

## 1-8 August 2020 Current Affairs



**1)** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5 August 2020 laid the foundation stone of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya. The grand temple will house the Ram Lalla statue which had been housed in a temporary structure since December 1992 when the Babri Masjid was demolished. Who has prepared the design of Ram temple? – [Chandrakant Somapura](#)

(Ahmedabad-based Chandrakant Somapura is the chief designer of the proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya. He is the 15th generation of a family that has been into designing temple architecture in India and abroad. His grandfather PO Sompaura had designed the iconic Somnath Temple in Gujarat that was built in 1949. Somapura was picked up as the designer by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)'s now late president Ashok Singhal in late 1980s)



**2)** At-least 17 people including the two pilots of an Air India Boeing 737 were killed in a tragic crash when the flight overshoot Kozhikode's tabletop runway in the evening of 7 August 2020. This Air India Express flight (Flight 1344) was coming from which place? – [Dubai](#)

(An Air India Express flight from Dubai overshoot the tabletop runway at Kozhikode's Calicut International Airport on 7 August 2020 while attempting to land at the airport in torrential rain. The plane went 35 feet down a slope and broke into two pieces. The two pilots – commander Deepak V. Sathe and co-pilot Akhilesh Kumar died in the accident while at-least 15 more passengers were also killed)



**3)** Who was appointed the new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir on 6 August 2020? - [Manoj Sinha](#)

(Former Union Minister and senior BJP leader from Uttar Pradesh Manoj Sinha was on 6 August 2020 appointed the next Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir by President Ram Nath Kovind. He replaced Girish Chandra Murmu who resigned from the post a day earlier. Sinha has previously served as the Minister of Communications and Minister of State for Railways)



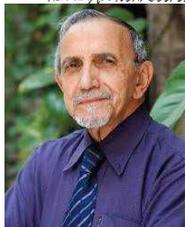
**4)** Who took over as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on 6 August 2020? - [Girish Chandra Murmu](#)

(1985-batch IAS officer Girish Chandra Murmu was appointed the new Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on 6 August 2020. He replaced Rajiv Mehrishi, whose tenure ended. Murmu was the first Lieutenant Governor of the new reorganized union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Before taking over as J&K's Lieutenant Governor, Murmu served as the Expenditure Secretary in the Finance Ministry)



**5)** Who was appointed as the next Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of HDFC Bank? - [Sashidhar Jagdishan](#)

(The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 4 August 2020 approved the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the next CEO and MD of HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank. He is currently the Head of Finance and Strategic Change Agent at the bank, which he had joined in 1996. He will replace Aditya Puri, who is set to retire as the MD on 26 October 2020)



**6)** Ebrahim Alkazi, who passed away on 4 August 2020, was an iconic personality associated with which field? – [Theatre](#)

(Ebrahim Alkazi, the theatre legend, who was credited for revolutionizing theatre in India, passed away at the age of 95 in Delhi on 4 August 2020. He had served as the director of National School of Drama (NSD) for the next 15 years (1962 to 1977), the longest tenure ever in the history of the institute. During this period he shaped the course for modern Indian theatre. Alkazi was born to a wealthy Saudi Arabian father and a Kuwaiti mother. He was also a noted art connoisseur and collector)



**7)** Which micro-nation decided to rejoin Australia amid Covid-19 pandemic, as was announced on 3 August 2020? – [Hutt River](#)

(The Principality of Hutt River, a small unrecognized micro-nation of Australia, has announced that it will be reintegrating with Australia. The tiny state with a population of just 26 people came into existence in April 1970 when it declared its independence from Australia. It lies 500 km north of Western Australia's capital city of Perth. It announced ceding back to the Commonwealth of Australia due to falling income from tourism amid COVID-19 pandemic and was formally dissolved on 3 August 2020. It is worth mentioning that Australia has one of the largest number of micro-nations in the world)

**8)** Arab world's first nuclear plant started operations from 1 August 2020. This plant is situated in which country? – [United Arab Emirates](#)

(The first-ever nuclear reactor of United Arab Emirates (UAE) went into operations on 1 August 2020. The Barakah Nuclear Plant is situated on the Gulf coast just east of Qatar. One of the four reactors of the plant started operating and this ushered the Arab world in the age of nuclear power as this is the first nuclear plant in the Arab world. This plant has been developed in a joint venture

with the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) and Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) of South Korea. The word Barakah means blessing in Arabic)

**9)** What is India's fiscal deficit during April-June 2020 quarter, which is at record highest level and was announced on 31 July 2020? – [Rs. 6.62 lakh crore](#)

(India's fiscal deficit touched a record Rs. 6.62 lakh crore in the April-June 2020 quarter. This is 83.2% of the 2020-21 budgeted estimate of Rs. 7.96 lakh crore. Union Government's revenue has been hit badly due to the coronavirus pandemic. The government's revenue during the first quarter was Rs. 1.5 lakh crore while total expenditure stood at Rs. 8.16 lakh crore, a 13% jump from previous year's Rs. 7.22 lakh crore)

