

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 **4.5 months (1st May 2020 – 15th September 2020)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like **Banking, Insurance, SSC and UPSC Exams**.

News related to RBI

1. RBI Issued Draft Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives Directions:

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued Draft Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2020 under **Section 45 W of the RBI Act, 1934** to allow foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to undertake exchange-traded rupee interest rate derivatives transactions subject to an overall ceiling of **Rs 5,000 crore**.

2. RBI Mandate Banks to Fully Automate NPA Recognition Process by June 30, 2021:

Note: The RBI issued circular advising banks to switch to automatic identification of NPAs, using appropriate IT systems, from manual identification for regulatory reporting and bank's own management information system (MIS) requirements. However, over this period of time, the processes for NPA identification, income recognition, provisioning and generation of related returns in many banks are not yet fully automated. RBI issued a notification mandating banks to complete the automation of bad-loan recognition and provisioning processes by June 30, 2021.

3. RBI Released Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21:

Note: Based on an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at its meeting on **6th August 2020** decided to

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% |

4. RBI Accepted Kamath Panel Recommendations:

Note: The RBI has accepted the recommendations of the KV Kamath Committee. On the basis of the recommendation of the panel the central bank specified five financial ratios and sector-specific thresholds for resolution of COVID-19-related stressed assets in 26 sectors. These five ratios are: Total outside liabilities/adjusted tangible net worth (TOL/ATNW), total debt/EBITDA, current ratio, debt service coverage ratio (DSCR), average debt service coverage ratio (ADSCR).

5. RBI issued a notice on Compliance functions in banks and role of CCO:

Note: Reserve Bank of India has released a notice on Compliance Functions in Banks and the Role of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) whose term has to be at least three years. Banks must appoint a CCO to ensure an effective compliance culture, independent corporate compliance function, and a strong compliance risk management programme. The person holding the position should be a senior-level executive, preferable general manager and above.

6. RBI Released Revised Guidelines for the Priority Sector Lending:

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reviewed the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Guidelines to align it with emerging national priorities amid COVID-19 impact. The new sector included under PSL funding are: (i) Start-ups (up to Rs 50 crore); (ii) loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid connected agriculture pumps and (iii) loans for setting up Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants.

7. RBI Released Annual Report 2019-20; India's Growth Projected at -4.5%:

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its Annual Report for 2019-20. It is Report of the Central Board of Directors on the working of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the year ended June 30, 2020 submitted to the Central Government in terms of Section 53(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. In the report, RBI projected that India's growth at minus 4.5% for 2020-21. It will be (-) 3.7% in the single hit scenario and (-) 7.3% in the double hit scenario in FY2020-21. On the

global front, the growth is projected at (-) 6.0% in the single hit scenario and (-) 7.6% in the double hit scenario in FY20-21.

8. **RBI Releases National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025:**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has released revised **National Strategy** for Financial Education. It was released by **Mahesh Kumar Jain**, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This NSFE 2020-2025, has been prepared by the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) in consultation with all (four) the Financial Sector Regulators viz. RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA along with Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the aegis of the Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy (TGFIFL). There are the Strategic Objectives laid down in NSFE 2020-2025 and in order to achieve them, the document recommends adoption of a '5 C' approach viz. Content, Capacity, Community, Communication and Collaboration.

9. **RBI Released Framework for Authorisation of Pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments:**

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the "Framework for authorization of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments". In this regard, the apex bank has invited applications from eligible companies by **February 26, 2021**. The Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS), will be the final authority to issue authorisation for setting up umbrella entity / entities for retail payments comprising of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), White Label PoS (point of sale system), Aadhaar-based payments and remittance. The minimum paid-up capital of the umbrella entity should be Rs 500 crore.

10. **RBI ceased Banking operations of Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank:**

Note: Reserve Bank of India has ceased the Banking operations by the Aditya Birla Idea Payments (ABIP) Bank under Banking Regulations Act 1949 with effect from July 28, 2020. Now the bank company could not able to work successfully and applied for voluntary winding up by the **Vodafone Idea Limited** which holds 51% in ABIP bank and the remaining 49% by Grasim Industries Limited. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank had received the banking licence from the RBI in April 2017 for carrying on the business of a payments bank. It had commenced business from February 22, 2018. **Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank** was promoted by Grasim Industries Limited and Vodafone Idea Limited with 51 and 49 per cent shareholdings respectively.

11. **RBI announces 'positive pay' feature to help avert cheque frauds:**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced to introduce a mechanism of 'Positive Pay' feature for all cheques of value Rs 50,000 and above. This feature

helps to avert cheque frauds. The limit of Rs 50,000 will cover approximately 20 per cent of transactions by volume and 80 per cent by value. Positive pay is a fraud-prevention system offered by most commercial banks to companies to protect them against forged, altered and counterfeit checks.

12. **RBI releases the Financial Stability Report, July 2020:**

Note: The **Reserve Bank of India** has released the 21st Issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR). The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system. The Report also discusses the issues relating to the development and regulation of the financial sector. As per the report, the capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) edged down to 14.8 per cent in March 2020 from 15.0 per cent in September 2019. Their gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio declined to 8.5 per cent from 9.3 per cent and the provision coverage ratio (PCR) improved to 65.4 per cent from 61.6 per cent over this period.

13. **RBI cancels licence of The CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd, Mumbai:**

Note: The licence of The CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai to carry on banking business has been cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with effect from the close of business on April 30, 2020. RBI has also approached the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Pune, to issue an order for winding up the affairs of the bank and to appoint a liquidator for the bank.

14. **RBI announces Rs 50,000 crore Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds:**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has announced a Special Liquidity Facility of Rs 50,000 crore for Mutual Funds. This has been done by the central bank in order to ease liquidity pressures on the Mutual Funds. This is a measure taken by the RBI to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 and preserve financial stability. Under the Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF), **repo operations 90 days** tenor would be conducted by the RBI at the fixed repo rate. The SLF-MF is on-tap and open-ended.

15. **RBI cancels the licence of Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank of Goa Ltd:**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank of Goa Ltd. The central bank has issued an order, barring the bank to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on April 16, 2020. Hence, the Urban Co-operative Bank has been refrained from running the business of 'banking'.

16. **RBI announces measures to mitigate impact of COVID-19:**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has announced a set of measures to mitigate the effect of COVID-19. Among the major announcements, the Reserve Bank of India has decided to reduce the reverse repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 4% to 3.75% with immediate effect. While the policy repo rate, MSF rate and the Bank rate will remain same as per decision taken in RBI's 7th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20.

17. RBI launches Twitter campaign to promote digital modes of payment:

Note: The Reserve Bank of India launched a twitter campaign urging bank customers to adopt digital modes of payment that are convenient and safe. RBI emphasised on transacting digitally as it gives the convenience of making payments anytime and anywhere. Through the campaign, RBI reiterated the multiple digital payment options such as NEFT, IMPS, UPI and BBPS that are available 24*7. The face of the campaign is Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan.

Economic Survey 2019-20

- Economic survey is framed by Chief Economic Advisor of India, Krishnamurthy V Subramanian and is tabled on the parliament by Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Theme for Economic Survey 2019-20: "Wealth Creation, Promotion of pro-business policies, strengthening of trust in the economy."
- **Wealth Creation: The Invisible Hand Supported By The Hand Of Trust:** - The Survey indicates the fact that the ideas of wealth creation are deeply rooted in India's old and rich tradition from Kautilya's Arthashastra to Thiruvalluvar's Thirukural, which emphasizes ethical wealth creation as a noble human pursuit.
 - Survey suggests that policies must empower transparency and effective enforcement using data and technology.
 - Enable fair competition and ease of doing business is needed to meet the target.
 - Enable trade for job creation and Efficiently scale up the banking sector will help in creating wealth.
- **Entrepreneurship and Wealth Creation at the Grassroots: Being a strategy for fuel** productivity growth and wealth creation, entrepreneurship has a significant impact on wealth creation at the grassroots.
 - **As per the World Bank, India ranks third in number of new firms created.**
 - Emergence of new firms in India is heterogeneous and dispersed across districts and sectors.
 - As per the survey, new firms have a growth rate of 12.2 in the formal sector during 2014-18, compared to 3.8 % during 2006-2014. About 1.24 lakh new firms created in 2018, an increase of about 80 % from about 70,000 in 2014.
- Survey depicted that enhancing ease of doing business and implementing flexible labour laws can create number of jobs and will increase the trust of new entrepreneurs to emerge rapidly.
- **Pro-business versus Pro-markets: Promoting pro-business policy releases the power of competitive markets to generate wealth, on the one hand, and on the other hand, weaning away from "pro-crony" policy that may favour specific private interests, especially powerful incumbents. Equity index of connected firms outperformed market by 7 % a year from 2007 to 2010, reflecting abnormal profits extracted at common citizens' expense. Index underperforms market by 7.5 % from 2011, reflecting inefficiency and value destruction in such firms.**
- **Undermining Markets: When Government Intervention Hurts More Than It Helps:** - Each department and ministry in the Government must systematically examine areas where the Government needlessly intervenes and undermines markets.
 - Government intervention in the market most of the times undermine the growth of market.
 - India ranks 79th among 162 countries in the Index of Global Economic Freedom with 108th rank in business regulation showing the evidence of the same.
 - Government interventions is not apt for today's economy. Removing it will enable competitive markets and thereby spur investments and economic growth.
- **Creating Jobs and Growth by Specializing in Network Products:** India has enormous opportunity to frame a China-like, labour-intensive, export trajectory. By integrating Assemble in India for the world" into Make in

India, nation can increase the export as well as job opportunities.

- India's exports increased by 13.4 % for manufactured products and 10.9 % for total merchandise
- Imports increased by 12.7 % for manufactured products and 8.6 per cent for total merchandise.
- India gained 0.7 % increase in trade surplus per year for manufactured products and 2.3 % per year for total merchandise.
- **Targeting Ease of Doing Business in India:** In ease of doing business ranking, India jumped to 63 position in 2019 in World Bank's Doing Business rankings. Ease of Starting Business, Registering Property, Paying Taxes and Enforcing Contracts are the parameters that requires further attention.
- **Golden jubilee of bank nationalisation: Taking stock: - 2019 marks the golden jubilee of the bank nationalisation. Since 1969, India's Banking sector has not developed efficiently with the growth in the size of the economy. India has only one bank in the top 100, which is State Bank of India ranked 55th at the international level. Finance Technology and Legal framework like Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code is suggested as a measure to tackle this situation.**
- **Financial Fragility in the NBFC Sector:** NBFCs are rooted due to their over-dependence on short-term wholesale funding from the Liquid Debt Mutual Funds that results in bank-run cases more frequent in NBFC. A dynamic health index (Health Score) is framed that will observe these risks and can be used as an early warning to anticipate liquidity crisis in an NBFC and Policy framers are suggested to use this tool in this survey.
- **Privatization and Wealth Creation:** Efficiency gains from privatization in the Indian context and bolstering the case for aggressive disinvestment of CPSEs is examined by the survey. Government's strategic disinvestment in HPCL of 53.29 % led to an increase of around Rs. 33,000 crores in national wealth.
- **Is India's GDP Growth Overstated? No! -** GDP growth, a critical variable for decision-making by investors and policymakers. Setting up of 28-member Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) headed by India's former Chief

Statistician is important. Survey must be taken on board when assessing the quality of Indian data.

