

NATIONAL WEEKLY (12 - 17 September)

UNICEF APPOINTS AYUSHMANN KHURRANA FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

1. **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** has appointed Bollywood Actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** as its celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign, "**For Every Child**".
2. He will work towards this initiative in India. He will support UNICEF to end violence against children, especially in the present situation COVID-19 is increasing the risk of violence and abuse against children due to the extended lockdown and the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

INDIA RANKED 105TH POSITION IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX 2020

1. India has been ranked 105th position "Global Economic Freedom Index 2020 Annual Report" by Canada's Fraser Institute, which has been released in India in conjunction with Center for Civil Society, New Delhi-based think tank.
2. The Rankings were based on 2018 data and many new restrictions on international trade, tightening of the credit market due to Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and COVID-19's impact on debt and deficits did not reflect in India's score. The Report has been divided into 4 Quartiles based on the rankings.

ODISHA GOVT LAUNCHES 'GARIMA' SCHEME FOR SANITATION WORKERS

1. It aims to ensure the economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state.
2. The working hours of sanitation workers will be limited to 6 hours per day.
3. The Core Sanitation workers and their family members will be covered under the health insurance scheme with regular health check-ups, housing, educational support, mobility support and mobile support.

JAPAN'S NAOMI OSAKA WINS US OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

1. Japan's Naomi Osaka defeated Victoria Azarenka of Belarus to clinch the Women's Singles title in the 2020 US Open Tennis tournament.
2. This is the third Grand Slam title for the fourth seed Osaka. Osaka previously won the title at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open.
3. She is now the first Asian player to win three Grand Slam singles titles. The victory has moved up Osaka to number 3 in the world rankings.

DOMINIC THIEM WINS US OPEN MEN'S TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2020

1. Austria's Dominic Thiem defeated Alexander Zverev to win the men's singles title at the 2020 US Open tournament.
2. It was Thiem's first Grand Slam title, and he becomes the first player in the Open Era to rally from two sets down in a US Open final.
3. Thiem is also the first player to capture a Grand Slam title from two sets down since Gaston Gaudio at 2004 French Open. For the first time in six years, there was a first-time Grand Slam champion at the US Open.

HINDI DIWAS CELEBRATED ON 14 SEPTEMBER

1. Hindi Diwas or Hindi Day is observed every year on 14 September to mark the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India.
2. The language was adopted under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution.
3. The first Hindi day was celebrated on 14th September 1953. Later, Pt Jawaharlal Nehru announced this day to be celebrated as Hindi Diwas in the country.

INDIA BECOMES MEMBER OF UN'S ECOSOC BODY

1. India has been elected as a member of the United Nation's Commission on Status of Women, a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
2. India will be a member of United Nation's Commission on Status of Women for four years, 2021 to '25.
3. India, Afghanistan and China had contested the elections to the Commission on Status of Women. Even as India and Afghanistan won the ballot among the 54 members, China could not cross the half-way mark.
4. The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.
5. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

TIKTOK CHOSE ORACLE AS ITS TECHNOLOGY PARTNER FOR ITS US OPERATIONS

1. Microsoft was also in a bid to acquire TikTok in the United States but the Chinese owner of the video-sharing platform "TikTok" chose Oracle over Microsoft to be its technology partner for its American operations.

YOSHIHIDE SUGA TO SUCCEED SHINZO ABE AS JAPAN'S PM

1. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary, Yoshihide Suga has been elected as the new Chief of country's ruling, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Prime Minister-designate of Japan.
2. The 71-year-old will assume charge of the office from 16 September 2020.

HARIVANSH NARAYAN SINGH RE-ELECTED AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF RAJYA SABHA

1. Janata Dal (United) parliamentarian Harivansh Narayan Singh has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
2. The upper house has cleared his name with a voice vote. The proposal to elect Harivansh as the deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha was moved by BJP President JP Nadda.
3. Harivansh Narayan Singh was first elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha on August 8, 2018. His term as Rajya Sabha member ended in April 2020.

RAJESH KHULLAR APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT WORLD BANK

1. A 1988 batch IAS officer, Rajesh Khullar has been appointed as Executive Director at World Bank in Washington DC.
2. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Rajesh Khulla for a tenure of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till the date of his superannuation (August 23, 2023).
3. Khullar is currently posted as principal secretary to chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar. He will join the World Bank in the first week of November.
4. As executive director, Khullar will represent India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka in the World Bank.
5. The World Bank Group comprises 25 executive directors who each represent a country or constituency of countries, are either appointed or elected to the position.

