

DCA for State PSC Exams 17.08. 2020 E

74th Independence Day observed in India

- India celebrated its **74th Independence Day** on **15th August** this year.
- On this very day in the year **1947**, India broke away from the shackles of the British Raj and became a free and **independent country**.
- Every year, Independence Day is celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm and Indians from all over the country pay homage to its freedom fighters and brave martyrs.
- Every year on this day **Prime Minister** addresses the Nations.

'e-Way' bill for intra-State movement of gold approved

- A Group of State **Finance Ministers** has agreed to the suggestion of bringing the **e-Way bill** for **intra-State movement** of gold.
- However, It will be up to a State whether it wants to introduce it or not.
- An e-Way bill is a kind of **electronic challan** which shows that tax has been fully paid before goods are moved from one place to other, within the **State (intra-State)** or outside the **State (inter-State)**.

India grants humanitarian aid to Lebanon

- **India** sent 58 MT of emergency **humanitarian aid**, including crucial medical and food supplies to **Lebanon**.
- Lebanon suffered from a **deadly explosion** that ravaged the Lebanese capital of **Beirut**.
- The government has sent a separate consignment of personal protective equipment, including surgical gloves and surgical gowns.
- The aid was dispatched in a **C-17 heavy-lift aircraft** of the **Indian Air Force** in response to an assessment of requirements by the **Lebanese authorities**.

'Biodegradable Face Mask' and 'Anti-Microbial body suit' developed by DIAT

- The **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)**, Pune developed a Nanofibres of Ayurvedic based **Biodegradable Face Mask** which is named as "**Pavitrapati**".
- An anti-microbial bodysuit has also been developed by the name of '**Aushada Tara**'.
- As per the ToT pact signed between DIAT and a textile company from **Kolhapur**, this has been manufactured in order to contain the spread of the **COVID 19**.
- The company has launched its first-ever ayurvedic face mask for sale.

National Digital Health Mission launched

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** unfurled the national flag and delivered his seventh consecutive Independence Day speech from the iconic Red Fort on **74th Independence Day**.
- On the occasion, he announced the launch of **National Digital Health Mission**.
- Under the scheme, all Indians will get **health IDs**.
- Every test, every disease, medicines prescribed by doctors, reports and related information will be contained in this one health ID.



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World's tallest pier bridge being built across river Ijai in Manipur

- Indian Railways is constructing the **world's tallest pier bridge in Manipur** across the **river Ijai near Noney**. It is an **engineering marvel** because the **tallest pier height will be 141 meters**.
- The bridge is a **part of Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new BG line project**. It will surpass the **existing record of 139 meter of Mala - Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe**. It is at the **hilly terrain of Marangching village** in Noney district, about 65 km west of Imphal.
- **The total length of the bridge will be 703 meters. The total estimated cost of the bridge is 280 crore rupees, and it will be completed by March 2022.**

IMD issues red category warning for extremely heavy rainfall in Maharashtra

- The India Meteorological Department has issued a red category warning for extremely heavy rainfall in Pune and Satara districts of Maharashtra.
- The forecast also predicted heavy rainfall in **Mumbai, Raigad, and Palghar**. However, the intensity of rain will reduce from tomorrow.
- In north India, rain lashed Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and parts of Uttar Pradesh yesterday.

Note: The alerts by IMD are colour-coded from Green to Red.

- 'Green' stands for 'No Warning' meaning no action needs to be taken by the authorities, and the forecast is of light to moderate rain.
- A 'Yellow' alert signifies "Watch", and authorities are advised to "Be updated" on the situation.
- An 'Orange' warning stands for "Alert", and authorities are expected to "Be prepared". The forecast during an Orange warning is of heavy to very heavy rainfall.
- 'Red' alert stands for 'warning' and asks authorities to 'Take action'. A 'Red' warning denotes the likelihood of extremely heavy rainfall. Over 200 mm of rain is expected over the next 24 hours.

Samaresh Das, TMC legislator passed away in West Bengal

- In West Bengal, ruling Trinamool Congress legislator Samaresh Das aged 76 died of Corona infection in Kolkata. Das was elected thrice in the State Assembly from Egra constituency of East Midnapur District.
- He took an important role in the functioning of Co-operatives in the State. With this, two legislators of the ruling party died of Corona so far.

Israel and UAE inaugurate direct phone links

- **Israel and UAE have inaugurated direct telephone services** between the **two countries following their agreement to normalize relations**.



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- The two **sides decided together on the establishment of a direct communication channel** ahead of the **signing of the normalization agreement** between the two countries and to meet soon.
- Many **economic opportunities** will open now, and these **trust-building steps** are an important step toward advancing states' interests.
- The **US-brokered deal** was announced by President Donald Trump

Odisha to become epicenter of India's overall steel industry

To further **accelerate the development of the domestic steel sector** and make **Odisha the nerve Centre of Mission Purvodaya** in steel, an **integrated steel hub is proposed in the state.**

- Odisha will become the **epicenter of India's overall steel industry.**
- With a **capital investment of five lakh crore rupees**, the envisioned steel hub will **produce 100 million tonnes of steel** from out of the **300 million tonnes national steel production target.**
- The **proposed steel hub**, accompanied by **Make in India and Local for Vocal programmes** will create **more than 25 lakh jobs** in the region, while contributing to the **making of Atmanirbhar Bharat.**

Nation paid homage to the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- On the eve of the **'Second death anniversary'** of the former **Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee** was observed on **16th August 2020**, several dignitaries paid floral tributes to the leader.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** unveiled the **portrait of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee** at the **headquarters of Indian Council for Cultural Relations in Delhi.**
- Bharat Rantna awardee, **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** led the country with good governance. He established India as a new power in front of the world, and has always emphasized good relations with all countries, especially the neighbors.
- He initiated several developmental projects like **Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, National Highway Development Project**
- He is also credited with laying the **strong foundation of the country by conducting Pokhran Nuclear Tests** and registering the **Kargil victory in the country's name**

Indian Railways generates 5.5 lakh mandays of work under the Gareeb kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan

- Indian Railways has generated **more than five lakh 50 thousand mandays of work** under **Gareeb Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan in six states- Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.**
- Around 165 Railway infrastructure projects worth two thousand 988 crore rupees are being executed in these states.



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- Railways have **appointed nodal officers in each district** as well as in the States so that a close coordination is established with the State Government.
- This **Abhiyaan of 125 days**, is **being undertaken in mission mode**, and involves **focused implementation of 25 categories of works** in **116 districts**, each with a large concentration of returnee migrant workers.

Sabarimala temple reopens for five-days

- The five-day monthly prayers at the Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala began as the shrine opened on 16th Aug 2020.
- The five-day monthly prayers are held during Malayalam month 'Vhingam'. Amid COVID-19 guidelines, the temple will close on August 21 after the monthly puja.
- The **Śabarimala Temple** is a temple complex located at Sabarimala inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Perinad Village, Pathanamthitta district, Kerala, India.
- It is one of the largest annual pilgrimage sites in the world with an estimate of over 40 to 50 million devotees visiting every year.
- Earlier the entry to women was restricted to the temple. In September 2018, the Supreme Court of India ruled that women of all age groups can enter Sabarimala temple

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