**10)** Which country is poised to become the first country to help its native media company to gain royalty from tech giants like Google and Facebook? – [Australia](#)

(In a landmark move to protect independent journalism, Australia will force US tech giant Facebook and Alphabet Inc.'s Google to pay Australian media publishers for news content. It will thus become the first country in the world to do so)

### 9-22 August 2020 Current Affairs

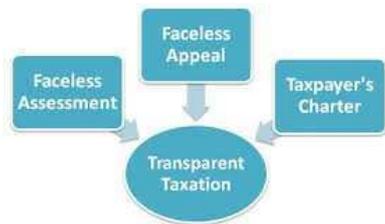


**1)** What is the main objective of the National Digital Health Mission that was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address at the 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations on 15 August 2020? – [Health ID card for every Indian citizen that will contain all relevant medical information](#)

(Under the National Digital Health Mission every Indian is to get a Health ID card. The ID card will contain all relevant information about the person's past medical condition, treatment and diagnosis. The mission is completely technology based. It will operate under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana or Ayushman Bharat Scheme. The mission will aim

to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of health care in India)

(KV Kamath, the former first President of the New Development Bank (of BRICS), was appointed the Chairman of the 4-member expert committee on Debt Recasting constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 7 August 2020. The committee is to give recommendations on the required financial parameters, along with the sector specific benchmark ranges which need to be factored into the resolution plans of banks. 3 other members of the committee are Diwakar Gupta, TN Manoharan and Ashvin Parekh)



2) Prime Minister Narendra Modi during August 2020 unveiled a new income tax (IT) platform for honouring honest tax-payers. What is the name of this platform? - **“Transparent Taxation-Honouring the Honest”**

(“Transparent Taxation-Honouring the Honest” is the name of the new income tax platform unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 August 2020. This platform is basically aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers. It will provide the facility of faceless assessment, appeal and redressal system for tax payers. Thus there will be no need for the taxpayer to visit the income tax office or the officer. A new “Tax Charter” was also part of this announcement)



5) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 10 August 2020 the 2300 km long submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid at the cost of Rs. 1224 crore. This OFC connects Chennai with which place? – **Port Blair**

(The submarine OFC inaugurated on 10 August 2020 connects Chennai with Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The 2,300-kilometre OFC will deliver bandwidth of 2x200 Gbps between Chennai and Port Blair, and 2x100 Gbps between Port Blair and other islands. The project's foundation stone was laid by the PM in December 2018)



3) The first-ever “Kisan Rail” in India was flagged-off on 7 August 2020. This first-of-its-kind train has been run between which railway stations? – **Devlali and Danapur**

(India’s first “Kisan Rail” was flagged off by Union Rail Minister Piyush Goyal and Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar from Maharashtra’s Devlali to Danapur (Bihar). This is the first multi-commodity train service in India to carry vegetables like capsicum, cauliflower, cabbage, chillies, drumsticks, onion, etc., and fruits like grapes, banana, pomegranate, etc. The train has been equipped with frozen containers and apart from fruits and vegetables)



6) Which entity won the bid for the title sponsorship of the Indian Premier League (IPL), as was announced on 18 August 2020? – **Dream11**

(Fantasy sports platform Dream11 won the bid for Indian Premier League (IPL) as it submitted a winning bid of Rs. 222 crore. It thus replaced Chinese smartphone maker Vivo as title sponsor, which had been paying Rs. 440 crore annually to BCCI. But it was later clarified that Dream11’s bid is for one year only. Dream11 is backed by investors including China's Tencent)

4) Who is heading the 4-member committee constituted by the RBI on 7 August 2020 on debt recast? – **KV Kamath**

7) Which city bagged the cleanest city in India title for the fourth consecutive time in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 results that were announced on 20 August 2020? – **Indore**

(For the fourth consecutive time, Indore, Madhya Pradesh bagged the title of the cleanest city in India. It was followed by Surat of Gujarat and Navi Mumbai of Maharashtra. The annual survey is conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Varanasi bagged the best "Ganga Town" while Mysuru emerged as the cleanest city in South India in the survey)

**8)** Who was appointed the new Governor of Meghalaya during August 2020? – [Satyapal Malik](#)

(Goa Governor Satya Pal Malik was on 18 August 2020 appointed as the Governor of Meghalaya. He replaced Tathagata Roy. He had earlier also served as the Governor of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir. Now Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshyari is to discharge the functions of Governor of Goa)

**9)** What is the FSSAI rule pertaining to sale of food items containing high sugar, salt and fat near school premises, as was announced during August 2020? – [No sale of such items within 50 meters distance of school premises](#)

(On 10 August 2020 the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) announced that sale of junk and unhealthy food should be restricted within 50 metres schools and education institutions. The foods referred to as HFSS (High in Fat, Salt and Sugar) cannot be sold in mess premises and school canteens)

**10)** What is the name of the newly launched international subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) that was established during August 2020? - [NPCI International Payments Ltd](#)

(NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) is the name of the newly established payments subsidiary for global markets that was set up by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the developer of UPI and RuPay. NIPL will export NPCI's indigenously developed offerings and technological acumen to foreign markets as many foreign countries have displayed interest towards replicating NPCI model in their nations)