- **Thalinomics: The Economics of a Plate of Food in India:** Average prices of a vegetarian Thali have decreased significantly since 2015-16 across India, though the price has increased during 2019-20. Affordability of vegetarian Thalīs improved by 29 % and Affordability of non-vegetarian Thalīs improved by 18
- **State of the Economy:** India's GDP growth moderated to 4.8 % in H1 of 2019-20, in between a weak environment for global manufacturing, trade and demand. There was a sharp decline in real fixed investment induced by a sluggish growth of real consumption which has weighed down GDP growth from H2 of 2018-19 to H1 of 2019-20.
 - Current Account Deficit (CAD) narrowed to 1.5 % of GDP in H1 of 2019-20 from 2.1 % in 2018-19.
 - Economy observes Impressive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and rebounding of portfolio flows with accumulation of foreign exchange reserves.
 - Inflation is about to decline with the end of the year with more demand due to the rise of CPI-core and WPI.
 - Financial sector saw great improvement with investment-growth-consumption
 - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and easing of credit, particularly for the stressed real estate and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) sectors and various other factors are going to be helpful soon.
- **Fiscal Developments:** The fiscal policy was characterized by sluggish growth in Tax revenue relative to the budget estimates. The Central government debt was expected to continue with debt reaching 46.2 per cent of GDP and 44.4 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively. Revenue Receipts registered a higher growth during the first eight months of 2019-20, compared to the same period last year. Gross GST monthly collections have crossed the mark of Rs. 1 lakh crore for a total of five times during 2019-20 (up to December 2019). General Government (Centre plus States) has been on the path of fiscal consolidation.
- **External Sector:** India's external sector gained further stability witnessing improvement in Balance of Payments (BoP) position.

- Current account deficit (CAD) reduced from 2.1% in 2018-19 to 1.5% of GDP in H1 of 2019-20.
- Foreign reserves of US\$ 461.2 bn as per 10th January 2020 is shown in the data.
- Global trade is estimated to grow at 1.0% after having peaked in 2017 at 5.7%. It is estimated to recover to 2.9% in 2020 with recovery in global economic activity.
- India's merchandise trade balance showed improvement
- India's top five partners in trade are USA, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong this fiscal year as well.
- **Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation:** As on 16 January 2020, Nifty50 and S&P BSE Sensex indices reached record high closing of 12,355 and 41,952 respectively. The repo rate was cut by 110 basis points in four consecutive Monetary Policy Committee meetings due to the reduced growth and lower inflation rate. The Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks has remained unchanged at 9.3 % between March and September 2019 and increased slightly for the NBFC from 6.1% to 6.3%.
- **Prices and Inflation: Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation increased from 3.7 per cent in 2018-19 to 4.1 per cent in 2019-20. WPI inflation fell from 4.7 per cent in 2018-19 to 1.5 per cent during 2019-20. Food inflation showed an upward trend mainly backed by rising vegetables, fruits and pulses prices.**
- **Sustainable Development and Climate Change:** SDG implementation through well-designed initiatives with Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh as the front runners in SDG India Index. India also hosted

COP-14 to UNCCD which adopted the Delhi Declaration: Investing in Land and Unlocking Opportunities. Forest and tree cover increased and reached 80.73 million hectares while a total 24.56 % of the geographical area of the country is under forest area. 4 terms are being used for the India's International Solar Alliance: Enabler, Facilitator, Incubator, Accelerator.

- **Agriculture and Food Management: Agriculture is the basic sector of India.** The share of agriculture and allied sectors in the total Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country has been continuously declining on account of relatively higher growth performance of non-agricultural sectors, a natural outcome of development process. Food processing sector has been growing with AAGR of about 5.06%.
- **Industry and Infrastructure:** Index of Industrial Production (IIP) showed a growth of industrial sector of 0.6% in 2019-20. Fertilizer sector, Steel sector, telecom sector achieved a considerable growth. Infrastructure investment of Rs. 102 lakh crores have been observed.
- **Services Sector:** Services sector is now a significant sector with 55% of the total size of economy and GVA growth. Two-thirds of total FDI inflows into India with 38% exports. After witnessing a recovery in early 2019-20.
- **Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development:** Social services (health, education and others) expenditure increased 7.7 % in 2019-20. India's ranking in Human Development Index improved to 129 in 2018 from 130 in 2017. The share of regular wage/salaried employees has increased by 5 % and reached 28%. A significant jump of around 2.62 crore new jobs. Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush played a good role.

Ranking, Indexes, Reports and Survey

September

1. India ranks 116 in Human capital Index of World Bank:

Note: India has ranked 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index 2020. Last year, India ranked **115 out of 157 countries**. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries. The Human Capital Index 2020 update included health and education data for 174 countries up to March 2020. It covered around 98% of the world's population. India's score increased

to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank.

2. Fraser Institute, Canada released Global Economic Freedom Index 2020:

Note: India has ranked 105th position on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020. India has fallen 26 spots as it stood at the **79th spot** in last year's rankings. Hong Kong topped the rankings. It was followed by Singapore.

3. Finance Minister launched Doorstep Banking Services:

Note: Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks (PSBs). She also felicitated the best performing banks on **EASE Banking Reforms Index**. The EASE index was launched in **January 2018**. The top three in the 'Top Performing Banks' category are: Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce

4. Kerala topped NSO report as Most literate state in India:

Note: Kerala topped the list of the most literate state in India in the National Statistical Office (NSO) survey. The literacy rate of Kerala is 96.2%. Andhra Pradesh stood last with 66.4% literacy rate. The report was released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The report by NSO was titled "Household Social Consumption on Education in India".

5. India ranks 48 on 2020 Global Innovation Index:

Note: India has ranked 48th position in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020. India has jumped to four places since 2019. The index was compiled by the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** along with Cornell University and the **INSEAD business school**, presents the latest global innovation trends and annual innovation ranking of 131 economies. As per the Index, India became the third most innovative lower-middle-income economy in the world. It is attributed to newly available indicators and improvements in various areas of the GI.

6. 4th edition of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states for 2018-19:

Note: BRAP is also known as Ease of Doing Business rankings. Andhra Pradesh secured 1st position,

followed by UP and Telangana. The ranking is done by Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

7. DPIIT releases 2nd edition State StartUp Rankings 2019:

Note: Released: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

- **Best Performer:** Gujarat (State) and A&N (UT)
- **Top Performers:** Karnataka, Kerala
- **Leaders:** Bihar, Maharashtra
- **Aspiring Leaders:** Haryana, Jharkhand
- **Emerging Startup Ecosystems:** Andhra Pradesh, Assam

8. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) released Living Planet Report 2020:

Note: It showed reduction of 68 % in global wildlife population between 1970 and 2016. 75 % of the Earth's ice-free land surface has been altered by the conversion of pristine habitats into agricultural systems with 85% loss of wetlands. Highest biodiversity loss due to land use change: Europe and Central Asia, followed by North America, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Largest wildlife population loss: Latin America. India, with over 45,000 species of plants in only 2.4 % of the world's land area, has lost six plant species

9. Fraser Institute, Canada released Global Economic Freedom Index 2020 :

Note: India has fallen 26 spots from 79th spot in 2019 to 105th in 2020 among 162 countries. HongKong has topped the ranking followed by Singapore. Index measures 'economic freedom', or the ability of individuals to make their own economic decisions in a country, by analysing policies and institutions of these countries.

August

1. Gujarat topped NITI Aayogs report on 2020 Export Preparedness Index :

Note: NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. It is the first report to examine the export preparedness and performance of Indian states. The report was aimed to identify challenges and opportunities. Gujarat topped the Export Preparedness Index 2020. The Export Preparedness Index 2020 focus to enhance the effectiveness of government policies and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework.

- Top **three ranks** of the index:
 - Gujarat
 - Maharashtra
 - Tamil Nadu

2. World Bank pauses 'Doing Business' report publication over data issue:

Note: The report was stopped due to the data collection irregularities in the annual ranking of countries' business and investment climates. It ranks countries based on their business competitiveness but has pending investigation into a number of irregularities in its 2017 and 2019 surveys. World Bank will conduct a systematic review of data changes in the last 5 Doing Business reports

3. MoHUA releases Swachh Survekshan 2020 at 'Swachh Mahotsav':

Note: It declared Indore as India's cleanest city for the fourth year in a row, followed by Surat and Navi Mumbai. This is the fifth edition of this survey.
Cleanest State: Chattisgarh.

July

4. India ranked 31st dangerous place as per the INFORM report:

Note: INFORM report released by Research Wing, European Commission ranked India as the 31st World's most dangerous places to live due to high risks of natural disaster, poverty and social injustice. It is global risk index that ranks 191 countries. Singapore is the least dangerous nation, North Korea stands at 39th and South Korea was ranked at the 150th. Somalia is ranked World's 1st most dangerous nation followed by Central African Republic, and Yemen.

5. Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post-Covid-19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sectors report:

Note: It is released by NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). The report states that India's transport sector can save 1.7 gigatonnes of cumulative carbon dioxide emissions with 600 million tonnes of oil equivalent in fuel demand by 2030. The report takes into consideration 4 categories: Invest in least-cost-energy solutions, Support resilient and secure energy systems, Prioritize efficiency and competitiveness and Promote social and environmental equity.

6. India ranked third among 'Global E-waste Monitor 2020' report:-

Note: United Nations 'Global E-waste Monitor 2020' report showcased India as the third largest contributor to e-waste in the world in 2019. At world level, 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste is generated in 2019, out of which just **17.4 percent** was recycled. China was the biggest contributor to e-waste, followed by United States. Together these three countries accounted for nearly 38% of the world's e-waste in 2019.

7. Sustainable Development Report 2020:

Note: The report has SDG Index of 166 nations and Dashboards for all UN member states. It is published by Cambridge University Press and prepared by independent experts at Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Bertelsmann Stiftung. India has been placed at 117th in SDG index 2020. The index is topped by Sweden followed by Denmark and Finland.

8. India placed at 34th rank in JLL's biennial Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2020:

Note: It is released by US-based Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) covering 99 countries and territories, and 163 city regions. India improved its ranks from 39 in 2018 to 34th in GRETI 2020 globally. The index is topped by UK followed by US and Australia.

9. India's second Voluntary National Review 2020:

Note: It is presented by NITI Aayog at the **United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF)** on Sustainable Development, 2020. Title of the report:

Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local. It accounts critical component which reviews the progress and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

10. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) released Economic Outlook Survey:

Note: Survey forecasted Indian economy to contract by negative 4.5% in 2020-21. Minimum and maximum GDP growth estimate stands at (-) 6.4% and 1.5% respectively for FY21. Quarterly median forecasts showed 14.2% contraction in the gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter of FY21.