SAMEER KUMAR KHARE APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT ADB

1. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Sameer Kumar Khare as new Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila.
2. Khare is a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Assam cadre. He is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs under Ministry of Finance.
3. He has been appointed to the post for a tenure of three years with effect from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

INDIA RANKS 116 IN HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX OF WORLD BANK

1. The Human Capital Index 2020 update included health and education data for 174 countries up to March 2020. It covered around 98% of the worlds population.
2. Last year, India ranked 115 out of 157 countries. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.

INDIA BECOMES AN OBSERVER OF DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment (DCOC/JA) is a grouping on maritime matters. The group comprises 18 member states that adjoin the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, the East coast of Africa, and Island countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
2. India now joins Norway, Japan, the UK, and the US as Observers to the DCOC/JA.
3. As an Observer, India will work together with DCOC/JA member states to coordinate and contribute to enhanced maritime security in the IOR. It is expected that the DCOC will provide a strategic heft in the Indian Ocean region.
4. The DCOC was established in January 2009. The group is aimed at the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western IOR, the Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea. The Djibouti Code of Conduct aims to provide a framework for capacity building in the Gulf of Aden and the Western Indian Ocean to combat the threat of piracy.

INITIATIVE TO REDUCE LAND DEGRADATION AND CORAL REEF PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT G20 EMM

1. The Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Coral Reef program was launched at the G20 Environment Ministers Meeting.
2. The Program aims to strengthen the implementation of existing frameworks to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation within G20 member states and globally.
3. The program aims to account for possible implications on the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and adhere to the principle without doing any harm.

GOI LAUNCHED NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME

1. Based on the Air Quality data from 2014-2018, 122 non-attainment cities have been identified across the country under NCAP.
2. The programme aims to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner. The target is to achieve a 20%-30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.
3. The city-specific action plans include measures to strengthen the monitoring network, reducing vehicular /industrial emissions, increasing public awareness, etc.
4. The programme will monitor the implementation of the city-specific action plans that are regularly monitored by Central and State level Committees namely the Steering Committee, Implementation Committee, and Monitoring Committee.
5. The air quality of cities is monitored by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) which publishes their results from time to time.
6. Also, for effective monitoring, few Smart Cities have established Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) which are connected to Air Quality Monitors (AQMs).

FIVE STAR VILLAGES

1. The Department of Posts has launched a scheme called Five Star Villages, to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.
2. All postal products and services will be made available and marketed and publicized at village level, under the Five Star Villages scheme.
3. Branch offices will function as one-stop shop to cater all post offices - related needs of villagers.
4. **The schemes covered under the Five Star schemes include:**
Savings Bank accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates, Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts, Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts, Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.

LIVING PLANET REPORT 2020

1. The WWF's Living Planet Report 2020 has found that there has been a reduction of 68 % in the global wildlife population between 1970 and 2016.

INDIA'S FIRST CORONAVIRUS AIRPORT TESTING FACILITY

1. India's first Corona virus airport testing facility has been launched at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport Limited (DIAL).

METHANOL

1. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCF), a PSU under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has started its Methanol Plant at Trombay Unit, Mumbai.
2. With this, RCF has entered the select list of Methanol producers in the country, providing alternate to import and thus contributing towards Government's ambitious 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' Abhiyaan.
3. Methanol is widely being used in the production of pharmaceuticals, pesticides, dyestuff etc. With very limited domestic production, the requirement was being met till now with imports.

AIIMS, DARBHANGA

1. The Union Cabinet has approved establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS EXCELLENCE AWARDS, 2020

1. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has invited proposals for the National Highways Excellence Awards for the year 2020.
 - The awards are given every year in seven categories, Excellence in Project Management, Excellence in Operation and Maintenance, Green Highway, Innovation, Excellence in Highway Safety, Excellence in Toll Management and Outstanding Work in Challenging Conditions.
 - The awards were instituted in the year 2018.
 - The aim is to recognise companies which are performing exceptionally well in the construction, operations, maintenance and tolling stages of highway development as well as in the arena of road safety.

