

Top Current Affairs of the Week (20 July- 26 July 2020)

Lewis Hamilton wins 2020 Hungarian Grand Prix

- Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton (Great Britain) has won 2020 Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix.
- Red Bull racer Max Verstappen (Dutch) and Mercedes racer Valtteri Bottas (Finland) secured second and third position respectively
- Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 (Formula 1 Aramco Magyar Nagydij) was the third race of 2020 Formula-One World Championship.
- The other two Formula 1 Championship were held in Austria.

Renowned Indian Mathematician S. Seshadri passes away

- Eminent Indian mathematician **S. Seshadri (88 years)** passes away in Chennai
- He was the founder and Director-Emeritus of the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI)
- He is known for his work in algebraic geometry.
- Seshadri constant is named after him that expresses the so called local positivity of a line bundle on a projective variety.
- He was awarded the **Padma Bhushan in 2009**.
- He also received **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award** and **Srinivasa Ramanujan Medal**.

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Marianna Vardinoyannis & Guinean Morissana wins 2020 Mandela Prize

- **Marianna Vardinoyannis** and **Morissana Kouyaté** has been awarded by UN for **2020 Nelson Mandela Prize**.
- Winners were announced by UN General Assembly on Nelson Mandela International Day
- Vardinoyannis is a Greek philanthropist known for fighting childhood cancer and world without borders in health
- Kouyate is Human rights activist of Guinea known for his contribution towards violence against women in Africa
- Prize is awarded every five years and was 1st awarded in 2015

New Android malware titled 'BlackRock' discovered

- New Android malware titled '**BlackRock**' has been discovered that steals data from 337 apps including **Gmail, Amazon, Netflix, Uber**, etc.
- It has enhanced features related to stealing passwords and credit card details and is based on the leaked source code of another malware strain '**Xerxes**'
- It collects data through '**Overlays**' technique
- When a user interacts with legitimate app, it places a fake window on top that asks for login before the user enters the actual app

India moved out 273 million poor people from Multidimensional Poverty

- **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)** and **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** has released **2020 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**
- 3 billion people are living in multidimensional poverty as per MRI 2020
- About 84% of multidimensionally poor live in **Sub-Saharan Africa** and **South Asia**.
- India has reduced 273 million multidimensional poor as per the Index
- **MPI 2020 covers 107 countries** and measure poverty at 3 dimensions and 10 indicators.

Real Madrid win 34th La Liga title

- **Real Madrid** won **34th La Liga** title after beating Villarreal by 2-1
- It secured 86 points after 37 games, 7 more than Barcelona, who were beaten 2-1 at home to Osasuna.
- La Liga 2019-20 season title for Spanish football club Real Madrid is 1st in three years.
- Real Madrid won the title in 2017 last time
- Under the leadership of the coach Zinedine Zidane, Real Madrid won all 10 games out 10 since the restart, and still a game remaining.
- Karim Benzema was the leading scorer

UAE launches its first space mission to Mars from Japan

- **UAE** launches first space mission to Mars titled '**Hope**' to provide a complete picture of the Martian atmosphere studying daily and seasonal changes.
- It is an unmanned mission, launched by **H2A rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center** for a seven-month journey
- It is expected to enter Mars orbit by February 2021 marking 50th anniversary of unification of the UAE, an alliance of seven emirates.
- Hope will be tracked by **Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)** in Dubai.

3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meet held

- Saudi Arabian Presidency conducted **3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG)** meeting through Video Conferencing.
- India was represented by Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** in 3rd G20 FMCBG
- The meet focused on the global economic outlook amid evolving COVID-19 pandemic crisis along with other G20 Finance Track priorities for the year 2020
- G20 is the premier forum of 19 countries and European Union for economic cooperation

CIPET accredited for PPE kit Testing and Certification by NABL

- **Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET)**, Bhubaneswar has been accredited by **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)** for Testing and Certification of PPE Kit.
- The kit comprises of Gloves, Coverall, Face Shield, Goggles and Triple Layer Medical masks in line with International Standards.
- CIPET has been taking up Research-Development initiatives in Health Care as per WHO and ISO guidelines.

AIIMS Delhi started video-consultation programme e-ICU

- **AIIMS, New Delhi** has started video-consultation programme titled '**e-ICU**' across the country to strengthen efforts in reducing COVID-19 mortality
- e-ICU aims at holding case-management discussions among doctors treating COVID-19 patients

- COVID-19 physicians can raise queries, present their experience and share knowledge with other physicians and experts from AIIMS, New Delhi
- 43 big hospitals in 11 states so far have been covered.
- It will have multiple 2 hours sessions.

HRD Minister launches Manodarpan initiative

- Union HRD Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal** launches the **Manodarpan initiative** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- It will cover a wide range of activities to provide **Psychosocial Support to students** for their Mental Health & Well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond.
- It will be a part of **strengthening human capital and increasing productivity**.
- Students, teachers, and parents across the country will join the initiative to keep a healthy and stress-free life.