11. State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report released:

Note: It is released by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, UN World Food Programme and WHO. It forecasts global increase of 10 million undernourished people from 2018 to 690 million in 2019. Undernourished people in India has declined by 60 million in a decade. Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years of age declined from 47.8% in 2012 to 34.7% in 2019 in India. Africa is the hardest hit region in Food security.

12. Cushman & Wakefield released Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) 2020:

Note: It is released for measuring the most-suitable locations for global manufacturing in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions. India is placed at 3rd position in MRI 2020. It ranks 28 nations. China retain the top position followed by US.

13. 2020 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

Note: It is released by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for 107 countries. Highest concentration of MPI: Sub-Saharan Africa (558 million) and South Asia (530 million). India has reduced 273 million multidimensional poor as per the Index.

14. World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA) released 'Global Direct Selling - 2019 Retail Sales' report

Note: It is topped by US Direct Sale Industry, followed by China, Korea, Germany and Japan. India is ranked 15th in the report. Global direct selling industry reported an decline of 4.3% in sales to \$ 180.47 billion in 2019.

15. HRD Ministry launches 'India Report on Digital Education, 2020':

Note: Report depicts innovative methods adopted by HRD Ministry, Education Departments of States and Union Territories for accessible and inclusive education at home reducing learning gaps. The reports talk about projects and learning platform like DIKSHA platform, Swayam Prabha TV Channel, On Air: Shiksha Vani, e-PathShala and telecast through TV channels.

1. India ranked 43rd on the IMDs World**Competitiveness Index:**

Note: India ranked 43rd on the Institute for Management Development's (IMD) 2020 World Competitiveness Index ranks. It stated that the continued low ranking of India is due to the traditional weaknesses such as insufficient education investment and poor infrastructure. The **Singapore** was topped the 63rd edition of IMD rankings.

Denmark ranked 2nd. It secured 8th rank in 2019.

2. Three DST institutes among top 30 Indian Institutions in 2020 Nature Index:

Note: Three institutions of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India have found places in the Nature Index 2020. These are:

1. **IACS** (Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science), Kolkata - 7th position,
2. **JNCASR** (Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research), Bangalore - 14th position
3. Kolkata's **S.N.Bose National Centre** for Basic Sciences - 30th position

- It features not only the Nature Index Global Top 50 institutions across all sectors but also the Top 25 Rising institutions that had the strongest growth in output since 2015.

3. Swiss National Bank (SNB) released its latest annual banking statistic report:

Note: India has moved down to 77th rank (2019) from 74th (2018) in terms of money parked with Swiss banks as per the report with 0.06% of the aggregate funds. UK has topped the position, followed by US, West Indies, France, and Hong Kong. Together they account for 50% of foreign funds deposited with Swiss Bank

4. UNESCO releases Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2020 :

Note: Report assesses progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education and other educational areas. COVID-19 has increased inequalities in education systems across the world as per the report with Low and lower middle-income countries being affected the most. Education systems responded with distance learning solutions are less or imperfect substitutes for classroom instruction.

5. Forbes Real-Time Billionaire list released:

Note: The list ranked Reliance Industries (RIL) owner Mukesh Ambani at 9th position and 1st richest person in Asian region with net worth of \$64.6 billion. The list is topped by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos (\$160.4 billion), followed by Bill Gates (\$109.9 billion) and Bernard Arnault.

6. World Economic Forum (WEF) announced 20th cohort of Technology Pioneers:

Note: Launched in 2000 and comprises early to growth-stage innovative companies from around the world. It included 2 Indian firms in 2020: ZestMoney and Stellapps

7. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report:

Note: It shows China, Pakistan as having more nuclear arsenal than India. The report showcased current state of armaments, disarmament, and international security. China's nuclear arsenal increased from 290 warheads in 2019 to 320 in 2020. India's nuclear arsenal increases from 130-140 in 2019 to 150 in 2020 while Pakistan has reached 160 in 2020.

8. India Rankings-2020 for Higher Educational Institutions released :

Note: Released by Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal. IIT Madras retains 1st rank in Overall as well as in Engineering category.

- **University list:** Topped by Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- **Management Category** topper: IIM Ahmedabad
- **Top Medical category:** AIIMS for the third time.
- **Top best college:** Miranda House
- **Dental category:** Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Delhi

9. Nature Index 2020 placed India at 12th rank in science research output:-

Note: It is compiled by Springer Nature, London as a database of research articles published in an independently selected group. USA secured the first position followed by China, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan. In the tops institutions list, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) bagged 160th rank, followed by IISc (184th).

10. US State Dept releases International Religious Freedom Report 2019:

Note: It depicts the status of religious freedom, government religious policies in every country with positive and negative status. The report describes change in the J&K status, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and NRC in India and didn't place India in either category. It also makes detail description of mob lynching's, cow vigilantism and anti-conversion laws depicting lawmaker's failure to combat the situation.

11. Deep Knowledge Group releases 56th COVID-19 regional safety assessment report:

Note: It focuses on 200 nations and their safety capability against the pandemic. India is placed at 56th rank. Most safe place: Switzerland, followed by Germany, Israel, Singapore, Japan. China secured 7th rank, USA is ranked 58th and Pakistan has secured 148th rank.

12. QS World University Rankings 2020 released :

Note: It rated world's top 1,000 universities that has 21 Indian higher education institutions. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US topped the list followed by Stanford and Harvard. IIT Bombay is ranked 172nd rank IISc Bangalore (185th rank) and IIT Delhi (193rd rank)

13. Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2020:

Note: It is released by Yale, Columbia University along with WEF providing state of sustainability around 180 countries using 32 performance indicators. India is ranked 168th. The index is topped by Denmark (82.5%), followed by Luxemburg (82.3%) and Switzerland (81.5%).

14. FSSAI releases 2nd edition of State Food Safety Index 2019-20:

Note: It is based on parameters like human resources and institutional data, compliance, food testing

1. StartupBlink's Ecosystem Ranking Report 2020 ranked 1,000 cities across 100 countries:

Note: As per the report, India has dropped to 23rd rank in 2020 from 17th rank in 2019. US has topped the report, followed by UK, Israel, Canada, and Germany. The ranking is based on Quantity, Quality and Business Environment. Only 4 Indian cities are placed in top 100: Bengaluru (14th rank), Delhi (15th), Mumbai (22nd) and Hyderabad (96th)

2. World Steel Report released by World Steel Association depicting 64 countries crude steel production:

Note: As per the report, Steel Production is reduced by 13% in 2020. India's crude steel output 2020 declined by 65.2% to 3.13 MT. China is estimated to produce 85.0 Mt crude steel which is 0.2% more than the previous year. Japan produced 6.6 Mt of crude steel (2020) while US produced 5.0Mt.

3. International Energy Agency (IEA) has released Global Energy Review 2020 report:

Note: It projected 6% global energy fall in 2020 with steepest decline in 70 years and India's demand declined for the first time. Global oil demand is projected to drop by 9%, coal at 5% and electricity at 20%. IEA's Headquarters (Secretariat): Paris, France.

4. Research & Development Statistics and Indicators 2019-20 report released:-

Note: It is released by National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), DST. As per the report, India's gross expenditure in R&D has tripled between 2008 & 2018 and India is placed 3rd among countries in scientific publication as per NSF database. Also, India is ranked at 9th position in terms of Resident Patent Filing activity in the world.

5. UNICEF published 'Lost at Home; report:

Note: As per the report, Almost 33 million new displacements were recorded due to natural disasters, conflict, and violence with major risk of

facility, training, and capacity building besides consumer empowerment. Topped by Gujarat, followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Goa is at the first position in smaller states category followed by Manipur and Meghalaya. Chandigarh, Delhi, and Andaman Islands secured top 3 position at UT category.

15. Ministry of Statistics releases Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):-

Note: It is India's first computer-based survey that gives estimates of key employment and unemployment indicators.

- India's unemployment rate: 5.8%
- Labour force participation rate: 37.5%
- Urban unemployment rate: 7.7%
- Female participation rate: 18.6%

May

child labour, child marriage, trafficking specially in middle east. India, the Philippines, Bangladesh and China accounted for 69% of global disaster-induced displacements.

6. Impact of energy efficiency measures for the year 2018-19 report released:

Note: Released by Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy taking into consideration major power sector programmes. The total energy savings is 2.69% of the total primary energy supply during 2018-19. Implementation of various energy efficiency schemes have led to 9.39% of the net electricity consumption.

7. Oxford University releases Stringency Index:-

Note: It is the metrics being used for COVID-19 Government Response Tracker to show the level of strictness and measures during the pandemic. As per the index, India imposed its strictest measures much earlier than others. The Stringency Index is a number from 0 to 100 with higher index score depicting higher level of stringency.

8. Global Nutrition Report 2020 released:

Note: It is a report card on the world's nutrition that was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013. As per the report, India is among 88 countries that are likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025 with the highest rates of domestic inequalities in malnutrition.

9. National Community based Sero-Survey for Covid-19:-

Note: Conducted in 69 randomly selected districts from 21 states covering 24 thousand adults to estimate Covid-19 infection. It is conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research, ICMR in collaboration with Health and Family Welfare Ministry, National Centre for Disease Control. The survey will involve collection of venous blood samples from 400

randomly selected individuals from 10 clusters in each district.

10. World Economic Forum released Global Energy Transition Index:

Note: It is a fact-based ranking to enable policymakers and businesses across the world to plot a successful energy transition. India is ranked 74th. Index is **topped by Sweden** followed by Switzerland and Finland

11. UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released Global Forest Assessment 2020:

Note: It has examined 60 forest related variables in 236 countries in the period of 1990-2020. As per the report, there is a decline of 178 million hectares in the forest area. Africa witnessed the largest annual forest loss (2010–2020), followed by South America (2.6 mha). Asia is reported to gain forest area followed by Oceania and Europe. More than 54% of the world's forests are in only five countries: Russia, Brazil, Canada, US and China. The highest per cent of

plantation forests were in South America while the lowest were in Europe.

12. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs releases World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report

Note: As per the report, the world economy is projected to shrink by 3.2% in 2020. GDP growth in developed countries is estimated to plunge to -5.0% in 2020, while output of developing countries will shrink by 0.7%. Also, cumulative losses during 2020 and 2021 is estimated to be around \$8.5 trillion

13. Report on conservation of plant species

Note: Uttarakhand becomes 1st state to release report on conservation efforts of endemic and threatened floras saving around 1,100 rare plants. As per the report, 1,145 plant species have been conserved covering 46 species that are endemic to Uttarakhand and 68 rare, endangered, or threatened species under red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Economy News

September 2020

1. India extends 250 million dollars loan to Maldives to deal with COVID-19

Note: The High Commission of India shared the news on September 20, 2020. The loan was handed over at a ceremony in the presence of Maldives Finance Minister Ibrahim Ameer, Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid, CEO of SBI in Male, Bharat Mishra, and Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Sudhir.

2. Central government plans to introduce law to ban Cryptocurrency trading

Note: The Central Government has been planning to introduce a new law that will ban the trade in cryptocurrencies. The bill has been expected to be discussed by the federal cabinet before it is sent to the Parliament for approval. Under the law, the federal government will be encouraging the blockchain, the technology underlying cryptocurrencies, but is not keen on cryptocurrency trading.

