

Current Affairs: 13-14.08.2021

Indore declared India's first 'Water Plus' certified city

India's cleanest city, **Indore**, in Madhya Pradesh has achieved another feat of being declared as the **country's first 'water plus' certified city**, under the Swachh Survekshan 2021.

What is 'Water+' city certificate



A Water Plus city certificate is provided to a city which maintains cleanliness in rivers and drains under its administration. According to protocol and the toolkit provided by the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs, a city can be declared as Water Plus only after all wastewater released from households, commercial establishments, and the like is treated to a satisfactory level before releasing the treated wastewater to the environment.

ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Sivan inaugurates 'Health QUEST Study' to upgrade healthcare systems standards in India



Dr K Sivan, Secretary, DOS and Chairman of ISRO recently inaugurated the 'Health QUEST study (**Health Quality Upgradation Enabled by Space Technology of ISRO**)' through videoconferencing.

Objective: Reducing human errors and achieve zero defect and quality service in the Emergency and Intensive Care units of hospitals. The Health QUEST study will be conducted in 20 private hospitals across

India. The study is an initiative by ISRO, to upgrade the healthcare systems standards of the country in line with the ISRO quality standards and best practices. ISRO will share its procedures and practices of Quality Assurance mechanism with the study team for setting the parameters to establish health care quality standards.

Four Indian airports finds place in Skytrax's top 100 airport list; Doha's Hamad International Airport tops



The **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi** has found place among world's top 50 best airports in **2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards**.

Delhi airport has improved its overall ranking by five places. It is placed at 45th position in 2021. In 2020, it was placed at 50th spot. With this, it has also become the first Indian airport

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to be placed among top 50 list. Meanwhile, the Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar, has been named the “Best Airport in the World”.

Other Indian Airports in the list are:

1. Hyderabad – 64 (placed at 71 in 2020)
2. Mumbai – 65 (placed 52 in 2020)
3. Bengaluru – 71 (placed 68 in 2020)

India-Saudi Arabia holds first-ever naval exercise “Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021”



India and Saudi Arabia are conducting the first ever joint naval exercises “**Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021**” in the Arabian Gulf. The harbour phase of the bilateral exercise began on August 09, 2021 while the sea-based drills started from August 11, 2021. The week-long exercise aims to enhance military cooperation in naval operations of the two countries. From Indian side, the INS Kochi, an indigenously designed, stealth guided-missile destroyer, is taking part in the drill.

Kamlesh Kumar Pant appointed as new Chairman of NPPA



Senior bureaucrat **Kamlesh Kumar Pant** has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**. Pant, a 1993-batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, replaces IAS officer Shubhra Singh, who has been the chief of drug price regulator from November, 2018. NPPA is the agency which is in-charge of monitoring pharmaceutical pricing.

Durand Cup makes re-entry with 130th edition to be held at Kolkata from September 2021



Durand Cup, Asia’s oldest and world’s third oldest **football tournament**, is all set to make a comeback, after a year’s gap. The 130th edition of Durand Cup is scheduled to be held in and around **Kolkata** between September 05 to October 03, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the competition was cancelled last season.

World Organ Donation Day: 13 August



The **World Organ Donation Day** is celebrated every year on **August 13** to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people to donate organs after death. The day provides an opportunity to all to come ahead and pledge to donate their precious organs, because one organ donor can save up to eight lives.

International Lefthanders Day: 13 August



The **International Left Handers Day** is observed on **August 13** every year to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of the left handers and raise awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of being left-handed in a predominantly right-handed world. The day was first observed in 1976 and was officially declared in 1997.

PM Modi addresses Investor Summit in Gujarat virtually and launches 'Vehicle Scrappage Policy'



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended and addressed the **Investor Summit in Gujarat** via video conference on August 13, 2021, organised for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure in Ahmedabad. As a part of the Summit, PM Modi launched the National Automobile Scrappage Policy. The new policy invites

investment for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure under the Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernization Program. The basic objective of the vehicle scrapping infrastructure will be to phase out unfit and polluting vehicles in an environment-friendly manner. This will reduce pollution, create job opportunities and boost demand for new vehicles. The Gujarat government has joined hands with auto major **Tata Motors** for setting up of a vehicle scrapping facility in **Ahmedabad**.

India organises the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers' Meet Virtually



On August 12, 2021, India organized the **IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers' meeting** through virtual platform. The Union Minister of Tourism of India, **Shri G. Kishan Reddy**, chaired the meeting. The Minister of Tourism of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Gilson Machado Neto and the Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Republic of South Africa, Fish Amos Mahlalela, attended videoconferencing under **India's IBSA Chairship**.

The meeting provided a platform to promote tourism cooperation among the member states and recognized the importance of strengthening cooperation in tourism to overcome the impact of Covid 19 pandemic on the tourism sector.

The meeting ended with the adoption of the IBSA Tourism Ministers Joint Statement- a document on cooperation and promotion for speedy recovery of travel and tourism.

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Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar addresses 6th SCO Meet of Agriculture Ministers



The **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar** addressed the 6th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the member countries of **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** on August 12, 2021, through videoconferencing.

The meeting was organized under the chairmanship of **Tajikistan in Dushanbe**. During the meeting, Narendra Singh Tomar highlighted the taking several steps being taken by the Government of India to develop innovative technologies and their dissemination from Lab to Land to empower rural youth, farmers and farm women.

Indian Navy takes part in US Navy-led multinational SEACAT exercises in Singapore



The **Indian Navy** participated in the U.S. Navy-led **Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise in Singapore** on August 10, 2021, to demonstrate its maritime maneuvers. The 20th edition of the exercise was organised by the U.S. Navy, in Hybrid format, and included 20 other partner nations from Indo-Pacific region, including India. The main objective of SEACAT 2021 was to enhance the interoperability and shared maritime security concerns and preserve rules-based international order. The exercise comprised of approximately 400 personnel and 10 ships.

Pakistan successfully test-fires nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi



The **Pakistan Army** successfully test-fired a **nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi** on August 12, 2021. The Ghaznavi missile can strike targets up to 290 kilometres, and is capable of carrying both nuclear as well as conventional warheads. The training launch was aimed at ensuring operational readiness of

Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC) and re-validating technical parameters of the weapon system.

India sends largest ever 54-member contingent for Tokyo Paralympic Games

The upcoming **Tokyo Paralympics**, will witness the **largest ever Indian contingent** being send, with **54 para-sportspersons** participating across 9 sports disciplines.

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The 54-member Indian contingents were given a formal and virtual send-off on August 12, 2021, by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag. The 2020 Summer Paralympics Games are scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan from August 24 to September 05, 2021.

Shakib Al Hasan of Bangladesh and Stafanie Taylor of West Indies named Player of the Month awards for July 2021



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month Awards for July on August 11, 2021.

Men's Player of the Month of July – Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh all-rounder)

Women's Player of the Month of July – Stafanie Taylor (West Indies skipper)