

Current Affairs=20-07-2020

Indian Railways to launch 1st set of private trains by 2023, all 151 by 2027



In accordance with the initial timeline drawn by the railways, it has planned to roll out 151 private train services by 2027 on 109 pairs of routes across the country. In this regard, Indian Railways is ready to introduce 12 trains in 2022-23, 45 in 2023-24, 50 in 2025-26 and 44 more in the next fiscal, taking the total number of trains to 151 by the end of FY 2026-2027. There would be Rs 30,000 crore private sector investment in this project.

There would be a reduction in journey time by around 10-15% at 130 kmph and around 30% at 160 kmph.

Maharashtra becomes the 1st State to use drones to inspect power lines and transmission towers



Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited(MSETCL) has started to use **drones** for **aerial surveillance** and **inspection** of extra high voltage(EHV) power transmission lines and towers. Maharashtra becomes the 1st state to do so. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Director General of Civil Aviation(DGCA) gave approval for this purpose.

- MSETCL becomes the 1st power utility to get approval from DGCA for powerline inspections with drones in the country
- MSETCL will use 16 drones that will fly at a maximum height of 50 metre.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting virtually



First session of the meeting: Discussion about G20 Action Plan held

In this the participants talked about the G20 Action Plan in response to COVID-19 which was endorsed by the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in their previous meeting on April 15, 2020, aimed at co-coordinating G20 efforts to fight the pandemic.

• Efforts towards plan by India: India's

comprehensive economic package to address recovery and growth amounting to over **\$295 Billion**, about 10% of India's GDP (Rs 20 lakh crore package under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan). The nation is also working on ensuring this balance through credit schemes for greater liquidity, direct benefit transfers, and employment guarantee schemes.

Second session of the meeting: Discussed about developments on G20 Finance Track deliverables

In the second session of the meeting, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors discussed the developments on G20 Finance Track deliverables under the Saudi Arabian Presidency. From Indian side following two deliverables were discussed:

- First, enhancing access to opportunities for Women, Youth and Small and mid-size enterprises (SMEs).
- Second, formulating solution for addressing the challenges related to digital taxation.

About G-20 or Group of Twenty:

Composition– 19 countries and the European Union (EU)

The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US.

2020 Presidency– Saudi Arabia

2020 theme– Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All

Chairman– Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (2020)

Indian direct selling industry records USD 2.477 bn sales in 2019, ranked 15th globally: WFDSA's report



In accordance with the report of “The Global Direct Selling – 2019 Retail Sales” by the World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA), India was ranked 15th in global direct selling industry with sales of USD 2.477 billion in 2019.

ii. This has shown a growth of 12.1% in comparison to the 19th rank in 2018.

The ranking has been topped by the

United States (US) which contributed 20% of the global direct selling industry with sales of USD 35.21 billion, followed by China with 13% contribution at 2nd rank, and Korea and Germany with 10% contribution each at 3rd position.

iii. In terms of the number of direct sellers, India has been ranked at 6th position, proving employment to 57.50 lakh people.

iv. In Asia Pacific region, India was ranked 4th which has been topped by Australia and followed by China and Hong Kong at 2nd and 3rd rank.

About World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA):

Headquarter– Washington DC, United States (US)

WFDSA Advocacy Chair– Ms. Kim Drabik

Hope Mission: UAE became 1st West Asian & Arab Nation to Launch Space Mission to Mars; Took off from Japan

On July 19, 2020, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the first West Asian and Arab nation to embark on a first-ever interplanetary space mission to Mars



(Red Planet) namely “Hope Probe mission” from Tanegashima Space Centre, off the coast of Kyushu, Japan atop a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries H-IIA rocket.

ii. Also known as Al-Amal or Emirates Mars Mission, this \$200 million mission will be the first to study both Martian climate viz. diurnal (daily) and

seasonal cycles.

iii. Notably, the mission arrival, which is expected to reach Mars’s orbit by February 2021 (7 months from now), is designed to mark the 50th anniversary of the unification of the UAE, an alliance of seven emirates.

iv. It will orbit Mars for one full Martian year of 687 days or nearly two Earth years to provide the first truly global picture of the Martian atmosphere.

Formula One Champion, Mercedes Lewis Hamilton Won the Hungarian Grand Prix 2020; won this Title for 8th Time



Formula One Champion Mercedes Lewis Hamilton (British) won the Hungarian Grand Prix (GP) 2020 held at the Hungaroring in Mogyoród, Hungary. This is his 8th time to win this title. With this victory he equalled Michael Schumacher's single-venue record, i.e., winning a grand prix eight times.

Key Info

- i. Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Dutch) came second and was awarded 'drive of the day'. Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas finished third and Racing Point's Lance Stroll finished in fourth spot.
- ii. With this victory, Lewis Hamilton's 86th GP win moved him five behind the German great Schumacher's F1 record of 91.
- iii. He also won the Styrian Grand Prix 2020 and is a six-time Formula One World Champion.
- iv. Michael Schumacher won the French GP 8 times at Magny-Cours.

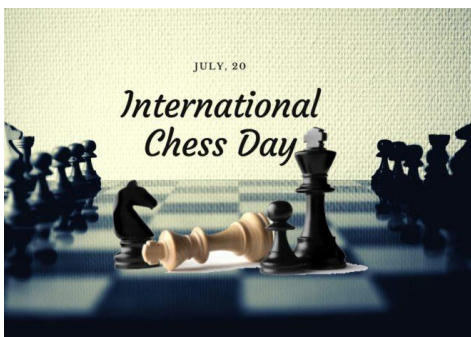
About Hungary:

Capital– Budapest

Currency– Hungarian Forint (HUF)

Prime Minister– Viktor Orbán

1st World Chess Day celebrated on July 20, 2020



United Nations' (UN) **First** World Chess Day is celebrated on 20th July all over the world to acknowledge the importance of chess in building harmony among countries, breaking the racial, political and social barriers and its role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and sustainable development goals (SDG). This day also marks the **95th Anniversary** of the International

Chess Federation (**FIDE** – Fédération Internationale des Échecs).

The FIDE's motto of 2020 is **“Teach someone how to play chess.”**



2020 Events:

The Permanent Mission of Armenia to the UN organised the high level virtual Event on 20th July 2020 – “**Chess for Recovering Better**” in which chess personalities like, Arkady Dvorkovich – President of FIDE, Viswanathan Anand, Vladimir Kramnik, Levon Aronian, and Hou Yifan participated.

Background:

i. Following the recommendations of UNESCO, Fédération Internationale des Échecs(FIDE) (**International Chess Federation**) celebrates the International Chess Day since 1966 on 20th July marking the establishment of FIDE during the 1924 Paris Summer Olympics.

ii. The United Nation General Assembly(UNGA), passed a resolution on 12th December 2019, proclaiming 20th July as World Chess day to recognise the importance of FIDE in supporting international cooperation in activities related to Chess. The resolution was proposed by Armenia and co-sponsored by other 52 countries.

History:

i. The modern chess is believed to be derived from the ancient board game “Chaturanga” originated in North India during the Gupta Period – 319 – 543 (Common Era)CE, which means four divisions- infantry, cavalry, elephantry and chariotry which became the pawns, knight, bishop and rook.

ii. The earliest references of chess are from the persian manuscripts from around 600 CE.