3. Fitch Solutions projects India's GDP growth at -8.6% in FY21

Note: Fitch Solutions has revised downward its forecast for Indian economic growth and now estimates that India's GDP will contract by 8.6% in 2020-21 (FY21).

4. UBS Securities projects India's GDP at -8.6% in FY21

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.

5. OECD projects India's GDP at -10.2% in FY21

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. Asian Development Bank projects India's GDP at -9% in FY21

Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has estimated that the GDP of India is expected to contract by 9% in fiscal 2020-21 (FY21). 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.

7. S&P Global Ratings Projects India's GDP at -9% in FY21

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%.

8. **CARE ratings projects India's GDP to contract between 8-8.2% in FY21**
Note: The Indian rating agency, CARE Ratings has projected the GDP of India to contract in the range 8 to 8.2% for 2020-21 (FY21). This is more than its earlier projection of -6.4%. The decline in GDP growth by around 8 per cent would also be associated with a decline in the gross fixed capital formation.
9. **Moody's forecasts India's GDP at -11.5% for FY21**
Note: The rating agency, Moody's has projected the GDP growth rate for India to contract 11.5 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 (FY21) due to the coronavirus pandemic. For 2021-22 (FY22), Moody's projected the economy of India to grow at 10.6 per cent.
10. **Crisil projects India's GDP for FY21 at -9%**
Note: CRISIL has projected India's GDP rate at -9% for the financial year 2020-21 (FY21). CRISIL revising its forecast down from 5% owing to uncertainty over the spread of Covid-19 and lack of adequate financial support from the government.

11. **India Ratings forecasts contraction of 11.8% in FY21 GDP**
Note: The Indian arm of Fitch Ratings, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has projected India's FY21 GDP growth forecast at -11.8% as against its earlier prediction of -5.3%. The rating agency estimates the economic loss in FY21 to be Rs 18.44 lakh crore. The rating agency also expects India's GDP to rebound and grow at 9.9% year-on-year in FY22 primarily due to the weak base of FY21.
12. **Indian economy contracted by 23.9% in Q1 of 2020-21**
Note: The estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first quarter (April-June) Q1 of 2020-21 has been released by the NSO. NSSO has released the GDP estimates at both Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices. As per the estimate the Indian economy has experienced a contraction of 23.9% as compared to 5.2% growth in Q1 2019-20.

August

1. **Chunauti- Next Generation start-up challenge contest launched by IT Minister**
Note: The Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched "Chunauti"- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of India. The programme aims to identify around 300 startups working in identified areas and provide them seed fund of upto Rs. 25 Lakh and other facilities. The government has earmarked an amount worth Rs 95.03 crore over a period of 3 years for the programme.
2. **Govt launches national GIS-enabled land bank system**
Note: Union govt e-launched the national GIS-enabled land bank system. It will help investors in getting real-time information about the availability of industrial land and resources. The system has been developed by the Integration of Industrial Information System (IIS) with state GIS (Geographic Information System). The project has been launched for six states
3. **India, Bangladesh to open new trade connectivity route**
Note: India and Bangladesh have decided to open a new trade route to promote regional connectivity by expanding the scope of inland water transport mechanisms that will enable trade boost in the region. The route which will be connecting Sonamura in Tripura to Daudkandi in Bangladesh

has been operationalized under the agreement signed by the two countries in May 2020 to boost riverine trade.

4. **Government to sell up to 15 percent stake in HAL**
Note: The central government has decided to sell up to 15 percent stake in Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) through an offer for sale (OFS). The floor price has been fixed at Rs 1,001 per share. The Government has proposed to sell 3,34,38,750 equity shares in the state-run aerospace and defence company through the OFS, which constitutes 10 percent paid-up share capital of the company,
5. **KVIC creates self employment for migrant workers through its flagship Honey Mission Programme**
Note: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken a big major leap towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' by creating the local and self-employment for the migrant workers through its Honey Mission Programme. To provide the livelihood opportunity under the mission, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State for MSME distributed 700 bee boxes to the 70 migrant workers of Bulandshahr and Saharanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh on August 25, 2020.
6. **AIIB and India sign agreement of USD 500 million for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III**

- Note:** The Indian Government, Maharashtra government and Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation has signed a loan agreement of USD 500 million dollars with the Asian Infrastructure Investment bank (AIIB) for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III. The project aims at improving the service quality, network capacity, and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.
7. **Businesses with annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh now GST exempt: Finance Ministry**
Note: The Union Ministry of Finance announced that now businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh will be GST exempt. The Ministry added that those with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only 1 percent tax. Earlier, only businesses with an annual turnover of Rs 20 lakh were exempted from GST tax.
 8. **Centre to develop a single e-compliance window soon to promote ease of doing business**
Note: The central government has been planning to develop a single e-compliance window for India Inc. This new framework will enable the companies to comply with the different regulatory requirements at one go. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has also initiated discussions with various regulators including RBI, SEBI, and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, to create a single platform with common data sources.
 9. **India, Japan and Australia to launch Supply Chain Resilience Initiative to counter China**
Note: India, Australia, and Japan have started the discussions for the launch of a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in order to reduce the dependency on China. The initiative which was first proposed by Japan might be executed. Earlier, Japan through its Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry had approached India and had pressed on the urgency of taking the initiative forward.
 10. **India ranks first in number of organic farmers, 9th in terms of area under organic farming**
Note: India has been ranked first in the number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming. Sikkim has become the first state in the world to become fully organic. Other states including Uttarakhand and Tripura have also set similar sustainability targets. North-east India has traditionally been organic and the consumption of chemicals is far less than the rest of the country.
 11. **ADB approves \$1 billion package for Delhi-Meerut Rapid Transit System**
Note: The Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) network of 82 kms is the first of the three priority rail corridors in India's integrated transport network under NCR Regional Plan of 2021. The rail project report mentioned that about eight lakh passengers will be boarding the high-speed RRTS trains, which will be running at 180 kmph, for the long and short distance commuting every day.
 12. **India to provide USD 500 million assistance for connectivity project in Maldives**
Note: Indian government will fund the implementation of major connectivity project in the Maldives with USD 400 million line of credit and USD 100 million grant. The announcement was made after the Union External Affairs Minister had wide-ranging talks with Abdulla Shahid, his Maldivian counterpart.
 13. **PM Modi launches Transparent Taxation- Honoring the Honest platform**
Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a platform called "Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest" to honour the honest taxpayers of the country. The "Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest" platform will initiate major tax reforms aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers.
 14. **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches online dashboard of National Infrastructure Pipeline**
Note: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an online dashboard of National Infrastructure Pipeline. The Dashboard will showcase over 6,800 projects online. The Online dashboard of NIP is to be hosted on the India Investment Grid (IIG), which is a dynamic and interactive online platform that showcases real-time and updated investment opportunities in India.
 15. **Indian government contributes over \$15 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund**
Note: The Indian government has contributed over \$15.46 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund. The contribution highlights India's commitment to support developing nations in their developmental priorities across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The contribution of the fund was made during a low-key ceremony which was held within the social distancing guidelines at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN.
 16. **Atal Innovation Mission launches 'AIM-iCREST' program in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**
Note: Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched AIM-iCREST- an incubator capabilities enhancement program for an ecosystem which will be focused on creating high performing startups. The step has been taken to encourage and enable the holistic progress in the incubator ecosystem across India making it the first

kind of initiative for advancing innovation at scale in the country.

17. **ADB approves USD 3 million grant to India to fight COVID-19 pandemic**
Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on July 29 announced that it has approved USD 3 million grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Respond Fund. The bank has provided the grant to support India's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic
18. **India's FATF review of anti-money laundering regime postponed to 2021**
Note: India's much-awaited Financial Action Task Force (FATF) review has been postponed to 2021. The review was scheduled for this year as a part of the regular review cycle after 10 years. The FATF review would comprise an evaluation of India's anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regime and the legal measures taken to keep a check on financial crimes.
19. **India-UK affirm shared commitment towards Free Trade Agreement**
Note: India and the United Kingdom affirmed their shared commitment towards a Free Trade Agreement during the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting. The virtual meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss.
20. **CBDT, CBIC sign MoU to share data regularly**
Note: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the data exchange between the two organisations. Along with the signing, a Data Exchange Steering group has also been constituted.
21. **NABARD launches development projects in Andaman & Nicobar Islands worth Rs. 44 lakhs**
Note: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched development projects in Andaman & Nicobar Islands worth Rs. 44 lakhs. These projects aim at strengthening the concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat through rural entrepreneurship. The projects by

NABARD will include the formation and development of Self-Help Groups, SHG.

22. **NABARD to provide banks refinance of Rs. 5000 crores to support watershed projects**
Note: The NABARD announced Rs. 5,000 crores of refinance scheme for the financial institutions and banks in order to provide finance to the beneficiaries of its 2,150 watershed development projects. The financial institution also designated another Rs. 5,000 crores for turning Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) into multi-service centres.
23. **India becomes a second largest source of FDI for UK**
Note: United Kingdom (UK) government figures which were released on July 10 showed that India has become the second-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the UK by investing in 120 projects and creating 5,429 new jobs in the United Kingdom. It represents an overall 4 percent FDI increase for the UK in 2018-2019, with 1,852 new inward investment in 2019-20.
24. **Google to invest USD 10 billion in India to boost digital economy**
Note: Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced an investment of Rs. 75,000 crore (approximately \$10 billion) into India over the next five to seven years through the 'Google for India Digitization Fund'. The major investment is significant as it has come in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and multinational companies look across the world for alternative investment destinations.
25. **India, World Bank sign USD 750 million agreement for MSME Emergency Response Programme**
Note: The agreement aims at supporting an increased flow of finance to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The **MSME Emergency Response Programme** will help address the immediate credit and liquidity needs of 1.5 million eligible MSMEs to rescue them from current economic crisis.

June

1. **GOI and World Bank signs loan agreements to provide affordable housing to low-income groups in Tamil Nadu**
Note: The agreements have been signed for two projects- \$50 million Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project and \$200 million First Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Programme. The two projects will strengthen the state government's housing sector policies, regulations, and institutions.

2. **PM FME Scheme launched to generate total investment of Rs. 35,000 crore and 9 lakh employment**
Note: The Minister of Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal on June 29 launched the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME) as a part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. The scheme will generate a total investment of Rs. 35,000 crore. It will also generate 9 lakh semi-

skilled and skilled employment and will benefit 8 lakh units through access to training, information, formalization, and better exposure.

3. **FM Nirmala Sitharaman launched Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan**

Note: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses curtain raiser for the launch of Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan. The scheme will assist the returnee migrant workers to provide them with livelihood opportunities.

4. **PM Narendra Modi launches auction of 41 Coal Mines**

Note: PM Narendra Modi launched the auction of **41 coal mines** for commercial mining. The launch is a part of the announcements that were made by the centre under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

During the launch he said it will turn the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity by becoming self-reliant and reduce its dependence on imports.

