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78th Anniversary of Quit India Movement observed

- The 78th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of our country, is observed on 8 August 2020.
- On **8 Aug 1942**, **Mahatma Gandhi** gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the **All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai**.
- After the **failure of Cripps Mission**, Gandhiji gave the call to "**Do or Die**" in his **Quit India** speech delivered at the **Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai.**

Atmanirbhar Saptah

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** to inaugurate launch the Atmanirbhar Bharat Saptah, which is aimed at promoting a vision for a **self-reliant India** with **increased local manufacturing.**
- The move is meant to give an impetus to domestic defence production.
- Eventually, **India** will also **stop the import of 101 weapons** and **military platforms** like transport aircraft, light combat helicopters, conventional submarines, cruise missiles among others by **2024**.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- Under the **infrastructure scheme banks and financial institutions** will provide **one lakh crore in loans** to cooperative societies, farmer producer companies, self-help groups, entrepreneurs, startups and infrastructure providers.
- The fund was launched with 1,128 crore rupees of new loans disbursed to more than 2,200 cooperative societies
- The objective is to **provide medium to long-term debt financing** for setting up of **post-harvest infrastructure** and **community assets** for marketing of farm produce.

World Tribal Day being observed

- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples or World Tribal Day is being observed on 9th Aug 2020.
- The date recognizes the **first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations** in Geneva **in 1982. United Nations** observes the **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** on **09th August** every year.
- 2019 observed as the Year of Indigenous Languages. This year the World Tribal Day celebrations were focussed on preservation and documentation of tribal languages.
- **Note:** In **India**, 500 tribes were identified with their own unique culture, way and view of life as well as dialects.
 - Of these six the **Thodas**, **Paniyars**, **Kattunaickars**, **Irulas**, **Kurumbas** and **Kothars** can be seen in the **Nilgiris district that nestles in the** Western Ghats.



Pradeep Kumar Joshi becomes new chairman of UPSC

- **Pradeep Kumar Joshi** has been appointed as the **chairman** of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).**
- He will succeed **Arvind Saxena** who completes his term as UPSC chairman.
- Mr. Joshi, has also served as the chairman of both Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commissions, joined the UPSC as member in May 2015.
- His tenure as the **chairman of the UPSC** will be till **May 12, 2021.**

"OHE Inspection app" for real-time monitoring

- Indian Railways has launched an Overhead Equipment (OHE) Inspection app.
- It is aimed at minimizing the train delays and long waits due to technical snags.
- Note: On 1 July 2020 for the first time in the history of Indian Railways, 100% punctuality of trains was achieved as 201 trains arrived at their destination at the right time. The previous best was 99.54% on 23rd May 2020.

KV Kamath committee

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an expert committee under veteran banker KV Kamath to suggest financial parameters for resolution of Covid-19 related stressed assets.
- The committee will submit its recommendations to the RBI, which will notify them along with modifications, **in 30 days.**
- The other members of the committee will be Diwakar Gupta, T N
 Manoharan and Ashvin Parekh will be strategy advisor and the Indian Banks'
 Association CEO will function as member secretary of the panel.

Kavkaz 2020 exercise

- India will take part in the multilateral military "Russian Kavkaz 2020" strategic command-post exercise to be held in Astrakhan, Russia.
- The Indian contingent **includes 150 Army personnel** and a smaller number of personnel from the **Navy and Air Force.**
- The invitation for participation to **Kavkaz 2020**, also referred to as **Caucasus-2020**, has been extended to at least **18 countries** including **China**, **Iran**, **Pakistan and Turkey apart from other Central Asian Republics part of the**

<u>UP Govt partners with Flipkart for ODOP scheme</u>

- **Flipkart**, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has signed an **MoU** with **One District**, **One Product** (ODOP) scheme of the Government of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The MoU will bring the **artisans**, **weavers** and **craftsmen** under the ODOP scheme into the scope of the "Flipkart Samarth" initiative.
- This will provide **artisans**, **weavers and craftsmen** under the ODOP scheme a momentum to expand their **business online as they face social and economic challenges**.



'Amazing Ayodhya' authored by Neena Rai

- The book titled 'Amazing Ayodhya' has been authored by Neena Rai published recently by house Bloomsbury and is set to release in November 2020.
- The book offers "authentic information" about the city, which will not only help understand the life and times of ancient Hindus but also the revered figures of Rama and Sita.
- The author compares **Ayodhya with the cultures of other ancient civilisations** so that the reader feels connected to the past and the content of the book appears contemporary.

Former MP Nandi Yellaiah passes away

- Former Congress leader and eight-time parliamentarian from Telangana, Nandi Yellaiah passed away.
- He was first elected to the Lok Sabha from Siddipet in 1979. Also, he was elected to Lok Sabha six times and Rajya Sabha twice from 2002 to 2014.
- He was **presently serving as the vice-president** of the **Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC).**

Mahinda Rajapaksa elected as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

- In **Sri Lanka**, Mahinda **Rajapaksa** took oath as the Prime Minister for the **fourth time** at a ceremony held at Kelaniya Mahaviharaya near Colombo.
- Mahinda Rajapaksa has served as **country's President from 2006 to 2015** and his party has got **landslide victory at general elections held** recently.
- Mr. Rajapaksa is credited with ending the decades long LTTE war in 2009 during his Presidency.

Shirley Ann Grau, Pulitzer Prize laureate passes away

- Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction writer **Shirley Ann Grau (91 years)** passed away due to stroke, in United States.
- She won 1965 Pulitzer Prize for her book titled 'The Keepers of the House'
- She wrote six novels and four short stories during her writing career, all of which were set in the Deep South, from New Orleans to north Louisiana and Alabama.
- Her work depicts both the dark secrets and the beauty of Deep South, Southern region of United States

'Electric Vehicle Policy' implemented in Delhi

- **Delhi Govt** has launched '**Electric Vehicle Policy**' for the capital that will create employment and boost Delhi's economy.
- Under the policy, Delhi government will waive registration fee, road tax, and provide an incentive of ₹1.5 lakh for new cars and ₹30,000 for two-wheelers, autos, e-rickshaws and freight vehicles
- It will also reduce pollution level in Delhi
- 'EV Cell' will be established to implement the Policy with low-interest loan on commercial vehicles



ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will be hosted by India

- International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed India's position to host ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021
- The format of the T20 will remain the same as set for 2020 and all the team who qualified for that will participate
- ICC has also postponed ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 which will be held in Australia in 2022 due to COVID-19 along with new qualification event
- ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 to be held in New Zealand has also been postponed till February-March 2022

