



**UPSC – IAS, IPS, IRS., and TNPSC GROUP - I, II, IIA and VI
and SSC, BANK and RRB Exams.**

**New Batches Started - Admission going on
(ONLINE /OFFLINE CLASSES AND TEST BATCH)**

AUGUST 2020 CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. India recently announced its **withdrawal** from the **International Military Exercise** to be held in **Russia**. The exercise is to be held between September 15, 2020 and September 26, 2020. The **Kavkaz exercise** to be held in **Astrakhan**, a southern province in **Russia**.
2. The Gujarat Government recently announced that the **first sea plane services of India** is to begin from October 31. The **first seaplane** is to take off from **Sabarmati river front to Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Narmada district**.
3. The **New Delhi Railway Station** is the **second busiest and the largest in India**. It handles more than 4.5 lakh passengers per day. The station is to be redeveloped by the Rail Land Development Authority at Rs 6,500 crores.
4. Every year, India celebrates **National Sports Day on August 29**.
5. **Kerala** is to set up its **first International Women Trade Centre** in terms of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals. **This is first of its kind in India**.
6. The **Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld** has become the youngest to win the **International Booker Prize**. He won the prize for his debut novel “**The Discomfort of Evening**”.
7. **Russia** released a 40-minute video of detonation of the **world’s most powerful hydrogen bomb**. The bomb was called the **Tsar Bomb**.
8. The NITI Aayog released the **Export Preparedness Index (EPI)**. The think tank was partnered by **Institute of Competitiveness**. **Gujarat has topped the index followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu**.
9. **India and Bangladesh** will open **new inland waterway** from September 3, 2020. This is based on the agreement signed by the countries in May 2020 on **Inland Water Transit and Trade**. **The number of IBP (Indo-Bangladesh Protocol) routes were increased from eight to ten**.

10. According to the **data provided by Ministry of Finance** to Rajya Sabha, **Tamil Nadu topped the list in availing loans to women**. It was followed by **West Bengal and Karnataka**.
11. The aircraft carrier, **INS Viraat** that served the Indian Navy for more than 30 years is to **be dismantled at Alang, Gujarat**.
12. A team of researchers from **Andhra University** sighted a rare fish called **“Mahseer”** in the **Sileru river**. The fish is listed as **Endangered in IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature) list.
13. **ASTROSAT**, the **first multi wavelength satellite** has detected extreme **UV light** from **galaxy that 9.3 billion light years** away from the Earth.
14. **Nuakhai Juhar festival** was celebrated in **Odisha**, Chhattisgarh and other neighbouring states. It is celebrated to welcome the new crop of the season
15. The State Minister of Assam, Siddhartha Bhattacharya inaugurated **India’s longest ropeway across river Brahmaputra**. The ropeway is to cut short the travel time by almost an hour. It is **2 km long and the distance is covered in 7 minutes**.
16. **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**
The award is presented to sportspersons with most outstanding performance in the field of sports for a period of four years. The following persons have been selected for the award for the year 2020
- **Rohit Sharma**
 - **Para-Athlete Mariyapan Thangavelu**
 - **Wrestler Vinesh Phogat**
 - **Indian Women Hockey Team Captain Rani Rampal**
17. The Prime Minister Modi in his Independence Day address mentioned the mega plan of **“One Sun One World One Grid” project**. It is a **trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power project**. The idea of the project was **first introduced by PM Modi in 2018 during the International Solar Alliance**.
18. The Government of India has constituted **National Council for Transgender Persons**. The Council is to be headed by the Union Social Justice Minister. It comprises of members from 10 central departments, members from the community.
19. The Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) extended the **unemployment benefit scheme Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana till June 2021**.