Union Minister inaugurates India's first public EV charging plaza in Delhi

- Power Minister **RK Singh** has inaugurated **India's first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza in New Delhi**.
- EV charging plaza is a new innovative avenue for making e-mobility ubiquitous and convenient in India.
- It is launched by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited** and **NDMC**.
- The plaza will host 5 Electric Vehicle Chargers of different specifications.
- **Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE)** was also launched.

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Indian Navy conducted Passex exercise with US

- **Indian Navy** has conducted passing exercises '**Passex**' with **US Navy** in the Indian Ocean region
- It was conducted by **Indian Navy ships Rana, Sahyadri, Shivalik and Kamorta** together with **USS Nimitz (CVN 68), USS Princeton (CG 59), USS Sterett (DDG 104) and USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114)**.
- USS Nimitz is a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.
- It will be deployed in Gulf region from South China Sea.
- Indian Navy had also conducted similar joint exercises with Japan and France recently

MP Governor Lalji Tandon passes away

- Madhya Pradesh Governor **Lalji Tandon (85 years)** passes away after a prolonged illness.
- He served in the **Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council** for 2 terms from 1978-1984 and 1990-1996
- He also served as an MLA in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for 3 terms between 1996 to 2009
- He was also Member of Parliament in 15th Lok Sabha from Lucknow constituency.
- He was appointed **Governor of Bihar in 2018**, and then the **Governor of Madhya Pradesh in 2019**.

MoD & BEML signs MoU for procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough

- Acquisition Wing of **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has signed MoU with **Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)** for **procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough (MP)** for Tank T-90 S/SK at an approximate cost of Rs 557 crore

- The move will boost '**Make in India**' initiative of the Government.
- The contract has Buy and Make categorisation with a minimum of 50% indigenous content.
- It will facilitate individual mobility to Tanks while negotiating mine field.
- It is planned to be completed by 2027.

Consumer Protection Act, 2019 came into effect

- **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** came into force that will empower consumers protecting their rights through notified Rules and provisions.
- It will replace Consumer Protection Act, 1986
- CPA Act 2019 includes establishment of the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers
- It will provide **Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism of Mediation**
- **There will be no fee for filing cases upto Rs. 5 lakhs**

Chhattisgarh rolls out 'Godhan Nyay Yojna' to boost rural economy

- Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel rolled out '**Godhan Nyay Yojana**'
- Under this, state govt will purchase cow dung from cattle rearers at Rs 2 per kg rate
- **Vermicompost** will be prepared by it by the **women self-help groups** and will be sold at Rs 8 per kg to farmers, while the dung will be utilized for other products.
- The scheme will promote cattle rearing, ensure safety of livestock, help cattle ranchers earn extra income, tackling open grazing boosting rural economy.

PM Modi addresses India Ideas Summit 2020 via video conferencing

- PM Narendra Modi has addressed **India Ideas Summit 2020**
- The summit focused on building global economic resilience through stronger domestic economic capacities
- It is being hosted by **US-India Business Council (USIBC)** marking **45th anniversary of USIBC** that was established to enhance investment and India-US economic partnership.
- PM talked about openness, opportunities and options that India provides for huge investment across all sectors.
- Theme: '**Building a Better Future**'

Home Minister to launches Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2020

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** and Coal Ministry will unveil '**Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2020**' in New Delhi
- Under this, large scale plantation would be carried out in mines, offices and Coal/Lignite PSUs along with nearby areas
- He will also lay the Foundation stone of **6 Ecoparks/ Tourism sites** providing avenues for recreation, adventure, bird watching etc for revenue and employment generation
- The event will be launched across **130 locations of 10 coal/lignite bearing States.**

Comet NEOWISE approaches closest to the Earth

- **Comet NEOWISE (C/2020F3)** is the brightest comet that can be seen with naked eye in Earth's night sky across the globe as it has approached closest to the earth
- It is visible only after 6800 years gap
- Nehru Science Centre in its Lecture series organised '**Comet NEOWISE – A Primer**' to discuss this comets.

- It was first spotted by **NASA's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) mission**
- Comets are icy small rocky materials, dust and ice body.

India successfully tested anti-tank guided missile 'Dhruvastra'

- **India** has successfully conducted flight tests of indigenously developed anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) named '**Dhruvastra**'.
- It was tested from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
- 'Dhruvastra' has been developed by **DRDO**.
- It is also named as **helicopter-launched Nag Missile (HELINA)** and is a 3rd generation fire and forget class ATGM system mounted on Advanced Light Helicopter
- It has a range of 7 Km and is equipped with four foldable wings and weight of 43kg.

