

# Weekly One Liners 31<sup>st</sup> August to 06<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## RBI releases revised Priority Sector Lending Guidelines

- The **Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Guidelines** have been reviewed by the **Reserve Bank of India** to align the PSL Guidelines with evolving national priorities.
- The new guidelines will make better credit penetration into credit deficient areas and increase the lending to small as well as marginal farmers and weaker sections. It will also enhance credit to renewable energy, and health infrastructure.
- In the revised PSL Guidelines, the Reserve Bank of India has included some fresh categories eligible for finance under priority sector.
- These include loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants; loans for establishment of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants; and bank finance to start-ups of up to Rs 50 crore.

Some key features of **revised PSL guidelines** are as follows:

- To address the issue of regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit, RBI has assigned higher weightage to incremental priority sector credit in 'identified districts' where priority sector credit flow is relatively low.
- The targets stipulated for "small and marginal farmers" as well as "weaker sections" are being increased in a phased manner.
- Credit limit has been raised for the Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs)/Farmers Producers Companies (FPCs) undertaking farming with assured marketing of their produce at a pre-determined price.
- The loan limits for renewable energy have been doubled.
- The credit limit for health infrastructure (including those under 'Ayushman Bharat') has been doubled to improve the health infrastructure.

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## Ministry of Home Affairs issues Guidelines for "Unlock 4"

**Ministry of Home Affairs** has issued "**Unlock 4**" guidelines for the phased re-opening of activities in areas outside the Containment Zones. The "Unlock 4" guidelines will be effective from **September 1, 2020**.

**Key features of the "Unlock 4" guidelines are as follows:**

- According to the new guidelines, Metro rail will be permitted to operate with effect from 7th September 2020 in a graded manner.
- New guidelines permits the Social/ academic/ sports/ entertainment/ cultural/ religious/ political functions and other congregations with a ceiling of 100 persons, with effect from 21st September 2020. All the above gatherings will have to follow mandatory wearing of face masks, social distancing, provision for thermal scanning and hand wash or sanitizer.
- It also allows the opening of Open air theatres with effect from 21st September 2020.
- No restrictions will be there on Inter-State and intra-State movement.
- The Schools, colleges, educational and coaching institutions will continue to remain closed for students and regular class activity up to 30th September 2020. Although, Students of classes 9 to 12 may be permitted to visit their schools, in areas outside the Containment Zones only, on voluntary basis, with effect from 21st September 2020.
- Cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres (excluding open air theatre) and similar places will continue to remain closed.
- Lockdown shall be implemented strictly in the Containment Zones till 30th September, 2020.
- Department of Higher Education (DHE) will permit the Higher Education Institutions only for research scholars (Ph.D.) and post-graduate students of technical and professional programmes requiring laboratory/ experimental works, in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs.

## Government of India Blocks 118 Mobile Apps

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, Government of India has decided to block **118 mobile apps** in view of the emergent nature of threats.
- These applications have been blocked as there was information that these apps are engaged in activities which is prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state as well as public order.

- **118 mobile apps** have been blocked by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology by invoking its power under section **69A of the Information Technology Act** read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules **2009**.

### Union Cabinet approves "Mission Karmayogi" NPCSCB

- Union Cabinet has approved the launch of a "**Mission Karmayogi**" National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).
- A sum of **Rs. 510.86 crore** will be spent over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 in order to cover around 46 lakh Central employees.
- **Mission Karmayogi** has been launched to prepare the Indian Civil Servant for the future by making him more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.
- An Integrated Government Online Training "**iGOTKarmayogiPlatform**" would be set up to deliver the programme.

The National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) will be launched with the following institutional framework:

- Prime Minister's Public Human Resources (HR) Council
- Capacity Building Commission
- Special Purpose Vehicle for owning and operating the digital assets and the technological platform for online training
- Coordination Unit headed by the Cabinet Secretary

### India ranks 48th in Global Innovation Index 2020

- **India** has joined the group of top **50 countries** in the global innovation index for the first time, moving up four places to the 48th rank and keeping the top position among the nations in central and southern Asia.
- India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as **ICT (Information and Communication Technology)** services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and R&D-intensive global companies.
- The **13th edition** of the **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020** has jointly released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School.

Top 5 countries in **Global Innovation Index 2020** rankings:

Rank	Country	Score
<b>1st</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>66.08</b>
2nd	Sweden	62.47
3rd	United States of America	60.56
4th	United Kingdom	59.78
5th	Netherlands	58.76
<b>48th</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>35.59</b>

