

August 20 and 21st news:

International:

Sushma Swaraj Inaugurates 'Panini Language Laboratory' in Mauritius

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated 'Panini Language Laboratory' at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) at Port Louis in Mauritius. The Lab has been gifted by the Government of India and it will help MGI in the teaching of all Indian languages in Mauritius

Bilateral:

India-Thailand Conclude 'Maitree' Military Exercise

The Indian and Thailand's armed forces concluded a two-week long platoon level military exercise called 'Exercise Maitree 2018' in Jammu & Kashmir's Srinagar. The exercise was an annual event designed to strengthen the partnership between armies of the two countries.

Economy:

1st All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey By NABARD Released

All India Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS), conducted by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 2016 in 245 districts of 29 states covering 40,327 households, revealed that

More than 88 per cent of rural households have bank accounts,

Only about 24 per cent of the 88% of rural households use ATM services at least once in three months,

The annual income of farmers increased 37.4 per cent to Rs 1,07,172 between 2012-13 and 2015-16,

Among states, Punjab, Haryana and Kerala are the top three having average monthly income of Rs 23,133, Rs 18,496 and Rs 16,927, respectively.

The survey, with reference year of 2015-16, which covered 40,327 rural households, highlighted that the average annual income of an agricultural household is Rs 1,07,172 compared to Rs 87,228 for families engaged only in non-agricultural activities.

The survey defined farm households as families having over Rs 5,000 as value of produce from agricultural operations in the year preceding the survey. For all rural households, the average annual income stood at Rs 96,708.

Other highlights

Income

1. Agricultural households, which accounted for 48% of rural households, earned Rs 107,172 during 2015-16 from cultivation, livestock, non-farm sector activities and wages/salaries. Thus, farmers' income

grew at a compounded growth rate of 12% per annum compared to Rs 77,112 per annum as per NSSO assessment in 2012-13.

2. Agricultural households earned 34% of their income from cultivation. Wage earnings contributed the same proportion to the income followed by salaries (16%), livestock (8%) and non-farm sector (6%). Other sources accounted for the rest.

3. Non-agricultural households reported average annual income of Rs 87,228 majorly contributed by wages (54%), followed by salaries (32%) and non-farm sector activities (12%).

Savings & Investment

1. 88.1% of the households reported having a bank account.

2. 33% of households reported more than one savings account.

3. 26% of HH have women with institutional (including SHG) savings account.

4. 55% of agricultural households reported any savings during the last year and of these 53 % saved with institutions like banks, post offices and SHGs.

5. Average savings per annum per saver households was reportedly Rs 17,488, of which 95 % is with institutional agencies.

6. 10.4% of agricultural households also reported investment with the average investment per investing agricultural households was reportedly Rs 62,734.

Insurance and Pension

1. About 26% of agricultural households and 25% of non-agricultural households reported to have been covered under one or the other type of insurance

2. Among agricultural households who reported to have taken any loan for agricultural purposes in the last one year [2015-16] from institutional agencies, 6.9% reported being covered under crop insurance.

3. The coverage under any type of pension was reported to be about 18.9 % for non-agricultural households as against 20.1 % for agricultural households.

FSSAI Constitutes B Sesikeran Committee To Review Food Labelling Standards

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) constituted a group of experts from the health and nutrition sector to look into the issue of food labelling.

The expert panel will be headed by B Sesikeran. Mr Sesikeran is the former director of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and comprises Hemalatha and Dr Nikhil Tandon. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

Paytm Partners With Alibaba

Digital payments firm Paytm has partnered with China's Alibaba to launch AI-based cloud computing platform '*Paytm AI Cloud*'. The platform will offer business-centric apps to developers, startups and enterprises that need cloud-computing solutions including customer engagement and easy-to-integrate payments. It will process and store all consumer data locally in servers located only in India.

Science and Technology:

India Successfully Tests Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'

India successfully flight tested the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile '*HELINA*' from Pokhran in Rajasthan on 19th August. The weapon system tested for its full range was released smoothly from the launch platform. The missile hit the target with high precision. The indigenously designed and developed guided bombs *Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW)* was also successfully flight tested from IAF aircraft at Chandan range in Jaisalmer

Sports:

Asian Games

Wrestler Bajrang Punia Wins 1st Gold For India

Bajrang Punia opened India's gold medal account by defeating Japan's Daichi Takatani in the final of Men's Freestyle 65 kg category. India opened its medal account with a bronze by Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar in rifle mixed team shooting event.

Saurabh Chaudhary Wins: Saurabh Chaudhary became only the fifth Indian shooter to claim a gold in the Asian Games history, beating a field of multiple world and Olympic champions in the 10m air pistol finals in Indonesia. Another Indian making his international debut, 29-year-old Abhishek Verma, shot 219.3 to secure bronze.

Vinesh Pogat victory: India got its second Gold medal at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia when Vinesh Phogat defeated Japan's Yuki Irie in the final of freestyle 50 kg category in Women's Wrestling. With this victory, Vinesh created history as she is the first Indian woman wrestler to win gold in the Asian Games.

Novak Djokovic Wins Western and Southern Open 2018

Novak Djokovic (Serbia) beat Roger Federer (Switzerland) in straight sets, high-profile championship match at the 2018 Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati. With this win, Djokovic became the first men's tennis player in history to win all nine Masters 1,000 tournaments after finishing as the runner-up in Cincinnati five different times.

Awards:

S.K.Arora: Delhi government's additional director of health, SK Arora was awarded prestigious World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control. It is awarded every year by WHO to individuals or organizations alike in each of six WHO regions for their accomplishments in the area of tobacco control.

Dalbir Singh: The United States government has awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) to General Dalbir Singh Suhag (Retired), of the Indian Army, for exceptionally meritorious service as chief of the Army staff, Indian Army.

Classmate Academy