5. **AIIB approves \$750 million dollar loan to India to fight COVID-19**

Note: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved the loan of \$750 million dollars (about Rs. 5,688 crore) to India. The loan has been sanctioned to assist the Indian government to strengthen its response to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on millions of people.

6. **India to set up Coal Exchange**

Note: India will soon be setting up a coal trading platform as it gears up to bring in commercial mining in the coal sector. Under the proposal, the entire coal produced in the country will be traded on a platform called '**Coal Exchange**'. Coal Exchange will be an online coal trading platform where the pricing will be determined in a transparent manner on the basis of demand and supply.

7. **Power Minister launches real time market in electricity**

Note: The Union Power Minister, R K Singh formally launched the pan-India real-time market in electricity. This will allow consumers to buy power just one hour before the delivery. The Real-time Market (RMT) will enable the consumers, including captive users and distribution companies (discoms) to buy power on exchanges just an hour before the delivery.

8. **Mudra Shishu loan announced for small businesses**

Note: Under the scheme, one lakh beneficiaries can avail an interest benefit of 2 percent for a year. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the 'Mudra Shishu loan' while announcing the second tranche of the centre's 20 lakh crore package to revive the Indian economy amid COVID-19 pandemic.

May

1. **FDI in India rises up by 18 per cent to reach USD 73 billion in 2019-20**

Note: Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal stated that the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India has grown by 18% to reach 73 billion in FY 2019-20. As per the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), this jump in the investment has been the highest in four years.

2. **Govt relaxes norms of Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme for HFCs, NBFCs**

Note: Union government has relaxed the norms of the Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme. The cabinet has also extended its time period to widen the coverage to include a large number of microfinance institutions, HFCs, and NBFCs. The Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman announced Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme 2.0 worth Rs. 45,000 crore for Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

3. **NABARD releases Rs. 20,500 crore to co-operative banks and RRBs**

Note: NABARD has released Rs. 20,500 crores to regional rural banks and co-operative banks for on-lending to the farmers. The disbursed amount is part

of the Rs. 25,000 crore which was a refinance facility provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to NABARD. It aimed at refinancing regional rural banks, microfinance institutions (MFIs) and co-operative banks.

4. **World Bank clears \$1 billion loan for the social protection**

Note: The World Bank has cleared a \$1 billion assistance for the social protection and has been in talks with the government for the funding the initiatives to assist micro, medium and small enterprises (MSME). World Bank's support for social protection will be funded in two phases- an allocation of \$750 million before the end of June 2020 and a second allocation of \$250 million by June 2021.

5. **KVIC issued new guidelines on PM Modi's 'vocal for local' call**

Note: The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) issued new guidelines to speed up the implementation of projects under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'vocal for local' appeal. With this, KVIC has been gearing up for 'vocal for local' and further plans on making KVIC 'global'.

6. **BRICS' Bank provides USD 1 billion loan to India to combat COVID-19**

Note: The BRICS's New Development Bank has decided to provide USD 1 billion emergency assistance loan to India to support its efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic, contain its spread and reduce human, social and economic losses. The 'Emergency Assistance Program Loan' to India was approved by the Board of Directors of the bank on April 30, 2020.

7. **177 new mandis integrated with eNam platform**

Note: The Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar had launched the integration of 177 mandis with the National Agriculture Market (eNAM). The integration will promote agricultural marketing and facilitate farmers to sell their produce online. As per the official release, there are total of 962 eNAM mandis across the country.

8. **India, AIIB sign agreement for USD 500 million COVID-19 support**

Note: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has signed an agreement with the Indian

government to provide funds worth USD 500 million to support India's "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project". The project will help India scale up its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen the nation's public health preparedness.

9. **Saras Collection launched by govt on GeM Portal**

Note: The Saras Collection has been launched by the Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal. Saras Collection aims at showcasing the daily utility products that have been made by the Self - Help Groups (SHG). It will also provide market in the rural areas with access to State and Central government buyers.

10. **MGNREGA gets sanction of Rs. 33,300 crores by Centre**

Note: The Central govt has sanctioned Rs. 33,300 crores under MGNREGA so far in the current fiscal year. The sanction has been done to liquidate the outstanding dues of previous years as well as to meet the expenditure till June 2020.

Banking & Financial Awareness

September

1. **ICICI Home Finance launched "Apna Ghar Dreamz" Home Loan Scheme**

Note: ICICI Home Finance launched "Apna Ghar Dreamz", its new home loan scheme for skilled laborers like electricians, mechanics, painters, grocery store owners etc in the informal sector of Delhi. The credit amount of this loan ranges from Rs 2 lakh to 50 lakhs. The customers can utilise the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), a credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) for Lower Income Groups/ Economically Weaker Sections (EWS/LIG) and Middle In-come Groups (MIG - I & II).

2. **Titan partnered with SBI to launch contactless payment watches "Titan Pay"**

Note: Titan Company has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to launch India's first contactless payment watches named "Titan Pay". 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.

3. **ICICI Bank introduces 'iStartup2.0'**

Note: ICICI Bank has launched a new product named "iStartup 2.0", to cater to the banking needs of startups and entrepreneurs. The programme for startups that takes care of their banking as well as beyond-banking needs such as regulatory assistance,

analytics, staffing, accounting, customer acquisition and digital outreach to customers, among others. 'iStartup2.0' is the country's most comprehensive programme, offers customers an eponymous Current Account which is available in three variants-Platinum, Gold and Silver- the widest range by any Bank for start-ups.

4. **Central Bank Digital Currency testing platform launched by Mastercard**

Note: Mastercard has launched "Central Bank Digital Currencies" (CBDCs), a Virtual Testing Environment for Central Banks to Assess and Explore National Digital Currencies. Mastercard has invited Central Banks, Commercial Banks and tech and advisory firms to evaluate the suitability of CBDCs in a country or region. The testing platform will allow central banks to evaluate use cases and test roll-out strategies for CBDCs by simulating a CBDC ecosystem.

5. **SBI to launch new loan scheme SAFAL for organic cotton growers**

Note: State Bank of India is planning to launch a loan product named "SAFAL" for organic cotton growers. The product Safe and Fast Agriculture Loan (SAFAL) is primarily focussed on organic cotton growers who don't have any credit history. SBI will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) for this purpose

6. **Bank of Baroda tops EASE Banking Reform Index 2.0 Index by IBA**

Note: As per EASE Banking Reforms Index 2.0, Bank of Baroda has marked the top position in the ranking list. The State Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce has marked the Second and Third rank position respectively. Under this index, the Public Sector Bank's performances are analysed and measured by more than 120 objective metrics which are based on six themes. The Six themes are: (1) Responsible Banking (2) Customer Responsiveness (3) Credit Off-take (4) Governance and HR (5) PSBs as Udayamitra for MSMEs (6) Deepening Financial Inclusion and Digitalisation. Index is prepared by Indian Banking Association (IBA).

7. Bank of India launched "Signature Visa Debit Card"

Note: The Bank of India has launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for

high net worth individuals with spending limit of up to ₹5 lakhs on POS & e-commerce and ₹1 lakh on ATM. High net worth individuals are those who maintain an average quarterly balance of Rs 10 lakhs and above. It will also provide Insurance against fraudulent transactions.

8. ICICI Bank launches 'Home Utsav', a virtual property exhibition

Note: ICICI Bank has launched a virtual property exhibition under the name 'Home Utsav'. The exhibition will digitally showcase real estate projects by renowned developers, across India. The exhibition can be accessed on www.homeutsavicici.com. The exhibition can be accessed by both customers and non-customers of ICICI Bank.

August

1. HDFC Bank Partnered with Adobe to enhance digital customer experiences

Note: HDFC Bank has announced a strategic partnership with Adobe to enhance the Digital Experiences of its Customers. The Bank will use platforms like Data Management Platform in Adobe Audience Manager to develop a deep understanding of the customers. The collected data will enable HDFC to deliver focussed campaigns and communication to customers through email, mobile and off-line channels.

2. Axis Bank introduced 'Liberty Savings Account' for the Indian Youth

Note: Axis Bank has introduced 'Liberty Savings Account' for the Indian Youth, to address the ever-changing lifestyle needs of young and digitally interested Indians. It offers a complimentary hospital cash insurance cover of up to Rs 20,000 per year, which covers hospital expenses incurred under COVID -19, which makes this a 1st of its kind savings account to cover the pandemic. This account targets to meet the lifestyle requirements of the working class that falls under 35 years of age.

3. NABARD rolls out Debt and Credit Guarantee Product

Note: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has revealed a dedicated debt and credit guarantee product named as "Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC)-Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)". The newly launched product seeks to offer undisturbed flow of credit to the last mile in rural areas hit by the pandemic.

4. ICICI Bank uses satellite data to assess creditworthiness of farmers

Note: ICICI Bank uses satellite data to assess the creditworthiness of farmers. ICICI Bank has become the 1st bank in India to use such a technique to measure an array of parameters related to the land, irrigation and

crop patterns and use it in combination with demographic and financial parameters to make quick lending decisions for farmers.

5. SBI General Insurance launches "Shagun - Gift an insurance" policy

Note: SBI General Insurance has launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product called 'Shagun - Gift an Insurance', which is a unique gift of Personal Accident policy. The unique feature of this policy is that it can be gifted to anyone, which means it is not necessary for the policy buyer to be related to the insured. A Gift giver (policy buyer) can gift this product to anyone like family, friends, extended family and even domestic helpers, chauffeurs, drivers, cook, etc.

6. ICICI Lombard, Bharti AXA to merge general insurance businesses

Note: ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company and Bharti AXA General Insurance Company have announced the merger of their businesses. The merger would result in an entity with a combined annual premium of Rs 16,447 crore and a market share of nearly 8.7%. The merger will happen through a scheme of arrangement.

7. Axis Bank launches hiring initiative named 'Gig-a-Opportunities'

Note: Axis Bank has launched a new initiative named 'Gig-a-Opportunities'. The initiative aims to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country. This hiring model comprises two working patterns. One is the full-time permanent job and the second is based on the duration of a project and is temporary in nature. Axis Bank aims to employ 800-1000 people over the next under this initiative.

8. Lakshmi Vilas Bank launches "LVB DigiGo" instant account opening facility

Note: Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) has launched LVB DigiGo, a digital initiative to enable the opening of

savings account instantly. LVB's new initiative will help people to avail the most required banking services instantly through the website.

9. YES Bank launches unique facility 'Loan against Securities'

Note: 'Loan against Securities' is an unique digital solution launched by the YES Bank under its loan in seconds platform. "Loan against Securities" will enable customers to avail loan facility against the securities that they hold. The customers are required only to pledge the securities and not selling them. YES Bank will open a current account in the name of the customer in order to conduct smooth transactions.

10. Fino Payments Bank launches "Jan BachatKhata"

Note: Fino Payments Bank has launched Jan BachatKhata (JBK), which is an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account that brings neo-banking experience to consumers. Under the JBK, customers can transact at a Fino branch or merchant point with fingerprint and OTP combination, while at non-Fino points they need Aadhaar authentication.