MADHYA PRADESH WEEKLY (12 - 17 September)

MP GOVT TO RECHRISTEN LADLI LAXMI SCHEME, AIMS TO MAKE GIRLS SELF-RELIANT

1. The Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led Madhya Pradesh (MP) government has apparently realised the flaws in the save the girl child campaign called Ladli Laxmi Scheme (LLS) 13 years after it was launched.
2. The realisation has come following a decrease in sex ratio at birth by 33 points.
3. The state government is considering certain changes to the LLS to make it more effective.
4. “The benefit, which is being provided under the LLS, will continue as it has become a law. But the WCD department is all set to introduce an integrated scheme in place of all old state-run schemes, including the LLS with a new vision to save the girl child. The renewed focus will be more on making girls self-reliant, independent, breadwinners for their respective families and inspiration for others in ushering social changes,”

MADHYA PRADESH TO CELEBRATE ‘ANNA UTSAV’ ON EVE OF PM MODI’S BIRTHDAY.

1. Madhya Pradesh will celebrate an ‘Anna Utsav’ (food grains festival) on September 16, the eve of PM Narendra Modi’s birthday, during which 37 lakh new below poverty line (BPL) beneficiaries will be covered under the government’s scheme to provide food grains to them on highly subsidised rates
2. Under the scheme, the beneficiaries will get rice, wheat and salt at Re 1 per kg. Every beneficiary will get 5 kg of food grains per month, according to the food and civil supplies department.

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE INFECTS OVER 15,000 CATTLE IN MP

1. MP government has announced several measures including isolation of the infected animals to prevent the spread of the disease.
2. The tested samples from Anuppur confirmed the presence of the virus from family Poxviridae which causes lumpy skin disease.

MADHYA PRADESH BANS INDUSTRIAL USE OF OXYGEN AMID SHORTAGE IN STATE

1. Madhya Pradesh plans to triple the capacity in hospitals by October to 3,600 oxygen beds and 564 ICU beds. It is a given that more oxygen will be needed to cope with the pandemic.

SPORTS MINISTRY IDENTIFIES SIX MORE STATES TO ESTABLISH KHELO INDIA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

1. The Khelo India Centre of Excellence will be established in Assam, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and Sikkim have been identified in the second leg.

CHEAP CHINESE MACHINES FOR MADHYA PRADESH FARMERS IN BIG SCAM:

1. Power tillers are mini-tractors that can till, plough, sow seeds, plant seedlings, spray fertiliser and harvest crops, among other tasks. They were given to farmers under the Krishi Yantrikaran Yojna or farm mechanization scheme of the centre.
2. Substandard Chinese power tiller were given to farmers in Madhya Pradesh under the centre's farm mechanisation scheme in Madhya Pradesh, according to a report by four-member committee headed by MP Agro managing director Shrikant Banoth.

CENTRE TO SUPPLY 50 TONNES OXYGEN PER DAY TO MADHYA PRADESH: CHIEF MINISTER.

1. The Centre's help came after the supply of oxygen to Madhya Pradesh from a Maharashtra-based facility was halted.
2. A company called INOX used to supply oxygen to Madhya Pradesh from its Nagpur-based plant.
3. In the wake of a rise in respiratory disease cases, Madhya Pradesh needs 110 tonnes of oxygen per day
4. As part of our long-term planning, mp govt has given a green light to INOX to set up an oxygen plant with an installed capacity of 200 tonnes in Mohasa near Babai in Hoshangabad in the next six months.

MADHYA PRADESH TO PAY INCOME TAX ON CHIEF MINISTER, COUNCIL'S SALARIES

1. For ministers being paid RS 1.7 lakh per month (not excluding allowances) nothing has changed. In fact, the state has just released RS1.8 crore to pay for their taxes.

MADHYA PRADESH: DRDO RESEARCH LAB TO BE OPENED IN KAILARAS-JAURA REGION, MORENA DISTRICT

1. It will be set up at a cost of 2 thousand crore . The Chief Minister informed that 350 hectares of land has been acquired for the research lab of DRDO in Kailaras. State Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan was speaking yesterday at a program organized for the inauguration ceremony, laying the foundation stone for several development works in Morena, Chhaira and Kailaras regions of the district.
2. On the occasion, he also announced opening of a medical college in Morena, sanctioning a Rs 267 crore project to bring water from Chambal to the city of Morena and to build an all-purpose auditorium in the name of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

DPIIT STARTUPS RANKING:- States on support to startup Ecosystem 2019

1. M.P. is placed in emerging startup Ecosystem.
2. Gujarat emerged as the best performer among category X
3. Category X - All states and New Delhi, barring North Eastern states & others UTs.
