

Current Affairs=20-05-2020



Indian Railways operationalised its 1st 12,000 hp electric made in India Locomotive- WAG12 manufactured by MELPL

Indian Railways(IR) operationalised its 1st 12,000 horsepower(hp) electric



made in India Locomotive(loco), **WAG12**(with Number 60027) from Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Station(Mughalsarai Junction), Uttar Pradesh to Shivpur. It is manufactured by Madhepura Electric Locomotive Pvt. Ltd.(MELPL) Factory, Bihar which is a joint venture between French giant **Alstom**(74% share) & IR(26% share). India became the **6th country** to produce high hp loco indigenously & is the **1st time** it operationalised high hp on a **broad gauge track** in the world. The project started in **2018** and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the project on 10th April' 2018.

Has twin Bo-Bo design with 22.5 T (Tonnes) axle load which is upgradable to 25 T with design speed of **120 kmph**.

About IR:

In total there are 16 zones, each as a headquarters.

Chairman Railway Board– V. K. Yadav

Union Railway Minister– Piyush Goyal, Constituency- Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)

Coir Geo textiles to be used in rural road construction under PMGSY-III: Govt

According to the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency under Union Ministry of Rural Development, **Coir Geo textiles** has been finally gets nod as a good material for rural road construction under the third phase of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, (PMGSY-III)**.



About 1674 km road will be constructed using Coir Geo textiles in 7 states namely- Andhra Pradesh ,Gujarat, Kerala , Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu (TN) and Telengana with a cost of around Rs.70 Crore.

About Coir Geo textiles:

It is a permeable fabric, natural, strong, highly durable, resistant

to rots, moulds and moisture, free from any microbial attack. It plays an important role in soil erosion. They protect the land and provide vegetative growth during the formative period after which degrade into the soil.

About PMGSY: It was launched by the central Government in December 2000 to provide all-weather friendly single road connectivity to the prescribed size.

Labour ministry notifies EPF contribution to 10% for three months



In order to retain more money in the hands of the employer and the salary class, **Ministry of Labour & Employment** had decided to reduce the **Employees' provident fund (EPF) contributions to 10%** from the existing

12% for three months till July 2020.

The move, taken in exercise of powers conferred by first proviso to section 6 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (19 of 1952), comes after the announcement of reduction in PF rates by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the government's Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus package.

Nirmala Sitharaman announces several initiatives to boost education sector

Immediate set of initiatives in this direction includes:

- i.PM e-VIDYA** will be launched, to enable multi-mode access to education.
- ii.Manodarpan initiative** is launched to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- iii.Government expands e-learning in higher education** by liberalizing open, distance and online education regulatory framework.

Immediate set of initiatives in this direction includes:



A comprehensive initiative called **PM e-VIDYA** will be launched which will combine all efforts related to digital / online /on-air education, which will enable multi-mode access to education, and includes:

- **DIKSHA**(one nation-one digital platform) will become the nation's digital infrastructure to provide quality e-content in school education for all the states/UTs
- **TV**(one class-one channel) where one dedicated channel per grade for

each of the classes 1 to 12 will provide access to quality educational material- Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds(**SWAYAM**) online courses in Massive Open Online Course(**MOOCS**) format for school and higher education

- Indian Institute of Technology Professor Assisted Learning(**IITPAL**) for IIT Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)/ National Eligibility cum Entrance Test exam(**NEET**) preparation
- **Air through Community radio and CBSE Shiksha Vani podcast;** study material for the differently-abled developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (**DAISY**) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.

Kotak Mahindra becomes 1st bank in India to introduce video-KYC facility for SA customers



Becomes First Indian lender to allow video KYC



In view of the ongoing lockdown in the country due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has become the 1st bank in India to allow **video Know your**

customer (KYC) facility for its customers opening savings account (SA) on **Kotak 811** platform. Under the video conferencing KYC system, customers

have to provide Aadhaar and PAN (Permanent Account Number) to open 'Kotak 811 savings account' in the Bank. After this, a bank official will complete the KYC process by verifying of documents, signature on a video call with the customer & this entire video will be saved.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO- Uday Kotak

Tagline– Lets make money simple

Govinda Rajulu Chintala appointed as NABARD chairman, Shaji KV and PVS Suryakumar appointed as DMD of NABARD



On May 20,2020, The appointments committee of the union cabinet appointed **Govinda Rajulu Chintala** as Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). He was the successor of Harsh Kumar Bhanwala. Shaji K V and P.V.S Suryakumar have been appointed as Deputy Managing Directors (DMD)

of NABARD.

