

SBI Clerk Mains 2020 Exam GK Tornado PDF



GK-Tornado SBI Clerk Mains 2020 Exam

Dear Aspirants,

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important **Banking Awareness & Current Affairs news** and events that occurred in last **1.5 months (16th September 2020 – 21st October 2020)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like **Banking, Insurance, SSC and UPSC Exams**.

News related to RBI

1st -21st October

1. RBI raises banks' aggregate exposure limit for small businesses

Note: RBI has raised the banks' maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to entities with turnover up to Rs 50 crore to Rs 7.5 crore from Rs 5 crore. The decision has been taken to increase credit flow to small businesses. The risk weight of 75 per cent will apply to all fresh exposures and also to existing exposures where incremental exposure may be taken by the banks up to the revised limit of Rs 7.5 crore.

2. RBI's 3rd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21 Released

Key Highlights of the policy are:

- Keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 4.0 per cent.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 3.35 per cent.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 4.25 per cent.

Current Policy Rates:

Policy Repo Rate	4.0%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%

3. GoI appoints three new economists as RBI's MPC members

Note: The Government of India has appointed three new economists as members of the six-member rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The appointed members are Prof. Ashima Goyal, Prof. Jayanth R Varma and Dr. Shashanka Bhide. The three members from RBI Side are Dr. Mridul K. Sagar, Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra and Shri Shaktikanta Das. MPC committee of RBI comprises six members which include three officials of the Reserve Bank of

India and three external members nominated by the Government of India.

4. RBI fixes Centre's WMA limit at Rs 1.25 lakh crore for second half of FY 2020-21

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set the ways and means advances (WMAs) limit at Rs 1.25 lakh crore for the central government for the second half of the fiscal year (October 2020 to March 2021). Meanwhile, the finance ministry said the government will borrow Rs 4.34 lakh crore in the second half of the current fiscal to meet its expenditure requirement amid the COVID-19 crisis afflicting the country's economy. With this the government revised the borrowing target to Rs 12 lakh crore in May as against Rs 7.8 lakh crore approved in the Budget 2020-21.

5. RBI defers Basel III provisions amid Covid Uncertainty

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deferred implementation of provisions made under Basel III capital due to uncertainty related to COVID crisis. In this regard, RBI will repel the final tranche of the capital conservation buffer (CCB) and the implementation of net stable funding ratio (NSFR) by six months i.e. April 1, 2021.

6. RBI Policy: India's GDP to contract by 9.5% in FY21

Note: The Indian economy will contract 9.5% in fiscal 2021 due to disruptions caused by the covid-19 pandemic that has hit economic activities, according to the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). RBI governor Das said GDP growth rate may break out of contraction and turn positive during January-March due to recovery seen across sectors. The MPC has maintained an accommodative stance to revive growth on a durable basis.

7. The RBI extended Interest subvention on MSME loans till March 2021

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has extended the two per cent interest subvention scheme for micro,

small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) on loans offered by co-operative banks has been extended till 31st of March next year. RBI has further

informed that the scheme, initially announced for just two years, has been extended for the financial year 2020-21.

September(16th-30th)

1. RBI to launch “Positive Pay System” for Cheque Truncation System

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will launch “Positive Pay System” for Cheque Truncation System from 01st January, 2021. The “Positive Pay System” will be developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and make it available to participant banks. Banks will be required to enable the system for all account holders issuing cheques for amounts of Rs 50,000 and above. While availing of this facility is at the discretion of the account holder, banks may consider making it mandatory in case of cheques for amounts of Rs 5,00,000 and above.

2. RBI releases technology vision for cyber security for urban co-op banks

Note: The RBI came out with a Technology Vision for Cyber Security for Urban Co-operative Banks for 2020-23 listing act on points for these banks. It aims at enhancing the cybersecurity posture of the UBCs against evolving IT and cyber threat environment. It envisages a five-pillared strategic approach GUARD (Governance Oversight, Utile Technology Investment, Appropriate Regulation and Supervision, Robust Collaboration and Developing necessary IT, cybersecurity skills set).

3. RBI approves 3-member committee of directors to manage Lakshmi Vilas Bank

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a three-member committee of directors to run the day-to-day functioning of cash-strapped Lakshmi Vilas Bank. The committee chairperson is Meeta Makhan with Shakti Sinha and Satish Kumar Kalra as members. All three are independent directors.

4. RBI Extends Enhanced Borrowing Limit for Banks Under MSF Till March 31

Note: The Reserve Bank has decided to extend by six months the enhanced borrowing facility provided to banks to meet liquidity shortage till March 31, 2021. The RBI, as a temporary measure, had increased the borrowing limit for scheduled banks under the marginal standing facility (MSF) scheme from 2 per cent to 3 per cent of their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) with effect from March 27, 2020.

5. RBI granted in-principle approval to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit to Vakrangee

Note: The Reserve Bank has granted in-principle approval to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) to Vakrangee Ltd. The company offers banking, insurance, money transfer services, e-commerce, e-governance and other digital services on behalf of its partner banks, insurers, government agencies, e-commerce players among others through its branches mostly located in rural and semi-urban areas.

Ranking, Indexes, Reports and Survey

1-21st October 2020

1. Global tuberculosis report 2020

Note: World Health Organisation (WHO) has published global tuberculosis (TB) report of 2020. WHO has published a global tuberculosis (TB) report every year from 1997. The report published by WHO provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic, progress in prevention, diagnosis & treatment of the disease at the regional level and country level and global level. The 2020 edition of the report was published on 14 October 2020. The data in this report are updated every year. Global TB reports from previous years are available from the WHO Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS).

2. Uttar Pradesh emerges as top destination in 2019

Note: Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting the highest number of domestic tourists visiting the state in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS) 2020, released by the Ministry of Tourism. About 53.6 crore domestic tourists visited Uttar Pradesh in 2019, which is 23.1% of the total travellers. Tamil Nadu (21.3%) came second followed by Andhra Pradesh (10.2%). In terms of Foreign tourists, Tamil Nadu has topped the list with nearly 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019.

3. India ranked 2nd in OECD International Migration Outlook report

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Note: India has acquired the second rank in terms of the number of migrants going to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and acquiring the citizenship of those countries. China retained its top spot with 4.3 lakh migrants, which was 1 per cent lower than the 2019 report. This is the 44th edition of the annual report.

4. **India 4th most powerful country in Asia Power Index 2020**

Note: India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 out of 100, in the Asia Power Index 2020, released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute. The Asia Power Index 2020 ranks 26 countries and territories to assess the relative power of states in Asia. The United States has retained its position as the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific with a score of 81.6. It is followed by China (76.1) and Japan (41) at second and third spot respectively.

5. **Mukesh Ambani tops the Forbes India Rich List 2020**

Note: The Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani, has topped the Forbes India Rich list for 2020. He has retained his position as the wealthiest Indian for the 13th consecutive year on Forbes India list. The tycoon added \$37.3 billion to his net worth, to bring his total fortune to \$88.7 billion, a rise of 73% over the previous year. The second spot has been retained by Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, with a net worth of \$25.2 billion. Tech tycoon Shiv Nadar acquired the third spot with a net worth of \$20.4 billion.

6. **Indian spends 3.5% of average daily income on food, New Yorker 0.6%: UN report**

Note: On an average an Indian spends 3.5% of his/ her daily income for a plate of food as compared to 0.6% by a New Yorker, according to the "Cost of a Plate of Food" report released by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP). As per the report, the most expensive plate of food is of South Sudan where people on average would have to spend 186% of their daily salary on basic ingredients. In the list that features 36 countries across the globe, India stands at 28th position as per the percentage of money, people would pay on a plate of food compared to their salaries.

7. **India's Life Expectancy Up by a Decade Since 1990: Lancet Report**

Note: India has gained more than a decade of life expectancy since 1990, but there are wide inequalities between states, according to a new study which assessed more than 286 causes of death and 369 diseases and injuries in more than 200 countries and territories across the world. The study, published in the Lancet journal, noted

that life expectancy in India has risen from 59.6 years in 1990 to 70.8 years in 2019, ranging from 77.3 years in Kerala to 66.9 years in Uttar Pradesh.

8. **India Ranks 94 Among 107 Countries in Global Hunger Index 2020**

Note:

India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020. Last year, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries. The Global Hunger Index data showed that 14 per cent of India's population was undernourished. Besides, the country recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent. The under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent. Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan are in the 78th and 88th position in the index.

9. **New Zealand passport most powerful, India ranked 58 in Global Passport Index**

Note: New Zealand has knocked off Japan for the strongest passport in the world according to the latest Global Passport Index compiled by global financial advisory firm Arton Capital. The US passport ranked 21 and India, 58. The passport index lists the power of passports in terms of real-time, visa restrictions, factoring in legislative changes, and entry requirements. The index, which compares the access granted by the passports of 193 United Nations member countries.

10. **India slips to rank 151 in protecting labour rights**

Note: According to Oxfam's Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII) report India slipped to rank 151 among 158 countries due to weak labour rights and high incidence of vulnerable employment. Highest presence of informal sector for men was in Uttar Pradesh at 86.9 per cent and for women was in Andhra Pradesh at 73.6 per cent. Overall, India ranked 129 in the CRI index out of 158 countries on government policies, and actions in areas of public services of education, health, social protection, taxation, and workers' rights. Norway topped the CRI index. The CRII is a global report that ranks 158 governments, including India, on their commitment to reducing inequality.

11. **Mumbai ranks second after Delhi in crimes against women, shows NCRB data**

Note:

According to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Mumbai recorded 6,519 cases, after national capital Delhi at 12,902 cases during the year 2019. Mumbai is ranked second among 19 cities in the country in recording the highest number of crimes against

women after Delhi. Mumbai has 76.5 rate of crime against women as compared to other cities such as Jaipur (235), Lucknow (175.4), Delhi (170.3), Indore (169.1), Patna (102.3), Kanpur

(98.5), Nagpur (93.6) and Bengaluru (85.9). Delhi and Mumbai are ranked in the top two, respectively, for reporting the maximum number of cases of crimes against children.

September (16th-30th)

1. QS Global MBA Rankings 2021

Note: IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore, country's top management institutions, have been ranked in the top 50 management institutes in the world for the MBA programme as per the QS Global MBA Rankings 2021. IIM Ahmedabad has been placed at the 31st rank and IIM Bangalore's two-year MBA Programme stands at 35th. Along with these two institutes, IIM Calcutta is placed at the 51st position. This year, several other institutes including Great Lakes Institute of Management Chennai, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Indore, IIM Lucknow and IIM Udaipur have been ranked in the 101+ rank criteria in the Asia Pacific Region in QS Business Masters Ranking 2021. Overall, HES Paris School of Management and London Business School are leading the QS Global MBA Rankings 2021.

2. HDFC Bank ranked as India's most valued brand for 7th year in a row : WPP, Kantar Millward Brown's BrandZ report

Note: HDFC Bank has been ranked India's Most Valuable Brand for the 7th consecutive year in a row in the 2020 BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands rankings, released by WPP and Kantar. The bank is estimated to have a brand value of \$20.3 billion, which, however, is a decline of 11% over last year. LIC, Tata Consultancy Services, Airtel, Asian Paints, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Jio, Flipkart, Paytm and State Bank of India were among the other brands ranked in the top 10 most valuable brand rankings.

3. India ranked 89th in World Risk Report 2020

Note: According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India has been ranked at the 89th spot among 181 Countries. WRI has been developed in cooperation with the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security

(UNUEHS) and calculated by the International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).

4. India ranked 116th in the World Bank's Human Capital Index

Note: World Bank released the report titled "The Human Capital Index 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19". The Human Capital Index (HCI) 2020 is a collaboration between the Human Development Practice Group and the Development Economics Group of the World Bank. India has been ranked at the 116th position among 174 countries in the Human Capital Index 2020.

5. IMD's Global Smart City Index 2020

Note: The Institute for Management Development, in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD), has released the Smart City Index 2020. In 2020 Smart City Index, 109 cities were surveyed. The index ranks cities based on economic and technological data, as well as by their citizens' perceptions of how "smart" their cities are. The index has been topped by Singapore, followed by Helsinki and Zurich as top three smart cities. In the 2020 Smart City Index, Hyderabad was the top Indian city, placed at the 85th position. The Indian cities have witnessed a significant drop in their rankings in the Smart City Index 2020.

6. India Happiness Report 2020 announced

Note: The first all India Happiness Report 2020 covering all States and Union Territories measuring happiness across the country, what contributes to people's happiness, the impact of COVID-19 on happiness, and insights from thought leaders. The study is based on a nationwide survey covering 16,950 people between March and July 2020 by Professor Rajesh K Pillania.

Economy News

October 2020 (1-21st)

1. ADB approves USD 177 mn loan for road projects in Maharashtra

Note: Asian Development Bank and Government of India signed a 177-million-dollar loan to

upgrade 450 kilometres of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra. Under the Maharashtra state road improvement project, two major district roads and 11 state highways, with

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combined length of 450 km will be upgraded to two-lane standard across seven districts. The projects would improve connectivity to national highways, interstate roads, seaports, airports, rail hubs, district headquarters, industrial areas, enterprise clusters and agricultural areas.

2. FSSAI's new food safety compliance platform to become operational across India from Nov

Note: Food regulator FSSAI said its Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) will become operational in the entire country from November 1, 2020. FoSCoS is conceptualized to provide one point stop for all engagement of a food business operator (FBO) with the department for any regulatory compliance transaction. The system is operational in nine States/UTs -Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat, Odisha, Chandigarh, Goa, Manipur, Puducherry and Ladakh since June.

3. Irdai asks life insurers to launch Saral Jeevan Bima from January 1

Note: Regulator IRDAI asked life insurance companies to launch a standard term insurance policy 'Saral Jeevan Bima' by January 1, 2021 to help customers take informed decisions. The Saral Jeevan Bima will be a pure term life insurance product that can be purchased by people in the age group of 18 to 65 years and will have a policy term of 4 to 40 years. The sum assured for the term life insurance policy will range from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh (in multiples of Rs 50,000).

4. Centre to borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore to meet shortfall

Note: The central government will borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore under the special window to meet the shortfall of Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation, the finance ministry informed. The amount borrowed will be passed on to the states as "back-to-back loan in lieu of GST compensation cess" releases, said the finance ministry. This borrowing will not have any impact on the fiscal deficit of the government. The amount will be reflected as the capital receipts of the state governments and as part of financing of its respective fiscal deficits, said the finance ministry.

5. Centre notifies DG Shipping as the National Authority for Ship Recycling

Note: The Centre notified the directorate general of shipping as the National authority for recycling of ships, as it moves closer to aligning India with an international convention for safe recycling of ships. As an apex body, DG Shipping is authorized to administer, supervise and monitor all activities relating to ship recycling in the country. DG Shipping will also be the final authority for the various approvals required by the ship-recycling yard owners and state governments. The

notification was issued under the section 3 of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019.

6. IMF projects India's GDP to contract 10.3% in 2020 due to Covid-19

Note: As per the "World Economic Outlook" report published by the IMF the Indian economy, severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic and is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 percent this year. However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 percent growth rate in 2021 and will become the fastest growing economy in the world. The report said global growth would contract by 4.4 percent this year and bounce back to 5.2 percent in 2021.

7. Government selects Hughes India to connect remotely located panchayats with satellite broadband

Note: The government has selected Hughes Communications India to connect 5,000 village panchayats in border and Naxal-affected states as well as in island territories with satellite broadband under BharatNet project by March 2021. The 5,000-gram panchayats are located in north-eastern states, including Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and the Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh as well as in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep that lack terrestrial connectivity, such as fiber or cable.

8. India will be 3rd-largest economy by 2050: Lancet

Note: India is likely to overtake Japan as the third largest economy in the world by 2050 and continue in that position till 2100, according to a study published in the medical journal Lancet. The study based 2017 as the reference when India was the seventh largest economy in the world, and forecast that India will emerge as the fourth largest economy by 2030 behind USA, China, Japan and by 2050 it will go onto the third spot. By 2100, India was forecasted to still have the largest working-age population in the world, followed by Nigeria, China, and the USA.

9. Infosys to acquire Blue Acorn iCi for up to USD 125 million

Note: IT services major Infosys said it has inked a pact to acquire Blue Acorn iCi, a digital customer experience, commerce and analytics services provider, for up to \$125 million (about Rs 915 crore). The move further strengthens Infosys' end-to-end customer experience offerings and demonstrates its continued commitment to help clients navigate their digital transformation journey.

10. WTO revises up forecast for goods trade to 9.2% decline in 2020

Note: As per the World Trade Organization the global merchandise trade would fall by 9.2% this year and then increase by 7.2% in 2021. The WTO forecast in April that merchandise trade would decline by between 13 and 32% this year, figures described by the WTO chief as “ugly”, before rebounding by between 21 and 24% in 2021 if countries worked together.

11. World Bank expects India's GDP to contract by 9.6% this fiscal

Note:

As per the World Bank report titled 'South Asia Economic Focus' India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6% in the fiscal year 2020-21 (FY21). The World Bank earlier in June had estimated the Indian economy to shrink by 3.2% in the current fiscal. South Asia as a region is set to plunge into its worst ever recession with a sharper than expected contraction of 7.7%. India's growth is projected to rebound to 5.4% in FY22, mostly reflecting base effects, assuming Covid19 - related restrictions are completely lifted by 2022.

12. Amazon India partners with IRCTC to offer train ticket bookings

Note: Amazon India said it had partnered with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide their customers with the facility to book reserved train tickets on its platform. For the introductory period, Amazon.in has waived off service and payment gateway transaction charges.

13. IBM to set up centre of excellence for AI with government e-marketplace

Note: IBM announced the creation of an AI centre of excellence in partnership with the government e-marketplace during the inaugural session of RAISE 2020 virtual summit. The AI centre of excellence's goal will be to apply the power of AI to improve usability and transparency and drive efficiency and cost savings in public procurement.

14. India's first B2B Crypto trading exchange DigitX launched

Note: DigitX, India's first business-to-business (B2B) cryptocurrency trading exchange, began its trading operations. DigiX aims to deliver transparent and secure model with its network of trusted links in a first of its kind industry initiative to instill trust and confidence in its investors and traders of cryptocurrency.

15. Smriti Irani launches first ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton

Note: Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani launched the first ever Brand and Logo for Indian Cotton on Second World Cotton Day. Now India's premium cotton would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity,

Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness. India is the second largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world.

16. Google launches 'Make Small Strong' initiative in India to help small, local businesses

Note: Technology giant Google has launched a 'Make Small Strong' initiative in India to help small and local businesses across the country. The new initiative launched by Google will be aiming to support those small businesses, Kirana stores, vegetable vendors who have suffered massive loss during the lockdown period which was imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus. The tech giant has noted that it has joined hands with Zoho and Instamojo for this campaign

17. Nabard Disburses Rs 12,298 Crore So Far Under Swachh Bharat Mission

Note: The NABARD has disbursed Rs 12,298 crore so far under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) for construction of 3.29 crore household toilets. To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the development finance institution has launched a nationwide sanitation literacy campaign. The campaign will support the government's SBM-G and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programmes to enable the vulnerable rural communities to access better sanitation facilities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

18. Arjun Munda launches largest market of tribal products 'Tribes India E-Marketplace'

Note: Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda virtually launched India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace, Tribes India E-Marketplace (market.tribesindia.com) on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Tribes India e-Marketplace is an ambitious initiative through which TRIFED aims to onboard 5 lakh tribal producers for sourcing of various handicraft, handloom, natural food products across the country and brings to you the best of tribal produce.

19. Tata Steel and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) sign MoU to collaborate in the area of CCUS

Note: Tata Steel and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) sign MoU to collaborate in the area of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS). As part of this strategic MoU, Tata Steel and CSIR will work towards accelerating development and deployment of CCUS technologies in the steel industry. CSIR has, in parallel, initiated steps to set up a National facility on CCUS at NEERI, Nagpur. Tata Steel has intended to be a founder partner in setting up of this facility.

September (16th-30th)

1. Amnesty International suspends India operations after accounts are frozen

Note: Human rights organisation Amnesty International announced that it has decided to halt its operations in India after a successful eight-year run alleging that its bank accounts were frozen as part of government's "witch-hunt". The decision which came after the recent move by the Enforcement Directorate to freeze the organisation's accounts will impact about 150 employees.

2. ICRA revises India's GDP contraction to 11% from 9.5% for FY21

Note: Ratings agency ICRA revised downwards its forecast for the contraction in the gross domestic product (GDP) for 2020-21 to 11% from 9.5% of earlier estimate. However, it retained its earlier forecast of a 12.4% contraction in GDP in the second quarter. The agency revised its projections for GDP to decline 5.4% from 2.3% earlier for the third quarter and 2.5% in the fourth quarter.

3. NCAER projects Indian economy to contract 12.6% in FY21

Note: The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected the GDP growth for the Indian economy at -12.6% for 2020-21 (FY21). For 2020-21 (FY21) with the remaining three quarters expected to witness a fall. For 2021-22, NCAER projects the GDP of India to grow by 7%.

4. Indian economy to contract 5.9% in 2020 due to Covid-19 disruptions, says UN report

Note: As per the Trade and Development Report 2020 by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Indian economy will contract by 5.9% in 2020 and recover to 3.9% next year. The global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3% this year, leaving global output by year's end over \$6 trillion short (in current U.S. Dollars) of what economists had expected it to be before the coronavirus began to spread.

5. West Bengal, UKIBC sign MoU to strengthen State's Industrial Development Corporation

Note: The UK India Business Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC), the premier nodal agency of West Bengal's Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department focused on accelerating industrial development in the state. This collaborative partnership between the UKIBC and Government of West Bengal will help to boost business and industrial development in the state by proactively developing the business environment and strengthening collaboration with British businesses in West Bengal.

6. IRDAI Identifies LIC, GIC, New India Assurance Systemically Important Insurers

Note: Regulator IRDAI has identified LIC, GIC and New India Assurance as domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) and subsequently decided to subject them to enhanced regulatory supervision. The three insurers have also been asked to raise the level of corporate governance, identify all relevant risks and promote a sound risk management culture.

7. Asian Development Bank Approves \$570 Million Loans for Urban Projects in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh

Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved two loans totalling \$570 million (about Rs 4,200 crore) for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The \$300 million loan has been approved to finance inclusive water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in secondary towns of Rajasthan. It has approved a \$270 million loan for construction of water supply and integrated storm water and sewage management infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh.