11. HDFC Bank launches "Shaurya KGC Card" to members of armed forces

Note: HDFC Bank has launched "Shaurya KGC Card" for Indian armed forces personnel. The card will offer agriculture loans for military and paramilitary professionals. A first-of-its-kind product for over 45 lakh Indian armed forces personnel.

12. PNB launches 'DIGITAL APNAYEN' campaign to promote digital banking

Note: Punjab National Bank has launched a campaign named 'DIGITAL APNAYEN' to encourage customers to use digital banking channels. The campaign launched by the bank's Managing Director S S Mallikarjuna Rao on the occasion of Independence Day is till March 31, 2021. PNB encourage customers to use digital channels and participate in the noble cause of donating to the PM CARES Fund for COVID-19.

13. Axis Bank launches Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA'

Note: Private sector lender Axis Bank has launched an Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA'. AXAA is an artificial intelligence-powered conversational voice BOT. The Automated Voice Assistant will function like a humanoid and has the ability to change the paradigm of customer experience from conventional Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system.

July

1. IRCTC & SBI Card launches Co-branded Contactless Credit Card

Note: Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and SBI Card has launched a new Co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform. The card was revealed by Union Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal. The newly launched card aims to ensure a safe, convenient and improved travel experience for the rail passengers.

2. Bank of Baroda rolls out 'Insta Click Savings Account'

Note: India's third-largest public sector bank, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched 'Insta Click Savings Account', a 100 per cent paperless digital self-assisted online savings account. Insta Click Savings Account uses a new form of digital KYC (know-your-customer) and Aadhaar-based OTP authentication of the customer, which can be operated from the bank's website, through mobile phone, iPad, laptop, and PC.

3. FamPay launches 'numberless card' for teenagers

Note: India's first Neobank for teenagers, FamPay has launched India's first numberless card, "FamCard". Teenagers can now use FamCard like a debit card to make payments independently, without asking parents for physical cash or their debit/credit card.

4. NPCI rolls out UPI AutoPay facility for recurring payment

Note: UPI AutoPay facility for recurring payment has been launched by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI). The new facility will enable recurring e-mandate with the help of any Unified Payments Interface (UPI) application for recurring payments like mobile bills, electricity bills, EMI payments etc upto Rs. 2000. For the amount exceeding Rs. 2000, the customer has to execute every mandate with UPI PIN.

5. NABARD organised 'Digital Choupal' to mark its 39th foundation day

Note: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) organised its first 'Digital Choupal' to mark its 39th foundation day. "Digital Choupal" was conducted in the form of a video conference which was attended by participants of different projects initiated by NABARD, to share their experiences about the projects they are involved in.

6. Visa partners Federal Bank to launch "Visa Secure"

Note: Visa, a global leader in payments technology has tied-up with Federal Bank to launch "Visa Secure" to the bank's cardholders. "Visa Secure" is a modernized technology that provides a quicker and frictionless checkout experience to the consumers. Adoption of new improved technology will enable the bank to focus on customer-centric digital solutions that make online shopping experiences seamless.

7. KVB tie-up with Bajaj Allianz Life to offer life insurance solutions

Note: Karur Vysya Bank has signed an agreement with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance to offer life insurance solutions to its customers. Bajaj Allianz's products will be available at the Bank's 780 branch offices spread across India.

8. SBM Bank partners with MasterCard for smarter payments solutions

Note: Private lender, SBM Bank (India) Ltd has partnered with Mastercard to revolutionize domestic and cross-border payments and remittances services. The SBM Bank India customers will be able to make real-time domestic business-to-consumer transfers quickly and efficiently using 'Mastercard Send'.

9. Fino Payments Bank launches 'Bhavishya' savings account

Note: 'Bhavishya' savings account has been launched by the Fino Payments Bank Limited. This savings account scheme has been launched for minors aged between 10-18 years. 'Bhavishya', a subscription-based savings account, can be opened by paying a nominal amount. The newly launched savings account scheme will be initially rolled out by the bank in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh.

10. Karur Vysya Bank partners with Star Health Insurance

Note: The Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has entered into a partnership with Star Health and Allied Insurance Co to provide a wide range of health insurance options to its customers. Under the agreement, all the health insurance products of Star Health & Allied Insurance

will be made available through all 780 branches of the Karur Vysya Bank.

11. YES Bank launches 'Loan in Seconds' for instant loan disbursement

Note: YES Bank has launched a digital solution, "Loan in Seconds" for instant disbursement of retail loans. The account holders identified by the bank can avail this quick loan disbursal facility without any document. The solution aims to provide customers, completely paperless and hassle-free loans to help them meet their immediate financial needs. Eligible customers under 'Loan in Seconds' will receive communication from the bank with the link to apply for the loan.

12. HDFC Bank to offer 'ZipDrive' online instant auto loans

Note: HDFC Bank offers instant car loans to existing customers through an initiative called "ZipDrive" in 1,000 cities. This solution gives the customer with a pre-approved loan offer to avail an auto loan through net banking or via assistance from the bank's phone banking team. It is a technology-enabled loan product where credit assessment is done by banking software.

13. HDFC Bank launches 'e-Kisaan Dhan' app for farmers

Note: HDFC Bank has launched the 'e-Kisaan Dhan' app for farmers all over India. Through their mobile phones, the farmers will be able to access the services, both banking and agriculture. 'e-Kisaan Dhan' will provide value-added services like mandi prices, latest farming news, weather forecast, information on seed varieties, SMS advisory, e-pashuhaat, Kisan TV, and more.

June

1. Yes Bank partners with UDMA to launch 'Yuva Pay' mobile app

Note: Yes Bank has partnered with UDMA Technologies to launched its digital wallet solution 'Yuva Pay' mobile app. Through this app, the bank enables contactless payments for its customers. With the help of the app, customers can pay their utility bills

2. GoI brings all cooperative banks under supervision of RBI

Note: Government of India will bring an ordinance to put all cooperative banks under the Reserve Bank of India supervision. This decision was announced by Union information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar.

3. Karnataka Bank rolls out KBL Micro Mitra for Micro entrepreneurs

Note: The Karnataka Bank has rolled out a new product titled "KBL Micro Mitra" for the Micro entrepreneurs. Under the newly launched product,

the Micro manufacturing and service enterprises will be offered a financial assistance of up to Rs 10 lakhs. This financial assistance would be provided either for working capital or for investment purposes. The financial assistance facility comes with a simplified procedure and competitive rate of interest.

4. UCO Bank ties-up with four insurers to sell their products

Note: UCO Bank has tied up with four insurers to offer various insurance products to its customers through its network of branches across the country. The lender teamed up with SBI Life Insurance Company, the Oriental insurance company and Religare insurance Company, Star Health and Allied insurance company for selling their products.

5. Yes Bank partners with Affordplan to launch "Swasth Card"

Note: Yes Bank has partnered with fintech startup “Affordplan” to launch ‘Swasth Card’, a co-branded healthcare card, under Swasth program. YES BANK’s wallet has also been integrated on Affordplan Swasth to enable wallet QR scan for making payments to merchant partners empanelled on the Affordplan Swasth app. Equipped with a chip-enabled card, digital wallet, goal-based savings, loans, and insurance, Swasth program extends access to a family seeking curative as well as preventive care.

6. ICICI Home Finance launches “SARAL” scheme for affordable house loan

Note: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited (HFC) has launched “SARAL” scheme for a special affordable house loan for urban and rural areas. The beneficiaries are women, lower, middle-income customers and economically weaker sections, with a maximum household income up to Rs 6 lakh per annum.

7. Airtel Payments Bank launches ‘Suraksha salary account’ for MSMEs

Note: Airtel Payments Bank has launched ‘Suraksha Salary Account’ for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). India’s MSME sector has over 60 million units and accounts for 29 per cent of India’s GDP.

1. NPCI rolls out AI virtual Artificial Intelligence assistant Pai

Note: An Artificial Intelligence (AI) based chatbot “PAI” has been launched by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI). This chatbot has been rolled out to create awareness around NPCI’s products such as FASTag, RuPay, UPI, AePS on a real time basis, hence improving the digital financial inclusion in India. The chatbot “PAI” has been developed by Bengaluru based startup CoRover Private Limited.

2. Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes 1st bank in India to allow video KYC

Note: Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes 1st bank in India to allow video Know your customer (KYC) facility for customers opening savings accounts on Kotak 811 – the banks digital banking platform. The initiative is presently being launched on a pilot basis for savings accounts, Kotak Mahindra.

3. Canara Bank starts gold loan business vertical

Note: Canara Bank has started a special business vertical dedicated to gold loans. This business vertical for gold loans to meet the financial needs of its customers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bank has launched a gold loan campaign till 30th June 2020 with an interest rate as low as 7.85% per annum.

4. SBI General Insurance launches “Arogya Sanjeevani” Health Insurance Policy

8. ICICI Bank introduces ‘Insta FlexiCash’ for salary account customers

Note: ICICI Bank has introduced an online overdraft(od) facility ‘Insta FlexiCash’ for its salary account customers. The end-to-end fully digital facility is often accessed with no documentation, using the Bank’s internet banking platform without visiting a bank branch. Customers can easily avail of this facility by initiating their application online.

9. “Summer Treats” campaign launched by HDFC Bank

Note: “Summer Treats” campaign has been launched by the private sector HDFC Bank. The special campaign has been launched by the bank with the easing of the lockdown restrictions in order to provide offers to both merchants and, salaried and self-employed customers.

10. IndusInd Bank starts mobile-based current account opening facility

Note: The IndusInd Bank has launched a mobile application based facility where customer can open the current bank account in a paperless manner in just a few hours. Now IndusInd is the first bank in India to introduce this assisted mobile application based facility.

May

Note: State Bank of India(SBI) General Insurance has launched the standard health insurance policy named “Aarogya Sanjeevani Health Insurance Policy”. This policy provides hospitalisation cover anywhere in India with sums insured ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs.

5. Ameyo rolls out video KYC engagement platform for Banking sector

Note: A customer engagement technology provider, Ameyo has launched video KYC engagement platform for the banking and finance sector. The newly launched platform will eliminate the businesses’ requirement of physical KYC in accordance with latest RBI guidelines issued in January 2020. It is expected to decrease the customer onboarding process from the present 5-7 days to less than 3 minutes.

6. HDFC Bank releases song “#HumHaarNahiMaanenge”

Note: HDFC Bank has released a song titled #HumHaarNahiMaanenge to keep hopes up amidst the ongoing national lockdown and Covid-19 pandemic. The lyrics of the song has been penned by Prasoon Joshi and music has been composed by AR Rahman. HDFC Bank has announced that it will contribute Rs 500 each time the song is shared via social media towards the PM-CARES Fund.

7. KVG bank launches “Vikas Abhaya” loan scheme

Note: Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched 'Vikas Abhaya' a loan scheme to provide some relief to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers. This scheme is for those

borrowers whose business activities are disrupted on account of the COVID-19 pandemic in Dharwad, Karnataka.