About NABARD:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Chairman– Govinda Rajulu Chintala.

Indian Steel Association appoints Dilip Oommen as new president



Dilip Oommen

President



On 19th May 2020, Indian Steel Association unanimously appointed Dilip Oommen, CEO of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India as the new President for the next two years with immediate effect after T V Narendran ,CEO of TATA Steel stepped

down on May 1, before the end of his term in August. This was decided in the Extra Ordinary Boards Meeting of ISA held on May 19,2020

About ISA:

Assistant Secretary General- Arnab Kumar Hazra

Director- Ravinder Kumar Bhan

Moeketsi Majoro sworn in as Lesotho's new prime minister



On May 20, 2020, **Moeketsi Majoro (58)** has been sworn in as **Lesotho's new prime minister (PM)** after Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, who has stepped down as prime minister following months of pressure after he was named as a suspect in the

2017 murder of his ex-wife Lipolelo.

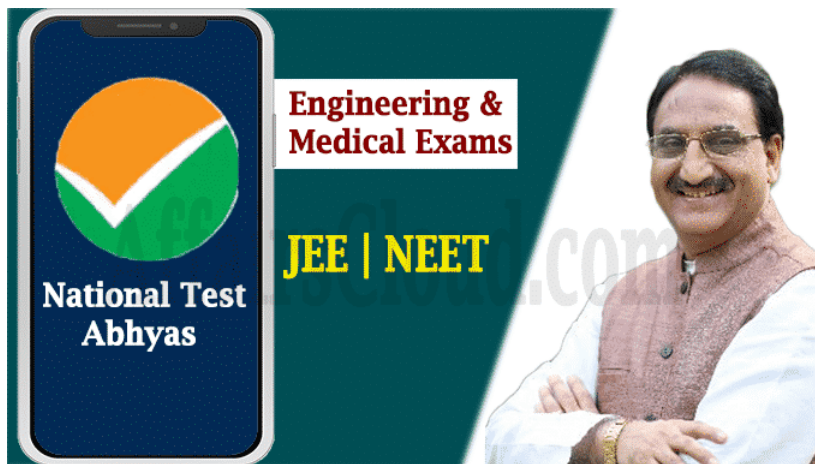
i. Majoro, who was previously served as the finance minister of the country, took the oath at the king's palace in front of dignitaries.

About Lesotho:

Capital– Maseru

Currency– Lesotho loti

Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launches 'National Test Abhyas' an AI-powered mobile app for mock tests for JEE Main, NEET 2020



Union Human Resource Development Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched an Artificial Intelligence(AI)-powered mobile app called the '**National Test Abhyas**'. The app is

developed by National Testing Agency(NTA) to enable candidates to take mock tests for upcoming exams such as Joint Entrance Examination (**JEE**) main, National Eligibility cum Entrance Test exam(**NEET**) under the NTA's purview.

About NTA:

Headquarters- Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Chairperson– Prof. M.S. Ananth, Former Director, IIT Madras

Constituency of Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank– Hardwar/Haridwar, Uttarakhand

World Metrology Day 2020: May 2020



World Metrology Day (WMD) is celebrated every year on May 20, celebrating the International Systems of Units. The term Metrology is a study of measurements. On this day, many nations internationally collaborate to create

awareness about metrology and its advancement in the respective field.

History of the day: The day commemorates the anniversary of signing the famous Metro Convention in the year 1875 in Paris, France, by representatives of 17 nations

Theme for the year 2020: Measurements for global trade..

About International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML):

Headquarters- Paris, France.

China teams up with Pakistan to build Diemer-Bhasha Dam

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Diemer-Bhasha Dam

- It is a **concrete-filled gravity dam**, in the initial stages of construction, on the River Indus between Kohistan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Diemer district in Gilgit Baltistan.
- The dam site is situated near a place called “Bhasha”, hence the name.
- Its foundation stone was laid by the then Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1998.