

Current Affairs=11-08-2020

Human ATM



Postal department's new service of delivering money home – where postman acted as a human ATM – has turned out to be biggest hit countrywide.

More than one lakh transactions being recorded across India on a daily basis.

How does it work?

The free service allows people to withdraw — through the postman — up to ₹10,000 at a time from any of their Aadhaar-linked bank accounts.

The postman carries a portable biometric device to match fingerprints. All a person needs to do is to use the Postinfo app or simply call the local post office or spot the postman.

World Lion Day to be observed virtually on August 10, 2020



World Lion Day is observed across the world on August 10 every year. World Lion Day, 2020 is being observed virtually this year due to the pandemic. The main purpose of this day is to raise awareness about lions and educate people about issues concerning their protection and conservation.

Background:

i. In 2013, **Dereck and Beverly Joubert**, a husband-and-wife team of **Big Cat Initiative** and National Geographic began an initiative to form World Lion Day.

Lions in India:

Asiatic lion is one of the five big cats found in India. The other four are Royal Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, clouded leopard and snow leopard. The range of Lions in India are now restricted to Gir National Park, Gujarat.

i. The population of Big lions in India has increased substantially from 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020.

ii. **Asiatic Lion** is enlisted as an **endangered species** in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list.

iii. It is listed in **Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**, in Appendix I of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

‘Asiatic Lion Conservation Project’

i. It is an initiative launched by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, Government of India in 2017 to provide safeguards to the Asiatic lion.

ii. The Project will strengthen the measures for conservation and recovery of Asiatic Lion with the help of state-of-the-art techniques, regular scientific research studies, disease management, and modern surveillance techniques.

Govt Abolished Cotton Advisory Board; Notifies Change in Status of Textiles Research Associations

Government of India vision of “**Minimum Government and Maximum Governance**”, the Ministry of textiles has abolished its another advisory body, Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), and notified that all eight Textiles Research Associations (TRAs) have ceased to be “affiliated bodies” of the ministry.

- Hereafter, TRAs will be **approved bodies** for conducting testing, research and developmental activities related to the textiles sector.
- Any disposal/sale/transfer of assets created out of the central government grant shall require prior specific approval of the ministry.

The eight associations are:

1. Ahmedabad Textile Industry’s Research Association (Atira) in Gujarat
2. Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA) in Mumbai, Maharashtra
3. Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP)
4. South India Textile Research Association (SITRA), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
5. Synthetic & Art Silk Mills Research Association (SASMIRA), Mumbai, Maharashtra
6. Man-Made Textile Research Association (MANTRA), Surat, Gujarat
7. Wool Research Association (WRA), Thane, Maharashtra

8. Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA), Kolkata, West Bengal.

IC-IMPACTS 2020 Research Conference held Virtually on Aug 6-7, 2020

IC-IMPACTS (the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability) 2020 Research Conference held Virtually on Aug 6-7, 2020 to discuss the ways to elevate the inter-country cooperation to the next Level by strengthening existing international connections, sharing best practices in multiple areas, and initiating new collaborations in government and institutions. The Conference was organised by IC-IMPACTS.

Key People

Mr. Barj Dhahan, Board Chair, IC-IMPACTS; Mr. Ajay Bisaria, High Commissioner of India to Canada were present among 200 Indian and Canadian participants

Major focus area of research cooperation under IC-IMPACT

The major focus areas of research cooperation under the IC-IMPACT are as follows:

Green buildings and smart cities; occupants' survivability in buildings during fires; integrated water management & safe and sustainable infrastructure; and health problems arising from water-borne and infectious diseases.

DST in Partnership with IC-IMPACTS

i. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has been working with IC-IMPACTS for research partnerships since 2013.

ii. This partnership aimed to work hand-in-hand with communities in both countries creating community-based solutions to the most urgent needs.

3MT Competition

This year(2020) Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition has been introduced to create opportunities for students and HQP (Highly Qualified Personnel) to network with like-minded innovation leaders

About IC-IMPACTS:

Headquarters– British Columbia, Canada

Scientific Director and CEO– Prof. Nemy Banthia

Bangladesh Decided to Construct a Monument for the Indian Soldiers Killed by Pakistan in the 1971

Mozammel Haque, Bangladesh War Liberation Minister announced the decision to construct a standalone monument for the Indian Soldiers who were killed by Pakistan in 1971 Liberation War against Pakistan.

About the Monument:



The construction of the monument will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh.

Site:

For the construction of the monument, 3.5 acres in Ashuganj of Brahmanbaria district which shares border

with Tripura was selected by the Bangladesh Government for its historic significance in the 1971 war.

Bangladesh honours to Indian Soldiers:

- i. Bangladesh felicitated posthumous awards for the Indian Soldiers and veterans of the 1971 war along with former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and other Indians for their role in the 1971 Liberation War.
- ii. Bangladesh has a National Memorial on the outskirts of Dhaka for all the Martyrs of 1971 war and the proposed memorial is solely for the Indian Soldiers.

Key Point:

India has requested Haque to initiate the translation of the book on the Liberation War in Hindi.

Journalists Nitin Sethi and Shiv Sahay Singh Bagged Asian College of Journalism Award 2019



Asian College of Journalism(ACJ) award 2019 was conferred upon Journalist **Nitin Sethi** for **investigative journalism** and **K P Narayana Kumar Memorial Award 2019** for Social Impact Journalism is bestowed upon Journalist **Shiv Sahay Singh**. The awards were

presented in a virtual ceremony by Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist of the World Health Organisation(WHO), at the inauguration of the Class of 2021.

Nitin Sethi

He is a journalist in the Huffington post. He won this award for his six-part series titled “Paisa Politics” published by The Huffington Post India.

Shiv Sahay Singh

He is a journalist in The Hindu. He received the award for his story titled “Death by digital exclusion: On faculty public distribution system in Jharkhand” published in The Hindu.

Prakash Javadekar Released Ebook, ‘Connecting, Communicating, Changing’ Chronicling the Vice President’s 3rd year in office



Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting released an e-version of the book ‘**Connecting, Communicating, Changing**’, a chronicle of Vice President of India, **Venkaiah Naidu**’s third year in office. In addition to this Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of Defence also released the print coffee table version of the e-book. The event was organized at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas in

New Delhi. This is the **3rd edition** of the book on his efforts and outcomes as the Vice President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

The 250 pages e-book and its coffee table version has been published by the **Publications Division** of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Essence of the Book

- **i.**It provides an overview of his interactions with farmers, scientists, physicians, youth, executives, industry leaders and artists, among others.
- **ii.**It covers events, his foreign visits, his interactions with the world leaders and his addresses to the Indian diaspora in different countries