Banking & Financial terms

1. **AEPS** – Aadhar Enabled Payment System
2. **APBS** – Aadhar Payment Bridge System
3. **ATM** – Automated Teller Machine
4. **ALM** - Asset Liability Management
5. **AIIB** - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
6. **AMFI** - Association of Mutual Funds in India
7. **BIS** - Bureau of Indian Standards
8. **BBPS** – Bharat Bill Payment System
9. **BCA** - Baseline Credit Assessment
10. **BHIM** - Bharat Interface for Money
11. **BLRA**: Bank Led Resolution Approach
12. **CBL** - Chest Balance Limit
13. **CMFRI** - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
14. **CBS** – Core Banking System
15. **CIDR** - Central Identities Data Repository
16. **CTS** – Cheque Truncation System
17. **CDR** - Corporate Debt Restructuring
18. **CASA** – Current Account Saving Account
19. **CAD** – Capital Account Deficit
20. **CRA** - Counterparty Risk Assessment
21. **CRR** – Cash Reserve Ratio
22. **ECS** – Electronic Clearing Service
23. **DNS** - Domain Name System
24. **DEAF** - Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
25. **EFTPOS** - Electronic funds transfer at point of sale
26. **EFT** – Electronic Fund Transfer.
27. **FRBM** - Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
28. **LGD** - Loss Given Default
29. **LTV**- Loan To Value
30. **LRS** - Liberalized Remittance Scheme
31. **LCR** - Liquidity Coverage Ratio
32. **GNFV** - Gross Negative Fair Value
33. **SFTs**: Securities financing transactions
34. **HCE** - Host Card Emulation
35. **PFE** - Potential Future Exposure
36. **IIP** - Index of Industrial Production
37. **IBBI** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
38. **IFC** - International Finance Corporation
39. **IDRBT** - Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology
40. **Ind As** - Indian Accounting Standards
41. **ICAAP** - Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
42. **IFSC** - Indian Financial System Code
43. **IMPS** - Immediate Payment Service
44. **IMPS** - Interbank Mobile Payment Service
45. **MMID** - Mobile Money Identifier
46. **MPIN** - Mobile Personal Identification Number
47. **NPA** – Non- Performing Assets
48. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
49. **NPCI** - National Payment Corporation of India
50. **NFS** – National Financial Switch
51. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
52. **NACH** – National Automated Clearing House
53. **NEFT** – National Electronic Fund Transfer
54. **NFC** - Near field communication
55. **NDTL** – Net Demand and Time Liabilities.
56. **NASSCOM** - National Association of Software and Services Companies
57. **NIIF** - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
58. **OTC** – Over the Counter
59. **PIN** – Personal Identification Number
60. **PAC** - Personal Access Code
61. **PCA** - Prompt Corrective Action
62. **PCR** – Public Credit Registry
63. **PCR** - Provisioning Coverage Ratio
64. **PSPs** - Payment Support Providers
65. **TC-CCP** - Third-Country Central Counterparty
66. **TRR** - Temporary Recognition Regime
67. **TReDS** - Trade Receivables Discounting System
68. **RTGS** – Real Time Gross Settlement
69. **USSD** - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
70. **UIDAI** - Unique Identification Authority of India
71. **VPA** - Virtual Payment Address.
72. **WMA** - Ways and Means Advances
73. **TIEA** - Tax Information and Exchange Agreement
74. **NRETP** - National Rural Economic Transformation Project
75. **IBC** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
76. **GSP** - Generalised System of Preferences
77. **IFFCO** - Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative
78. **PMJAY** - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
79. **NBFC** - Non-banking finance companies
80. **SWIFT** - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
81. **NHB** – National Housing Bank
82. **NGT** - National Green Tribunal
83. **DSIB** – Domestically Systematically Important Bank
84. **RWAs** - Risk Weighted Assets
85. **TCs** - Trade credits
86. **CSO** - Central Statistics Office
87. **ASSOCHAM** - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
88. **WPI** - Wholesale Price Index

- 89. FTA - Free Trade Agreement
- 90. NHB - National Housing Bank
- 91. YONO - You only need one
- 92. ARC - Asset Reconstruction Company
- 93. D-SIBs - Domestic Systemically Important Banks
- 94. MFIs - Micro Finance Institutions
- 95. FPIs - Foreign portfolio investors
- 96. FVCIs - Foreign venture capital investors
- 97. PPF - Public Provident Fund
- 98. NSC - National Savings Certificate
- 99. CbC - Country-by-Country
- 100. WEF - World Economic Forum
- 101. MPI - Multidimensional Poverty Index
- 102. UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
- 103. UPI - Unified Payments Interface
- 104. NPCI - National Payments Corporation of India
- 105. CII - Confederation of Indian Industry
- 106. NBCC - National Buildings Construction Corporation
- 107. NSSO - National Sample Survey Office
- 108. EMV - Europay, MasterCard, Visa.
- 109. FATF - Financial Action Task Force

Agreement & Deals

September

1. **ADB & Suguna Foods Private Limited signs \$15 million deal**
Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement for \$15 million of debt financing through the subscription of nonconvertible debentures for Suguna Foods Private Limited (Suguna). The deal will help in sustaining poultry farming operations, as well as rural livelihoods and food security in India during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **NSDC, LinkedIn partner to provide digital skills training for youth**
Note: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and LinkedIn have announced a partnership to provide access to free learning resources for digital skills. A total of 10 learning paths consisting of 140 courses will be made available for free on e-Skill India digital platform until March 31, 2021.
3. **WhatsApp, CPF partner to drive cyber safety awareness**
Note: Facebook-owned WhatsApp has partnered with Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF) to create awareness on cyber safety among students. The partners aim to reach about 15,000 students in five Indian states, including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra by the end of this year, under the first phase of a pan-India programme.
4. **Infosys acquires product design firm Kaleidoscope Innovation**
Note: Infosys has announced that it would acquire product design and development firm, Kaleidoscope Innovation for up to \$42 million. Kaleidoscope is a US-based firm and would bring to Infosys a diverse talent pool with extensive knowledge of design and engineering.

August

1. **NeGD signs MoU with CSC E-Governance Services India Limited**
Note: The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has partnered with CSC (Common Service Center) e Governance Services India Limited. The partnership aims to enable delivery of UMANG services to citizens through the network of 3.75 lakh CSCs.
2. **APEDA signs MoUs with AFC India Limited & NCUI, Delhi**
Note: To synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed MoUs with AFC India Limited, and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Delhi. The MoU aims to employ their expertise by mutually working together to coordinate the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors in order to bring better value to the stakeholders.
3. **Tourism Ministry partners with TAAI & FICCI's FLO to promote tourism**
Note: Ministry of Tourism has signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with primary objective of women empowerment. The signed MoU will enable FLO & TAAI to focus on personal and hospitality skills, a more flexible work balance and greater options for entrepreneurship with lower capital.
4. **Uttar Pradesh partners Israel to resolve Bundelkhand Water Crisis**

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Note: Uttar Pradesh government has signed a 'plan of cooperation' with Israel government to resolve water crisis in Bundelkhand region. The partnership between the two governments seeks to address water crisis in drought hit regions of Bundelkhand. It will support regional farmers with latest farming technologies such as drip irrigation, meant for water deficient regions like Bundelkhand.

5. IIM Kozhikode signs MoU with Switzerland-based HELP Logistics

Note: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) with the Switzerland-based HELP Logistics. The partnership between the two entities seeks to produce humanitarian logistics in India and the region by offering consulting services as well as logistics training for the humanitarian community such as United Nations bodies, government institutions and non-governmental organisations.

6. Ministry of Skill Development partners with Ministry of Shipping

Note: Ministry of Skill Development has inked an MoU with Ministry of Shipping to promote skill development in port and maritime sector. The partnership between the two ministries seeks to skill, re-skill and up-skill the manpower for the growing maritime industry as well as development of coastal community.

7. Atal Innovation Mission signs SoI with Business Sweden

Note: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and Business Sweden on behalf of India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre has signed a virtual Statement of Intent (SoI) to expand the culture of innovation in the country. The partnership aims to encourage the disruptive potential of Indian entrepreneurs, and to give impetus to the vibrant start-up ecosystem across the country.

8. Flipkart establishes academic collaboration with IIT Patna

Note: An Memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed by India's homegrown ecommerce player "Flipkart" with Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Patna. The MoU will encourage industry focused applied research in the areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML). This is

flipkart's effort towards strengthening its academic collaboration which it has been promoting for past 5 years now.

9. A.P. government signs MoU with US Based IT Firm "Boston Group"

Note: The Boston Group has signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government to set up an IT company in Visakhapatnam. The new IT company stated to be installed in the state according to the MoU is expected to create 250+ jobs in the IT sector.

10. Flipkart partners with the U.P. Government's ODOP scheme

Note: India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, Flipkart has signed an MoU with One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The MoU will bring the artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme into the scope of the "Flipkart Samarth" initiative.

This will provide artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme a momentum to expand their business online as they face social and economic challenges.

11. MoD signs MoU with IIT Kanpur & Department of ARPG

Note: The Department of Defence (DoD) Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK). The MoU will support the MoD in identifying the cause and nature of grievances and to introduce systemic changes and policy interventions wherever required.

12. RPower & JERA inks loan agreement for Bangladesh's power plant

Note: Reliance Power and Japanese energy major JERA have signed an agreement with a group of banks for their new gas-fired thermal power generation project in Bangladesh. The signed agreement will provide full finance of about \$642 million (approx Rs 4,798 crore) for a new 745 MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat in Bangladesh. This is one of the largest funding tie-ups for a project in Bangladesh's power sector.

July

1. CSIR, UBA-IIT Delhi & Vijnana Bharati signs tripartite MoU

Note: Unnat Bharat Abhiyan-Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (UBA-IITD) and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA), New Delhi has signed a tripartite MoU with

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CSIR. The signed MoU will offer access to CSIR rural technologies for UBA. It will also lay the foundation for cooperation as well as joint action in the area of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) for rural development of India.

2. Adani Ports signs up for Science-Based Targets initiative

Note: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has become the first Indian port to sign the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi). After signing up for the SBTi, APSEZ has committed to set up science-based emissions reduction targets across their entire value chain. These targets would be consistent with keeping global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

3. Amazon Pay ties up with Acko to sell auto insurance

Note: Digital payments major, Amazon Pay has launched vehicle insurance in partnership with Bengaluru-based startup Acko General Insurance. Amazon Pay, which is the payments unit of Amazon India, will help customers purchase insurance effortlessly and Amazon Prime members will get extra benefits including additional discounts.

4. Airtel Payments Bank partners NSDC to train rural youth

Note: Airtel Payments Bank Ltd and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have collaborated in order to train and skill young people in rural areas on financial services and helping them in finding jobs and become entrepreneurs in the sector. The collaboration has an objective to design & conduct focused skill development programs for rural youth and enabling them to adopt the tools to boost online banking and digital financial services.

5. LIC signs agreement with UBI to distribute latter's policies

Note: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Union Bank of India, after its amalgamation with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank, have announced a corporate agency agreement to distribute LIC policies. The bank will market LIC products of term insurance, pension, plan, children plan, ULIPs, and endowment schemes.

