

Daily Current Affairs for State Exams 24.08.2020

NHRC issued notice to UP Govt

- **National Human Rights Commission, NHRC** has issued notice to **Uttar Pradesh Government** over the **reported death of a five-year old girl** due to **starvation and illness in Agra**.
- Taking **suo motu cognizance** of a media report, the Commission issued a notice to the Chief Secretary of the State in this regard.
- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** is a **Statutory public body** constituted on **12 October 1993** under the **Protection of Human Rights Ordinance** of 28 September 1993.
- It was given a statutory basis by the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHRA)**.
- The **NHRC is the National Human Rights Commission of India**, responsible for the **protection and promotion of human rights**, defined by the Act as "**Rights Relating To Life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.**"

Naukhai festival observed in Odisha

- Naukhai is a major and mass agrarian festival of the Odisha state.
- This ancient festival is observed on the fifth day of the bright fortnight of the month of Bhadrava.
- The festival marks the welcoming of the new rice of the season and is celebrated at a point of the Kharif season when the rice is not yet ready for harvesting.
- The traditional wisdom behind the practice is to offer the new rice of the season to the presiding deities of the farming communities, even before any bird or animal can start pecking at the new grains.

Satpal Singh Satti appointed as Chairman of Finance Commission of Himachal Pradesh

- **Mr Satpal Singh Satti** has been appointed the **chairman of sixth State Finance Commission of Himachal Pradesh**.
- The **newly constituted commission** will review the financial position of the panchayats and municipalities and devolution of resources to these institutions.
- The tenure of the commission will **commence from the date of issuance of the notification**.
- The commission will make its **report available by December 31, 2021** covering a period of five years from **April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027**.



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National Awards to Teachers

- **Mr Sonam Gyaltsen**, a **government schoolteacher from Ladakh** has been selected for the **National Awards to Teachers, 2020**.
- The purpose of National Awards to Teachers is to celebrate the unique contribution of some of the finest teachers in the country and to honour those teachers who through their commitment and industry have not only improved the quality of school education but also enriched the lives of their students.
- An independent jury constituted by the Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy has selected the teachers for their excellence in the field of teaching with innovation and dedication.
- Sonam Gyaltsen also utilised ITBPs Civil Action Program to take his students to Bharat Darshan.
- Note: Taknak Sakti is one of the longest villages in Leh district. In three years the enrollment of Students rose from 4 to 103 now. This depicts the changed scenario of the government school in Ladakh.

First Unit of Atomic Power Plant resumed in Tamil Nadu

- The first unit of the **Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant** in **Tirunelveli district Tamil Nadu** resumed power production.
- Initially, **400 MW power** is being produced, which is expected to be increased to **1,000 MW in a phased manner**.
- The **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant**, owned and operated by the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India**, was constructed with **Russian cooperation**, and was **commissioned in October 2013**.

'Open API Service' introduced by Aarogya Setu

- An innovative feature '**Open API Service**' has been introduced by **Aarogya Setu** to help the **people, businesses**, and the **economy** in its efforts to return to **normalcy**.
- The service is aimed to **help the organizations** to get the health status of their employees as well as any other **Aarogya Setu User** without violating their **data privacy**.
- Aarogya Setu's Open API Service **addresses the fear/risk of Covid-19 infections** and enables organizations to **verify the status of Aarogya Setu** and integrate it into its various Work from Home features.
- The service to query the Aarogya Setu Application can be utilised in real-time and will receive the health status of their employees or any other Aarogya Setu User, who have given their consent for sharing their health status with the organization.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

- United Nations observes **23 August** every year as “**International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**”.
- The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.
- Background
 - The day was designated by **UNESCO** to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade. It is a day to honour the memory of the men and women who, in Saint-Domingue in **1791**, revolted and paved the way for the end of slavery and dehumanization.
 - It was on the night of **22 and 23 August 1791**, in **Santo Domingo** (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.
 - It is against this background that the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on 23 August each year.

UP Govt partners with Israel to address water crisis of drought region

- **Uttar Pradesh** government has signed a ‘**plan of cooperation**’ with **Israel** government to resolve **water crisis** in **Bundelkhand** region.
- The project will address the water scarcity in Bundelkhand and its adjoining regions and will become a role model for **ground water management, irrigation and potable water management** for the rest of the country.
- It will support regional farmers with latest farming technologies such as **drip irrigation**, meant for water deficient regions like Bundelkhand.
- There are **three components** in the India–Israel Bundelkhand Water Project i.e. **water conservation, water efficient transportation** and **advanced water practices** for agriculture.

Interceptor Boat ‘ICGS C-454’ launched

- **Indian Coast Guard** (ICG) has launched an Interceptor Boat ‘**ICGS C-454**’ in **Surat**, Gujarat.
- The Interceptor Boat ‘**ICGS C-454**’ has been built by **Larsen and Toubro** and it has a maximum speed of 45 nautical miles or 83 kilometers per hour.
- The boat is a **27-meter-long boat** with average draft of **1.4 meter** and empowered with **excellent seakeeping, manoeuvrability, and endurance range** of **500 nautical miles**.

Ronnie O'Sullivan won World Snooker Championship 2020

- **Ronnie O'Sullivan** defeated Kyren Wilson with a score of 18-8 to win the **World Snooker Championship 2020**.
- He has claimed his sixth World Championship title at **Sheffield's Crucible Theatre**.
- He has also **become the oldest winner of World Snooker Championship since Reardon**, who was 45 in 1978.
- He has also advanced to the second spot in the world rankings behind last year's champion Judd Trump.

Rajiv Kumar appointed as new Election Commissioner

- The Government of India has appointed **Rajiv Kumar** as the new **Election Commissioner of India**.
- He will be appointed as the election commissioner "with effect from the date he assumes the office, succeeding **Ashok Lavasa** (ADB has appointed **Ashok Lavasa** as **Vice-President** for Private Sector Operations and Public-Private Partnerships), who has submitted his resignation to the Indian President.
- Rajiv Kumar is a 1984-batch IAS officer from Jharkhand cadre. He was designated as finance secretary in July 2019 and during his tenure he played a major role in merging 10 public sector banks into four. He has also served as establishment officer (EO) in the personnel ministry.

Gopalaswamy Kasturirangan, former Indian Cricketer passed away

- Former Cricketer, Administrator and Pitch Curator, **Gopalaswamy Iyenger Kasturirangan** passed away. He was a native of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and had began his career in the **1948-49 season** representing **Mysore** in the Ranji Trophy and retired from first-class cricket after the 1962-63 season.
- Gopalaswamy Kasturirangan was a fast bowler who played 36 first-class matches and Captained Mysore Ranji Team (now Karnataka).
- He has also served as **Chairman of BCCI grounds and pitches Committee** and Vice-President of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).