20. The former finance secretary was appointed as the Election Commissioner. The outgoing Election Commissioner **Ashol Lavasa is to join the Asian Development Bank as its vice president.**
21. Indian Space Research Organisation (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.
22. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the **National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE)** to be implemented for the period of **next five years i.e. 2020 to 2025.** This is the second national strategy; **the first NSFE was launched in 2013.** NSFE 2020-25 has been launched with an aim of achieving a financially aware and empowered India.
23. **The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative first proposed by Japan.** The initiative aims to reduce the dependency in China. **Japan is to be joined by India and Australia.**
24. 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.**
25. On August 19, 2020, the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended the **fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.** The conference was organized by **Parliament of Austria and Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva with the support of United Nations**
26. The **National Commission on Population** submitted its report on population projections for the period of 2011-36. The commission was set up by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. **The report says that the sex ratio of the country is to increase from 943 (2011) to 957 (2036).** Sex Ratio is number of females per 1000 males
27. **On August 19, 2020,** the Union Cabinet approved to set up **National Recruitment Agency.** The agency is to conduct **Common Eligibility Test for Public Sector Banks and Government Jobs.**
28. The **Asian Development Bank approved 1 billion USD loan to support construction of modern high-speed Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System in India.** The system is first of its kind.
29. There are **five dwarf planets in the solar system.** They are **Pluto, Eris, Haumea, Makemake and Ceres.** The NASA researchers have now discovered that the Ceres has an ocean world.

- 30. The International Solar Alliance will hold World Solar Technology Summit for the first time on September 8, 2020.** The summit aims to bring the world scientists and engineers together to address the challenges to make energy affordable.
- 31. 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**
- 32. The Indian Railways is constructing world’s tallest pier bridge in the state of Manipur. The bridge is 141 metres high.** It has surpassed the record of **139 metres tall Mala-Rijeka bridge in Montenegro, Europe.**
- 33. On August 15, 2020,** the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **“Atal Tunnel”** by the end of September 2020. **The tunnel is being built under Rohtang Pass in the Pir Panjal range on the Leh-Manali highway.** It is located at **3,100 metres above the sea.**
- 34. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently announced that India ranks first in Organic Farming. Sikkim was the first state in the world to become completely organic.** The other states that have similar targets include **Uttarakhand and Tripura.**
- 35. The United Arab Emirates became the first Gulf country to sign peace agreement with Israel recently.** The Agreement is also called **Abraham Accord. Israel is the third Arab country after Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994) to sign the peace agreement.**
- 36. PM Modi launched Project Lion and Project Dolphin during his speech at the 74th Independence Day celebrations. Project Lion is to involve conservation of Asiatic Lions.**
- 37. PM Modi launched the National Digital Health Mission during his address at the 74th Independence Day celebrations. Highlights Under the mission, every Indian is to get a Health ID card.** The ID card will contain all relevant information about the person’s past **medical condition, treatment and diagnosis.**
- 38. The Central Water Commission along with Google has launched flood forecasting initiative.** Under the initiative, **numerous alerts can be sent to the public regarding flood situation in the region**
- 39. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recently released ranking of states under AMRUT scheme. Odisha has secured first position by scoring 85.67%. AMRUT is**

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Scheme. **The scheme aims to provide piped water supply to households in urban areas of the state.**

40. The number of applications received by the Government of India under **PM-SVANidhi Scheme crossed 5 lakhs in 41 days of its launch.** The scheme was launched to benefit the street vendors. **PM SVANidhi is PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi.**
41. The International Animal Welfare Organization, **World Animal Protection on the eve of World Elephant Day (August 12) released its report, "Elephants. Not Commodities".**
42. The Aerospace Start up **Skyroot Aerospace has test fired an upper stage rocket engine and has become the first Indian private company to demonstrate the capability of homegrown rocket engine.** The 3D printed rocket engine was named after the **Nobel Laureate Sir C V Raman.**
43. On August 11, 2020, a three-judge bench headed by **Justice Arun Mishra** of Supreme Court ruled that daughters have equal rights as that of sons on parental property. They shall remain coparcener throughout their life. **The judgement said that the daughters have equal rights in parental property as that of son.**
44. The Indian Armed Forces have decided to revive **"Project Cheetah" amidst tensions with China.** The project was pending for a long time and the tri-services have now decided to revive the project under Rs 3,500 crores. **Ajay Kumar Committee The proposal of reviving "Project Cheetah" has been sent to a newly formed high-level defence ministry**
45. The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched National Portal on Human Elephant conflict **called "SURAKHSYA".** The portal aims to collect real time information and will also manage conflicts on real time basis.
46. **The Indian Railways is to observe Cleanliness Week between August 10, 2020 and August 15, 2020.**
47. **On August 9, 2020, former president of Sri Lanka Shri Mahinda Rajapaksa was sworn in as the new prime minister.**
48. **On August 8, 2020, India commemorated the 78th anniversary of Quit India movement.** On August 8, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi launched Quit India Movement at the session of All India Congress Committee in Mumbai
49. The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a panel under former **ICICI bank CEO K V Kamath.** **The panel will make recommendations on financial parameters that are to be considered to structure loans that are impacted by COVID-19.** The Committee