8. Microsoft acquires video game company ZeniMax

Note: Microsoft announced that it will buy ZeniMax Media, the company that owns well-known video game publisher Bethesda, for \$7.5 billion in cash. The deal gives Microsoft access to a raft of successful game franchises, including Fallout, The Elder Scrolls and Doom. It's the biggest gaming acquisition in Microsoft's history, after the company bought Minecraft developer Mojang for \$2.5 billion in 2014

9. CCI approves merger of Medlife with PharmEasy

Note: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed combination of Medlife and API Holdings. The deal pertains to the proposed acquisition of 100 per cent equity shares of Medlife by API Holdings. Medlife shareholders are to get up to 19.59 per cent equity share capital of API Holdings. Medlife, a Patna-based company, was valued at \$375 million as of January 31, 2020.

10. India's nominal GDP to grow 19 per cent in 2022: Finance Ministry

Note: Finance ministry has estimated that India's nominal GDP will grow by 19 per cent in nominal terms in financial year 2021-22. In the first quarter of this financial year, the nominal GDP contracted by 22.6 per cent to Rs 38.08 lakh crore, compared to Rs 49.18 lakh crore in the same period last year.

11. HCL tech acquires Australian IT firm DWS for \$115.8 million

Note: HCL Technologies has announced the acquisition of Australian IT firm DWS Ltd for \$115.8

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million in a bid to further expand its digital offerings especially in Australia and New Zealand. The DWS Group closed FY 2020 with revenues of \$ 122.9 million and has over 700 employees with operations in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Canberra.

12. OECD forecast a deeper contraction of 10.2% for India in the current fiscal

Note: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) forecast a deeper contraction of 10.2% for India in the current fiscal, surpassing its June estimate of -7.3% in the event of a second wave of infections, in its Interim Economic Outlook report released recently. While the OECD raised its expectations for global output to -4.5% in

2020 against -6% earlier based largely on improvements in China and US, it cited the prolonged spread of the virus for the downgrade in India's growth.

13. NABARD to implement new loan scheme for women's self help groups

Note: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development NABARD will be implementing a new loan scheme for women's self help groups to start production of value added food products like chips, pickles, jams etc from the next Gandhi Jayanthi day on October 2nd. The discussions will be held with Tamil Nadu CM within a day or two about allowing self help groups to start production of fertilisers.

Banking & Financial Awareness

October (1 to 21st)

1. Indian Bank launched a green initiative named "IB-eNote" to enable a total paperless working environment.

Note: This tool enables processing and tracking of notes put up by various offices digitally. The bank for this initiative has customised SharePoint, one of the features of Microsoft Office. The Bank also launched 'Ind Guru', an e-learning platform for its employees.

2. E-commerce marketplace, **Flipkart** has launched a cyber insurance cover for online financial frauds with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.

Note: The product, 'Digital Suraksha Group Insurance', will help customers who want to cover themselves against financial losses caused as a result of cyber attacks, cyber frauds, or other such malicious activities across various online platforms.

3. **IDBI Bank** become the first bank to implement the new feature of document embedding facility with Letter of Credit/Bank Guarantee messages over Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS) platform of Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS).

Note: The process would be conducted via a middleware application "**i@Connect-SFMS (CSFMS)**" developed by IDBI Intech. This new feature of "document embedding" provides banks with the functionality of transmitting a "pdf" document up to 1MB size along with the LC / BG messages. Through this feature, there will be the transmission of digitally signed documents which ensure the reliability of the transaction.

4. e-wallet company **Paytm** announced to launch 'mini app' store for Indian developers.

Note: The mini apps are a custom-built mobile website that give users app-like experience without having to download them. Paytm will add a new

section on its main application wherein these mini apps will be listed and can be accessed by Paytm app users.

5. Indian bank has introduced a **Kisan credit card loan scheme** for fishermen in Tamil Nadu.

Note: The features of the scheme include the availability of revolving credit up to ₹2 lakh, 7 per cent interest rate, interest subvention of 3 per cent for those who repay the loan within a period of one year. The loan can be renewed once in a year. There is no restriction on the number of credit and debit transactions.

6. Punjab National Bank has launched a financial inclusion and literacy initiative called 'Gram Sampark Abhiyan'.

Note: The nationwide campaign was launched by Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar. The campaign is centred on four key themes: digital, credit, social security and financial literacy, that will encapsulate various activities and prescribes the cherished theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

7. Indian Bank has launched 'MSME Prerana' to support small businesses.

Note: 'MSME Prerana' will train entrepreneurs in business skills, communication, credit assessment. The programme was launched by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that aims to support 1,500 entrepreneurs across India in small businesses. The programme will begin in Tamil for the Coimbatore clusters of Indian Bank and later spread across the country.

8. State Bank of India has entered into a partnership with FMCG major Hindustan Unilever to offer corporate solutions to its trade partners.

Note: The partnership aims to make availing of credit easy for channel partners, provides UPI based payment solutions and PoS terminals to retailers & distributors. The objective of the partnership is to augment the width of credit and will be beginning a pilot in Mumbai and Bengaluru.

9. SBI Card joined hands with American Express to offer global benefits and exclusive privileges for consumers in India.

Note: Under this agreement, SBI Card's top-end products SBI Card ELITE and SBI Card PRIME will be available on American Express' global network. Customers will also get benefits like pre-ticketing access to sporting and entertainment events such as the Wimbledon and the US Open which are presently accessible virtually.

10. New Development Bank has approved loan for Mumbai metro and for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project.

Note: \$241 million loan for the Mumbai metro rail-II project will be used for implementing a metro rail line 6 with a length of 14.47 km in Mumbai. A loan of \$500 million has been approved for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS project.

11. Indian Bank has introduced a Kisan credit card loan scheme for fishermen in Tamil Nadu.

Note: The features of the scheme include the availability of revolving credit up to ₹2 lakh, 7 per cent interest rate, interest subvention of 3 per cent for those who repay the loan within a period of one year. The loan can be renewed once in a year. There is no restriction on the number of credit and debit transactions.

12. ICICI Bank has launched a debit card facility for the customers availing the Loan Against Securities (LAS) from the Bank.

Note: The debit card is available on the Visa platform. With this launch, ICICI Bank has become the first bank in India to launch such a facility. The LAS debit can be used by customers across all domestic merchant establishments to make seamless POS and online transactions like payments on e-commerce portals among others, using their sanctioned LAS amount.

13. e-commerce company, Amazon has partnered with 'Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation' (IRCTC), to provide with the facility to book reserved train tickets on its platform.

Note: With this launch, the e-commerce company's digital payments arm Amazon Pay adds another travel category, thereby offering its customers a one-stop-shop for booking flights, bus and train tickets. With this new offering, users will be able to check seat and quota availability across all train classes on the Amazon app.

14. Axis Bank has partnered with India's full-service carrier, Vistara to launch a Co-Branded Forex Card.

Note: This is the 1st-ever collaboration by a bank and an Indian airline for a co-branded forex card. The multi-currency forex card enables customers to travel to international destinations in a cashless and hassle-free manner.

15. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched the Application Programming Interface (API) integration between the PM SVANidhi Portal and eMudra portal of State Bank of India.

Note: As a part of Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme will facilitate seamless flow of data between the two portals. It will benefit the street vendors seeking working capital loan under the Scheme.

16. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has inked three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with **State Bank of India** to extend credit support for various projects in Gujarat.

Note: The signing of MoUs took place between D. K. Mishra, Chief General Manager of NABARD in Gujarat and Dukhbandhu Rath, Chief General Manager, SBI Ahmedabad Circle in the presence of NABARD Chairman G. R. Chintala.

17. Neobank, **Chqbook** has launched India's First 'Financial Control Center' on Mobile to Empower 60 Million Small Business Owners.

Note: With this launch, Chqbook brings world-class financial services to a massive underserved segment. The mobile application of Chqbook will give small businesses the power to manage everyday financial needs and to access other financial products, which helps them to save time, effort and money.

18. **Microsoft** partnered with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to empower students, educators in Next-Generation Technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Data Science and Cloud Computing.

Note: 1, 500 course modules from Microsoft will be accessible for the students & educators for free of cost. It will be accessible through AICTE's e-learning portal ELIS (Enhancement in Learning with Improvement in Skills). To ensure an interactive learning process, Microsoft will host live webinars for students of AICTE.

19. Mastercard has entered into partnership with RegTech startup, Signzy for Global Rollout of Video Know Your Customer (KYC).

Note: The customers of Mastercard, with this partnership will benefit from a 100% paperless, remote and secure onboarding solution for end-users. It is backed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies.

20. Axis Bank has launched a new entry-level credit card named ACE Credit Card, with a focus on increasing participation of users in the digital economy partnership with Google Pay.

- Note:** It also aims to bring a seamless, digital experience to users from application to issuance. The card has been launched in collaboration with Google Pay and will run on Visa (Signature) platform.
21. Digital wallet, Amazon Pay has partnered with Uber technology to integrate the digital payment platform as a payment option on the ride-hailing service app.
Note: This partnership with Uber will allow customers to complete their transaction in a contactless manner, especially during the pandemic. The strategic association will also focus on providing users one-click payment experience with cashback offers to drive adoption and further strengthen the digital payments ecosystem.
22. **LIC Housing Finance Limited** housing finance company has launched "Project RED" to improve efficiencies at every level of the organization.
Note: LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL) launched "Project RED" (Reimagining Excellence through Digital transformation) to improve efficiencies at every level of the organisation. Project RED aims to create value across the entire spectrum of stakeholders that includes employees, shareholders, business associates, existing and potential customers of LICHFL, as per the housing finance company's statement.
23. Exim Bank provides USD 310 million lines of credit to Zimbabwe for thermal and river projects.
Note: An agreement had been signed between the governments of India and Zimbabwe in April 2019 for USD 23 million line of credit for financing renovation and upgradation of Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant at the revalidated/escalated project cost.
24. Financial company **EarlySalary** in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched 'Salary Card', a Zero-Touch Digital card.
Note: The Salary Card credit solution is powered by Rupay. It provides instant access for salaried professionals, allowing them to make purchases instantly across merchants in India. Vivifi India Finance Private Limited (Vivifi) has launched FlexPay, which offers credit on Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
25. **HDFC Bank** has collaborated with Apollo Hospitals to launch the "HealthyLife Programme", a holistic healthcare solution.
Note: This programme will be launched for HDFC Bank customers, to make healthy living accessible and affordable while making the process convenient and easy for the customers. Customers will get round the clock access to emergency Apollo Doctor at No Cost on Apollo's digital platform, Apollo 24|7. It will also come with various other benefits such as choice of payment options and ease of finance for treatments at all Apollo Hospitals.
26. The **NITI Aayog Frontier Technologies** Cloud Innovation Center is the **first AWS CIC in India**, and the first such centre that has been set up at a national level.
Note: It has such centres across countries like Australia, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, South Korea, and the US, including one in partnership with the University of British Columbia.
27. **Asian Development Bank** will provide USD 346 million loan for power supply project in rural Maharashtra,
Note: The program aims to provide efficient and reliable power to agricultural customers in Maharashtra's rural areas through adoption of HVDS that will help reduce distribution losses, and improve agricultural productivity and farmer incomes. The program will be implemented until March 2022, by which time about 1.50,000 metered HVDS connections are expected.
28. **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)** has launched futures trading in real-time Base Metals Index 'METLDEX'.
Note: The Base Metals Index will track real-time performance of a basket of MCX Base Metal (near month) futures that includes zinc, copper, nickel, lead, and aluminium. Index trading will facilitate instant portfolio diversification and encourage passive, thematic elements in portfolios. The Index will soon emerge as a new real time barometer for Indian metal industry.
29. **Nokia** company won \$14.1 million NASA contract to set up 4G network on Moon.
Note: The grant is part of \$370 million worth of contracts signed under NASA's "Tipping Point" selections, meant to advance research and development for space exploration. The system could support lunar surface communications at greater distances, increased speeds and provide more reliability than current standards.
30. **Tata Motors** has partnered with **HDFC Bank** for financing of its passenger vehicles.
Note: Through the partnership, it has introduced two new schemes 'Gradual Step Up Scheme' and 'TML Flexi Drive Scheme' with an eye on making its products more accessible and driving up sales in the festive season. Under the Gradual Step Up scheme, customers can avail EMI options as low as ₹799 per lakh per month, depending on the product and variant.
31. Fintech company is all set to launch a blockchain-platform in 2021 to facilitate investment in bonds by individuals – **BondEvalue**.
Note: Recently, BondEvalue got approval as a global Recognised Market Operator (RMO) from the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). The RMO allows BondbloX Bond Exchange (BBX), the world's first blockchain-based bond exchange, to trade globally a wide range of fixed-income securities.

32. BSE along with Global Linker signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the Industries and Commerce Department of **Telangana** state government to support MSMEs of the state to raise equity funds.

Note: This partnership will address the MSMEs challenges due to limited alternate sources of finance which increases their dependence on the debt capital that results in distorted capital structures and restrained cash flow. Under this MoU, BSE will support the MSMEs to address the challenges of access to finance and increase their credibility.

33. Citi Bank India and Mastercard jointly announced the launch of "IKEA Family Credit Card" to make shopping at the Swedish furnishing company more affordable, convenient and rewarding.

Note: The card provides instant in-store card bookings, direct payments via Bharat QR, accelerated reward points and attractive EMIs and would also offer reward points on all purchases with instant reward redemption at IKEA. The card is available to IKEA family members at "zero joining fee and zero annual fee" and can be used for purchases made on IKEAs online and offline stores, or anywhere in the world that accepts credit cards.

34. Indian Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

Note: Indian Bank has developed an integrated online system to make payments of interest subvention and cash incentives to all street vendor-beneficiaries across the country through the Direct Benefit Transfer.

35. Jana Small Finance Bank has partnered with Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank Limited under the bank sponsorship programme.

Note: With this, Jana Bank has become the first SFB to go live under the sponsorship programme. Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank Limited, in association with Jana Small Finance Bank, can extend ATM, POS and e-commerce services to its customers. This association marks the fulfilment of Jana Bank's endeavour to promote a full suite of services to co-operative banks.

36. PhonePe launched car and bike insurance products on its platform in association with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**.

Note: With this launch, over 230 million registered PhonePe users can now insure their vehicles seamlessly in under 2 minutes, without the need for any documents to be uploaded before the purchase and also view their policy documents instantly on the app. PhonePe users can also customise their car insurance plan based on their needs with a range of value-added offerings such as zero depreciation, 24X7 roadside assistance and engine protection among others.

37. World Bank has approved \$12 billion in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute coronavirus vaccines, tests, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to one billion people.

Note: The \$12 billion envelop is part of a wider World Bank Group package of up to \$160 billion to help developing countries fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

September (16 to 30th)

1. Nvidia company will acquire the UK based chip designer Arm of Softbank for 40 billion **dollars**.

Note: The deal puts a vital supplier to Apple Inc and others across the industry under the control of a single player and will face potential pushback from regulators and Nvidia rivals. Nvidia will pay SoftBank \$21.5 billion in shares and \$12 billion in cash, including \$2 billion on signing. The deal will see SoftBank and the \$100 billion Vision Fund, which has a 25% stake in Arm, take a stake in Nvidia of between 6.7% and 8.1%.

2. ICICI Lombard has entered into a Bancassurance tie-up with **Yes Bank** to sell its insurance products.

Note: Through this agreement, ICICI Lombard aims to offer innovative insurance solutions to Yes Bank's Customers across 28 States and 8 Union Territories. Bancassurance is an arrangement between a Bank and an Insurance Company allowing the Insurance Company to sell its products to the Bank's Client Base.

3. S&P Global Ratings projected **9** per cent of contraction of Indian GDP in the current financial year (FY2020-21) **9 per cent**.

Note: S&P Global Ratings has projected the GDP of India to contract by 9% in the fiscal year 2020-21 (FY21), as against its previous estimate of a 5% contraction, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the FY22 (2021-22), S&P expects GDP growth of 6% and for the FY23 (2022-23), GDP growth is projected at 6.2%.

4. SBI General Insurance Company Ltd has signed a corporate agency agreement with **YES Bank** to distribute the products of SBI General Insurance to the customers of the bank.

Note: This partnership offers customers a wide range of non-life insurance products and services and deploys technology across the customer value chain to facilitate superior experiences for them. The unique branch and digital banking capabilities of YES Bank together with the brand strength and

- innovative product suite of SBI General Insurance will boost the customer value proposition of YES Bank.
5. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expects the Indian economy to contract by **10.2%** per cent in FY21 (2020-21).
Note: The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expects the Indian economy to contract by 10.2% in FY21 (2020-21) as compared to its previous estimate of 16.7% in June. For FY22 (2021-22), the Paris-based OECD projects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 10.7%.
 6. Watch maker Titan Company has partnered with **State Bank of India** to launch India's first contactless payment watches named "Titan Pay".
Note: Using these watches, the account holders of SBI can tap their Titan Pay watch on the contactless payment POS machines for making payments. It is powered by YONO SBI. Under this mechanism, payments of up to Rs. 2,000 can be made without entering a PIN, as per the RBI guidelines.
 7. According to Asian Development Bank **10.2%** is estimated GDP growth of India in the financial year 2020-21.
Note: This estimate is worse than ADB's previous estimate of -4%. However, for the FY22 (2021-22), ADB expects India's GDP at 8 per cent. ADB also expects the gross domestic product (GDP) growth for developing Asia at - 0.7 per cent in 2020, the first negative economic growth since 1962.
 8. **SBM Bank (India) Limited** has collaborated with Mastercard World Debit Card for High Net Worth Customers.
Note: It represents a combination of niche banking solutions and thoroughly managed lifestyle privileges, including some of the finest shopping and dining opportunities. The custom built card is an addition to SBM Bank India's Private Wealth offering.
 9. The estimated GDP contraction of India as per the UBS Securities projection - **8.6%**.
Note: UBS Securities has projected India's GDP for 2020-21 (FY21) to contract by 8.6%. (Earlier it was - 5.8%). For FY22, UBS Securities projects India's GDP to grow by 10%. UBS Securities is a Chinese investment bank and brokerage firm headquartered in Beijing, China.
 10. **ICICI Home Finance** has launched "Apna Ghar Dreamz" a new home loan scheme for skilled laborers like electricians, mechanics, painters, grocery store owners etc in the informal sector of Delhi.
Note: The credit amount of this loan ranges from Rs 2 lakh to 50 lakhs. This scheme targets the people of the informal sector without all the documents which are required to get a loan from a formal financial institution.
 11. **DBS Bank India** has launched an online credit solutions platform to provide loans for Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) businesses in a convenient manner with credit facility up to Rs 20 crore.
Note: This segment-flagship platform facilitates access to business credit across the entire spectrum of micro, small and medium enterprises. For loans above Rs 5 crore, customers can avail the loan through a simple online process by uploading bank statements, and IT (Income Tax) returns. If the lending criteria is met, the platform is enabled to auto-generate an e-offer letter.
 12. **Canara Bank** has launched lead management system (LMS) – i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0).
Note: The system has been launched to provide its services to customers irrespective of where they reside. Through lead management system (LMS), customers can enquire and get services rendered through simple modes such as internet banking, mobile banking, call centre, SMS and missed call.
 13. **Bandhan Bank** has set new vertical "Emerging Entrepreneurs Business (EEB)" to support the emerging needs of the unbanked and underbanked segment of customers.
Note: The vertical will focus on supporting this segment of customers in their journey to becoming entrepreneurs. In addition to micro loans, the vertical will also manage micro home loan, micro bazaar loan and micro enterprise loan.
 14. **IDFC Mutual Fund** has started a new campaign called SIFI or 'SIP in Fixed Income'.
Note: The new campaign called SIFI has been launched to make investors more aware about the benefits of investing in fixed income products via Systematic Investment Plans.
 15. Volvo Car India has partnered with **HDFC Bank** to launch Volvo Car Financial Services to enable buyers get easy finance for its vehicles.
Note: The service facilitates finance of up to 100% of ex-showroom price of the car and offers convenient repayment options, with no foreclosure charges under specific conditions. It is a faster, flexible and cost-optimised solution to finance a Volvo car.
 16. **Google Pay** has partnered with Visa to allow card-based payments through tokenization.
Note: Through tokenisation, Google Pay Android users can use their debit or credit card to make payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone without having to physically share their credit or debit card details. The feature will also

- facilitate use of tap-to-pay feature on near-field communications (NFC)-enabled point of sale (PoS) terminals and online merchants
- 17. State Bank of India** has collaborated with Google to enable customers to use their cards on Google Pay platform.
Note: The payments are managed via a “secure digital token” that is attached to the smartphones so that no user has to share the card details with any vendor. Users will now be able to make card payments using Google Pay app on their Android smartphones in three modes — via tap-and-pay at near field communication (NFC) enabled point-of-sale terminals, by scanning Bharat QR code at the merchant as well as online payments without using the physical credit card.
- 18. State Bank of India** has started a programme by the name “Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani” (Women Self-Reliance programme) to accelerate SHG finance in the bank.
Note: The basic objective of the programme is to create a strong bonding with the SHG member besides extending credit linkages to the women SHGs nurtured and sponsored by NRLM, Assam for self-reliance and economic upliftment. SBI branches of Assam sanctioned 856 numbers of SHGs sponsored by NRLM with financial outlay of Rs. 38 crore.
- 19. VISA** has announced the launch of a grant program in India to support women entrepreneurs with its partner, IFundWomen.
Note: As an extension of two programs launched in the US this year, women entrepreneurs in India will now receive funding from Visa to grow and expand their business. Visa’s partnership with IFundWomen is designed to help women entrepreneurs secure the funding they need through a series of grants.
- 20. HDFC Life** has entered into a Corporate Agency Arrangement (CA) with **Yes Bank** to sell insurance policies.
Note: As part of the arrangement, HDFC Life will provide a diverse range of insurance products to customers of Yes Bank. HDFC Life’s wide range of life insurance products includes solutions for protection, saving and investment, retirement and critical illness. It will be available to customers of Yes Bank through the Bank’s branches which are spread throughout the country.
- 21. The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of 100% equity shares of Medlife International Private Limited by **API Holdings Private Limited**.
Note: It also approved the acquisition of up to 19.59% equity share capital of API Holdings by Medlife’s shareholders under Section 31 (1) of the Competition Act, 2002. API directly or through its subsidiaries carries out various business activities including wholesale sale and distribution of drugs; transportation and delivery services primarily focused on pharmaceutical sector; owning technology and intellectual property for developing e-commerce platforms.
- 22. IDFC First Bank** will launch “SafePay” a contactless debit card-based payment facility.
Note: SafePay embeds Near Field Communication (NFC) technology in the IDFC First Mobile App to enable secure payments using a debit card issued by the Bank. A social distancing-friendly way to pay, SafePay completely does away with the need to hand over the card to a merchant or even carry it in the wallet.
- 23. For Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released Cyber Security Vision Framework.
Note: The apex bank has taken four different guiding principles in order to formulate the framework. This is because the heterogeneity of UCBs in India in terms of regions, size, digital depth and financial health is huge.
- 24. HDFC Bank** has been ranked India’s Most Valuable Brand in the 2020 BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands rankings, released by WPP and Kantar.
Note: The bank is estimated to have a brand value of \$20.3 billion, which, however, is a decline of 11% over last year. LIC, Tata Consultancy Services, Airtel, Asian Paints, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Jio, Flipkart, Paytm and State Bank of India were among the other brands ranked in the top 10 most valuable brand rankings.
- 25. Fino Payments Bank** partnering with fintech has introduced NFC-based contactless payments solution for mass transit systems, especially state bus transport services in India.
Note: Fino, which has over 80 per cent of its banking network of 2.75 lakh points in villages, aims to tap the opportunity to digitise cash used in mass transit systems. Fino has already issued over 30 lakh NFC-enabled smart cards that are accepted across 20,000 Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation buses.
- 26. BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL)** has selected technology firm **Signzy** in a bid to digitize its customer verification through ‘Video KYC’.
Note: With this alliance, BFSL has now enabled a quick, zero-contact and paperless KYC that omits the requirement for physical submission of KYC documents. It also ensures end-to-end security in the entire KYC process to both financial services providers as well as their users.

27. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected **12.6%** percent contraction in the Indian GDP in FY 2020-21.
Note: The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected the GDP growth for the Indian economy at -12.6% For 2020-21 (FY21) with the remaining three quarters expected to witness a fall. For 2021-22, NCAER projects the GDP of India to grow by 7%.
28. **SBI Card** has launched its new brand campaign titled 'Contactless Connections', to spread the message that love and care can be shared even during this difficult period where social distancing is the norm.
Note: The campaign endeavours to bring a fresh breath of positivity by demonstrating that people can connect emotionally and spread joy despite the social distancing practices by which we are bound. Contactless payments, enabled by SBI Card, allow consumers to simply wave their card or phone or scan a QR code to make safe, secure payments, without handing over their card or punching in the PIN.
29. As per the **Reserve Bank of India** approval **Lakshmi Vilas** bank's day to day affairs will be run by a Committee of Directors (CoD) comprising three independent directors.
Note: The development comes after the shareholders of the bank rejected the reappointment of seven of the directors on the bank's board, including its interim MD and CEO, S. Sundar. The three are the only directors out of the proposed 10, who were voted for reappointment by the bank's shareholders.
30. The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed a pact with **Yes Bank** to empower the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) listed on the platform.
Note: The pact aims at empowering the SME segment through awareness and knowledge-sharing programmes. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), BSE and Yes Bank will conduct knowledge events for SMEs, export promotion of SMEs, in addition to providing banking and financial solutions.
31. **Vakrangee Ltd** has been granted in-principle approval to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 by the RBI.
Note: The company offers banking, insurance, money transfer services, e-commerce, e-governance and other digital services on behalf of its partner banks, insurers, government agencies, e-commerce players among others through its branches mostly located in rural and semi-urban areas.
32. **NABARD** is embarking on a Sanitation Literacy Campaign (SLC) to promote literacy on 'WASH' (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) in 2,000 villages across the country.
Note: The objective of the campaign is to focus on inculcating significant behavioural changes towards adapting good hygiene and sanitation practices. The campaign will start from October 2 and would continue till January 26, 2021.
33. Fitch Solutions has revised downward its forecast for Indian economic growth and now estimates that India's GDP will contract by **8.6%**.
Note: For the year 2021, UNCTAD projects the Indian economy to grow by **3.9%**. The projection was made in its **Trade and Development Report 2020**.
34. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has predicted that the GDP of India will contract by **5.9%**.
Note: For the year 2021, UNCTAD projects the Indian economy to grow by 3.9%. The projection was made in its Trade and Development Report 2020. The baseline scenario is a sharp recession in 2020 as the stringent lockdown measures, to prevent the spread of the virus have halted, many productive activities across the country.

Summits & Conference

October (1st – 21st)

- PM Modi inaugurated Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik VAIBHAV Summit**
 - It is month-long summit
 - VAIBHAV Summit:** Joint initiative of all Science & Technology and Academic Organisations of India (working in Research, Academic and Scientific fields) to enable deliberations on thought processes, practices and R&D culture with a problem-solving approach for well-defined objectives.
 - It will provide a platform to leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers
- Election Commission to organise webinar on Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)**

- **Theme of the webinar:** 'Issues, Challenges and Protocols for Conducting Elections during COVID-19 : Sharing Country Experiences'
- **A-WEB:** Largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide. It has 115 EMBs as Members & 16 Regional Associations/Organisations as Associate Members.
- This is the first Webinar being held by the India A-WEB Centre.

3. Agriculture Minister addresses National Conference for Rabi Campaign 2020

- The conference was held to review the progress of Kharif 2020-21 and plan for the Rabi season
- The conference set a target of 301 million tonnes of food grains production for 2020-21 with focus on rice, wheat, Jowar, Bajra, maize and coarse cereals.

4. PM launches 'Fit India Age Appropriate Fitness Protocols' at Fit India Dialogue

- The protocol has been prepared with the help of fitness enthusiasts, experts and influencers for overall good health of our nation
- It has been prepared for three age categories: 5-18 years category, 18-65 years category and 65 plus age category

5. MeitY & NITI Aayog to organize "RAISE 2020" summit

- RAISE 2020: Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020
- It is a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and chart a course for using AI for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility.

6. 12th BRICS Summit to be held on 17th November 2020

- Theme of 12th BRICS Summit: **BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth.**

- It is to be held under the Chairmanship of Russia and aims at a multifaceted cooperation between the member countries
- BRICS countries includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

7. Union Minister of State for Home G.Kishan Reddy inaugurated 21st All India Conference of Directors, Fingerprint Bureau 2020

- It focused on the importance of fingerprints and creating Crime Free India
- **eCyber Lab** with state of the art cyber forensic tools set up by **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** was also inaugurated during the conference

8. World Economic Forum shifts annual meeting 2021 from Davos to Lucerne, Switzerland

- The meeting has been re-scheduled to be held from May 18 to 21, 2021 instead of the usual January-end each year.
- The change in schedule and venue has been taken due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Theme: 'The Great Reset'

9. 7th meeting of Ministers of Law and Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States

- It was virtually hosted by Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- **Aim:** To promote and exchange of ideas, best practices and experiences in identified areas through the platform.
- Pro Bono Legal Services was also initiated to provide free legal aid to marginalized sections of the society.

10. Quad Countries' Foreign Minister meet held in Tokyo, Japan.

- Aim: To discuss the post-COVID-19 international order and the need for a coordinated response to the various challenges emerging from the pandemic
- Quad countries: United States, Japan, India and Australia

September (16 to 30th)

1. India-U.S. Defence Delegations conducted virtually

- It is also known as 10th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting
- It was co-chaired by Secretary of India's Defence Production Raj Kumar and his US counterpart Ellen M. Lord
- It is held twice a year between India and US
- Aim: Bring sustained leadership focus to bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment

2. M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated 4th Global Ayurveda Summit virtually

- It has been organized by **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Kerala** in virtual mode due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to showcase Ayurveda and herbal medicine as a solution for global health crises
- **Theme:** 'Emerging Opportunities for Ayurveda during Pandemic'

3. S. Jaishankar chairs IBSA Foreign Ministers' Virtual Meet

- IBSA issued joint statement during the meeting calling for 'accelerated and comprehensive

reforms' of United Nations Security Council (UNSC), expressing frustration with the slow pace of progress with lack of transparency

- **IBSA:** India, Brazil and South Africa

4. G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting held virtually under chairmanship of Saudi Arabia

- India was represented by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar in the meeting.
- The meet focused on various social and economic issues like agriculture, anti-corruption, climate, digital economy, education, employment, energy, environment, health, tourism, trade and investment.
- G20 consists of 19 individual countries and the European Union (EU).

5. Global climate summit 2020

- It is organised to mark the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015.
- Host: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will co-host the event.
- It will be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021.

Books & Author

October (1st to 21st)

1. Padampani Bora has authored the book titled "Discovering the Heritage of Assam" released by union minister Dr Jitendra Singh.

Note: The book depicts the heritage, faith, beliefs and traditions of different ethnic tribes and subtribes living in Assam, the largest State of the North Eastern Region. The book by Padampani Bora will help to understand the grand splendour and glory of the undiscovered facets of Assam.

2. Anand Neelakantan has authored the kid's book titled "The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids".

Note: The book narrates the story of the asura twins Kundakka and Mandakka who hate to go to school, troublesome Bhasma and per pig Nakura, brothers Atapi and Vatapi and others. This book introduces the

Indian Puranas to the kids who are indulged in electronic gadgets. The illustrations of the book are made by Subhadeep Roy and Shiladitya Bose.

3. Manish Sisodia has launched the coffee-table book titled "Babu – The Unforgettable.

Note: The book narrates the story of the asura twins Kundakka and Mandakka who hate to go to school, troublesome Bhasma and per pig Nakura, brothers Atapi and Vatapi and others. This book introduces the Indian Puranas to the kids who are indulged in electronic gadgets. The illustrations of the book are made by Subhadeep Roy and Shiladitya Bose.

4. The book titled 'Deh Vechwa Karani, is autobiography of former Union Minister Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.

Note: The autobiography of Dr Patil has been titled 'Deh Vechwa Karani,' means 'dedicating one's life for a noble

- cause.’ Dr Patil served as Member of Lok Sabha for multiple terms. He died in 2016 at the age of 84.
5. GBS Sidhu has written the book titled “The Khalistan Conspiracy”. _____ **GBS Sidhu**.
Note: The book published by HarperCollins will be released on October 24. The contents of this book revolve around a two-phased, top-secret operation, which he named “Operation Bhindranwale-Khalistan”. It was initiated and managed by some senior and influential Congress leaders operating from the prime minister’s residential office at 1 Akbar Road, New Delhi.
 6. **Shashi Tharoor** has authored the book titled “The Battle of Belonging” set to be released in November 2020.
Note: The book is about nationalism, patriotism, citizenship, belonging and what they really mean. Tharoor has written many books, mostly nonfiction like the upcoming book, and a novel. His most recently published is ‘Tharoorosaurus’ a vocabulary book that released in September 2020.
 7. **Deepankar Aron** has authored the book titled “On the Trail of Buddha: A Journey to the East”.
Note: On the Trail of Buddha—A Journey to the East is a unique sojourn in search of the spiritual, philosophical, and cultural linkages that bind India to the East Asian civilisations. From the wandering monks of Asia to the temples and monasteries they visited; from the statues and frescoes in grottoes to those in the museums; from the diverse ethnicities of the people to their common gods and goddesses—the book explores the ‘ancient India’, beautifully preserved in the traditions, art, and architecture of China, as also in Mongolia, Korea and Japan, to where it spread from China.
 8. The book titled “Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside” is an autobiography of Indian Economist **Nand Kishore Singh**.
Note: The book portrays the life of NK Singh who played an active role in the development of the Indian economy. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission. The book portrays NK Singh’s stents from 1964 when he joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), serving in higher positions of the Indian Government before entering politics as a member of Rajya Sabha.
 9. **Pradeep Goorha** has authored the book titled “Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank the Dragon”.
Note: The book, though fiction is inspired by reality revolving around the currently developing story on India’s northern borders along with the perennially neglected Pakistan’s illegal occupation of PoK, Gilgit-Baltistan, and how these could be solved at this opportune time.

September (16 to 30th)

1. **Gauri Khan** has authored the book titled “My Life in Design”.
Note: It is a coffee-table book, in which Gauri has written about her journey as a designer. The book will feature unseen pictures of her interior design projects, family and residence. She will also talk about her design philosophy and style. The book will be very visually appealing with exclusive pictures and information that guide aspiring designers or those who are just generally interested in the art of design.
2. **Arundhati Rai** has authored the book titled ‘Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction’.
Note: The book has been published by Penguin Books Ltd. The author challenges the people to reflect on the meaning of freedom in a world of growing authoritarianism, especially during the time of Coronavirus Pandemic through her book. She was awarded 1997 Booker Prize for her novel ‘The God of Small Things’.
3. **Claude Arpi** has authored the book titled ‘End of an Era, India Exits Tibet’.
Note: The book highlights India Tibet relation between 1947 and 1962. It also focuses on India losing all its influence in Tibet. It shows Nehru Memorial Library papers, de-classified Indian and Chinese documents and personal interviews.
4. **Vikas Khanna** has authored the book titled “Kitchens of Gratitude”.
Note: In this book he will write about his Feed India initiative, one of the world’s largest food drives serving meals to the underprivileged amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, said by publishing house Penguin Random House India. The book, “Kitchens of Gratitude”, will be released in 2021 under the ‘Ebury Press’ imprint.
5. **Romila Thapar** has authored the book titled “Voices of Dissent”.
Note: The book is a historical essay that explores dissent, including its articulation and public response to its forms, with a focus on the recent protest in India against the citizenship law and the National Register of Citizens. Romila Thapar hails from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Her works include A History of India (1966), Interpreting Early India (1992), Early India: From the Origin to AD 1300(2003).
6. **Dr Krishna Saksena** has authored the book titled ‘A bouquet of flowers’ which was launched by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Note: Dr Krishna Saksena is the first lady to get a PhD, in 1955 from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. The book has been designed to allow the readers to travel their own journey and arrive at their own very personal realization and be inspired by it.

7. The book titled 'Sach Kahun Toh' is memoir of which award-winning actor **Neena Gupta**.

Note: The memoir, 'Sach Kahun Toh', will chronicle her life - from her childhood in Delhi's Karol Bagh, and her time at the National School of Drama, to her move to Bombay in the 1980s, as well as her struggles to find work. It will be published under Penguin 'Ebury Press' imprint.

Art and Culture

October (1st- 21st)

1. Hudali village in Karnataka follows Gandhian way of life

- It has imbibed Gandhian Philosophy and continues to live in the Gandhian way

2. Culture Ministry issued guidelines for events under Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)

- It will enable artists to avail benefits in virtual mode ensuring continued financial assistance to tide over the present crisis.
- KSVY is an umbrella Central Sector Scheme under Ministry of Culture for the promotion of art and culture in the country.

3. TRIFED launched "Tech For Tribals" initiative in association with Chhattisgarh MFP Federation and IIT, Kanpur

- It aims at the holistic development of tribals with a focus on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT, and business development through SHGs operating through Van Dhan Kendras (VDVKs).
- Vandhan-ESDP Training Programs in Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan will be carried out

4. Famous Chilli of Sikkim "Dalle Khursani" Gets GI Tag

- It is locally known as 'Dalle Khursani' and is considered as one of the hottest chilli in the world.
- Dalle Khursani fetches as much as Rs 480 per kg in the local market and is used in local food preparations and medicines

September (16 to 30th)

1. Ganga Avalokan Museum inaugurated

- PM Modi inaugurated **Ganga Avalokan Museum**, along with six mega projects in Uttarakhand under Namami Gange Mission.
- It is the first museum on the river located at Chandi ghat in Haridwar.
- Aim: To showcasing the culture, biodiversity and rejuvenation activities done in the river

2. "Destination North East-2020" festival

- It is a 4-day festival of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to highlight various potentials of the Northeast region' of India like eco-tourism, culture, heritage and business.

- Theme for 2020: 'The Emerging Delightful Destinations'.
- It will feature Audio Visual presentation of the tourist spots, messages from state icons local entrepreneurs and virtual exhibition of handicraft/ traditional fashion/ & local products.

3. Patrika Gate in Jaipur

- It has been built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers to depicts the cultural and artistic heritage of different regions of Rajasthan.
- It is built as a monument under Mission Anupam of the Jaipur Development Authority at Jawaharlal Nehru Marg.

4. Training in Bagh, Maheshwari and Chanderi textile crafts by TRIFED

- TRIFED is training local tribals in Barwani (MP) in Bagh, Maheshwari and Chanderi textile crafts to ensure continuous livelihoods.
- Bagh Print: Traditional hand block print with natural colours, on cotton and silk cloth practised in Dhar (MP).
- Maheshwari fabrics: Cotton and silk fabric woven with zari or brocade in varied designs primarily used to make sarees. They were patronized by royal family of Holkars and are said to be created by Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar.
- Chanderi fabrics: Traditional ethnic fabric woven in silk and golden zari characterized by its lightweight, sheer texture and fine luxurious feel.

5. Inscription unearthed in Andhra Pradesh

- Inscription written in archaic Telegu was unearthed in Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh.
- It shows record of a gift of six Marttus (a measuring unit) of land gifted to a Brahmin in 8th century under Chola Maharaja of Renadu.

6. Donald Trump announced Wilmington as 1st World War II Heritage City

- Wilmington is in southern US state of North Carolina.
- This announcement was made at the ceremony held marking 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.
- During the war, Wilmington was the site of North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, which built 243 ships in 5 years as part of the federal government's emergency shipbuilding program

7. Pang Lhabsol celebrated in Sikkim

- Pang Lhabsol festival of cultural heritage and historical importance is celebrated in Sikkim to commemorate the consecration of Mount Khangchendzonga as the guardian deity of Sikkim.
- The day symbolises the historic blood brotherhood between Lepchas and Bhutias at Kabi Lungchok under the watchful eye of the mighty Mount Khangchendzonga

Science & Defence

October (1st to 21st)

1. India to acquire Sprut Light Tanks to be used in high altitude areas of Line of Actual Control from Russia.
Note: They are being acquired to be used in high altitude areas of Line of Actual Control. The need to buy Sprut Light Tanks has come after border hostilities with China increased in the Line of Actual Control. The new tank is under trial in Russia.
2. 1000 km is the strike range indigenously developed nuclear capable hypersonic missile 'Shaurya' test fired recently.
Note: The surface-to-surface tactical missile, which is the land variant of India's K-15 missile, has a strike range of 700 km to 1000 km and is capable of carrying payloads of 200 kg to 1000 kg. It is 10 metres long, 74 cm in diameter and weighs 6.2 tonnes. Its two stages use solid propellants.
3. The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test fired SMART Wheeler Islands in the coast of Odisha it is a Torpedo.
Note: The Torpedo was test fired from Wheeler Islands in the coast of Odisha. The launch is important for

India to establish its anti-submarine warfare capabilities. SMART is an anti-submarine Torpedo system and is the fastest in the world. It has a range of 650 km.

4. Vighraha offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) that has been formally unveiled at the Kattupalli port, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
Note: The vessel, built by Larsen and Toubro, is the last in the series of seven OPVs contracted to the company by the Ministry of Defence in 2015. It was the first time a private sector shipyard has undertaken the design and construction of offshore patrol vessel class of ships.
5. IIT Khargpur has launched a telemedicine system 'iMediX' to help patients receive assistance from doctors without having to go to hospitals or clinics.
Note: 'iMediX' allows patients to request for consultation by choosing a department of a hospital, entering their complaints and uploading necessary medical records. The hospital then processes the request and assigns a doctor. The system iMediX which

- is accessible by any standard internet browser and also from a mobile device, has been developed by researchers at IIT Kharagpur's Department of Computer Science and Engineering.
6. ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025.
Note: The VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS atmospheres, environments and space observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific research centre CNRS has been selected by the ISRO after a request for proposals.
 7. Armament Research and Development Establishment of the DRDO has developed the Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) which was successfully test-fired recently.
Note: The ATGM employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour protected armoured vehicles in ranges from 1.5 to 5 kilometres. This Laser Guided Missile has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune and IRDE, Dehradun.
 8. Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS 'Kanaklata Barua' of the Indian Coast Guard was commissioned at Kolkata.
Note: ICGS Kanaklata Barua is one of the five FPVs built by GRSE, the Defence Public Sector Undertaking, for the Indian Coast Guard. The entire design of the FPVs has been developed in-house by GRSE as per requirements specified by the Indian Coast Guard.
 9. Bilateral Naval Exercise 'Bongosagar' conducted recently between India and Bangladesh.
Note: The 2nd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar is commenced in the Northern Bay of Bengal. Exercise is aimed at developing interoperability and joint operational skills through conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.
 10. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune to set up a Rs 17-crore supercomputing facility.
Note: The agreement is for a period of five years. The new supercomputer with "650 TFLOPS is more powerful and a technologically superior facility", which will play an important role in the field of scientific and engineering applications. IIT-G's Computer and Communication Centre is already equipped with 'Param Ishan', a '250 TF' supercomputer.
 11. Intel India in association with International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-H), has set up an artificial intelligence research centre in Hyderabad.
Note: It will apply AI solutions to population-scale problems in the Indian context, with focus on challenges in the healthcare and smart mobility segments. The center will solve India's population-scale challenges in sectors such as healthcare and smart mobility.
 12. Nirbhay missile has been test fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation that was failed due to technical snag.
Note: The missile developed engine problems within 8 minutes of its launch. Nirbhay was the tenth missile to be fired by India in the last 35 days.
 13. Indigenous combat drone, Rustom-2 was successfully tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
Note: Rustom-2 is capable of carrying different combinations of payloads, which includes electronic intelligence systems, situational awareness systems and also synthetic aperture radar.
 14. In association with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur the "Tech for Tribals" initiative has been launched by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and Chhattisgarh Minor Forest Produce Federation.
Note: The initiative aims for holistic development of Tribals with focus on Entrepreneurship development, soft skills, Information Technology (IT) and Business Development. As part of this initiative, TRIFED has partnered with National Institutions such as IIT Kanpur, Art of Living, Bangalore, TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) Mumbai, KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) Bhubaneswar, Vivekananda Kendra, Tamil Nadu and SRIJAN (Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action), Rajasthan to impart training to the beneficiaries.
 15. India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile Rudram 1 was successfully test fired from a Sukhoi-30 fighter jet.
Note: The supersonic-capable missile can be launched at speeds ranging from 0.6 mach to 2 mach, i.e., twice the speed of sound. IT can be launched from a height of 500m to 15 km. Rudram-1 is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.
 16. Anti-terror exercise "Suraksha Kavach" was organized by Maharashtra state police organization with the Indian Army.
Note: The aim of the exercise was to harmonize the drills and procedures of both Army and Police for activating anti-terrorist Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) to counter any terrorist actions in Pune. The exercise involved the participation of Quick Reaction Teams, Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of Army as well as Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Quick Reaction Team of Maharashtra Police.
 17. The eighth edition of the bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 was conducted between India and Sri Lanka.
Note: It was conducted in non-contact at-sea only format. This strategy has been adopted due to COVID-19 pandemic. The drill included series of anti-air

weapons firing, cross deck flying operations to fine tune high degree of inter-operability.