**11)** Which company during August 2020 became the first publicly traded US company and world's only second company to hit \$2 trillion in market cap? – [Apple Inc.](#)

(On 19 August 2020 Apple Inc. became the first publicly traded US company and world's only

second company to hit \$2 trillion in market cap. However, company's value stood at \$2 trillion mark briefly)

## 23-27 August 2020 Current Affairs

**1)** According to an announcement made by the Finance Ministry on 24 August 2020, the GST has been exempted for businesses having how much turnover? – [Up to Rs. 40 lakh per annum](#)

(Till now the businesses having annual turnover up to Rs. 20 lakh were exempt from goods and service tax (GST) that was rolled out in India on 1 July 2017. The Finance Ministry has increased this limit to up to Rs. 40 lakh per annum. It was also announced that those businesses with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only one per cent GST)



**2)** What is the name of the 20-year old Indian who won 'fastest human calculator' title during August 2020? - [Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash](#)

(Hyderabad's 20-year-old Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash has won 'fastest human calculator' title after winning the gold medal in Mental Calculation World Championship at Mind Sports Olympiad in London. He is a graduate with a degree in Maths from Delhi's St Stephen's College)



**3)** India's longest river crossing ropeway was opened to the public on 24 August 2020 on Brahmaputra River in Assam. What is the length of this ropeway? – [1.8 km](#)

(The 1.8-kilometre-long ropeway across Brahmaputra River in Guwahati was opened for the public on 24 August 2020. It extends from central to northern Guwahati, will reduce travel time between both banks to just eight minutes. Every day, hundreds of people cross the Brahmaputra using ferries, but the service closes for several days during peak monsoon, when the water level in the

river crosses the danger mark. Inauguration of the ropeway will address that problem. This ropeway is the longest river ropeway system in India)

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**4)** Who was appointed the election commissioner in the Election Commission of India during August 2020? - [Rajiv Kumar](#)

(Retired bureaucrat Rajiv Kumar was appointed the election commissioner on 19 August 2020. He replaced Ashok Lavasa, who was appointed the Vice President in the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Rajiv Kumar is a retired 1984-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre and is currently the chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB))

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**5)** The entire continent of Africa was declared free of wild polio on 25 August 2020. Now which are the only two countries in the world where polio still exists? - [Pakistan and Afghanistan](#)

(Nigeria became the last African country to be declared free of the disease on 25 August 2020. Thus the entire continent of Africa became polio-free. With this, polio now exists only in two countries in the world- Pakistan and Afghanistan)

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**6)** Who became the first fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test cricket history? - [James Anderson](#)

(England pacer James Anderson became the first fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test cricket history. He achieved this feat as during the second innings of the third Test against Pakistan on 25 August 2020. He is overall the fourth cricketer after former spinners Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne and Anil Kumble to take 600 or more wickets in Test cricket)

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## 28-31 August 2020 Current Affairs



**1)** The Government of India on 26 August 2020 established an expert panel to redefine the roles and responsibilities of Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO). Who is heading this important panel? - [V. Ramgopal Rao](#)

(V. Ramgopal Rao, the Director of IIT Delhi was appointed the Chairman of the expert panel that was set up to redefine the roles and responsibilities of the DRDO. The panel will study and review the duties of the DRDO labs. It will redefine the duties based on the current and futuristic battlefield needs. It will also focus on minimizing overlap of technologies between the labs)

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**2)** Which state will establish India's first international women's trade centre (WTC) in keeping in mind the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs), as was announced during August 2020? - [Kerala](#)

(Kerala will set up India's first international women's trade centre (WTC) at Angamaly. This WTC will be established in consonance with the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs). WTC aims to accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity while providing women with a safe place away from home to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally)

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**3)** The world's largest solar tree that has been established in India by the CSIR and CMERI, is situated in which place? - [Durgapur](#)

(The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) have developed the

world's largest solar tree in India. This tree has been established at the CSIR-CMERI Residential Colony, Durgapur in West Bengal. A solar tree is a structure where solar modules are planted on a single pillar, which looks like a tree trunk. It serves the dual purpose of being an artwork and an energy generator)

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**4)** During August 2020 who became the youngest author to win the International Booker prize? – [Marieke Lucas Rijneveld](#)

(Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld on 26 August 2020 won the 2020 International Booker prize for debut novel “The Discomfort of Evening”, a story of childhood grief. Rijneveld, who identifies both as a male and a female, shared the prize of 50,000 pounds, about \$66,000, with Michele Hutchison, who translated it from Dutch. At 29 years Rijneveld became the youngest-ever to win this prestigious prize)

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**5)** Union Government will disinvest how much of its share in public sector undertaking HAL as was announced during August 2020? – [Up to 15%](#)

(The Union Government will sell up to 15% stake in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) via offer for sale (OFS). The floor price for the offer has been fixed at Rs 1,001 per equity share of the company. Currently, the government holds an 89.97% stake in HAL)

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