Greta Thunberg named as Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity winner

- Climate activist, **Greta Thunberg (Sweden)** has been named as the winner of **Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity**
- She is being awarded for her efforts to mobilise younger generations to tackle climate change.
- **Portugal-based Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity** is awarded to people, groups or organisations for innovative steps to mitigate and adapt to climate change across the globe
- She will receive a **prize money of 1 million euro**.
- She has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize twice

SpaceX launches South Korea's military communication satellite 'ANASIS-II'

- **SpaceX** has launched **South Korea's first ever Military Communications Satellite titled 'ANASIS-II'** by Falcon 9 rocket from SLC-40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida
- ANASIS-II: **Army/Navy/Air Force Satellite Information System 2**
- It is a secure Defence communications satellite and will supplement Koreasat-5/ANASIS-I, combined civilian-military satellite (2006)
- With this, South Korea has become 10th country to own a dedicated military communications satellite

China successfully launches unmanned mission to Mars 'Tianwen-1'

- China has successfully launched an unmanned probe to Mars titled '**Tianwen-1**' by China's largest carrier rocket 'Long March 5 Y-4' from **Wenchang Space Launch Centre** on southern island of Hainan
- It is the first independent mission of China to another planet marking global leadership in space and technology.
- '**Tianwen-1**' or '**Questions to Heaven**' is expected to reach Mars in February 2021 to deploy a rover for 90 days
- UAE's mission Hope is another recent Mars Mission.

DRDO establishes COVID-19 testing facility at Leh

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has set up **COVID-19 testing facility** at Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) lab, Leh
- It has been launched to improve testing rate of Corona cases in the region.
- It has the capability of screening 50 samples a day along with keeping close watch on infected persons.

- It will also provide training manpower addressing future bio-threats along with R&D activities
- Lt Governor of Ladakh: **RK Mathur**

World Trade Organization granted observer status to Turkmenistan

- **Turkmenistan** has been granted **observer status by World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council**
- Turkmenistan has become the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with WTO after receiving the observer status
- Turkmenistan has become **25th WTO observer nation** and will now reap the benefits of its status in developing its economy, promote multilateral cooperation, attract foreign investment and develop international trade relations.
- WTO D-G: **Roberto Azevedo**

CCI approves acquisition of Krishnapatnam port by Adani Ports & SEZL

- **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved **Krishnapatnam Port Ltd** acquisition by **Adani Ports** and **Special Economic Zone Ltd.**
- It will envisage acquisition of equity shareholding and management control
- **Adani Ports** is a customer-facing integrated port infra-services provider in 6 maritime states of **Gujarat, Goa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha.**
- The Acquirer manages the logistics chain that includes vessel management, internal transport, storage, etc.

Hussain Zaidi wrote down new novel titled 'The Endgame'

- Veteran Crime and Terror writer **S Hussain Zaidi** has penned a new novel titled '**The Endgame**' which talks of politics, betrayal, unimaginable terror
- 'The Endgame' has been published by **HarperCollins India**
- The book explores the challenges that the security of a country faces from within and without at the same time.
- His other works include **Dongri to Dubai: 6 Decades of Mumbai Mafia, Mafia Queens of Mumbai, Black Friday, My Name is Abu Salem** and **Mumbai Avengers**

Actor Sonu Sood unveils 'Pravasi Rojgar' app for migrant workers

- Actor **Sonu Sood** has launched '**Pravasi Rojgar**' app to help the migrant workers find right job opportunities in various sectors across the country
- This online platform will be supported by community outreach in the villages
- It will feature job opportunities from over 500 reputed companies in construction, apparel, healthcare, engineering, BPOs, security, automobile, e-commerce and logistics sectors.
- It will also have specific job training programmes like spoken English

Largest solar power plant of Indian Navy commissioned in Kerala

- Indian Navy commissioned a **3 MW solar power** plant at **Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala.**
- This is in line with the govt initiative of 'National Solar Mission' to achieve **100 GW** of solar power by the year **2022.**
- The solar plant is the largest in the Indian Navy and has an estimated life of 25 years.

- Another 2 MW Solar Power Plant has been inaugurated at **Naval Station Karanja, Uran**
- Another 2 MW Solar Photovoltaic Plant has been commissioned at INS Kalinga, Visakhapatnam

Cipla is all set to launch Favipiravir for COVID-19 treatment

- Pharmaceutical firm **Cipla** is set to launch Covid-19 drug **Favipiravir**.
- It is developed by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** in a cost-effective process
- An off-patent anti-viral drug, Favipiravir, originally discovered by **Fuji Pharma in Japan**
- It has shown promise in clinical trials for the treatment of Covid-19.
- **CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT)** developed a cost-effective process and transferred the technology to **Cipla**.

India & Israel jointly develop ultra-rapid COVID-19 testing kit

- **India and Israel** have jointly developed an ultra-rapid testing kit for **COVID-19**.
- The testing kit which has proven its efficacy in lab results will now be subjected to broader trials.
- The kit has been developed by integration of **artificial intelligence-based online voice test, breathalyser test, isothermal testing and testing using polyamino acids**.
- **India and Israel** are also the members of the world consortium of scientists working on **COVID Vaccine**.

ASTHROS Mission: NASA to use football stadium-sized balloon to study Cosmos

- **NASA** is working on a new mission to send a telescope, on a football stadium-sized balloon.
- The mission called **Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Submillimeter-wavelengths (ASTHROS)** will be launched by **2023** from **Antarctica**.
- **ASTHROS** will observe light with wavelengths much longer than what is visible to the human eye at an altitude of about 130,000 feet.
- The balloon included a telescope, science instruments, and subsystems.