18. The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) test fired the naval version BRAHMOS missile from naval base **INS Chennai** successfully.

Note: The missile was test fired from an indigenously built stealth destroyer INS Chennai. The missile hit a target in Arabian Sea. BRAHMOS is a supersonic missile. It was jointly developed by India and Russia. The major classification of the missiles is Cruise Missiles and Ballistic Missiles.

19. India recently conducted the night version of indigenously developed nuclear capable missile **Prithvi II**.

Note: The test was successful. The test was conducted at the Integrated Test Range, Balasore, Odisha. Prithvi II is a surface-to-surface missile. The first trial of Prithvi II was conducted in September 2020.

20. **Australia** will not be a participant in the Malabar exercise that is to be conducted in November 2020.

Note: This means that all the four Quad countries are to participate in the exercise. The countries to participate in the exercise are Japan, India and US. In the process of seeking international cooperation in maritime security domain, India had sought Australia to participate in the exercise. The exercise is to be held in "non-contact at sea" format.

21. India successfully test fired **SANT** Anti-Tank Missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization.

Note: It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization for the Indian Air Force. The missile was test fired at the Chandipur test range. The missile has both lock-on before launch and lock-on after launch capabilities. SANT missile is a variant of Nag missile. The other variants of Nag missile are Helina (or Dhruvastra) and MP-ATGM. SANT is an upgraded version of HELINA.

September (16 to 30th)

1. Recently, a team of researchers found traces of phosphine gas in **Venus** planet is associated with the living organisms which on Earth.

Note: Phosphine gas is associated with the living organisms which on Earth. The team used telescopes in Hawaii and Chile's Atacama Desert in order to observe upper cloud deck of Venus which is around 60 km from the surface. They detected traces of phosphine, a flammable gas that on Earth occurs from the breakdown of organic matter.

2. India conducts 10th Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting virtually with **USA**.

Note: The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Raj Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, from the Indian Ministry of Defence and Ms. Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, from the U.S. Department of Defense. During the meeting, the co-chairs signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) that declared their intent "to strengthen our dialogue on defense technology cooperation by pursuing detailed planning and making measurable progress" on several specific DTTI projects.

3. Researchers at which university have developed the world's smallest ultrasound detector **Helmholtz Zentrum München and the Technical University of Munich (TUM)**.

Note: It is based on miniaturized photonic circuits on top of a silicon chip. With a size 100 times smaller than an average human hair, the new detector can visualize features that are much smaller than previously possible, leading to what is known as super-resolution imaging.

4. The Indian Navy (IN) conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the navy of **Australia**.

Note: The exercise involved participation of HMAS Hobart from the Australian side and Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Karmuk. The Passage Exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices from each other.

5. **DRDO** has conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS- High speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicle.

Note: ABHYAS-HEAT is an air vehicle. It uses twin underslung boosters. ABHYAS was designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment of DRDO. The missile is powered by a small gas turbine and has MEMS based Inertial Navigation System.

6. India's first Coast Guard academy will be established in **Mangaluru**.

Note: India's first Coast Guard academy will be established at Mangaluru. Around 158 acres Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) land has been taken over for setting up ICG Academy

7. Three-day-long maritime military exercise, JIMEX 2020 was conducted between the navies of **India and Japan**.

Note: This would be the first military exercise after the two countries signed a landmark agreement recently that will allow their militaries to access each other's bases for logistics support. The JIMEX is a series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with

a special focus on maritime security cooperation. The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam coast.

8. **Shivangi Singh** has become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the Rafale combat aircraft that was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF).
Note: She is one of the 10 Indian women fighter pilots in IAF. Five Rafale Aircraft were formally inducted into the IAF's 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows' on September 10, 2020, at a function held at Air Force Station, Ambala (Haryana).

9. The Himalayan Chandra Telescope which completed 20 years successfully is located in which mountain range -- **Mt Saraswati**.

Note: The Himalayan Chandra Telescope is located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO). It has been scanning the night sky in search of comets, stellar explosions, exo-planets and asteroids. It is named after India-born Nobel laureate Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar.

Government Schemes

October (1-21st)

1. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launches Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)

- The mission has been launched under the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in order to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.
- Under this, 117 companies promoted by SC entrepreneurs will be given financial assistance to set up business ventures.

2. South Eastern Railways (SER) has launched the project, 'Operation my Saheli'

- Aim: To enhance the security of women passengers in the train.
- It is executed under the Framework of "Nirbhaya Fund" and no additional expenditure is provided by the Head of Railways.

3. West Bengal Govt launches "Pathashree Abhijan" scheme for road repair

- It is a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometres across the state will be repaired.

4. Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launches Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme

- This initiative will run for 3 year optimizing the contribution of tribal population in the growing economy
- The programmes Centre of Excellence (CoE) has been set up by apex industry body Associated

Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)

5. Union Health Minister launches 2nd phase of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna

- It is launched for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients.
- It is a Coal India CSR funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) program
- Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna:** Launched in 2017 to provide 1-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies like Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease for patients who have a matched family donor
- Haemoglobinopathies:** inherited disorders of red blood cells and are preventable.

6. Odisha launches 'Sujal' Mission to Provide Tap Water Fit for Drinking in Urban Areas

- 'Sujal' - 'Drink from Tap Mission' scheme will provide round the clock supply of quality tap drinking water in all urban areas of Odisha by March 2022 benefitting over 15 lakh people in 15 towns in a phased manner.
- Once fully implemented, Odisha will become the first state in the country to provide quality drinking water, fit for direct consumption, in urban areas

7. Finance Minister launches Leave Travel Concession (LTC) voucher and festival advance scheme

- Govt has announced twin set of measures to boost consumption demand and capital

expenditure (Capex) known as Leave Travel Concession (LTC) voucher scheme and a festival advance scheme.

- LTC scheme: Central Govt employees can avail cash payment and leave encashment in lieu of one LTC during 2018-21 according to entitlement
- Special Festival Advance Scheme has also been revived as a one-time measure for both Gazetted and non-Gazetted employees
- Additional budget of Rs. 25,000 crore is being provided for Capital Expenditure

8. Delhi Cabinet approve 'Tree Transplantation Policy' for the conservation of trees

- Delhi becomes the first State in India to pass this policy.
- Under this, Concerned agencies will have to transplant 80% of the trees affected by their projects to a new location.
- Dedicated panel of govt agencies is being formed under the policy.

9. Uttarakhand Govt launches 'Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana'

- **Aim:** to generate self-employment for youth & migrants through green energy sector
- State will allocate solar plants of 25 kw each to the targeted beneficiaries and loans will be granted by cooperative banks for these plants at 8% interest rate for 15%

10. PM launches Property Cards under SVAMITVA scheme

- **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas)** is a Central Sector Scheme launched in April 2020 to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties and issue Property Cards.
- **Benefit:** Allow the villagers to use the property as a financial asset for taking loans and other economic and financial benefits.
- The scheme is being implemented in a phased manner for 4 years covering 6.62 lakh villages

11. Andhra Pradesh CM launches Jagananna Vidya Kanuka' scheme

- **Aim:** To distribute school kits among the poor children of the state.
- **Total outlay:** Rs 650 crore
- Under this, government school students from classes 1 to 10 across the state will set the school kits or Vidya Kanuka, which will contain three pairs of uniform, one pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, a belt, one set of textbooks and notebooks and one school bag.

12. Gujarat launches 'Digital Seva Setu' for online public welfare services in rural areas

- Under this, public welfare services will be made available in 14,000-gram panchayats in Gujarat by connecting village panchayats through optical fiber network, e-gram office and data centre
- It will be initiated under Centre's BharatNet Project

13. Approval of 16 eligible applicants under PLI Scheme

- Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MeitY) has approved 16 eligible applicants under PLI Scheme extending an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of goods 5 years subsequent to FY2019-20 as base year
- **PLI scheme:** It was focused to provide financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the electronics value chain

14. Agriculture Minister launches NCDC Ayushman Sahakar scheme

- **Formulated by:** National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
- NCDC will extend Rs.10,000 crore loans to prospective cooperatives to set up healthcare facilities under this.
- It will also provide 1% interest subvention to women majority cooperatives.
- **Aim:** To bring transformation in rural areas, to revolutionize comprehensive health care services, through co-operatives, due to their strong presence in rural areas.

September (15-30th)

1. Karnataka Govt launches loan disbursal programme named as "Arthika Spandana"

- Under this, loans worth Rs. 39,300 crores will be disbursed to help people during COVID-19 and floodsthrugh various cooperative institutions.
- The amount will be disbursed to agriculture as well as non-agricultural sector.

2. Gujarat govt launches Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY) to provide interest-free loans to women's groups in the state.

- Under this, Joint liability and earning group (JLEG) of 10 women members will be formed in urban as well as rural areas
- Interest-free loan of Rs 1 lakh to one lakh women JLEGs beneficiaries will be provided

3. Ghar Tak Fibre project

- PM launches **Ghar Tak Fibre project** to connect all 45,945 villages of Bihar through **Optical Fibre Internet Service** enabling digital revolution
- Bihar becomes First Indian State to Connect all Villages by OFC Internet
- **Executed by:** Dept of Telecom, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Common Service Centres (CSC).

4. 'Moksha Kalash Yojana-2020' in Rajasthan

- Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation launched 'Moksha Kalash Yojana-2020' to allow free bus travel to 2 members of the family of a deceased person to immerse ashes of their loved ones in the Ganga in Haridwar.
- Maximum 46 passengers will be allowed to travel in bus

5. Assam Govt launches Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni

- Under this, Light Motor Vehicle Service would be launched in all the villages of Assam to improve rural connectivity and generate employment in the villages.
- It will cover 10,00 villages in the first phase of the scheme
- Assam Govt will also financially assist the eligible entrepreneurs with 25% of the cost of the vehicle or Rs 1 lakh, whichever is less

6. Income Tax Dept, CBDT launches Faceless Income tax Appeals facility

- After its launch, all the appeals related to Income Tax will be finalised in a faceless manner with the exception of appeals relating to serious frauds, major tax evasion, sensitive and search matters, International tax and Black Money Act.
- **Aim:** To streamline the income tax collection process and check corruption and unfair practices enhancing greater efficiency, transparency and accountability.

7. Madhya Pradesh launches 'Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojna' on the lines of PM-Kisan Scheme

- Under this, MP government will transfer Rs 4,000 to accounts of 1,75,000 farmers of the state in two instalments every year providing additional Rs 4,000 to each farmers so that farmers can get Rs 10,000 annually.

8. Assam govt launches 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme'

- Under this, loan between ₹1 lakh and ₹20 lakh will be extended to interested local youths to take up new initiatives to revive tourism sector.
- **Paryatan Sarathi:** This will provide information about Assam tourism, facilities for bookings, tour packages, hotels along with online payment gateway options.

Important Committees

October (1st to 21st)

1. New Monetary Policy Committee members

- Govt has named three eminent economists Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhide as

the new members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- MPC meet is held for 3 days and bi-monthly policy was released on 9th October
- MPC also consist of 3 ex-officio members: RBI Governor (Shaktikanta Das) Deputy Governor (in-charge of monetary policy-Michael Patra) and executive director Janak Raj.
- It is responsible for fixing benchmark interest rate in India

2. RBI approves interim committee of directors to run Dhanlaxmi Bank

- Committee of directors (CoD) consists of G Subramonia Iyer as its Chairman, while G Rajagopalan Nair and P K Vijayakumar are the other two members.
- They will hold the position for 4 months or till the time a new MD & CEO is appointed, whichever is earlier.

3. Monitoring committee to prevent stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, UP

September (15 -30th)

1. MCA extends the tenure of Company Law Committee by 1 year effective till September 2021.

- Chairperson of the committee: Corporate affairs secretary Rajesh Verma
- The committee has 11 members and was set up to suggest measures and recommendations regarding functioning of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Companies Act and Limited Liability Partnership Act

2. SEBI constitutes technical committee on social stock exchange (SSE)

- Supreme Court has appointed Justice Madan B Lokur (former judge of the apex court) for monitoring committee to prevent stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh
- The new committee will get assistance from chief secretaries of all states as well as National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme and Bharat Scouts.
- The panel shall submit its report on stubble burning within 15 days to the apex court.

4. New 5 member women's national selection panel

- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed Neetu David as the Chairman of the 5 member women's national selection panel.
- Other members of the newly-elected panel: **Mithu Mukherjee, Renu Margrate, Arati Vaidya and V Kalpana.**
- The panel replaced previous panel, led by Hemlata Kala.

- **Aim:** To develop framework for onboarding non-profit organizations (NPO) and for-profit enterprises (FPE) on SSE.
- Chairperson: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala (former chairman of NABARD)
- It will define profit social investing /enterprises, prescribe disclosure requirements for them along with social impact, social audit, information repositories etc.
- **SSE:** Proposed in 2019 Budget for social enterprises and voluntary organisations to help them raise capital through debt, equity and mutual funds.

Obituaries

October (1st to 21st)

1. Famous writer Dr G S Amur passed away recently.
Note: Veteran writer and critic Dr G S Amur passed away. He was proficient in Kannada and English languages. He had won many awards including Sahitya Akademi Award, Rajyotsava Award and Bharatiya Bhasha Award
2. Renowned **Social Activist** Pushpa Bhawe passed away in Mumbai following a prolonged illness.

Note: She has been associated with the Rashtra Seva Dal and democratic movements since her student days. She was also an academician and an intellectual, who fought for the rights of common citizens. During the Emergency, she had offered her home as shelter to underground political workers.

3. Renowned politician and former minister of Odisha Pradeep Maharathy passed away

- Note:** He was elected to the Assembly from the Pipili constituency consecutively seven times from 1985 till last Assembly elections in 2019. Before joining the ruling Biju Janata Dal in 2000, he was in Janata Dal and a staunch follower of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik.
4. Justice Anantkumar Surendraray Dave passed away recently, he was former acting Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court.
Note: Justice Dave was appointed as a Gujarat High Court Judge in 2004 and was made permanent in 2006. He was appointed as an Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court on November 14, 2018 and served until the present Chief Justice Vikram Nath took over the helm in September 2019.
 5. Renowned Actress Mishti Mukherjee passed away recently
Note: Actress Mishti Mukherjee who has featured in many Hindi, Bengali and Telugu films, and music videos has passed away due to renal failure. She was 27. Mukherjee made her Bollywood debut with the 2012 Ranvir Shorey-starrer "Life Ki Toh Lag Gayi" in a guest appearance.
 6. Renowned Banker M. Gopalakrishnan passed recently.
Note: Former chairman-cum-managing director of Indian Bank M. Gopalakrishnan died owing to ill-health at a private hospital. He was 86. Mr. Gopalakrishnan joined Indian Bank as an unpaid officer in 1958. He went on to become its CMD in 1988 and continued in the post till December 1995. In the 1990s, he was a popular figure and was in the news often.
 7. Renowned cardiologist AV Shetty passed away recently
Note: AV Shetty was acknowledged as the first cardiologist of Dakshina Kannada district. The first open heart surgery in Karnataka, which took place at the government Wenlock Hospital here, was performed under his watch. It was conducted by Dr SR Ullal.
 8. Former CBI Director Ashwani Kumar passed away recently.
Note: He was born at Nahan in Sirmaur district and joined the Indian Police Force in 1973. He was allotted the Himachal Pradesh cadre and while working as the District Superintendent of Police at Shimla in 1985, he was inducted in the newly created Special Protection Group (SPG), where he worked till 1990.
 9. Renowned Film Actor Vishal Anand has passed away recently, he was a veteran.
Note: His real name was Bhishmam Kohli. He has appeared in 11 Hindi films during his acting careers like Hindustan Ki Kasam and Taxi Driver. Apart from acting, Anand had also directed and produced a few films, including Chalte Chalte.
 10. Afghanistan 's Cricketer Najeeb Tarakai passed away recently
Note: He played 12 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) for Afghanistan, after making his international debut in the 2014 T20 World Cup. He played his only one-day international against Ireland in 2017
 11. Union minister and President of Lok Janshakti Party Ram Vilas Paswan passed away recently
Note: He was also the president of the Lok Janshakti Party, eight-time Lok Sabha member and current Rajya Sabha MP. Ram Vilas Paswan started his political career as a member of Samyukta Socialist Party and was elected to the Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1969.
 12. Renowned **Businessman** CK Rajkumar passed away recently
Note: CK Rajkumar, the Founder of Sujatha Bio Tech and the owner of brands like Nivaran 90 and Velvete shampoo, passed away at a private hospital in Chennai. Rajkumar was recently in the news after one of their experiments to find a cure for Covid-19 went wrong in their lab in Chennai.
 13. Renowned **Music Composer** Rajan passed away recently
Note: Hailing from Mysuru, brothers Rajan and Nagendra debuted as music directors in 1952 with the Kannada film Soubhagya Lakshmi, and went on to have a very successful career for nearly four decades. They composed music for over 375 films, over 200 in Kannada and the rest in Telugu, Tamil, Tulu and Sinhala.
 14. Justice KK Usha, passed away, she was first women chief justice of Kerala High Court
Note: And when she was appointed Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court from 2000 to 2001, Justice Usha became the first woman to join the High Court Judiciary from the Bar and became a Chief Justice. Justice Usha, who had a distinguished career as a judge and later as chief justice, began her career when she enrolled as an advocate in 1961.
 15. Indian sportsman Carlton Chapman passed away recently he was associated with Football
Note: Chapman was hospitalised at a hospital in Bengaluru, A product of the Tata Football Academy in early 1990s, Chapman joined East Bengal in 1993 and scored a hat-trick in his team's 6-2 win against Iraq club Al Zawra in a first round match at the Asian Cup Winners Cup that year.
 16. Renowned politician of C M Chang passed away due to COVID-19, he was environment minister of Nagaland
Note: Nagaland's environment minister, C M Chang passed away due to COVID-19. He was a retired IAS officer and former Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (2009-13). He was elected to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly from 51 Noksen constituencies under Tuensang district in 2013 and later retained the same seat in 2018 on Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) ticket.

17. Renowned Indian-origin human rights lawyer Priscilla Jana passed away, he was a national of South Africa.
Note: Jana, who had played a significant role against apartheid, was the Deputy Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). Jana was also a member of the South African Law Commission and served as a member of the Advisory Committee to the President.
18. Renowned politician Vinod Kumar Singh passed away due to COVID-19, he was a minister of Bihar
Note: He was a BJP MLA from Pranpur Assembly constituency of Katihar district in northeast Bihar and has been elected MLA thrice from the constituency.
19. Noted poet and 55th Jnanpith awardee Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passed away recently, he was a poet of **Malayalam** language.
Note: Akkitham also won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1973. He became a household name in the 1950s when his work Irupatham Noottandinte Ithihasam, a khandakavya, which is one of the first modernist poems of Malayalam literature, gained popularity. It even won the Sanjayan Award in 1952.
20. Veteran Test cricketer of **New Zealand** John Reid passed away recently.
Note: Reid, regarded as one of the world's best all-rounders during his heyday in the fifties and early sixties, captained New Zealand in 34 Tests including, most notably, the country's first three victories. A hard-hitting right batsman and a seam bowler, he played 58 Tests after making his debut as a 19-year-old in 1949, scoring 3428 runs at 33.28, while taking 85 wickets at 33.35.
21. Renowned **Classical Dancer** Shobha Naidu passed away recently,
- Note:** Her major achievements include choreography and presentation of Ballets Vipranarayana, Kalyana Srinivasam and many others, in which she was the main protagonist and portrayed various roles like Satyabhama, Devadevaki, Padmavathi, Mohini, Sai Baba, and Goddess Parvati which won her great appreciation. Some of the famous awards won by her includes Padma Shri in 2001, Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1991.
22. Renowned personality Bhanu Athaiya passed away recently, she was a veteran **Costume Designer**.
Note: She won the Best Costume Design Oscar for her work in the 1982 film Gandhi, directed by Richard Attenborough. In 2012, Athaiya returned her Oscar to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for safekeeping. Bhanu Athaiya had also designed costumes for over 100 Bollywood movies.
23. Renowned **Journalist**. Kishore Bhimani passed away recently,
Note: He was a leading cricket commentator in the Eighties and Nineties and is best remembered for being on the air during the tied Test of 1986 between India and Australia in Chepauk, Chennai. He had received a lifetime achievement award for his decades-long contribution in the fields of media and commentary in 2013.
24. Legendary singer Kaumudi Munshi passed away due to COVID 19, she is also known as 'Nightingale' of **Gujarat**.
Note: During the early stage of her career, Munshi sang mostly in Gujarati, gaining fame with songs like 'Sachi re maari satre bhavani maa'. The singer also sang Bhojpuri songs, for the 1963 movie Bidesiya she sang 'Neek Saiyan bin' with renowned singer Geeta Dutt.

