

Headlines at a Glance - 12th August 2020

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Minister Shekhawat launches IVR-based training course on ODF Plus programme

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the 'Swachh Bharat Mission Academy', an IVR-based training course with modules on Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus programme, a statement said on Tuesday. The ODF Plus is an extension of the ODF programme under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Its objective is to sustain the ODF programme and to take up Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM). The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) based training course contains a 60-minute module spanning various topics under ODF as well as SLWM, the statement said. The SBM Academy was launched as part of the ongoing week-long behaviour change campaign 'Gandagi Mukht Bharat'. The SBM Academy course has four chapters, each with four audio lessons and a multiple-choice quiz at the end of the chapter. To be considered successful, the user must answer at least 50 per cent of the questions correctly. As of now the content of SBM Academy is in Hindi and the users are expected to dial in to a toll free number (18001800404) and complete listening to the entire content in their mobile phones, the statement added.

SOURCE: *Business Standard*

SC: Daughters' Equal Rights to Hindu Family Property Valid Retrospectively

Holding that daughters cannot be deprived of their right of equality, the Supreme Court Tuesday

ruled that they will have equal coparcenary (joint heirship) rights in joint Hindu family property even if the father died before the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005. A three-judge bench of Justices Arun Mishra, S. Nazeer and M.R. Shah said the provisions contained in substituted Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 confer the status of coparcener on the daughter born before or after amendment in the same manner as a son with the same rights and liabilities. Coparcener is a term used for a person who assumes a legal right in parental property by birth only. The bench said, "the rights can be claimed by the daughter born earlier with effect from September 9, 2005 with savings as provided in Section 6(1) as to the disposition or alienation, partition or testamentary disposition which had taken place before December 20, 2004. Since the right in coparcenary is by birth, it is not necessary that father coparcener should be living as on September 9, 2005." The verdict makes it clear the amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral property would have retrospective effect.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*

Agriculture Minister Tomar launches ICAR's data recovery centre Krishi Megh

To protect the precious data of the government's premier research body ICAR, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday launched a data recovery centre 'Krishi Megh' set up in Hyderabad. Currently, the main data centre of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is at the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) in the national capital. The data recovery centre has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad. Krishi Megh has been set up under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), funded by both the government and World Bank. The data recovery centre at NAARM is synchronised with the data centre at IASRI. It has been built to mitigate the risk, enhance the quality, availability and accessibility of e-governance, research, extension and education in the field of agriculture in India, it said. After the virtual launch, Tomar emphasised on the need to save and preserve the important research-based data in a prompt digitised form to enable its access anywhere in any corner of the country and the world.

SOURCE: *The Indian Express*

All 9 museums for tribal freedom fighters will be ready by 2022- end: Govt

The Tribal Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said all nine museums dedicated to tribal freedom fighters will be completed by the end of 2022. Out of the nine museums sanctioned for tribal freedom fighters, two are nearing completion and the rest are at different stages of progress, it said in a statement. It is expected that all the museums will come into existence by the end of 2022. New museums will be sanctioned in the future in collaboration with the states, it said. The largest of these museums is being built in Rajpipla in Gujarat at a cost of Rs 102.55 crore. The rest are being built in Ranchi (Jharkhand), Lambasingi (Andhra Pradesh), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Kozhikode (Kerala), Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh), Hyderabad (Telangana), Senapati (Manipur) and Kelsi (Mizoram). Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made an announcement regarding setting up tribal freedom fighters' museums in his Independence Day Speech in 2016.

SOURCE: *Business Standard*

Procurement of 106 Basic Trainer Aircraft for IAF from HAL approved

The defence ministry on Tuesday gave its go-ahead for the purchase of military equipment worth Rs 8,722 crore, including 106 locally made basic trainer aircraft, for the Indian Air Force to provide a push to the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' (self-reliant India movement), a defence ministry spokesperson said. Basic trainers figure on the government's negative import list that seeks to ban the import of 101 different types of weapons, systems and ammunition over the next five years. The ministry's defence acquisition council (DAC) accorded its acceptance of necessity (AoN) for buying 106 Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40) aircraft from state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at a meeting chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh. Under India's defence procurement rules, AoN by the council is the first step towards buying military hardware. This is the first step in a long journey ahead, said Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur (retd), additional director general, Centre for Air Power Studies. The HTT-40 aircraft has undergone a string of elaborate tests at HAL to demonstrate that it is safe for rookie pilots and meets the IAF's exacting standards for trainer planes. HAL could begin the production of the trainers by early next year.**SOURCE:***Hindustan Times*