### National News

- Government of Dubai Authority on commodities trade and enterprise, Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) has rolled out a technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing platform "**Agriota E-Marketplace**". It will help in bridging the gap between millions of rural farmers in India and the **UAE's food industry**.
- India will receive an **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** loan of an amount of JPY50 billion (approx. **Rs. 3,500 crore**) from the government of Japan as the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support in order to fight the COVID-19 crisis.
- **Japanese** government has committed **Grant Assistance** of an amount of JPY 1 billion (approx. **Rs. 70 crore**) for offering medical equipment to bolster the public health and medical system in India.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has announced to celebrate September 2020 as "**Poshan Maah**" or "**Nutrition Month**". He also stated that the schools must introduce Nutrition Monitor and Nutrition Cards to increase the awareness of nutrition among the children.
- Union Department of **Fertilizers** is observing **Swachhta Pakhwada** from 1st to 15th September 2020.
- Union Territories **Ladakh & Lakshadweep** have been included in the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' scheme on '**Integrated Management of Public Distribution System**' (IM-PDS). With this a total of 26 States /UTs Connected with the Scheme and will benefit about 65 crore people.
- Minister of State (MoS) (I/C) for **Power and New & Renewable Energy**, Raj Kumar Singh launched the Pan-India "Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM)" in New Delhi virtually, for electricity. **GTAM** is the World's First Exclusive Product Market for the renewable energy sector.
- **National Nutrition Week** is observed every year from **1st September to 7th September** since 1982.

### States in the News

- The first-ever “**seaplane services in Gujarat**” will be commenced from **31 October 2020**. It will offer seamless and affordable air connectivity from Sabarmati Riverfront in **Ahmedabad** to Statue of Unity in **Kevadia** in **Gujarat**.
- “**Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana**” has been launched by the Uttar Pradesh government. Under this scheme, 19 international players from the state of Uttar Pradesh will get road connectivity to their houses.
- **Kerala** will establish the first international women’s trade centre (**IWTC**) of India at **Angamaly**. The IWTC would be set by Kerala in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**).
- **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched a 15-day campaign named ‘**Gandagi Bharat Chhodo**’.
- Punjab government has rolled out “**I Rakhwali**” App to ensure greenery and to protect the environment in Punjab.

### International Affairs

- **World Bank** has stopped the publication of its “**Doing Business**” report to probe data collection irregularities in the annual ranking of countries’ business and investment climates.
- **Mustapha Adib** has been appointed as the Prime minister of **Lebanon**.

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- **ICICI Bank** has launched a virtual property exhibition under the name ‘**Home Utsav**’ which will digitally showcase real estate projects by renowned developers, across India.
- Estimates of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for the first quarter (April-June) Q1 of **2020-21** has been released by the National Statistical Office (**NSO**), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. According to the latest release, the GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q1 of 2020-21 is estimated at **Rs 26.90 lakh crore** and the Indian economy has experienced a contraction of **23.9%** as compared to 5.2% growth in Q1 2019-20.

### Appointments/Resignations

- **Rajiv Kumar** has taken the charge as the new **Election Commissioner (EC)** of **India**.
- **Aveek Sarkar** has been elected as the **chairman** of **Press Trust of India (PTI)**. He will succeed Vijay Kumar Chopra.
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in the re-appointment of **Pramod Chandra Mody** as Chairman of **Central Board of Direct Taxes**.

- **Hemant Khatri** has assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-owned defence shipbuilder, **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)** at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Joint secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, **Usha Padhee** has been given additional charge as Director-General of the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**.
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of the current chairman of the Railway Board **VK Yadav** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **S Krishnan** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Punjab & Sind Bank**. He will replace S Harishankar.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of **Murali Ramakrishnan** as Managing Director and CEO of the **South Indian Bank**.
- **Raj Kumar Srivastava** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of **Croatia**.

### Awards and Recognitions

- Hyderabad International Airport or GMR led **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport** has won the ‘**National Energy Leader**’ and ‘**Excellent Energy Efficient Unit**’ awards at the 21st National Awards for ‘**Excellence in Energy Management**’.
- **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited-Vizag Steel Plant (RINL-VSP)** has also been awarded ‘Excellent Energy Efficient Unit’ award by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Godrej Green Business Centre (**GBC**) in national award competition for excellence in energy management.
- Team of **NTPC Limited, Vallur, Tamil Nadu** has won the All India Management Association (AIMA) Chanakya (Business Simulation Game) National Management Games (**NMG**) 2020.

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### Schemes & Committees

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has approved the setting up of **3-member committee** headed by **Lt. Gen. Shekatkar** (retired) to review the effective utilisation of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHQ CS) cadre. Two other members of the committee are **R. Chandrashekhar**, a retired AFHQ cadre officer, and **AN Das** from the MoD finance wing.

### Summits & Conferences

- **Cycling Federation of India** (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in 2021 to promote the culture of cycling in the country. The Cycling Summit 2021 will be hosted in **Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore**.
- Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, **Indian Institute of Public Administration** (IIPA) organised 2-days long **“National Tribal Research Conclave”**.
- **Saudi Arabia** chaired the **G20 Foreign Ministers’ Extraordinary Meeting**. During the meeting, India proposed the setting up of voluntary ‘G20 Principles on Coordinated Cross-Border Movement of People’.
- The **5th BRICS Culture Ministers’ Meeting** was held under the **chairpersonship** of **Russian Federation**.

### Sports News

- **India** and **Russia** became the joint winners of **FIDE online Chess Olympiad**, which was held for the first time due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Indian Grandmaster **P Iniyar** has won the **48th Annual World Open** online chess tournament.
- Mercedes driver, **Lewis Hamilton** has won the **Formula One Belgian Grand Prix 2020** at Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium.