September (15th to 30th)

1. Renowned personality Kapila Vatsyayan passed away recently, she was a veteran **Classical Dance Scholar**.
Note: Dr. Vatsyayan was a former member of Parliament and life time trustee of India International Centre (IIC). Dr. Vatsyayan, the grand matriarch of cultural research, has for decades been an icon for students of the arts and for aesthetes in general.
2. Renowned sportsperson Sadashiv Patil passed away, he was associated with **Cricket** sports.
Note: Former Maharashtra cricketer, Sadashiv Patil passed away. He had represented India in only one Test and played 36 first-class matches between 1952 and 1964. He made his first-class debut for Maharashtra during the 1952-53 season and his only test debut against New Zealand at the Brabourne Stadium in 1955.
3. Renowned personality Amitabha Ghosh passed away recently, he was former **Governor of RBI**.
Note: He was the shortest-serving Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for 21 days. He had served as the 16th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for 21 days between January 15, 1985, to February 4, 1985.
4. Former president of **Republic of Mali** General **Moussa Traore** passed away recently.
Note: He was born in 1936 in Kayes, Mali. He was a former military leader, forcibly took over the reign from Modibo Keita (known as the 'father of independence'), after participating in a military coup. However, in March 1991, he himself was overthrown by popular protests and a military takeover.
5. Renowned **Politician** Ashok Gasti passed away recently.
Note: The first-time he took oath as Rajya Sabha MP on July, 2020. He is credited for organising the BJP in Raichur district. Gasti, a lawyer by profession and former general secretary of BJP's Other Backward Classes (OBC) Cell, was also a former chairperson of

- the Backward Class Development Corporation in Karnataka.
6. **Tamil Filmmaker** Babu Sivan passed away recently.
Note: He started his career with assisting director Dharani and made his directorial debut in 2009 with movie Vettaikaaran starring Vijay and Anushka Shetty. Later, he also directing daily soap opera Rasaathi
 7. Renowned **Mountaineer** Ang Rita passed away recently.
Note: He made all the ascents to the world's tallest mountain between 1983 and 1996 and that too without bottled oxygen. He was therefore also known as the "snow leopard" for his climbing skills.
 8. Renowned **Actor** Ashalata Wabgaonkar passed away recently.
Note: She acted in several Marathi films and plays. In Bollywood, she starred in films such as 'Apne Paraye', 'Woh Saat Din', 'Namak Halaal', 'Zanjeer' and others.
 9. Renowned **Bollywood Actor** Bhupesh Pandya passed away recently.
Note: Theatre personality and Bollywood actor Bhupesh Pandya, who is best known for his role in Ayushmann Khurrana's debut film 'Vicky Donor' has passed away. He was an alumnus of National School of Drama (NSD).
 10. Former **Australian** cricketer and renowned commentator, Dean Jones passed away recently..
Note: He played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia between 1984 and 1994 before venturing into the commentary. He scored almost 9500 international runs.
 11. Renowned **Nuclear Scientist** Dr Sekhar Basu passed away due to COVID 19 related complications.
Note: A mechanical engineer, Dr Basu is revered for his contributions to the country's atomic energy programme. He was awarded Padma Shri in 2014. He had also pioneered the highly complex reactor for India's first nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant.
 12. Renowned **Nuclear Scientist** Suresh Aagadi passed away due to COVID 19 related complications.
Note: He was A fourth-term parliamentarian from Belagavi in Karnataka. A businessman by profession, Angadi got a major break in his political career when he was appointed as BJP vice president in Belagavi in 1996, and worked his way up in the party. He was elected MP in the Lok Sabha election in 2004, and again in 2009.
 13. Veteran **Politician** Jaswant Singh passed away recently.
Note: He had served as the external affairs minister, defence minister and finance minister of India, during the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Cabinet. Prior to pursuing a career in politics with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Mr Singh was an officer in the Indian Army in the 1950s and 60s.
 14. Famous **Economist** Isher Judge Ahluwalia passed away recently.
Note: In August 2020, she had stepped down as chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) due to her declining health. Ahluwalia was married to former deputy chairperson of Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia.
 15. Renowned **Lyricist** Abhilash passed away recently.
Note: His song 'Itni Shakti Hame Dena Daata' has been translated into eight languages and is played as a prayer song across schools and other institutions. In a career spanning five decades, he penned lyrics for films like Raftaar, Awara Ladki, Sawan Ko Aane Do, Jeete Hain Shaan Se Hulchul (1995) etc.
 16. Renowned personality Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah passed away recently, he was Emir of **Kuwait**.
Note: He became Kuwait's Emir in January 2006 after the death of Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah. He was dubbed the "dean of Arab diplomacy" for his efforts to restore relations with states that backed Iraq during the 1990-1991 Gulf War, when Kuwait was invaded by Iraqi forces.
 17. Renowned personality Syeda Anwara Taimur passed away recently, she was first and only woman chief minister of **Assam states**.
Note: Taimur was in the news in 2018 when her name didn't appear in the Assam National Register of Citizens. She later informed that her family members may not have applied to get her name included in the list. A four-time Congress MLA beginning with her first election in 1972, Taimur held portfolios like education before becoming chief minister for a brief period from December 6, 1980 to June 30, 1981.

Important Days

October (1st to 21st)

1. The first ever World Postcard Day was celebrated on October 1, 2020.
Note: The goal for the World Postcard Day is to bring that joy to as many people as possible. A postcard or post card is a piece of thick paper or thin cardboard, typically rectangular, intended for writing and mailing without an envelope. The study and collecting of postcards is termed deltiology.
2. International Coffee Day is observed every year on 1st October.
Note: The focus of International Coffee Day 2020 is 'Coffee's Next Generation', a global initiative

- targeting talented and motivated young people and entrepreneurs in the coffee sector.
3. The International Day of Older Persons is observed every year on **1st October**.
Note: The Day is observed to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society. The theme of 2020 is 'Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?'
 4. World Vegetarian Day is observed annually around the planet on October 1.
Note: World Vegetarian Day is observed annually around the planet on October 1 to promote the joy, compassion and life-enhancing possibilities of vegetarianism. This day is celebrated to encourage and bring awareness about a vegetarian diet.
 5. The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2nd October.
Note: It is annually held on October 2 to coincide with renowned Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. This day is referred to as Gandhi Jayanti in India. The objective of the day is to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness".
 6. World Habitat Day celebrated every year on 5th October.
Note: The day is celebrated to remind the people that they have all power and responsibility to shape the future of towns and cities. The first Monday of every year is being celebrated as World Habitat Day. This was designated by the United Nations. The theme of the Day this year is 'Housing for All-A better Urban Future'.
 7. World Teachers' Day is observed globally every year on 5th October.
Note: The day provides the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, take stock of achievements, and draw attention to the voices of teachers, who are at the heart of efforts to attain the global education target of leaving no one behind. In 2020, World Teachers' Day will celebrate teachers with the theme "Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future".
 8. Indian Air Force Day is celebrated every year on 8th October.
Note: Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force. The name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950.
 9. The World Post Day is observed every year on 9th October.
Note: The purpose of World Post Day is to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives and its contribution to the social and economic development of countries. World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.
 10. World Migratory Bird Day is observed globally on 10th October.
Note: The Day will celebrate the biannual migration. The aim of the day is to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them. This time the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is "Birds Connect Our World".
 11. World Mental Health Day is observed globally every year on 10th October.
Note: The day is celebrated with an objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing the efforts in support of mental health. This year's theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is 'mental health for all'.
 12. In India, the National Postal Day is celebrated annually on 10th October.
Note: The Day aims to commemorate the role played by the Indian postal department for the past 150 years, which was founded in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.
 13. International Day of the Girl Child is observed globally every year on 11th October.
Note: The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. The theme for 2020 International Day of the Girl Child is "My voice, our equal future".
 14. World Arthritis Day is observed globally every year on 12th October.
Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition which causes pain and stiffness in joints which can worsen with age. This day was started by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) in 1996 in order to spread awareness about arthritis and encourage policymakers to help reduce the burden of arthritis.
 15. The United Nations marks the International Day for Disaster Reduction every year on 13th October.
Note: The day is celebrated to spread how people and communities all over the world are reducing their exposure to disasters. The day is also called World Calamity Control Day. This year, in 2020, the day is marked under the theme "Disaster Risk Governance"
 16. The World Standards Day 2020 is observed every year on 14th October.
Note: The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of standardisation to the global economy among the consumers, regulators and industry. World Standards Day 2020 theme is "Protecting the planet with standards".

17. World Students' Day is observed every year on **15th October**.
Note: This year marks the 89th birth anniversary of the former president and 'Missile Man' Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. In 2010 the United Nations declared 15 October "World Students' Day", due to Kalam's love for students and who himself was a dedicated teacher and identified himself foremost in that role before anything else.
18. Global Handwashing Day is observed every year on **15th October**.
Note: This year's theme, "Hand Hygiene for All," seeks to raise awareness of making soap and water available globally, especially in public places, schools, and health care facilities
19. The **International Day of Rural Women** is observed globally each year on **15 October**.
Note: In India, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare observes the day as the Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas since 2016, to increase the active participation of women in agriculture. The theme for this International Day of Rural Women is "Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19," to create awareness of these women's struggles, their needs, and their critical and key role in our society.
20. National Women Farmers' Day is observed every year on **15th October**.
Note: Mahila Kisan Diwas was celebrated at ICAR Institutes and Krishi Vigyan Kendras across the country to recognize the contribution of women in Agriculture. The day was celebrated by ICAR-CIFRI with the hope to empower and leverage farm women

with fisheries sector to bring Second Blue Revolution in the country.

21. World Food Day is observed every year on **16th October**.
Note: This day generates awareness globally for those who suffer from hunger and to ensure the need for food security and nutritious diets for all. Theme 2020: "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together".
22. The World Statistics Day is observed every year on **20th October**.
Note: The celebration of World Statistics Day 2020 is a global collaborative endeavour, organized under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The World Statistics Day 2020 theme "Connecting the world with data we can trust." This theme reflects the importance of trust, authoritative data, innovation and the public good in national statistical systems.
23. The World Osteoporosis Day is observed every year on **20th October**.
Note: WOD is organized by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), by the launch of a year-long campaign with a specific theme. In 2020 the Global WOD Campaign theme is "THAT'S OSTEOPOROSIS", highlighting emotionally impactful visuals and stories of real people living with osteoporosis in all regions of the world.
24. International Chef's day is celebrated every year on **20th October**.
Note: International Chef's day is celebrated on October 20 every year to honour the profession and educate people about healthy food. The theme of International Chefs Day 2020 is 'Healthy Food For the Future'.

September (16 to 30th)

1. National Engineers Day is celebrated every year on **15th September**.
Note: In India, the Engineer's Day is celebrated on September 15 every year, since 1968, to recognise the contribution of engineers' in the development of the nation. The day marks the birth anniversary of the engineering pioneer of India, Sir Mokshagundam Vishweshvaraya, (popularly known as Sir MV).
2. International Day of Democracy is observed globally every year on **15th September**.
Note: The International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world. Democracy is as much a process as a goal, and only with the full participation of and support by the international community, national governing bodies, civil society and individuals, can the ideal of democracy be made into a reality to be enjoyed by everyone, everywhere.
3. The United Nations observes International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer every year on **16th September**.
Note: The ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas which protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun and thus help in preserving life on the planet. The theme of the day for 2020: "Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection". It marks 35 years of the Vienna Convention.
4. The World Patient Safety Day is observed globally every year **17th September**.
Note: The theme for World Patient Safety Day 2020: Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety. Raise global awareness about the importance of health worker safety and its interlinkages with patient safety. Engage multiple stakeholders and adopt multimodal strategies to improve the safety of health workers and patients
5. The World Water Monitoring Day is observed globally every year on **18th September**.

- Note:** This day is celebrated to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world. World Water Monitoring Day engages people of all ages in monitoring the condition of local rivers, streams, estuaries and other water bodies. This year theme for World Water Monitoring Day 2020 is 'Solve Water.'
6. International Coastal Cleanup Day is celebrated every year on **19th September (third Saturday in September)**.
Note: In 2020, the day is being held on 19 September. This year theme for International Coastal Cleanup Day 2020: "Achieving a trash-free Coastline".
 7. International Equal Pay Day is observed globally for the first time on **18th September 2020**.
Note: On the occasion of the first International Equal Pay Day, and in the midst of the fallout from the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) will host a virtual global Call to Action to encourage all labour market actors to take the necessary steps to ensure that equal pay is at the heart of recovery efforts worldwide.
 8. World Bamboo Day is observed globally every year on **18 September**.
Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the benefits of bamboo and to promote its use in everyday products. The theme for 11th edition of WBD 2020 is 'BAMBOO NOW.'
 9. World Alzheimer's Day is observed is observed every year on **21st September**.
Note: This day tries to create awareness about the condition and the challenges one may face. It also attempts to eliminate the stigma that surrounds this condition. Alzheimer's is a progressive diseases which leads to memory loss.
 10. International Day of Peace in observed around the world on **21st September**.
Note: The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is "Shaping Peace Together."
 11. World Rhino Day is observed globally every year on **22 September**.
Note: This special day provides the opportunity for cause-related organizations, NGOs, zoos, and members of the public to celebrate rhinos in their own unique ways. This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need to protect all the five existing species of Rhinoceros
 12. The theme of the International Day of Sign Languages 2020 -- **"Sign Languages are for Everyone!"**.
- Note:** Also, the last full week of September is observed as International Week of the Deaf.
13. World Maritime Day 2020 is observed globally on -- **24th September**
Note: The exact date of celebrating World Maritime Day is left to the individual governments but is usually celebrated during the last week in September.
 14. World Pharmacist Day is observed globally every year on -- **25th September**.
Note: The day was an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) along with the council of this organization. This year's theme is "Transforming global health".
 15. World Environmental Health Day is observed globally every year on -- **26th September**.
Note: This day is celebrated to shed the light on important work of environmental health around the world. The Theme for the 2020 World Environmental Health Day: Environmental health, a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention.
 16. The theme of 2020 World Rabies Day -- **End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate**.
Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the impact of rabies on humans and animals, provide information and advice on how to prevent the disease and take efforts to control rabies. The theme for the 14th WRD in 2020 is 'End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate'. This year's theme focuses on vaccination and collaboration.
 17. World Tourism Day is observed globally every year on **27th September**.
Note: The purpose of this day is to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide. This date was chosen by the United Nations World Tourism Organization as on that day in 1970, the Statutes of the UNWTO were adopted.
 18. The International Day for the Universal Access to Information is observed globally every year on **28th September**.
Note: Universal access to information means that everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information for healthy and inclusive knowledge societies.IDUAI 2020 will be focus on to the right to information in times of crisis and on the advantages of having constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information to save lives, build trust and help the formulation of sustainable policies through and beyond the COVID-19 crisis.
 19. International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is observed globally on **29th September**.
Note: This year is the first-ever observance of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and

Waste. It also comes during the global COVID-19 pandemic, that has brought about a global wake-up on the need to transform and rebalance the way our food is produced and consumed.

20. World Heart Day is observed annually on 29th September.

Note: The day which is celebrated annually creates awareness of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) including heart disease & stroke and highlights the preventive

and control measures. The theme for World Heart Day 2020: "Use Heart To Beat Cardiovascular Disease".

21. The theme of the International Translation Day 2020 -- Finding the words for a world in crisis.

Note: This day provides a great opportunity to spotlight the important work of translators, interpreters and others in the language service industry. 30 September celebrates the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator, who is considered the patron saint of translators.

Appointment (National & International)

October (1st to 21st)

1. Amir Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Online live tutoring company Vedantu.

Note: Online live tutoring company Vedantu has onboarded Bollywood actor Aamir Khan as its brand ambassador. Vedantu with its new ad campaign aims to make quality LIVE online learning accessible to every child, every home with India's best curated teachers.

2. Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Real Estate Developer, Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited.

Note: Kolkata based Real Estate Developer, Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited appointed Former National Cricket Team Captain and Current President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Sourav Ganguly as its Brand Ambassador. He will lead the campaign of Bengal Peerless's Residential Project Avidipta II

3. Alexander De Croo has been selected as the Prime Minister of Belgium.

Note: De Croo's French-speaking socialist rival Paul Magnette confirmed that the parties had chosen the 44-year-old finance minister as premier. Belgium has had no governing majority for 21 months since the collapse of former leader Charles Michel's government, and it has been 493 days since federal elections failed to resolve the crisis.

4. Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) the State Bank of India.

Note: State Bank of India (SBI) said Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Before joining the country's largest public sector lender, Attra was Partner at EY India and senior executive at ICICI Securities.

5. Jayant R Varma, B. Shashank Bhide and C. Ashima Goyal appointed as the member (s) of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) by the Government of India.

Note: Their appointments were cleared by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet chaired by PM Modi. The current MPC was set up by the GoI in 2016 following the finalisation of Monetary Policy Framework Agreement. The framework introduced inflation targeting. The committee consists of six members. Of these three are nominated by GoI as done recently. A Government official cannot be appointed to the committee.

6. M A Ganapathy has been appointed as the Director-General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

Note: The post of BCAS chief fell vacant after Rakesh Asthana was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force in August. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Ganapathy to the post of Director-General, BCAS, for a tenure up to his superannuation on February 29, 2024.

7. Dinesh Kumar Khara has been appointed as the new Chairman of State Bank of India for a period of three years.

Note: The post was lying vacant after the former Deputy MD & CFO Prashant Kumar, was appointed as the CEO of Yes Bank in March 2020. C Venkat Nageshwar was serving the post on interim capacity. Attra is a former Partner at global consulting firm EY India and had also served as the CFO at the ICICI Securities.

8. Rinki Sethi has been appointed as New Information Security Head of Twitter.

Note: Twitter Inc appointed Rinki Sethi, a former information security executive at IBM, as its chief information security officer. Sethi had previously worked as the vice president of information security at cyber-security firm Palo Alto Networks Inc.

9. M Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the new deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Note: Prior to this, M Rajeshwar Rao was an executive director at RBI. He succeeds NS Vishwanathan as the

- central bank's fourth deputy governor. NS Vishwanathan resigned from the post in March 2020 before the completion of his term in June, citing health reasons.
10. Nilesh Shah has been elected as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
Note: He was earlier elected as the Chairman for 2019 – 2020. Nilesh Shah would also continue as the ex-officio Chairman of AMFI Financial Literacy Committee, being the Chairman of AMFI. These decisions were taken by AMFI, the industry body of SEBI-registered mutual funds at its Board Meeting.
 11. J Venkatramu has been appointed the managing director and chief executive officer of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
Note: J Venkatramu has been appointed the managing director and chief executive officer of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). He will succeed Suresh Sethi, who served the post till March 2020. Venkatramu is presently working as the chief digital officer in Equitas Small Finance Bank. He has been appointed to the post of MD and CEO of IPPB for a period of three years.
 12. Arvind Hali has been appointed as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL).
Note: Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL) has appointed Arvind Hali as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of its housing finance company Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL). It has also appointed Amar Bahl as the Deputy Managing Director & COO of the company.
 13. Piyush Goyal has been assigned the additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution after the demise of Ram Vilas Paswan.
Note: The Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been assigned the additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in addition to his existing portfolios, following the death of union minister Ram Vilas Paswan. Goyal is currently serving as the Union Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry.
 14. Srikant M Datar has been appointed as the dean of the Harvard University's business school.
Note: Datar will succeed Nitin Nohria, another Indian-American, and will be the second dean of Indian origin at Harvard University, with Rakesh Khurana, who heads Harvard College. Datar will be the 11th dean of the prestigious school.
 15. Former **Reserve Bank of India** Executive Director **Uma Shankar** has been appointed as the Additional Director (Non-Executive, Independent) to **Karnataka Bank**.
Note: She is a former Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India. She was with RBI for over 37 years in different capacities. Her core competence is in the financial sector supervision but she has also been responsible for currency management, foreign exchange and the internal accounting and administration.
 16. **Rohan Jaitley** has been elected as the President of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA).
Note: He was the single candidate left for the post, as the lone candidate who had filed his nomination against him withdrew his candidature. The 31-year-old lawyer is slated to remain in the post till June 30, 2021. Notably, late Arun Jaitley had also served as the president of DDCA between 1999 and 2013.
 17. Jacinda Ardern has been elected as **prime minister of New Zealand** for the second consecutive three-year term.
Note: In the battle against Covid, Ardern was alone among her western peers in pursuing an explicit elimination strategy and imposed one of the strictest nationwide lockdowns in the world. Ardern's centre-left Labour Party won 49.2% of the total 83.7% votes counted in the 120-member parliament.
 18. **Rajkiran Rai G** has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for the term 2020-21.
Note: Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India, was elected as Deputy Chairman of the Association. IBA is an association of banks and other entities in the banking ecosystem in India catering to its members. The decision was taken during a meeting of the managing committee of IBA.
 19. **Dhruv Bahl** has been appointed as chief operating officer (COO) of Merchant payment network BharatPe.
Note: Merchant payment network BharatPe has elevated Dhruv Bahl as its chief operating officer (COO) with immediate effect. In his new role, Bahl will be leading operations across customer support, deployments – QR, Swipe & Cards, KYC, loan disbursements and lead generation.
 20. **Constantina Dita** has been named an ambassador for the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships to be held in Gdynia,
Note: Dita competed at eight editions of the World Half Marathon Championships and earned seven medals in the process, making her one of the most successful athletes in the history of the event. Her double victory in Edmonton in 2005, taking individual and team gold medals, remains one of the highlights of her career.
 21. **Seema Mustafa** has been elected as President of the Editors Guild of India.
Note: Mustafa succeeds Shekhar Gupta, the Editor-in-Chief of ThePrint, while Kapoor and Nath will take over from A.K. Bhattacharya, the Editorial Director of Business Standard, and Sheela Bhatt, the Contributing Editor of Rediff.com, respectively.

