for Technical Education (AICTE).

National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), CSIR-NAL collaborate to development of aerospace technologies.

- State-owned NRDC & CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratory has collaborated to set up innovation cum incubation centre with external private funding to promote startups involved in the development of aerospace technologies.

National Aerospace Laboratories
Director
Founded
Operating agency
Field of research

Aircraft manufacturer
 Jitendra J Jadhav
 June 1, 1959
 Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
 Aerospace

Ministry of Skill Development and Ministry of Shipping signed, ink deal to boost skills in port and maritime sector

- Ministry of Skill Development and Ministry of Shipping signed a MoU for skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling workforce in port and maritime industry and also to develop coastal community.
- This is to underpin commitment of Coastal Community under Sagar Mala programme.

Ministry of Shipping Departments
Founded
Minister responsible

Directorate General of Shipping
 2018
 Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State
 (Independent Charge)

Indore award as cleanest city in Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards

- For the 4th consecutive year, Indore in Madhya Pradesh topped as the cleanest city in Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards. The awards were presented by Union Urban Development Minister during a virtual event.

India: World's largest number of organic farmers

- India has the highest number of organic farmers and the holds ninth position in terms of area under organic farming. Sikkim became the first state to go fully organic and several other states like Tripura & Uttarakhand have similar targets.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL

India sends 58 tons of emergency Humanitarian aid to Lebanon to assist Beirut Explosion Victims

- GoI has sent 58 tonnes of emergency humanitarian aid to the people affected by Beirut Explosion in Lebanon. This includes Personal Protective Equipment, surgical gowns, surgical gloves as well.
- India dispatched the aid through C-17 heavy lift aircrafts. It included wheat flour, pulses, sugar, blankets, sleeping mats, dignity kits, medical supplies, etc.

*Beirut
Mayor*

Capital of Lebanon
Jamal Itani

Naga Independence Day celebrated in Nagaland & Manipur

- On 14th Aug, 2020, the 74th Naga Independence Day was celebrated in the states of Nagaland and Manipur.
- In Nagaland, the day was celebrated by the students by hoisting Naga National Flag. Nagaland became a state in 1963. However, a section of Naga leaders are continuing the movement claiming for sovereignty.

Taiwan has purchases the Latest F-16 jets from the United States

- Taiwan recently signed an agreement to buy 66 of the latest F-16 jets from the US. This is expected to escalate the tensions between US and China further.
- This is the first purchase of Taiwan from the US since 1992. Though the deal was planned and talks were finalised a year ago, the move is likely to be denounced by Beijing. The sale of jets to Taiwan is to be completed by the end of 2026.

*Taiwan Capital
Currency
President*

Taipei
New Taiwan dollar
Tsai Ing-wen

India, Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa (BRICS) Anti-Drug Working Group held

- The 4th session of Anti-Drug Working Group was held virtually. All the member countries of the group such as India, Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa participated in the session.
- The group reaffirmed their commitments towards the Anti-Drug Conventions. The meeting focused on misuse of technologies for drug trafficking. During the meet India stressed on the common points that emerged during discussions including need for real time information sharing.

BRICS

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Founded

June 2006

Founders

India, China, Brazil, Russia

India has attend the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

- The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. The conference was organized by Parliament of Austria & Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva with the support of United Nations.

Sixth-round table conference between India & AINTT (ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks)

- The External Affairs Minister S Jai Shankar attended ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT). It was the sixth-round table conference between India and AINTT.
- The External Affairs Minister emphasised on the following during the conference

i. The concerns of the global supply chains should be mitigated with diversification and resilience

ii. A Model of Cooperation shall be enforced to boost the supply chain between India and ASEAN countries

iii. India intends to expand Indo-Pacific initiative.

External Affairs Minister of India

Shri S Jai Shankar

Malaysia detected a New COVID-19 strain with 10-times more infection rate virus DG14G

- Malaysia has recently detected a new COVID-19 strain that is 10 times more infectious. The mutation of the virus is called DG14G.
- According to the Malaysian Government, the mutation was found in at least three of the 45 case. Also, it started from a restaurant owner who had returned from India. The Govt also reported that he breached his 14 day Home Quarantine.

<i>Malaysia</i>	Country in Asia
<i>Capital</i>	Kuala Lumpur
<i>Currency</i>	Malaysian ringgit

US Secretary of State Pompeo inks deal to move US troops from Germany to Poland

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo signed an Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement with Poland for the redeployment of American troops from Germany to Poland.
- The deal will also boost other aspects of the bilateral ties like investments and trade.

Mauritius Oil Spill: India deputed 10-member Indian Coast Guard team under Mission SAGAR

- On AUG 16, 2020, India sent 30 tonnes of technical equipment and material to Mauritius. The country is fighting to contain an oil spill that occurred in its pristine south-east coast.
- India has deployed a 10-member Indian Coast Guard team under Mission SAGAR to contain oil spill. Earlier in August 2020, a Japanese bulk carrier struck a coral reef coast of Mauritius that leaked 100s of tonnes of oil in the environment sensitive regions of Mauritius.