### Books & Authors

- Bollywood Filmmaker, **Karan Johar** authored a children’s picture book titled **“The Big Thoughts of Little Luv”**.
- **Pope Francis** is set to release the book **“Let Us Dream”** in December 2020.
- A new publication **“The Little Book of Green Nudges”** has been launched by the **United Nations Environment Programme** to encourage around 200 million students around the world to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.

### Science and Technology

- **World’s largest Solar Tree** has been developed by the **CSIR-CMERI** and has been installed at the Residential Colony of CSIR-CMERI in Durgapur, **West Bengal**.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) **Bombay**, students have launched a free-of-cost mobile scanner application **“AIR Scanner”**. The app is developed by **Rohit Kumar Chaudhary** and **Kavin Agrawal**.

### Defence News

- **India** has **withdrawn** its participation from the multilateral Military Exercise **“Kavkaz 2020”** to be held in **Russia**.
- **Acquisition Wing of Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract worth **Rs 2580 Cr** with M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd., M/s. Tata Power Company Ltd. and M/s. Larsen & Toubro for the supply of six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army and hence will enhance the operation preparedness of our Armed Forces.
- **Indian Navy** and **Russian Navy** has commenced the **11th edition of a biennial bilateral** maritime exercise **“INDRA NAVY”** in the Bay of Bengal.

### Important Days

- United Nations observes **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances** globally on **30th of August** every year.
- United Nations celebrates the **International Day of Charity** globally on **05th September** every year.
- **India** celebrates **Teachers Day** every year on **05th September** to honour teachers for their significant contributions in shaping the life of students.

### Obituaries

- India’s former athletic coach **Purushotham Rai** passed away. The former coach passed away a few hours before receiving the **Dronacharya Award**, the highest sporting award for a coach in India.
- The former President of India, **Pranab Mukherjee** passed away.
- The co-creator of the cartoon series Scooby-Doo, **Joe Ruby** passed away.
- Congress Member of Parliament, **Harikrishnan VasanthaKumar** passed away. He was elected as the Member of Parliament to the 17th Lok Sabha from Kanyakumari constituency, Tamil Nadu in 2019.
- Noted cardiologist, Dr **S Padmavati** passed away. She was the first female cardiologist of India and was popularly known as **“God Mother of Cardiology”**.
- Former England all-rounder and legendary cricketer, **David Capel** passed away.

### Miscellaneous News

- **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has made an in-house mobile app "**Pensioners Corner**". It has been created by CISF to reach to the pensioners and to bring them on to the digital platform as a one stop solution.
- **Indian Railways** has developed a remote-controlled medical trolley named '**MEDBOT**' to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients.
- Union Cabinet has approved **J&K official languages Bill 2020**. According to the J&K official languages Bill 2020, Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi along with Urdu and English, will be the official languages in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Jal Shakti ministry** has launched a "**Water Heroes – Share Your Stories**" contest with an aim to reach out to people with the important message of water conservation and management.
- **Tamil Nadu** has appointed India's first-ever woman ambulance driver, **M Veeralakshmi** under a new initiative by **CM Palaniswami**.
- Isle of Man betting group **Celton Manx** has appointed West Indies cricket icon **Dwayne Bravo** as the first cricket ambassador for its "**SBOTOP**" sportsbook brand.
- **Bajaj Allianz Life** Insurance Company Limited has appointed bollywood actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** as its brand ambassador.

### Static Takeaways

- Union Minister of Home Affairs: Amit Shah.
- Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Multi Commodities Centre: Ahmed Bin Sulayem.
- President of UAE: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi; Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham.
- Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers: DV Sadananda Gowda.
- Minister of Women and Child Development: Smriti Zubin Irani.
- Capital of Lebanon: Beirut.
- Currency of Lebanon: Lebanese pound.
- President of World Bank: David Malpass.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington D.C., United States.
- World Bank Founded: July 1944.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi; Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Capital of Croatia: Zagreb; Currency: Croatian kuna.
- President of Croatia: Zoran Milanovic.

- Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal.
- BRICS member countries are: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- President of Cycling Federation of India: Parminder Singh Dhindsa.
- Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme: Inger Andersen.
- President of Russia: Vladimir Putin.
- Capital of Russia: Moscow; Currency: Russian Ruble.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- Union Minister of Defence: Raj Nath Singh.
- Ministers of State (I/C) for Statistics and Programme Implementation: Rao Inderjit Singh.
- Chief Minister of Punjab: Capt. Amarinder Singh; Governor: V.P. Singh Badnore.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- Chief Minister of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.
- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Aditya Nath; Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- Chief Minister of Gujarat: Vijaybhai R. Rupani; Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat.
- Minister of State (I/C) for Civil Aviation: Hardeep Singh Puri.
- Secretary-General of United Nations: António Guterres.
- MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited: Tarun Chugh.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti: Rattan Lal Kataria.
- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir: Manoj Sinha.
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting: Prakash Javadekar.
- Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal.
- Director General of Central Industrial Security Force: Rajesh Ranjan.

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