September (16 to 30th)

1. **Sameer Kumar Khare** has been appointed as new Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila.
Note: 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. 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.
2. **Rajesh Khullar** has been appointed as Executive Director at World Bank in Washington DC.
Note: The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Rajesh Khullar for a tenure of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till the date of his superannuation (August 23, 2023). 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.
3. **Yoshihide Suga** has been elected as the new Chief of Japan's ruling, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Prime Minister-designate of the country.
Note: He will assume charge of the office from 16 September 2020. Suga received maximum votes of 377 of the 534 valid votes in the Party election, held to pick a successor to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who announced in August 2020 that he would resign due to health problems.
4. **Takeo Konishi** has been appointed as the country director for India by the Manila based Asian Development Bank (ADB).
Note: Konishi will replace Kenichi Yokoyama who has taken over as Director-General of ADB's South Asia Department. India is the fourth-largest shareholder of ADB and has been its largest borrower since 2010. As head of the country office in New Delhi, Konishi will lead to ADB operations and policy dialogue with the government and other development partners in India.
5. Bollywood actor **Amitabh Bachchan** has been signed up by the Amazon.com Inc for its Alexa voice assistant.
Note: Amitabh Bachchan is the first Indian celebrity to lend his voice to Alexa. Alexa users will be able to access Amitabh Bachchan's voice on Alexa by purchasing the Amitabh Bachchan voice experience. Amazon first used a celebrity voice when Hollywood actor Samuel L. Jackson made a debut on Alexa.
6. **Sachin Tendulkar** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Paytm First Games (PFG).
Note: Tendulkar would promote the gaming platform PFG and all its fantasy sports such as cricket, kabaddi, football, and basketball. Paytm is the official umpire partner for IPL till 2022 and has been the title sponsor for Indian cricket.
7. **Anil Dhasmana** has been appointed as the chief of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
Note: Dhasmana succeeds former Intelligence Bureau officer Satish Jha, who demitted office. Dhasmana, a 1981 batch IPS officer, is a Pakistan expert and was the lead planner of the Balakot airstrikes in February 2019. He had stepped down a few months later when his extended term due to the general elections ended in June 2019.
8. Additional charge of Food Processing Industries Ministry following Harsimrat Kaur Badal resignation -- **Narendra Singh Tomar**.
Note: He has been given the additional charge as President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect, under clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution.
9. **Anil Dhasmana** has been appointed as the chief of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
Note: Dhasmana succeeds former Intelligence Bureau officer Satish Jha, who demitted office. Dhasmana, a 1981 batch IPS officer, is a Pakistan expert and was the lead planner of the Balakot airstrikes in February 2019.
10. **AK Das** has been appointed as the new administrator of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank by the Reserve Bank of India.
Note: He has replaced JB Bhoria who has stepped down from his role as the administrator of the bank due to health reasons. In September 2019, the RBI had superseded the board of PMC bank due to fraud and financial irregularities in the PMC bank.
11. **Khushi Chindaliya** has been appointed as Regional Ambassador for India by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)- Tunza Eco-Generation.
Note: In her new role, Khushi will raise awareness about climate change and the importance of environmental conservation and the need to safeguard environmental treasures. She will work with the TEG on various environmental awareness programmes till February 2021.
12. **Simanchala Dash** has been appointed as an advisor to Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington.
Note: The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the proposal to appoint Simanchala Dash as an advisor to Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington. He has been appointed for a period of three years.
13. **Girija Shanker Mungali** has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Asian Football Confederation's task force.

Note: The taskforce will regulate the football clubs in Asia and Australia. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Club Licensing Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

14. **L Adimoolam** has been elected as the president of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS), an apex body of the publishers of newspapers, magazines and periodicals in the country.

Note: D D Purkayastha (Ananda Bazar Patrika) is the deputy president, Mohit Jain (Economic Times) the Vice President and Rakesh Sharma (Aaj Samaj) the Honorary Treasurer of the Society for the year 2020-21. Adimoolam, who succeeds Shailesh Gupta of Mid-Day as the president of INS, belongs to the family of Dinamalar, National Tamil Daily. He is the son of Dr. R. Lakshminath – a former INS president.

15. Mactar Ouane has been appointed as the new prime minister of **Mali**.

Note: The interim President of Mali, Bah Ndaw, has named former Malian Foreign Minister Mactar Ouane as the new prime minister of Mali. Mactar Ouane has

served as Mali's ambassador to the United Nations from 1995-2002, and as foreign minister from 2004-2009 during Amadou Toumani Toure's presidency.

16. **PD Vaghela** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

Note: He is 1986-Gujarat cadre IAS officer. Vaghela will succeed RS Sharma, whose tenure as chief of TRAI lapses on September 30. Prior to TRAI, Sharma led the creation of Aadhaar as the director general and mission director of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) during 2009-2013.

17. **Shekhar Kapoor** has been appointed as the new president of **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)** Society and Chairman of the FTII governing council.

Note: Mr. Kapur replaces filmmaker B. P. Singh as the new Chairman. Kapur, who is known for movies from the Indian superhero film 'Mr India' to 'Bandit Queen' based on the incidents in the life of Phoolan Devi and an acclaimed biopic on Queen Elizabeth, will hold the post till March 3, 2023

Important News – India

October (1st to 21st)

1. The Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers Shri. D.V. Sadananda Gowda has launched POS 3.1 software, SMS Gateway and Home Delivery facility of Fertilizers (RBK) for farmers in **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note: Under POS 3.1 version, keeping in view of prevailing pandemic condition, contactless OTP based authentication option has been introduced. Farmer will be able to purchase fertilizer without touching finger print sensor. The SMS Gateway will periodically send SMS to farmer about availability of fertilizer at retail outlet from where he last purchased the fertilizer.

2. South Eastern Railways zone has launched the project, "Operation my Saheli" to enhance the security of women passengers in the train throughout the entire journey from the originating point to their destinations.

Note: Since 18th September 2020, The pilot version of the project "Operation my Saheli" has been introduced in 3 trains: Howrah-Yesvantpur Durgam Cheruvu Special, Howrah- Ahmedabad Special and Howrah-Mumbai Special. "Operation my Saheli" is executed under the Framework of "Nirbhaya Fund" and no additional expenditure is provided by the Head of Railways.

3. **Thaawarchand Gehlot** has launched the "Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)" to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.

Note: The mission has been launched under the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in order to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions. The Objective of this fund is to provide concessional finance to the entities of the SC entrepreneurs.

4. NITI Aayog and Embassy of The Netherlands in India has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to support the decarbonization and energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy.

Note: The focus of the partnership is on co-creating innovative technological solutions by leveraging the expertise of the two entities. Through this collaboration, NITI Aayog and the Dutch Embassy seek a strategic partnership to create a platform that enables a comprehensive collaboration among stakeholders and influencers, including policymakers, industry bodies, OEMs, private enterprises, and sector experts.

5. India will construct first five animal overpasses on under construction Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

Note: These have been planned to ensure there are no disturbances to the Ranthambore Wildlife Corridor connecting Ranthambore and Mukundra (Darrah) wildlife sanctuaries in Rajasthan. The plan of the animal bridges have been approved by the Central Wildlife Board. The Rajasthan Government has also approved the project.

6. Sambhar lake will have temporary shelters for migratory birds.

Note: The Rajasthan government will build temporary shelters for migratory birds near the famous Sambhar Lake before this year's winter season, when a large number of avian guests from the cold northern regions of Central Asia are expected to arrive at the country's largest inland saline water body. More than 20,000 migratory birds had died due to avian botulism in the lake last year.

7. **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated the virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians namely "Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020".

Note: During the summit he encouraged indigenous vaccine production. The aim of the summit is to bring Indian origin experts in academic institutes and R&D organizations across the world on a single platform to debate upon collaboration mechanisms to strengthen academic and S&T (science & technology) base in India for global development

8. SUNIDHI initiative has been launched by the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) to digitise its entire provident fund and pension related activities.

Note: CMPFO, a statutory body under the coal ministry, administers different schemes of provident fund, pension and deposit linked insurance for coal mine workers. The project was inaugurated in the virtual presence of Coal Secretary Anil Kumar Jain and Coal India (CIL) Chairman Pramod Agrawal, among others.

9. The **Supreme Court** has constituted the Ravi Chopra Committee to look into the to assess the environmental violations in the Chardham road project.

Note: The SC appointed the HPC to oversee the dream project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi worth Rs 12000 Crore which aims to widen 889kms of road linking Chardham shrines. The Committee has alleged that the Chardham road project has violated court order. The Supreme Court had ruled that width of roads constructed under Chardham project shall be 5.5 metres. This was ruled based on the recommendation of Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH) for mountain roads.

10. **Puducherry airport** becomes the first airport of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) which is entirely solar-powered.

Note: The 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant was commissioned on 2nd October 2020. The approx cost of the plant is Rs 2.8 crore. With becoming absolutely power-neutral, the Puducherry airport will be able to meet its entire power requirement through the solar power plant.

11. The red cherry pepper chilli "Dalle Khursani" of Sikkim has earned the geographical indication (GI) tag from

the Union department of Industry promotion and internal trade.

Note: Notably, it is considered as one of the hottest chillies in the world. Dalle Khursani fetches as much as Rs 480 per kg in the local market today. Dalle Khursani has been included in the GI Registry of the Government of India on the basis of an application filed by the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (Neramac) on behalf of Sikkim. It is to be mentioned that the largest manufacturer of Dalle Khursani products is the state government-owned Sikkim Supreme.

12. The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC) signed an MoU with NCERT to convert educational materials into Indian Sign Language.

Note: The conversion of all education material in sign language will strengthen the concept of equal opportunity for everyone irrespective of their physical inability. The signing of MoU between ISLRTC and NCERT was attended by Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Cabinet Minister for Education amongst other members of the NCERT, ISLRTC, and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

13. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into an MoU with Swiggy, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform under the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

Note: The MoU aims at giving the street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses. The Ministry and Swiggy will run a pilot programme by on-boarding 250 vendors across five cities namely - Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, and Varanasi.

14. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the strategically important Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh.

Note: The 9.02 Kilometre Long Tunnel has been constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of INR 3, 300 crores. It connects Manali and Lahaul-Spiti Valley. The Tunnel is built in the Pir Panjal Range of Himalayas at an altitude of 3000 Meters (10, 000 Feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).

15. The tribal unit of the National Institute of Naturopathy was inaugurated in Pune.

Note: It would provide free clinical services to the tribal population in the area. A research unit on tribal practices for health maintenance had also been set up and it will be a "repository of knowledge and will work in areas of education, nutrition and health problems of the tribal population".

16. Ajay Kumar Bhalla will chair the screening panel constituted by the government of India to vet all Chinese foreign investment proposals.

Note: More than 100 proposals involving foreign direct investment (FDI) from China are pending. The screening panel is headed by the home secretary Ajay

- Kumar Bhalla and has the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) secretary as a member.
17. Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode will soon be launching an e-learning hub and library as a pilot project for villagers.
Note: The programme aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and academic system by providing knowledge and practices for the emerging professions. Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan is a flagship programme by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan is aimed at linking the Higher Education Institutions with a set of at least five villages.
 18. India's premium cotton has been named as Kasturi Cotton.
Note: Now India's premium cotton would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness. India is the second largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world. It produces about six million tonnes of cotton every year which is about 23 per cent of the world cotton. She said, India produces about 51 per cent of the total organic cotton production of the world.
 19. PM Narendra Modi launches physical distribution of property cards under SVAMITVA which scheme.
Note: Under this scheme, beneficiaries of 'SVAMITVA Scheme' can use the property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits. SVAMITVA Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme on National Panchayat Day 24th April 2020. In the States, the Revenue Department /Land Records Department are the Nodal Department and shall carry out the scheme with the support of State Panchayati Raj Department.
 20. PM Narendra Modi will release a commemorative coin of 100 rupees in honour of **Vijaya Raje Scindia**.
Note: One of the founder members of BJP, Vijaya Raje Scindia is popularly known as the Rajmata of Gwalior. The coin is being released in celebration of birth centenary of Vijaya Raje Scindia. The special commemorative coin was minted by the Finance Ministry as a part of these celebrations. This coin will be released by the Prime Minister on her birth anniversary.
 21. India ranked at 155th in the health spending index 2020 released by Oxfam.
Note: Globally, the report found, only 26 of the 158 countries surveyed were spending the recommended 15% of their budgets on health. "Nigeria, Bahrain and India, (the last of) which is currently experiencing the world's fastest-growing outbreak of Covid-19, were among the world's worst performing countries in tackling inequality going into the pandemic
 22. India ranked at 129th among 158 countries in the 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index.
Note: According to the report, India has spent only 4 percent of its budget on health during the Pandemic, which is the Fourth Lowest in the world. Nigeria, Bahrain and India are among the World's worst performing countries in tackling inequality during the pandemic. With 4% of Budget on Health, India has been ranked at 155 (4th from the Bottom) on the health spending index.
 23. The National Maritime foundation of India joined hand with Taiwan to foster cooperation in the Indo-pacific region.
Note: The think tanks will set up a joint task force to deepen the bilateral dialogue in the Indo-pacific region. They will also conduct joint Research and expand cooperation. The Asia exchange Foundation is waiting for the covid-19 travel restrictions to get over in order to send a delegation to India to hold direct talks. The foundation is the organiser of the Yushan Forum.
 24. NITI Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) jointly launched the India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) under the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP).
Note: IEMF aims to engage Indian researchers, knowledge partners, think tanks and national and international government agencies and departments for long-term energy planning. The Sustainable Growth is one of the four pillars of the US-India SEP entailing energy data management, energy modelling and collaboration on low carbon technologies as three key activities.
 25. The Union Cabinet has approved the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project which is partly funded by **World Bank**.
Note: The project will have a total project cost of ₹5,718 crore, with the World Bank's support amounting to about ₹3,700 crore (\$500 million). A major component of the project is the establishment of PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) as a National Assessment Centre.
 26. On the occasion of 75th Anniversary of which organization Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of Rs 75 denomination to mark the long-standing relation of India with the **FAO** organization.
Note: The Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation 17 recently developed biofortified varieties of eight crops. The event marks the highest priority accorded by the government to agriculture and nutrition, and is a testament of the resolve to completely eliminate hunger, undernourishment and malnutrition.
 27. India has signed an MoU with **Australia** to promote cooperation in surface and groundwater training, education and research to achieve water security for

- agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental purposes.
- Note:** The MoU has been signed to promote cooperation in surface and groundwater training, education and research to achieve water security for agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental purposes.
- 28.** Under chairmanship of the **Rajiv Gauba** has formulated a panel of secretaries to streamline telecom spectrum allocation process and examine the possibility of making the auction of spectrum an annual calendar event.
- Note:** The panel comprises the secretaries of home, defence, railways, telecom, Information and Broadcasting (I&B) and department of space. The decision regarding formulation of the panel has been made on the lines of telecom sector demand for the requirement of a clear road map for auctioning spectrum enabling them to plan and allocate resources efficiently.
- 29. MS Ananth** is the chairman of the constituted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to Prepare the Professional Engineers Bill.
- Note:** The committee is chaired by M.S. Ananth, Former Director of Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M). K. Somaprasad, MP demanded a professional regulatory mechanism in the field of Engineering to monitor and measure the professional ethics of engineers.
- 30.** The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has signed an agreement with IIT **Delhi** and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to create a pool of officials who will work to find technology solutions for its operational challenges.
- Note:** The about 3.25 lakh-strong force has about 500 officers and sub-officers who hold professional degrees in engineering and technology. The Memorandum of Understanding will enable these officers to undertake short-term specialised courses at these institutions and also pursue research work.
- 31.** India's rank in the "Global Hunger Index 2020" prepared jointly by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide -- **94th**.
- Note:** As per the report, India ranked 94th among 107 countries. According to the report India has the highest prevalence of wasted children under five years in the world, which reflects acute undernutrition.
- 32. Rs 10,000 crores** amount of loan will be provided by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to the cooperatives under the recently launched Ayushman Sahakar Scheme.
- Note:** The scheme will assist the cooperatives to play a crucial role in creating health care infrastructure in the country. The scheme was formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation. The NCDC will provide loans of Rs 10,000 crores to the cooperatives under the scheme. This includes financial assistance and working capital to meet operational requirements in health sector.
- 33. Mansukh Mandaviya** has launched the development of Indigenous Software solution for Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS) in New Delhi.
- Note:** The launch of indigenous software is in line with Prime Minister's Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission. The indigenous VTS and VTMS software will help in determining the position of shipping Vessels, position of other traffic and other meteorological hazard warnings, and traffic management within a port or waterway.
- 34.** Under chairmanship the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) **Madhabi Puri Buch** has constituted a Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) to set up Data Culture through Data Democratization in the Indian securities market.
- Note:** The committee is headed by Madhabi Puri Buch, Whole Time Member, SEBI and has CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of SEBI as members. The committee will recommend appropriate policy for accessing securities market data, identify segment wise data perimeters, data needs and gaps, recommend data privacy and data access regulations applicable to market data, etc.
- 35.** According to the State of Global Air 2020 report released by the US-based Health Effects Institute and Global Burden of Disease **India** recorded the highest annual average PM 2.5 concentration exposure in the world in 2019 _____
- Note:** India was followed by Nepal, Niger, Qatar and Nigeria in high PM 2.5 exposures. This means people in India are exposed to the highest PM 2.5 concentrations globally. India has been recording an increase in PM 2.5 pollution since 2010 contrary to Centre's claims that annual air pollution levels in the country are coming down.
- 36.** Online portal **CuRED** has been launched by the Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan that provides information about CSIR ushered repurposed drugs and their current stage of trials.
- Note:** The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been exploring multiple combination clinical trials of antivirals with host-directed therapies for a potential treatment of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. Apart from information about CSIR repurposed drugs, the website -- CuRED -- also provides details about clinical trials of diagnostics and devices in which the scientific body is involved.
- 37.** As per the Union Health Ministry the aim of the government is to make India Trans Fat free by **2022**.

Note: Chairing the event on World Food Day organized by FSSAI, Dr Harsh Vardhan said, due to the unprecedented challenges faced by the world on account of the Covid pandemic, there has been a renewed focus on food, nutrition, health, immunity and sustainability. He said, focus this year is on elimination of Trans Fats from the food supply chain.

38. **KAPILA** campaign has been launched by the Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on the 89th birth anniversary of former President and Scientist Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Note: Under this campaign, students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get information about the correct system of application process for patenting their invention and they will be aware of their rights. It has also been decided to celebrate the week of October 15th to 23rd as 'Intellectual Property Literacy Week'.

39. India will hand over INS Sindhuvir, a Kilo class submarine to **Myanmar**.

Note: INS Sindhuvir will be the first submarine of the Southeast Asian country and the move is in line with the overall Indian vision that aspires to guarantee security for all maritime partners. It belongs to a class of diesel-electric attack submarines built by the Soviet Union during the Cold War years.

40. **Chandigarh University** bags first rank in India as stand-alone institution for filling highest number of patents in a year.

Note: The annual rankings for the year 2018-19 was recently released by Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Government of India which comprises of Academic Institutions and Multinational Companies.

September (16 to 30th)

1. India has been elected as a member of the United Nation's Commission on Status of Women (CSW) from **2021-2025**.

Note: India will be a member for four years from 2021 to 2025. 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.

2. The union cabinet approved the Orbital Rail Corridor Project for **Haryana**.

Note: The project will be implemented by Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (HRIDC) and the estimated completion cost of the project is Rs. 5,617 crore.

3. The theme of the 4th edition of Global Ayurveda Summit which was inaugurated by the vice president Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu -- **Emerging Opportunities for Ayurveda during Pandemic**.

Note: The summit will include 8-day International Conference, 30-day International Exhibition and Focused Business to Business Meetings and participation from more than 25 countries. The objective of the summit is to showcase the Ayurveda immunity model to the global level as a solution named 'Health as One' and 'Immunity through Ayurveda'.

4. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **SwissRapid AG** for Magnetic Levitation Projects in India.

Note: The agreement has been signed in the backdrop of Government of India's initiatives of 'Make in India' & 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. The MoU will enable the Indigenous manufacturing of the State-of-the-art Maglev Trains. The MoU will set the foundation for

cooperation and exploration of mutually beneficial business opportunities.

5. India's rank in the in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries -- **116th**.

Note: However, India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank. The 2020 Human Capital Index update includes health and education data for 174 countries — covering 98 per cent of the world's population — up to March 2020, providing a pre-pandemic baseline on the health and education of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries.

6. **Hyderabad** city finds top position among the Indian cities in the Global Smart City Index released by the Institute for Management Development (IMD), in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD).

Note: The index ranks cities based on economic and technological data, as well as by their citizens' perceptions of how "smart" their cities are. The index has been topped by Singapore, followed by Helsinki and Zurich as top three smart cities. In the 2020 Smart City Index, Hyderabad was the top Indian city, placed at the 85th position

7. Airport India opened its first exclusive private jet terminal -- **Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi**.

Note: The Terminal was inaugurated by the Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The airport will allow movement of 150 jets on daily basis. The new terminal has capacity to handle over 50 passengers in an hour. The Ultra rich population of India has grown

- by 116% between 2013 and 2018. It is expected to increase more by 37% by 2023. The Ultra rich individuals are defined as persons with the net worth of 30 million USD.
8. The Ministry of AYUSH signed an MoU with **Ministry of Women and Child Development** to control Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
Note: The MoU will see some time-tested and scientifically proven Ayush-based solutions being adopted for controlling malnutrition in the country. The MoU will help in tackling the problem of malnutrition in mothers and children in the country.
 9. Public Sector Undertakings **Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL)** has been granted Bureau of Indian Standards – BIS certification for all its products.
Note: The company is also supporting and implementing the Make in India initiative of Government of India in one or other way. It is a leader in chemical industry has manufacturing unit at Kochi in Kerala. All the products of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL) are widely being accepted, especially in Pharmaceutical industry where the highest product quality is called for.
 10. Government entity **Indian Railway** is observing “Swachhta Pakhwara” from 16th to 30th September 2020.
Note: During the Pakhwara, intensive cleaning and sanitization of stations, trains, tracks, colonies and other railway establishments is being carried out with special focus on plastic waste management.
 11. The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) programme, an international initiative building the world’s largest radio telescope will have control systems designed and built by **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**.
Note: Several other multiple leading Indian scientific Institutions are also contributing to the project under the leadership of TCS. The National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) is the lead Telescope Manager (TM) of the project, while other institutes like Raman Research Institute (RRI) and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in Bengaluru, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune, multiple IITs, among other Indian institutes are scientific partners
 12. The 1.9 km-long Kosi Rail Mega Bridge project was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in **Bihar**.
Note: This was Mr. Modi’s fourth digital inauguration and foundation-laying ceremonies of projects and plans in poll-bound Bihar. The 1.9 km-long Kosi rail mega bridge on river Kosi, constructed at a cost of ₹516 crore, will connect Bihar to its north-eastern part and has strategic importance as well along the India-Nepal border.
 13. Foundation station for the construction of Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex has been laid down in **Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir**.
Note: Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex will spread over 270 kanals of land and is being undertaken under the Prime Minister’s Development Package (PMDP) at an estimated cost of Rs.58.23 crore. The State of Art Sports Complex will be first of its kind sports complex in the Northern Region, having multiple sports facilities of international and national standards in one place.
 14. IIT Roorkee has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar to generate frontier technologies and produce quality manpower in the field of agricultural research.
Note: According to the MoU, both institutions will collaborate in research programmes where IITR and OUAT would work jointly in the field of Agriculture in the field of Genomics, Transgenics and Metabolomics, crop improvement, Information and Communication, application of Sensor in agriculture, information and communication, IT-based societal development and related aspects of Agriculture leading to the creation of rural livelihood opportunities
 15. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at **Darbhanga, Bihar**.
Note: The total cost will be Rs.1264 crore and is likely to be completed within four years from the date of the approval of Government of India. The medical college will have 100 MBBS seats.
 16. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19 has been extended for another **six months**.
Note: It was announced on 30th March this year for a period of 90 days and it was extended for a further period of 90 days up to 25th September. The scheme has now been extended for another 180 days.
 17. **Jitendra Singh** has unveiled the Logo and song for festival “Destination North East-2020”.
Note: The Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh has unveiled the Logo and song for festival “Destination North East-2020” (The Emerging Delightful Destinations) through a video conference. The four-day event is to be formally inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah on September 27, 2020.
 18. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched “Ghar Tak Fibre” scheme in **Bihar**.
Note: The optical fibre services are being provided under the scheme “Ghar Tak Fibre”. These services are to be executed along with combined efforts of Common Service Centre.

19. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched a National Conservation Strategy for **One-Horned Rhinoceros**.
Note: The conservation initiatives for rhino has also enriched the grassland management which help in reducing the negative impacts of climate change through carbon sequestration. India is home to the largest number of greater one-horned rhinoceros in the world with a population in the range of 3000 animals in Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.
20. **HCL Technologies** has announced the acquisition of Australian IT firm DWS Ltd for \$115.8 million in a bid to further expand its digital offerings especially in Australia and New Zealand.
Note: The DWS Group closed FY 2020 with revenues of \$ 122.9 million and has over 700 employees with operations in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Canberra
21. Government department **Central Pollution Control Board** has celebrated its 46th Foundation Day.
Note: The CBCB was established on September 23, 1974 under The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as a technical arm of Central Government for environmental research, monitoring, regulation and enforcement in the country.
22. '**KRITAGYA**' name has been given to the hackathon planned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).
Note: This hackathon has been planned to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women friendly equipments. Students, faculties and innovators/entrepreneurs from any university / technical institution across the country can apply and participate in the event in the form of a group.
23. The Ministry of Education celebrated 'Shikshak Parv' from **8th September- 25th September, 2020**.
Note: Under the Shikshak Parv initiative, a National webinar on "Curriculum Reforms & National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and Pedagogy" was organized. The webinar was organized to highlight the salient features of the New Education Policy (NEP 2020).
24. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and **NITI Aayog** have organized an Artificial Intelligence (AI), RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020' from October 5-9, 2020.
Note: RAISE 2020 will be a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and chart a course for using AI for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility, among other sectors.
25. Indian Railways is planning to complete 100% electrification of broad-gauge routes -- **2023**.
Note: Around 63 per cent broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year. A total of 23,765 route kilometre lines are yet to be electrified in the country.
26. The central government has allowed the states to spend **50%** of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to fight COVID-19.
Note: The move came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi told chief ministers of the seven worst affected states that his government has increased the states' limit to spend the SDRF to boost infrastructure to fight the pandemic. The areas where the states can spend up to 50 per cent of the SDRF include quarantine, sample collection and screening facilities.
27. For which Indian city a Biodiversity Map has been made by artist and cartoonist Rohan Chakravarty -- **Mumbai**.
Note: The Map has been created by artist and cartoonist Rohan Chakravarty. The map has been created specially, for a campaign called 'Biodiversity by the Bay', initiated by Ministry of Mumbai's Magic, a youth collective for climate action. The campaign has a five-point objective, including getting protected status for the Lesser Flamingo and livelihood support for coastal Koli communities.

Important News – State

October (1st to 21st)

1. Nagaland state government launched "Livelihood Generation Programme for Returned Migrant Workers".
Note: The state government, with support from the North East Council, will initially train around 100 such returnees under the "Livelihood Generation Programme for Returned Migrant Workers".
2. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the YSR Jala Kala Scheme under which farmers will be provide free borewells.
Note: The government said that about three lakh farmers will be profited from the scheme and will cover five lakh acres of land under cultivation with an estimated cost of Rs 2,340 crore in four years. The eligible farmers can apply either online or through the village secretariats. The applications will be approved after hydrogeological and geophysical surveys.
3. Yuddh Pradushan Ke Virudh campaign has been launched by Delhi government.

- Note:** Under the campaign separate detailed plans have been prepared for each of the 13 pollution hotspots identified in the city. The chief minister said one of the major reasons for high levels of pollution in Delhi and nearby areas is stubble burning.
4. Goa state government has launched an action plan to support agriculture and animal husbandry under its "Aatmanirbhar" programme.
Note: The government has announced a series of initiatives under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa programme' (ABSGP) including promoting dairy and poultry farming. It talks about checking 'menace' of wild animals and cattle at agriculture fields. To help farmers, crop insurance and fencing will be availed. Horticulture cultivation, procurement of agricultural equipment, and sustainable harvesting of medical plants will also be assisted with it.
 5. Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda launched the home delivery facility of fertilisers for farmers in Andhra Pradesh.
Note: Gowda launched POS 3.1 software, SMS Gateway and home delivery facility of fertilisers for farmers in the state. Farmers will be able to purchase fertiliser without touching fingerprint sensors. The state govt. has launched 10,641 Rythu Bharosa Kendralu in all gram panchayats to provide farmers with quality inputs and allied services.
 6. West Bengal government has launched 'Pathashree Abhijan' scheme for road repair.
Note: It is a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometres across the state will be repaired. West Bengal govt has collated a list of the roads that will be repaired under the new scheme after the people of the state reached out to her through the 'Didi Ke Bolo' initiative of the government.
 7. Assam government launched a portal 'Kritagyata' an online pension submission and tracking system.
Note: With the help of the portal, the retired government employee, besides submitting pension related papers on line will get opportunity to check the status of his pension. The portal has been created in line with the 'Bhabhisya' portal of Government of India.
 8. Gujarat state government has announced a 'Digital Seva Setu' programme to ensure optimum utilisation of technology for public welfare in rural areas.
Note: Under the 'Digital Seva Setu' program, public welfare services will be made available in all the 14,000-gram panchayats in the state by connecting village panchayats through an optical fibre network.
 9. Assam state government has launched a mobile app "Kisan Rath" that connects more than 10,000 farmers, 50 farmer-producer organizations and 1,000 verified agricultural traders on its interface.
Note: The app has been customized by National Informatics Centre (NIC) Assam to suit the requirements of the state. It is available in 3 languages- Assamese, Hindi and English. PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Fasal Bima Yojana, KCC etc., have strengthened agricultural ecosystem in the country and made agriculture a dignified calling.
 10. Uttarakhand state government has launched "Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana".
Note: The scheme is aimed at promoting self-employment of the youth and promoting the production of Green Energy. The targeted beneficiaries include youths and migrant workers, who returned home after leaving jobs in various parts of the country due to pandemic.
 11. Delhi state government has exempted road tax on its battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle Policy.
Note: The Delhi government has exempted road tax on its battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle Policy. The Transport department, in its notification issued stated that the Lieutenant Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi exempted the tax levied upon all battery electric vehicles with immediate effect.
 12. Haryana state government has launched "Lab on Wheels" to test the water quality in the state under Jal Jeevan Mission.
Note: The water quality of Haryana is mainly affected by fluoride, iron, nitrate and alkalinity. Lab on wheels is a mobile laboratory. The mobile laboratory has been launched under Jal Jeevan Mission. The mobile laboratory will test for alkalinity, hardness, chlorine, nitrate, zinc, turbidity, PH and other microbiological tests.
 13. Kerala state becomes the first state in the country to make public education completely digital.
Note: The project of making public education completely digital in Kerala was implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education. Around 3,74,274 digital services were distributed in 16,027 schools in Kerala. The project also set up high-tech labs in more than 11,275 schools at primary and secondary levels.
 14. Kerala state government has become the first in the country to decide to form a Welfare Fund Board for the uplift of farmers in the state.
Note: The state cabinet decided to set up the board to be known as 'Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board'. For the farmers to become a member of the Board, they need to pay Rs 100 as registration fee and a monthly fee of Rs 100. The government will provide an equivalent share of upto Rs 250 to the members of the Welfare Fund.

15. A toll-free government helpline for mental health "Mann Samvad" was launched Rajasthan.
Note: The helpline 1800-180-0018 launched by the state government to continuously strengthening mental health services during the coronavirus period. The facility of free tele-counselling is being provided to patients with mental health issues that through the helpline.
16. In the country's first and unique drive the agriculture department of Goa has collaborated with the Postal Department to get farmers enrolled in the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) scheme.
Note: Three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months are transferred into the farmers account. The scheme defines family as husband, wife and minor children. The local postman who we are used to seeing bringing mail to our doorstep so far will come to fill the form for the 11,000 farmers in the state who are eligible for this scheme as per the department records.
17. The multi-national food and beverage major PepsiCo is setting up a greenfield potato chips production unit in Uttar Pradesh.
Note: The unit is being set up in Kosi - Mathura on 35 acres of land provided by UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA). The unit, which is expected to commence commercial production by middle of the next year, will facilitate direct and indirect employment to about 1,500 patrons.
18. Hollongi airport which a greenfield airport is being built Arunachal Pradesh.
Note: The new domestic airport, with an area of 4,100 square metres, the Hollongi Airport will be able to handle 200 passengers during peak hours. The terminal will be an energy efficient building provisioned with Rain Water Harvesting system and sustainable landscape. The tentative date for completion of the project is November, 2022.
19. Gujarat state government has announced to has signed a pact with Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) to set up a greenfield zinc smelter in the state.
Note: This facility will entail an investment of Rs 5000-10,000 crore in phases, creating more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs and will be operational by 2022. The proposed 300 (kilo tonnes per annum) production capacity project would provide big employment opportunities to the local youths in this tribal area.
20. Rajasthan state police has launched 'AAWAJ' — 'Action Against Women-related crime and Awareness for Justice' the campaign to spread awareness among woman about the crime against them.
Note: Named 'AAWAJ' — Action Against Women-related crime and Awareness for Justice the campaign was launched by Civil Rights and Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the police and will run across the state to generate gender equality and curb crimes against women. In the first month of the campaign from October 13 to November 12, special efforts will be made to curb rape incidents, besides spreading awareness about the laws related to women safety.
21. Odisha government has launched "Sujal", 'Drink from Tap Mission' scheme, to provide round the clock supply of quality tap drinking water in all urban areas of the state.
Note: The state has set the target to provide piped water connections to all urban areas in the state by March 2022. Odisha government has set Rs 1300 crore for this scheme which will benefit over 15 lakh people in 15 towns in a phased manner.
22. Odisha government signed an agreement with Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) to sponsor the Indian national rugby teams till 2023 and facilitate high-performance training and conditioning of the players.
Note: Odisha government signed an agreement with Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) to sponsor the Indian national rugby teams till 2023 and facilitate high-performance training and conditioning of the players. The agreement was signed at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Mou was signed by R Vineel Krishna, Director of Sports & Youth Services Department, Odisha and Maneck Unwala, President of IRFU.
23. In Uttar Pradesh state the 'Safe City Project', a 180-day-long campaign has been launched under which the police and other departments will work towards safety of women.
Note: The 'Safe City Project', a 180-day-long campaign under which the police and other departments will work towards safety of women. The central government has approved the project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs 194 crore with an aim to strengthen security of women in public places.
24. Asan Conservation Reserve has become the India's 38th Ramsar site located in Uttarakhand.
Note: The Reserve is located on the banks of Yamuna river near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of the Himalayan state. Ramsar declares Asan Conservation Reserve as a site of international importance. With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 38, the highest in South Asia.
25. According to the Indian Tourist Statistics 2020 Uttar Pradesh state attracted the highest number of domestic tourists in the country in 2019.
Note: According to the Indian Tourist Statistics 2020, 53,58,55,162 domestic tourists visited the state in 2019. The state bagged the third spot in terms of the arrival of foreign tourists. As many as 47,45,181 foreign tourists visited UP in the same year.
26. Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for

India's first Multi-modal Logistic Park (MMLP) in Assam state.

Note: The park will be developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Government of India. It is being created by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), owned by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH).

27. **Odisha** government has launched the electricity consumer service portal "Mo Bidyut" and mobile application, over a virtual platform.

Note: The portal was developed by the Energy Department and dedicated to the public under the 5T (Team work, Transparency, Technology, Time leading to Transformation) mechanism, an initiative of the government of Odisha. The electricity services provided by the Mo Bidyut will be governed and monitored under the "Mo Sarkar" (My Government).

September (16 to 30th)

1. **Maharashtra** government has launched 'My Family, My Responsibility' Campaign to tackle COVID 19.
Note: The campaign aims to motivate the maximum number of people to adopt a new lifestyle for effective COVID-19 control and also aims to reach people before the virus reaches them. It's main objective is to achieve effective healthcare education for the control of COVID-19. It will be conducted in 2 phases.
2. **Gujarat** government has signed an MoU with the SIDBI to increase self-reliance and provide capacity building and market support to the MSMEs in the state.
Note: The objective is also to hasten technology transfer and innovation within the state. SIDBI will help the small scale industries in the state to come out of the current COVID-19 situation effectively, and also evaluate the feasibility of infrastructure projects and common facility centres for MSME clusters in the state.
3. **Karnataka** government has approved the 'Tourism Policy 2020-25' to boost tourism related aspects within the state and promote tourism at the district-level.
Note: The policy plans to give a boost to tourism related to heritage, wildlife, spiritual, cultural, adventure, coastal, nature, health and agriculture. The department plans to offer subsidies which have been enhanced to ₹10 crore from ₹1.2 crore under the new policy with a focus on districts and non-traditional tourist circuits.
4. **Rajasthan** government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to develop its micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) ecosystem.
Note: This MoU will support the state government to have a better understanding and provide better solutions for the problems of MSMEs. Under this MoU, the Department of Industries of Rajasthan and SIDBI will work together to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to the MSMEs in the state. This partnership with SIDBI will promote the state's innovative cluster-based thinking.
5. **Maharashtra** government has launched a new road accident insurance scheme to provide timely treatment to victims that could help to reduce the fatality rate.
Note: The scheme has been named after late Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray. Under the Balasaheb Thackeray Accidental Insurance Scheme, an accident victim will be provided treatment in nearby hospitals in the first 72 hours of the incident.
6. **Mizoram** is the happiest state as per the first all India Happiness Report covering all states and Union Territories measuring happiness across the country.
Note: Overall, states from the Northeast Indian region have fared well in the survey, and Mizoram has topped in the happiness rankings among all; the states and union territories in the country. Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman, and the Nicobar Islands are the top three in the list of states/union territories.
7. **Delhi** government has launched a health and nutrition helpline to ensure children under six years of age get nutritional supplements and regular immunization doses.
Note: The helpline, 'Sehat evam Poshan Saathinwas', will remain operational 24X7 in collaboration with NGO Indus Action. Once a call is received on the number, 011-41193903, the team at the DCPCR will connect back with the caller within one-two days and register the grievance.
8. **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched 'Poshan Sarkar' program to ensure participation and leadership of local bodies-Gram Panchayats and Urban Bodies in the nutrition campaign.
Note: The main objective of the Poshan Sarkar programme is to eliminate the malnutrition by helping the Gram Panchayat and the Urban Bodies in the nutrition campaign. Various activities will be organized under this. Under the programme, nutrition resolution will be passed in all Gram Panchayats/ Nagar Panchayats /Urban Bodies.
9. **Gujarat** government has launched Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY), a scheme of providing interest-free loans to women's groups in the state.

- Note:** Under the scheme, the government is expected to disburse interest-free loans to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore to women to help them become self-reliant (atmanirbhar). Each group with 10 women members will be eligible for the loan. As part of the scheme, the interest on the loans will be paid to the banks by the government. This is expected to cost the state exchequer approximately Rs 170 crore.
- 10. Gujarat** government approved a letter of intent (LOI) for the world's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal.
Note: The project will be developed jointly by UK-headquartered Foresight Group, Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group and a Netherland-based consortium. Apart from the CNG terminal, the investors would also develop a Ro-Ro terminal (for roll-on/roll-off ships), liquid cargo terminal and container terminal at Bhavnagar.
- 11. Amazon India** has set up an all-women delivery station in **Kadi, Gujarat**.
Note: The new all-women delivery station, operated by a delivery service partner, is part of the company's efforts towards increasing participation of women in the workforce. In 2016, the company had launched its first all-women delivery station in India, with its partner in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- 12. Karnataka** government has launched the "Arthika Spandana" programme of disbursing loans to the tune of ₹ 39,300 crore through various cooperative institutions.
Note: Under this scheme, ₹15,300 crore would be disbursed to the agriculture sector while a sum of ₹24,000 crore would be earmarked for the non-agricultural sector.
- 13. Uttarakhand** tourism department has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote adventure sports activities in the state.
Note: ITBP along with the department will now work on the building of adventure sports activities like land base adventure centre, water base adventure centre, aero base adventure centre at Rajiv Gandhi Adventure Sports Academy situated at Tehri Lake. It will train over 200 candidates selected by the state government or tourism department every year free of cost. All arrangements and expenses for the operation of and training in the academy will be borne by the ITBP.
- 14. Madhya Pradesh** government announced to launch 'Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana' in the lines of Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.
Note: Under the announced scheme, the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, getting Rs. 6,000 per annum, will be getting additional financial assistance of Rs. 4,000, making their total annual assistance to be Rs. 10,000 per annum.
- 15. Assam** government has launched the "Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni Yojana" of the state transport department.
Note: Under the scheme, Light Motor Vehicle Service would be launched in all the villages of the state to improve rural connectivity and generate employment in the villages. One vehicle would be provided to one beneficiary per village.
- 16. Rajasthan** government has approved the 'Moksha Kalash Yojana-2020' to allow free bus travel to two members of the family of the deceased to immerse ashes of their loved ones in the Ganga in Haridwar.
Note: This Moksha Kalash Yojana aims to allow free bus travel to two members of the family of the deceased to immerse ashes of their loved ones in the Ganga in Haridwar.
- 17. Telangana** government to launch web portal 'Dharani' for integrated land record management.
Note: The launch of the portal, developed by National Informatics Centre. The registration fee survey number wise will be fixed well before the launch of the portal. Training and licences will be issued to document writers at Tahsildar and sub-registrar offices. Data pertaining to all types of properties should be uploaded in the portal before Vijayadasami.
- 18. Odisha** government has launched Radio Pathshala program for students up to class 8.
Note: The program will be broadcast from All India Radio stations in the state for 15 minutes daily (10 to 1015 hours) from ten Akshvani Kendras. The audio of the program will also be made available on the online DIKSHA platform for the students for whom schools have been kept out of bounds since March this year.
- 19. Maharashtra** government has banned the sale of unpackaged "loose" cigarettes and beedis, making it the first Indian state to do so.
Note: Maharashtra currently contributes to around 8-10% of the cigarette sales volumes. The move is aimed at ensuring that customers see the graphic, public health warnings mandated on cigarette packaging.
- 20. Assam** government has announced a new scheme under which loan up to ₹20 lakh with interest subsidy would be provided to entrepreneurs to revive the tourism industry.
Note: Under the 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme', loan between ₹1 lakh and ₹20 lakh will be extended to interested local youths to take up new initiatives so that the tourism sector gets a fresh lease of life amid the coronavirus crisis. As part of the scheme, the advances will be provided for five years, while the state government will give first year's interest and will be a one-year moratorium on repayment.
- 21. Maharashtra** government has modified Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 that will enable tribals and other traditional forest dwelling families to build houses in the neighbourhood forest areas.

Note: The move aims to prevent the migration of forest-dwelling families outside their native villages and provide them housing areas by extending the village site into forest land in their neighbourhood. The

notification is the result of the consistent efforts of Vayam — a community-based organisation — working for the empowerment of tribal communities in Palghar and Nashik districts.

Important News – World

October (1st to 21st)

1. Human rights organization, Amnesty International has announced that it has decided to halt its operations in India after a successful eight-year run alleging that its bank accounts were frozen as part of government's "witch-hunt".
Note: The decision which came after the recent move by the Enforcement Directorate to freeze the organisation's accounts will impact about 150 employees.
2. India with France to launch a constellation of maritime surveillance satellites to monitor illegal spillage of oil in the Indian Ocean Region.
Note: In August 2020, the ISRO and the French Space Agency CNES agreed to develop and build a constellation of satellites. CNES is Centre National d'études spatiales, the National Centre for Space Studies. The satellites will carry optical-remote sensing instruments, telecommunication and radar instruments.
3. China is all set to send the world's first mining robot named 'asteroid mining robot' into space by November 2020 to identify and extract resources.
Note: The mining robot will be launched into space by a Chinese Long March series rocket. The 30-gram spacecraft, NEO-1, is likely to be launched as a secondary payload on a Chinese Long March rocket. This company also has another mission, Yuanwang-1 ('Look up-1'), nicknamed 'Little Hubble', which is to be launched by late 2021 or early 2022.
4. Google announced the launch of its nationwide campaign 'Make Small Strong' in order to help support small businesses and drive demand through customer support.
Note: "Make Small Strong" campaign is meant to rally support from the citizens for small businesses. The citizens can help small businesses by buying locally, leaving reviews and ratings and by promoting their favourite retailers on social media.
5. USA committed \$1.9 million to India to support informal sector workers, micro enterprises.
Note: The financial assistance from US Agency for International Development (USAID), extended generously by the American people to partners in India, will support efforts to rebuild local economies and improve the livelihoods of Indians who have been hit hardest by this pandemic.
6. India will build a 100-bedded cancer hospital and a 22,000-seater cricket stadium in Maldives.
Note: This project will build on the already close bilateral cooperation in the health sector and include a robust component of human resource development. Projects covered under the LoC include several infrastructure development projects.
7. Russia will chair the 12th BRICS Summit to be held on be held on 17th November 2020 via video conference.
Note: The theme of the Meeting of the Leaders of BRICS countries is "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth". The Summit this year is being held under the Chairmanship of Russia and aims at a multifaceted cooperation between the member countries.
8. World Economic Forum will jointly establish country's first of its kind Advanced Manufacturing hub (AMHUB) in association with Guidance.
Note: AMHUB is Advanced Manufacturing hub and is first of its kind in the country. Guidance is the nodal investment promotion agency of the state of Tamil Nadu. AMHUB will help the state in the sectors of solar energy, electronics, electric mobility and textiles. It will help boost production sector of Tamil Nadu by identifying regional opportunities brought by Fourth Industrial Revolution.
9. Russia has successfully tested a new hypersonic anti-ship cruise missile Tsirkon.
Note: The Tsirkon missile was fired from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate in the White Sea in the Russian Arctic and successfully hit its target. Russia boasts of developing a number of "invincible" weapons that surpass existing systems and include Sarmat intercontinental missiles and Burevestnik cruise missiles. The first Avangard hypersonic missiles were put into service in December last year.
10. The Union Cabinet approved signing of an agreement with Japan that is aimed at enhancing cooperation in emerging technologies, protection of critical infrastructure, cyberspace and to mitigate threats to communication networks.
Note: The approval to the pact by the cabinet comes in the midst of growing concerns over cyberattacks from China, particularly after India banned over 100 mobile apps with Chinese links.