<i>Mauritius</i>	Country in East Africa
<i>Currency</i>	Mauritian rupee
<i>Capital</i>	Port Louis

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS

Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) opens Quality Control Lab in Porbandar; India misses Sea Food Export Target in 2019-20

- The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) opened a Quality Control Laboratory in Porbandar. The laboratory is to test seafood processors and exporters.
- The laboratory is to test seafood processors and exporters to make sure their products are safe according to international regulatory requirement. It is equipped with equipment to

analyse antibiotic residues and heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, arsenic and mercury. These residues and metals are to be tested tuna, mackerel and also histamine in fish.

Porbandar

City in Gujarat

On Monday, SpiceJet to induct its first Airbus A340 cargo aircraft in freighters fleet

- SpiceJet on Monday said it will soon induct its first Airbus A340 cargo aircraft in its freighters fleet. The induction of the first wide-body freighter will help the airline to primarily operate cargo flights on long-haul routes including to destinations in Europe, CIS & African region, SpiceJet said in a release.
- With the latest induction, SpiceJet will have a dedicated fleet of nine freighter aircraft consisting of five Boeing 737s, three Bombardier Q-40 and one Airbus A340.

Spice Jet

Air Line

CEO

Ajay Singh (21 May 2015–)

Founded

2004

Founders

Ajay Singh, Bhupendra S. Kansagra

Direct passenger-cum-cargo ferry shipping service between India, Maldives from next month

- A direct passenger-cum-cargo ferry service between India and Maldives will be launched next month as per the last year's agreement between the two countries. The shipping service will connect Cochin and Tuticorin with Male.

Maldives

Country in South Asia

Capital

Malé

Currency

Maldivian rufiyaa

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Parliamentary panel on Information Technology to look into Facebook's content takedown concerns

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT will look into reports that Facebook did not pull down hateful content posted by BJP legislators on its platform as it looked to seek favours from the government.
- "I will look into the issues raised & of course seek to hear from those named," Shashi Tharoor, Kerala Member of Parliament from the Indian National Congress and chairman of the IT committee, said in microblogging platform Twitter.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

USFDA clears simple Saliva test called “SALIVA DIRECT” to detect COVID-19

- On August 16, 2020, the United States Food and Drugs Administration authorised the emergency use of saliva based diagnostic test for COVID-19. This is to be a game changer as it provides the results rapidly. The testing method has been named “SALIVA DIRECT”
- Saliva Direct testing method is simpler and is less expensive as compared to traditional method called the Nasopharyngeal swabbing. The test method is to be used to test players and staffs in National Basketball Association.

Food and Drugs Administration

Federal agency

Commissioner

Stephen Hahn

Founders

Harvey Washington Wiley, Theodore Roosevelt

Jurisdiction

United States

Scientists has found that Dwarf planet Ceres is now an Ocean world

- Researchers stated that **Ceres** looks like an “**Ocean World**”. Teh scientist stated after analyzing the data collected by NASA’s Dawn spacecraft.
- The dwarf planet Ceres lies in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and is also the largest object in that belt.

NASA Headquarters

Washington, D.C., United States

Founder

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Founded

1 October 1958, United States

International Solar Alliance (ISA) to organize the 1st World Solar Technology Summit on Virtual Platform

- **ISA** is to organize the **1st World Solar Technology Summit** on a virtual platform on Sep 8, 2020. PM Modi will deliver the inaugural address of the First World Solar Technology Summit.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: DEFENSE

Defence Ministry to expand National Cadet Corps(NCC) in 173 borders, coastal districts

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) for a major expansion scheme in all the border and coastal districts. A total of 83 NCC

units will be upgraded. It includes Army 53, Navy 20, Indian Air Force (IAF) 10. The scheme aims to impart NCC training to the cadets in the border and coastal areas.

- Under the scheme, a total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted in the NCC.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed Bailey bridge in Uttarakhand

- **BRO** has constructed a 180-foot bailey bridge in the **Jauljibi sector of Pithoragarh district**, Uttarakhand. The construction was done amid frequent landslides and heavy rains.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

Headquarters:

New Delhi

Director General

Lt. Gen.Harpal Singh

Founder

Jawaharlal Nehru

CURRENT AFFAIRS: ECONOMY

NITI Aayog forces linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates

- A NITI Aayog task force has called for the linking of sugarcane prices to sugar rates to secure financial health of the industry.
- It also recommended a one-time increase in minimum sugar price to Rs.33 per kilo to help sugar mills cover the production cost, interests and maintenance costs.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: TECHNOLOGY

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO): Chandrayaan-2 completes a year around Moon

- ISRO on August 20 said that the second lunar mission of India Chandrayaan-2 has completed one year around the Moon in the lunar orbit. According to ISRO, all the instruments of Chandrayaan-2 are performing well at present.
- ISRO also highlighted that the fuel onboard is adequate to keep Chandrayaan-2 operational for seven more years.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS

National Sports Awards 2020 announced

- **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** announced the **National Sports Awards 2020**. A large number of applications were received for Sports Awards 2020. The winners were considered by the Selection Committee headed by Justice (Retd.)