will recommend financial parameters that are required to be factored in the resolution plans.

- 50. The former Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Murmu took oath as Comptroller and Auditor General of India.** He is the first tribal to take oath as CAG of India.
- 51. On August 8, 2020, the island of Mauritius declared environmental emergency due to oil spill** caused by Japanese owned ship that was stranded off the coast days ago.
- 52. On August 5, 2020, the State Government of Karnataka launched India's first mobile RT-PCR lab in Bengaluru.** The lab was developed by Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. The lab has been named **Mobile Infection Testing and Reporting (MITR) lab.**
- 53. Now its officially confirmed Reserve Bank of India has given green signal to the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the chief executive and managing director of HDFC Bank.**
- 54. A health startup at IIT Madras in joint collaboration with HELYXON has developed a device called OXY2.** This newly designed device can easily take vitals of an individual such as heart rate, temperature, oxygen saturation and respiration rate clinically accurate
- 55. British high commissioner to India Philip Barton on Monday got appointed as the permanent under-secretary to head the newly merged Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.**
- 56. Oil-rich Gulf state UAE finally starts its first-ever nuclear reactor "Barakah" at Abu Dhabi on the Gulf coast.** Barakah was expected to start its operation in 2017. However, due to various safety issue, it kept on getting delayed. **Barakah in Brief** Developed in a joint venture with the **Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC)** and **Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO)** Barakah means "blessing" in Arabic. A couple of weeks ago the country sent a probe on a Mars Mission which is also one of its first kind in the Gulf region.
- 57. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in a recent report which is first of its kind published impact of lead on children's health across the world.** As per the recent report one in every three children is being poisoned by lead.
- 58. Kerala State Government aims to set up India's first International Women's Trade Centre (IWTC), in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at Angamaly.** The aim is to accelerate women entrepreneurship.

- 59. National Sports Day is observed on 29 August 2020**
- 60. The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on 29 August across the world.**
- 61. India and Uzbekistan** co-chaired the **first National Coordination Committee** meeting on 24th August 2020. The members discussed issues of bilateral interests such as **Line of Credit (LoC) projects, trade, and investment.**
- 62. Army Sports Institute, Pune** was awarded the **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar 2020** by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. Army Sports Institute: Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune was raised as part of the Indian Army's "Mission Olympics" programme on 1 July 2001.
- 63. Indore topped the list of the cleanest city in India** for the fourth consecutive time in the Swachh Survekshan, 2020, India's annual survey on cleanliness.
- 64. Turkey discovered large natural gas reserves in the Black Sea coast.**
- 65. Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner.** Mr Kumar will replace Commissioner Ashok Lavasa.
- 66. World Humanitarian Day is observed on 19 August every year.**
- 67. Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020** virtually on 18th August 2020. ARIIA classified the institutes into two broad categories and six subcategories.
- 68. IIT Madras topped the list under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities, and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes** Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai got the top position under Government
- 69. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has received proposals over 10 gigawatt (GW) of fresh solar power Equipment.** The move is in line with the Government of India's Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan. **The move is to set up 100 GW of solar energy by the end of 2022.**
- 70. International Youth Day (IYD) is observed on 12 August.**
- 71. World Elephant Day is observed on 12 August.**
- 72. Senior IRS Shri. Patanjali has assumed charge as Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax**
- 73. Prof. (Dr.) Pradeep Kumar Joshi took the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC oath of office and secrecy as Chairman of)**
- 74. Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed in India on 1 August 2020.**

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