11. As per the latest report of FIS India has become the global leader in real-time financial transactions with 41 million transactions per day.
Note: The Covid-19 pandemic has seen India doubling its every day real-time transactions at 41 million, says the latest report from FIS. FIS is a leading provider of technology solutions for merchants, banks and capital markets firms globally. According to the report released, six other countries also saw more than doubling of their real-time payment transactions year-over-year, while four saw at least a twofold increase in transaction value.
12. Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Kuwait.
Note: He took charge as the PM in 2019. He started his career in 1978, joining the ministry of foreign affairs, where he worked at various capacities, including being a member of Kuwait's permanent mission to the United Nations (1983-1989).
13. The Blue Flag programme is operated under the auspices of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), its headquarter is located in **Copenhagen, Denmark**.
Note: The beaches which got International Blueflag Certification are Shivrajpur beach in Dwarka Gujarat, Ghoghla beach in Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden Beach in Odisha and Radhanagar beach in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches, marinas.
14. As per the announcement made by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Pakistan will continue to remain under "grey list".
Note: The Asia-Pacific group of FATF submitted a report titled "Follow up report on mutual evaluation of Pakistan". The report is first of its kind. The decision of putting Pakistan under grey list was taken based on this report.
15. Bangladesh has introduced the death penalty for rape.
Note: Demonstrations have broken out across the country after harrowing footage of a group of men stripping and attacking a woman went viral on social media. The clip sparked outrage in the South Asian country, where activists say only a tiny percentage of sexual assault victims see justice. Previously, the maximum punishment for rape was life imprisonment.
16. The annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) 2021 will be organized in Lucerne.
Note: The World Economic Forum (WEF) said it will hold its Annual Meeting 2021 in Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland, from May 18 to 21, as against the traditional venue of ski resort town Davos in January-end. The change in schedule and venue was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
17. Argentina become the first country in the world to approve genetically modified wheat.
Note: The drought-resistant HB4 wheat variety was developed by Argentine biotechnology company Bioceres, working with the National University and Conicet. Bioceres' HB4 wheat is resistant to drought and tolerates the herbicide glufosinate sodium, a combination the company says can help boost yields on dry years.
18. Sooronbai Jeenbekov has resigned from the post of prime minister of **Kyrgyzstan**.
Note: Kyrgyzstan President, Sooronbai Jeenbekov has resigned from his post, following 10 days of unrest caused by protesters who have demanded his removal from office. On 4th October 2020, he was re-elected as the President in Parliamentary election, causing political turmoil throughout the country.
19. Two Asian countries **Pakistan and Nepal** have been re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council.
Note: Pakistan and Nepal have been re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council, while China won a seat by the smallest margin showing a drastic drop in standing. Established by the UN General Assembly in 2006 as the principal United Nations entity dealing with human rights, the Human Rights Council consists of 47 elected Member.
20. Two countries **India and France** have been re-elected as the President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), for a term of two years.
Note: Four new Vice-Presidents were also chosen to represent the four regions of ISA. The representatives of Fiji & Nauru for Asia Pacific Region; Mauritius & Niger for Africa Region; UK & Netherlands for Europe and others Region, and Cuba and Guyana for Latin America and Caribbean Region assumed the vice presidency.
21. According to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index for 2020, **USA** is the most powerful nation influencing the Asia-Pacific.
Note: China is closing in on the U.S. as the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific, as America's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic tarnishes its reputation. While America retained its place as the region's top superpower, its 10-point lead on China two years ago has been halved, according to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index for 2020, which ranks 26 nations and territories.
22. Japan has signed an agreements with **Vietnam** country to ensure "free and open Indo-Pacific".
Note: Recently, the QUAD grouping held in Tokyo, reaffirmed the significance of "free and open Indo-Pacific" and raised concerns over increasing Chinese influence in the region. The agreement between Japan and Vietnam will add to QUAD decisions in the region. The United States has invited the ASEAN countries to join QUAD grouping.

23. Israel will have a first separate 'Water Attache' in India from January 2021 which will share its best practices and technologies for advancements in India's water management and agriculture sectors.

Note: Notably, water is one of the biggest challenges in India post-COVID. Apart from this, Israel will also nominate an honorary Consul in the North-East with the aim to increase its presence and collaboration in that region. These announcements were made by Israeli Ambassador to India Ron Malka.

24. The North Atlantic Treaty organisation is to setup a new Space Centre in **Germany**.

Note: The new Centre will gather information about possible threats to satellites. The centre is to be

developed into a command centre of defensive measures in near future. The centre is being setup based on Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty organisation.

25. India has contributed to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Near East --**one million dollars**.

Note: India has contributed one million dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Near East. This aid will support the Agency's programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services.

September (16 to 30th)

1. Abraham Accord, which is the first Arab-Israeli peace deal in 26 years has been signed with three countries **Israel, UAE, Bahrain**.

Note: This was hosted by the US President Donald Trump. The UAE was represented by Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed and Bahrain by Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al Zayani. The Arab Accord — essentially bilateral agreements with Israel — does not mention the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

2. Cyclone 'Sally' hits **USA**.

Note: Sally could hit Alabama, Florida and Mississippi coasts causing massive flash flooding and storm surges of up to 7 feet in some spots. Its languid pace recalls 2017's Hurricane Harvey, which dumped several feet of rain over a period of days on the Houston area, causing major damage.

3. Walmart Foundation announced two new grants, totalling USD 4.5 million to help improve farmer livelihoods in India.

Note: The new grants will help two NGOs — Tanager and PRADAN — to further scale their efforts to help farmers earn more from the improved output and fair market access. Both grantees will focus on increasing opportunities for women farmers via farmer producer organisations (FPOs).

4. Fiumicino International Airport (FCO), Rome has become the first airport in the world to be certified with "COVID-19 5-star airport rating" from Skytrax, a U.K.-based airport and airline review firm.

Note: FCO, also known as the Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport, is the busiest airport in Italy. The COVID-19 ratings for hygiene by Skytrax was based on a combination of procedural efficiency checks, visual observation analysis and ATP sampling tests. Fiumicino Airport earned the 5-star rating for the hygiene processes and other preventative measures in place to help reduce the spread of Coronavirus.

5. Liberia declares rape a national emergency after spike in cases.

Note: The move comes after thousands of Liberians protested against rising incidents of rape in the capital Monrovia last month in a bid to draw attention to the country's alarming rate of sexual assault. The government will also establish a so-called "national security task force" on sexual and gender-based violence.

6. Aviation company **Airbus** to launch World's first Commercial Hydrogen aircraft by 2035.

Note: The three concepts of the company has been introduced under the code name ZEROe.

The concept of are as follows:

- Turbofan design. It can accommodate 120 to 200 passengers and can fly at a range of 2000 plus nautical miles.
- Blended wing body design. This type can accommodate up to 200 passengers. Here the wings merge with the main body of the aircraft.
- Turboprop design. This type of aircraft can accommodate up to 200 passengers. It is capable of travelling at a speed of 1000 + nautical miles. They are perfect for short haul trips.

7. The first ever Cargo Ferry Service has been launched between India and **Maldives**.

Note: The Cargo Ferry Vessel MCP Linz operated by the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) will connect Tuticorin and Cochin ports in India with Kulhudhufushi and Male ports in the Maldives. The MCP Linz is a combination vessel which can carry 380 TEUs and 3000 MT on bulk cargo, and will have a turnaround time of 10-12 days for its voyages.

8. Britain will co-host the a global climate summit on December 12, 2020.

Note: National governments will be invited to present more ambitious and high-quality climate plans at the summit, which would involve government leaders, as well as the private sector and civil society. The summit is intended to increase momentum ahead of the United

Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) to be held in Glasgow in November 2021.

9. **Denmark** and India has established Green Strategic Partnership to fight against Climate Change.
Note: During the summit, the leaders established Green Strategic Partnership to fight against Climate Change. The Partnership is mutually beneficial to both the countries to advance political cooperation, create jobs, expand economic relations. It will focus on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals. The partnership is to

be built on the existing Joint Commission for Cooperation that was signed between the countries in 2009.

10. **Sri Lanka** has banned the cattle slaughter recently.
Note: Sri Lanka is a Buddhist majority country, those following the religion constitute 70% of the country's population. Most of them do not eat beef, as they consider cows sacred, while minority Muslims, who make up about 10%, Christians and a section of Hindus consume beef.

Honour & Awards

Nobel Prizes and Laureates

Nobel Prizes and Laureates 2020		
Nobel Laureates	Field	Contribution
Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice	Medicine	Discovered Hepatitis C virus
Roger Penrose	Physics	Discovered that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity
Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez		Discovered supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy
Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna	Chemistry	Discovered the method for genome editing
Louise Glück	Literature	For her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal
World Food Programme (WFP)	Peace	For its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to

		prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.
Paul R. Milgrom, Robert B. Wilson	Economic Sciences	For improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats

October (1st to 21st)

- Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2020** announced by the central government recently, the award in given outstanding contribution in the field of Science and Technology.

Note: The prize is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45 for outstanding research in seven fields—Biology, Chemistry, Environment Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Physics. The Prize is bestowed on a person who, in the opinion of CSIR, has made conspicuously important and outstanding contributions to human knowledge and progress fundamental and applied, in the particular field of endeavour, which is his/her specialization.
- Kerala's 'Human by Nature Print Campaign' bagged the Prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing.

Note: The awards were announced during a presentation ceremony of Virtual PATA Travel Mart 2020 in Beijing. The PATA Awards are supported and sponsored by Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO). 'Human by Nature' was a marketing strategy to revive tourism that was hit by the 2018 floods and the Nipah outbreak.
- Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice** won the 2020 Nobel Prize Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

Note: The 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice "for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus," the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet announced in Stockholm, Sweden. The trio's work helped explain a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the hepatitis A and B viruses
- Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of HDFC Bank, Ravi Santhanam has been recognised in the Forbes list of 'The World's Most Influential CMOs'.

Note: Ranked at Number 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of Apple, BMW, Lego, Adobe, Microsoft, P&G among others. This is the 8th edition of this annual list released by Forbes with research partners Sprinklr and LinkedIn. This year, 427 global CMOs were eligible for consideration. It is generated using data from news reports, websites and social networks to measure influence.
- Pro-democracy campaigner of Belarus Ales Bialiatski has been awarded with Swedish honour sometimes called "the alternative Nobel Prize along with three others.

Note: Ales Bialiatski of Belarus and his NGO Viasna, Nasrin Sotoudeh of Iran, Bryan Stevenson of the United States and indigenous rights and environmental activist Lottie Cunningham Wren of Nicaragua share the Right Livelihood Award. Although the Right Livelihood Award is promoted as an "Alternative Nobel Prize", it is not a Nobel prize.
- Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez** won the Physics Nobel Prize 2020.

Note: The Prize in Physics 2020 was divided, one half awarded to Roger Penrose for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity. The other half jointly to Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy.
- Ratan Tata** has been bestowed with lifetime achievement award by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC).

Note: The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has bestowed a lifetime achievement award to Indian business icon Ratan Tata at a closed-door meeting, owing to ongoing pandemic. Tata, who grew the revenues for India's largest conglomerate 'The Tata Group' to nearly USD 100 billion by 2011-12, remains an influential industrialist, philanthropist and humanitarian to the day.
- Sanjay Singh** has been chosen for 'Gandhi' Award instituted by the Mahatma Gandhi National Foundation.

Note: He was instrumental in India's diplomatic intervention to remove Mahatma Gandhi's images on beer bottles of a private company in Israel, Mr Jose, who brought the matter into the public domain. The Award carries a sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi, cash prize of Rs 25,001 and a certificate.
- Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna** won the Chemistry Nobel Prize 2020.

Note: The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna "for the development of a method for genome editing". The

Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.

10. Nityanand Nayak will be conferred the prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work 'Setebelaku Nathiba'.

Note: The poet will be felicitated with a cash award of ₹5 lakh and a citation. Two other eminent personalities from the State – Ranjit Kumar Nag and Shyamsundar Pattanaik – will be felicitated for their contribution to fields of music and art respectively. While Nag will be awarded the Ila Panda Sangeet Samman, Pattanaik would be felicitated with Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman.

11. Louise Glück has been awarded with the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2020.

Note: The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by The Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden. The American poet Louise Glück was born in 1943 in New York and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She has received several prestigious awards, among them the Pulitzer Prize (1993) and the National Book Award (2014).

12. The Nobel Prize for Economics, 2020 was awarded to Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson for improvement in Auction theory.

Note: They were awarded for improvements to Auction Theory and also for inventing new auction formats. The prize is also called Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The theory formulated by Milgrom allowed calculating common and private values that vary from bidder to bidder.

13. Gautam Adani secured the second position in the Forbes India Rich list for 2020.

Note: Amid the Covid-19 pandemic which hit India hard and led to a sharp economic contraction, half of the nation's 100 richest on the 2020 Forbes India Rich List saw gains. Reliance Group Chairman Mukesh Ambani, who topped the list for the 13th year "accounted for more than half of those gains".

14. The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 has been awarded to World Food Programme for efforts in order to Combat Hunger.

Note: The award comes with a 10-million krona (\$1.1 million) cash prize and a gold medal to be handed out

at a ceremony in Oslo, Norway, on December 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel's death. This year's ceremony will be scaled down due to the pandemic.

15. **Kani Kusruti** bagged the award for the best actress in Kerala Film Awards 2020.

Note: Kusruti had won the best actress award at the recently concluded 42nd Moscow International Film Festival for her performance in 'Biriyani.' Lijo Jose Pellissery, who directed 'Jallikattu' bagged the best director award, while the best movie award was given to 'Vasanthi', directed by Rahman Brothers. 'Vasanthi' also bagged the award for the best female actor in a character role.

16. **Bank of Ghana** has won the 2020 Central bank of the year award.

Note: Apart from this, Economist Mark Joseph Carney, Governor of the central bank of the United Kingdom Bank of England, has won the 2020 Governor of the year at the Central bank of the year award. Central Banking Awards is held annually to recognize excellence in the central banking community. This was the 7th edition of the award and the ceremony was held virtually.

17. **Aishwarya Sridhar** becomes first Indian woman to win Wildlife Photographer of the Year award.

Note: Her photo won among 50,000 entries from over 80 countries across the world. Only 100 images were shortlisted and she won the award for her photograph in the Behaviour Invertebrates category. Sridhar's photograph titled 'Lights of Passion' bagged the coveted title at the award show organised by the National History Museum.

18. **Japan** has won the Visvesvaraya ISA Solar Award in the Asia Pacific Region, announced for the first time by International Solar Alliance.

Note: The awards went to Japan for the Asia Pacific region and the Netherlands for Europe and other regions. The awards named after Bharat Ratna M. Visvesvaraya to the representatives of the countries of Japan, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The winners received USD 12,330 prize money.

September (16 to 30th)

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Sports News

October (1st to 21st)

1. Visnu Shivaraj Pandian has won the Gold Medal in the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.
Note: The second place was won by world no. 27 Etienne Germond of France while Olympic quota winner Martin Strempl of Austria, who had shot the best qualification score of 631.4, took the third place. The only other Indian in the finals Pratyush Aman Barik finished seventh.
2. Yashaswini Singh Deswal has won the 10m air pistol event in the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC).
Note: Indian Olympic quota winner Yashaswini Singh Deswal won the 10m air pistol event in the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC). The second place was grabbed by Ahmed Nabil of Egypt while his compatriot Yehya Shams took the third place. Sylvia Steiner, an Olympic quota winner for Austria, settled for the fourth place.
3. Odisha released a picture postcard named "Jau Kandhei" on the theme of "Traditional Toys of India" on the occasion of World Postcard Day.
Note: World Postcard Day is observed every year on 1st October. Ten other postal circles across the country have also released similar postcards on the same theme. The objective is to promote the artisans making traditional toys in Odisha and other parts of the country.
4. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the new logo of Sports Authority of India's (SAI).
Note: The new logo signifies SAI's journey of metamorphosis from identifying and nurturing grassroot level sporting talent to creating sporting excellence in the country.
5. Lewis Hamilton has won the 2020 Eifel Grand Prix, held at the Nürburgring in Nürburg, Germany.
Note: This is Hamilton's 7th win of the season and 91st career race victory, which was till now achieved only by Michael Schumacher. Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second followed by Daniel Ricciardo (Renault, Australia) at third position.
6. Rafael Nadal won the men's 2020 French Open Single Title.
Note: This is his 13th French Open men's singles title and 20th Grand Slam title. The Spaniard defeated Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 in 2 hours and 41 minutes at Court Philippe-Chatrier in Paris.
7. Iga Swiatek won the women's 2020 French Open Single Title.
Note: The 19-year-old Swiatek, at 54 the lowest-ranked woman to capture the Roland Garros title in the modern era, is the ninth first-time Major champion in the past 14 Grand Slams. Swiatek is the youngest women's French Open winner since Monica Seles 28 years ago. Swiatek was only the second Polish woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era after Agnieszka Radwanska at Wimbledon in 2012.
8. Nihal Sarin won the 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship.
Note: The title win earned the 16-year old Sarin \$ 8,766 and enabled him to qualify for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final which will feature the world's best players. Sarin had beaten American Andrew Tang, Australia's Anton Smirnov and Armenian Haik Martirosyan en route the title.
9. Los Angeles Lakers team has won the National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship 2020.
Note: This is the 17th NBA title win for LA Lakers and also their first since 2010, after late Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago. LeBron James of the Lakers' was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the fourth time in his career. With this, he became the first player in league history to be named Finals MVP with three different franchises.
10. Nozomi Okuhara won women's singles title in Denmark Open 2020 badminton championship.
Note: In Badminton, former World Champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan clinched the Denmark Open 2020 title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin in women's singles. In the men's singles final, world number seven Anders Antonsen of Denmark defeated his compatriot Rasmus Gemke.
11. Pakistan Pace bowler Umar Gul announced his retirement from cricket after the end of the ongoing National T20 Cup.
Note: Gul is probably most noted for his success in T20 cricket with Pakistan and he was the leading wicket-taker at both the 2007 and 2009 World Twenty20 tournaments. From 47 Test matches, Gul took 163 wickets at an average of 34.06. He also claimed 179 wickets from 130 ODIs, besides 85 wickets from 60 T20Is.
12. Andrey Rublev won the men's single title in St. Petersburg Open tennis tournament 2020.
Note: Andrey Rublev joined Novak Djokovic as the only men to win four tour singles titles in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season as he beat Borna Coric 7-6 (5), 6-4 in the final of the St. Petersburg

Open tennis tournament. The 22-year-old Rublev added the title in Russia to trophies in Doha, Adelaide

and Hamburg.

September (16 to 30th)

1. The Thomas and Uber Cup 2020 was postponed to next year by the Badminton World Federation, the tournament was scheduled to be held in **Denmark**.
Note: India had announced both the men's and women's squads for the prestigious event which was scheduled to be held in Aarhus, Denmark from October 3 to 11. However, after Indonesia and South Korea on Friday joined Thailand, Australia, Chinese Taipei and Algeria in pulling out due to the dreaded disease, the sport's governing body held a virtual emergency council meeting.
2. International Tennis Federation (ITF) has renamed which tennis tournament as 'Billie Jean King Cup -- Fed Cup'.
Note: Billie Jean King was pioneer of women's tennis who helped United States win the inaugural event of ITF. Billie Jean King Cup is the world's largest annual women's international team sports competition in terms of the number of nations that compete.
3. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020.
Note: Lewis Hamilton won a hectic Tuscan Grand Prix to clinch his 90th Formula One win at Mugello Circuit, Italy and move one behind Michael Schumacher's record. This was his 6th win of the season and 90th F1 win of his career. Valtteri Bottas came second followed by Alexander Albon at third place.
4. **Vikas Khanna** has been honoured with the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: He was honoured for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic through a massive food distribution drive that he coordinated, thousands of miles away from his Manhattan home. Khanna, 48, is the only Indian among the six honourees named by the leading organisation.
5. **Novak Djokovic** has won the Men's Single Italian Open title 2020.
Note: Novak Djokovic has defeated Argentine Diego Schwartzman, 7-6, 5-3, to win 2020 Men's Single Italian Open title and his fifth overall Rome title. In Women's single, Simona Halep defeated champion Karolina Pliskova, 6-0, 2-1, to win her first Italian Open title.
6. **Simona Halep** has won the Women's Single Italian Open title 2020.
Note: Novak Djokovic has defeated Argentine Diego Schwartzman, 7-6, 5-3, to win 2020 Men's Single Italian Open title and his fifth overall Rome title. In Women's single, Simona Halep defeated champion Karolina Pliskova, 6-0, 2-1, to win her first Italian Open title.
7. **Ashleigh Barty** has won the Brookwater Golf Club women's tennis championship 2020.
Note: The 24-year-old Australian, who famously played professional cricket during a year out from tennis, decided not to leave home for the U.S. Open or her title defence at Roland Garros because of the pandemic
8. **Valtteri Bottas** has won the Formula One Russian Grand Prix 2020 held at Sochi Autodrom, Russia.
Note: Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Netherlands) came second followed by the 6-time world-champion Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), who stood third because of penalties.

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