- GoI has conferred awards upon the following sportspersons, coaches and entities under various categories:

1. RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD

- a. Shri Rohit Sharma - Cricket
- b. Shri Mariyappan T. - Para Athletics
- c. Ms. Manika Batra - Table Tennis
- d. Ms. Vinesh - Wrestling
- e. Ms. Rani - Hockey

2. DRONACHARYA AWARD

A) Life- Time Category

- a. Shri Dharmendra Tiwary - Archery
- b. Shri Purushotham Rai - Athletics
- c. Shri Shiv Singh - Boxing
- d. Shri Romesh Pathania - Hockey
- e. Shri Krishan Kumar Hooda - Kabaddi
- f. Shri Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar - Para Powerlifting
- g. Shri Naresh Kumar - Tennis
- h. Shri Om Parkash Dahiya - Wrestling

B) Regular Category

- a. Shri Jude Felix Sebastian - Hockey
- b. Shri Yogesh Malviya - Mallakhamb
- c. Shri Jaspal Rana - Shooting
- d. Shri Kuldeep Kumar Handoo - Wushu
- e. Shri Gaurav Khanna - Para Badminton

3. ARJUNA AWARD

- a. Shri Atanu Das - Archery
- b. Ms. Dutee Chand - Athletics
- c. Shri Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy - Badminton
- d. Shri Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty - Badminton
- e. Shri Vishesh Bhriguvanshi - Basketball
- f. Subedar Manish Kaushik - Boxing
- g. Ms. Lovlina Borgohain - Boxing
- h. Shri Ishant Sharma - Cricket
- i. Ms. Deepti Sharma - Cricket
- j. Shri Sawant Ajay Anant -Equestrian
- k. Shri Sandesh Jhingan - Football
- l. Ms. Aditi Ashok - Golf

- m. Shri Akashdeep Singh - Hockey
- n. Ms. Deepika - Hockey
- o. Shri Deepak - Kabaddi
- p. Shri Kale Sarika Sudhakar - Kho Kho
- q. Shri Dattu Baban Bhokanal - Rowing
- r. Ms. Manu Bhaker - Shooting
- s. Shri Saurabh Chaudhary - Shooting
- t. Ms. Madhurika Suhas Patkar - Table Tennis
- u. Shri Divij Sharan - Tennis
- v. Shri Shiva Keshavan - Winter Sports
- w. Ms. Divya Kakran - Wrestling
- x. Shri Rahul Aware - Wrestling
- y. Shri Suyash Narayan Jadhav - Para Swimming
- z. Shri Sandeep - Para Athletics
- aa. Shri Manish Narwal - Para Shooting

4. DHYAN CHAND AWARD

- a. Shri Kuldip Singh Bhullar - Athletics
- b. Ms. Jincy Philips - Athletics
- c. Shri Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe - Badminton
- d. Ms. Trupti Murgunde - Badminton
- e. Ms. N. Usha - Boxing
- f. Shri Lakha Singh - Boxing
- g. Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu - Football
- h. Shri Ajit Singh - Hockey
- i. Shri Manpreet Singh -Kabaddi
- j. Shri J. Ranjith Kumar - Para Athletics
- k. Shri Satyaprakash Tiwari - Para Badminton
- l. Shri Manjeet Singh - Rowing
- m. Late Shri Sachin Nag -Swimming
- n. Shri Nandan P Bal - Tennis
- o. Shri Netarpal Hooda - Wrestling

5. TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARDS 2019

- a. Ms. Anita Devi - Land Adventure
- b. Col. Sarfraz Singh - Land Adventure
- c. Shri Taka Tamut - Land Adventure
- d. Shri Narender Singh - Land Adventure
- e. Shri Keval Hiren Kakka - Land Adventure
- f. Shri Satendra Singh - Water Adventure
- g. Shri Gajanand Yadava - Air Adventure
- h. Late Shri Magan Bissa - Life Time Achievement

6. MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD (MAKA) TROPHY

- a. Panjab University, Chandigarh

7. RASHTRIYA KHEL PRO TSAHAN PURUSKAR

- a. Identification & Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent - 1. Lakshya Institute, 2. Army Sports Institute
- b. Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility - ONGC Ltd.
- c. Employment of sports persons and sports welfare measures - Air Force Sports Control Board

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

Officeholder

Departments

Founded

Government department

Kiren Rijiju (MOS independent charge)

Department of Children & Youth Affairs,
Department of Youth and Sports Development

27 May 2000