6. Punjab Govt tie-up with IIT-Ropar for skill development

Note: The Punjab government has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, in the area of skill development. The agreement provides IIT's technical education department to become an academic mentor for the

state's engineering colleges at Gurdaspur and Ferozepur, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Skill Institute at Chamkaur Sahib, five government polytechnics and 10 government ITIs.

7. MYAS partners with UNICEF to promote volunteerism among youth

Note: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has partnered with UNICEF to strengthen the Government of India's resolution to mobilise 1 crore youth volunteers to attain the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat. To promote volunteerism among the youth of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has signed a Statement of Intent with YuWaah (a multi-stakeholder platform formed by the UNICEF).

8. CBSE ties up with IBM to integrate AI curriculum

Note: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII in the current academic year (2020-2021). The curriculum was developed in collaboration with IBM (International Business Machines Corporation). The IBM AI curriculum is a part of CBSE's Social Empowerment through Work Education and Action (SEWA) program.

9. UNICEF India partners with SAP India for employability of young people

Note: UNICEF India has partnered with SAP India to offer career counselling to young people in the country. The partnership between the two aims to improve the employability skills of young people in a COVID-19 as well as post COVID-19 era. Under this initiative, UNICEF has collaborated with YuWaah (Generation Unlimited) to offer digital education as well as occupational skillset to the underserved young people of India.

10. AAI & BEL signs MoU for co-operation in civil aviation sector

Note: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Defence Public Sector Unit (PSU) Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU aims to tap the emerging global markets in the airport business, including the ones in the Asia-Pacific region. The partnership between the two companies will support each other in addressing the emerging global opportunities in the airport business.

11. UNICEF INDIA partners with FICCI for #Reimagine Campaign

Note: The campaign aims to support the most vulnerable populations and children during the COVID-19 response and its after-math in India. It will

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also help in avoiding the potential long-term damage to business operations as well as employment pipeline.

12. Flipkart tie-up with Karnataka Govt to promote Art & Craft

Note: Flipkart has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Department of **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)** and Mines of **Government of Karnataka** to promote the arts, crafts and handloom sector of Karnataka. This MoU will unite the Flipkart Samarth Programme with the brands based in Karnataka like Cauvery and Priyadarshini Handlooms, part of Karnataka Handlooms Development Corporations.

13. IIT Alumni Council & CSIR-IGIB partners for joint research

Note: The partnership aims to jointly conduct research on COVID-19 and patient data analysis. The IIT Alumni Council is also setting up the world's largest molecular diagnostic lab '**MegaLab Mumbai**'. This partnership is expected to establish global data leadership along with creating a world-leading testing and treatment ecosystem.

14. IIT-H, NVIDIA tie-up to establish joint AI research centre

Note: Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is tie-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India's 1st '**NVIDIA AI Technology Centre**' (NVAITC). This centre is established to accelerate research on Artificial Intelligence and its commercial adoption.

15. CBDT & SEBI signs MoU for data exchange

Note: The agreement will facilitate the sharing of information and data between the two organisations on an automatic and regular basis. For regular exchange of data, the two organizations will also exchange with each other, **on request and suo moto basis**, any information available in their respective databases, for the purpose of carrying out their functions under various laws.

16. Microsoft partners NSDC to provide digital skills

Note: Microsoft will provide free access to learning resources and conduct digital skilling awareness drives by collaborating with **eSkill India portal of NSDC**. This partnership will help in creating a digital skills ecosystem which will prepare India's workforce for jobs of the future.

17. India, Indonesia Coast Guards sign MoU to boost maritime relations

Note: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Bakamla RI (Indonesian Coast Guard) have signed a

memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 'Maritime Safety and Security' to boost maritime relations. India and Indonesia are historically connected through the Indian Ocean and it has been the resolve of both nations to ensure safe and secure sea passage for all seafarers in the region.

18. Ola partners with PhonePe for digital payment

Note: Mobility platform Ola has entered into a partnership with digital payments platform PhonePe to expand payment options for riders. The partnership will help the mobility platform enable better digital payments experience on its Ola app.

19. Railways, BHEL tie up for solar power generation

Note: Indian Railway in collaboration with **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has set up a 1.7 Mega-watt solar power plant at Bina, Madhya Pradesh. The project involves the adoption of innovative technology for converting Direct Current to single-phase Alternating Current for feeding directly to Railway's overhead traction system.

20. Coal India tie-up with NLC to develop solar and thermal power assets

Note: Government-owned mining majors NLC India Ltd and Coal India Ltd have formed a joint venture to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5,000 megawatts of power. Both companies will hold equal 50:50 equity in the joint venture company.

21. CBSE tie-up with Facebook to introduce curriculum on digital safety

Note: The program will cover teacher training on augmented reality and student training on digital safety and online well-being. The training program will be for three weeks in which 10 thousand teachers will be trained on augmented reality while 10 thousand students will be trained on digital safety and well-being.

22. India-Bangladesh forms LPG joint venture

Note: This 50:50 Joint Venture Company has been formed for LPG business in Bangladesh. The agreement was signed between the RR Holdings Ltd., Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, the holding company of Beximco LPG of Bangladesh, and IOC Middle East FZE, Dubai, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

23. Swiggy tie-up with ICICI Bank for Digital Wallet

Note: The digital wallet named 'Swiggy Money', will provide users with a single-click checkout experience. Through this partnership, Swiggy customers allow storing money to be used for orders on the platform.

June

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1. India signs agreement with Bhutan for 600 MW hydroelectric project

Note: India and Bhutan signed a pact for the construction of the 600 MW Kholongchhu joint venture hydroelectric project in Bhutan. The agreement for the project between the Bhutanese government and therefore the Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited was signed within the presence of Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar and his Bhutanese counterpart Tandi Dorji.

2. TCS iON partners with National Skill Development Corporation

Note: The partnership has been done to provide NSDC's training partners access to the TCS iON Digital Glass Room in order to move classroom-based vocational skills training to online mode for students across the country. Hence, the tie-up will bolster NSDC's online content aggregation platform "eSkill India".

3. NFL ties-up with ITI to train youth in various trades

Note: National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Nangal, Punjab has tied up with **Industrial Training Institutes** (ITI), Nangal, Punjab to train youth in various trades. The partnership will give thrust to the "Skill India" initiative of the Government of India. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), NFL will train youth in 12 trades to enhance the chances of their employability in heavy as well as process industry.

4. India signs MOU on "Energy Cooperation" with Denmark

Note: The MoU was signed between the Ministry of Power, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry for Energy, Utilities and Climate, Government of the Kingdom of Denmark. The MoU aims to develop a strong, deep and long-term co-operation between two nations in the power sector.

5. NCERT & Rotary India signs MoU to telecast e-content

Note: National Council Of Educational Research And Training (NCERT) has digitally signed an MoU with Rotary India Humanity Foundation under the guidance and support of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The MoU has been signed for e-learning content telecast for class I to XII over all NCERT TV channels. This partnership aims to make e-learning more constructive and will ensure that e-learning reaches children across the nation with NCERT approved content.

6. CSIR & Atal Innovation Mission to promote Innovation in India

Note: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has partnered with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to promote innovation in India. AIM is a Government of India flagship initiative that promotes a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. Both organizations have signed a letter of intent to boost innovation ecosystem of the country.

May

1. India signs \$177 mn loan with ADB to improve road in Maharashtra

Note: The loan has been signed with prime objective of upgrading the 450 km of state highways and major district roads in the state of Maharashtra. The road improvement project consists of improving 2 major district roads and 11 state highways having the combined length of 450 km.

2. PFC signs MoU with NBPCL to fund various projects in Madhya Pradesh

Note: The funds of worth Rs 22,000 crore will be deployed by NBPCL for setting up hydroelectric projects of 225 MW along with power components of 12 other major multipurpose projects to be executed in Madhya Pradesh.

3. REC Limited & TajSATS to provide meals to frontline healthcare workers

Note: REC Limited has partnered with TajSATS, a joint venture of IHCL and SATS Ltd, to provide nutritious meals to frontline healthcare workers. Both entities are leading the mission to provide meals to the medical staff in key government hospitals along with poor daily wage labourers across the nation. Over 18,000 meals are planned to be delivered in New Delhi through this initiative.

4. WHO & IOC team up to improve health through sport

Note: The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has signed an agreement to work together to promote health through sport and physical activity. They have teamed up to fight the battle against Covid-19.

5. NTPC & ONGC to set up JVC for Renewable Energy Business

- Note:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by NTPC Limited, and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) to set up a Joint Venture Company for Renewable Energy business. This partnership will enable both the companies to accelerate their mark in the field of Renewable Energy.
6. **DGDE & eGov Foundation partners for Online Management of Cantonment Boards**
Note: Both entities will work together to drive e-governance and enhance citizen services across all cantonment boards in the country. These services will be delivered under a cloud-based platform DIGIT (Digital Infrastructure for Governance, Impact & Transformation). These services will be provided under the program named e-Chhawani.
 7. **NRAI tie-up with DotPe to build tech platform**
Note: National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) has partnered with fintech start-up DotPe to build its own tech platform. This platform enables them with online payments for digital ordering, bill settlements, and contactless dining. DotPe will provide us with a tech solution.
 8. **TRIFED signs MoU with AOL to promote tribal enterprises**
Note: Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Art of Living (AOL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in programmes of each organisation for promoting Tribal Enterprises.

9. **ICMR partners India Post for delivery of COVID-19 testing kits**
Note: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has entered into a tie-up with the India Post for delivery of its coronavirus COVID-19 testing kits. These kits are taken from ICMR 16 regional depots to 200 additional labs designated for coronavirus testing across the country.
10. **India signs MoUs with Russia for coking coal**
Note: Coal India signed MOUs with two Russian entities within the areas of coking coal mining within the Russian Far East and therefore the Arctic Region. The first MOUs was signed with Far Eastern Agency for Attracting Investments and Supporting Exports (FEAAISE), Russia and the second MoU was signed with Eastern Mining Company (FEMC) of Russian Federation for exploring, identifying, sourcing, negotiating and consummating interdependent investment opportunities within the mining sector within the Russian Far East.
11. **PNB Housing Finance partners with IIT Delhi for reusable PPE**
Note: An MoU has been signed by the PNB Housing Finance with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi in order to support Research & Development for reusable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be supplied to government hospitals. The MoU aims to enhance the research and development (R&D) of a unique prototype material to be employed in making affordable, sustainable and reusable PPE surgical gowns and masks. These sustainable PPE surgical gowns and masks would be supplied to notable government hospitals.

Books & Author

1. **A book titled “Voices of Dissent” authored by Romila Thapar**
Note: The book will be jointly published by Penguin Random House India and Seagull Books, set to publish in October 2020. 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.
2. **A book titled “Kitchens of Gratitude” authored by Chef Vikas Khanna**
Note: Feed India initiative is one of the largest food drives in the world, serving meals to the underprivileged. The book will be released in 2021. He will also be honoured with the 2020 Asia Game Changer Award in October.
3. **Barack Obama announces his memoir ‘A Promised Land’**
Note: Former US President, Barack Obama has announced his first presidential memoir titled “A Promised Land.” The 768-page book will be published in November 2020 by Penguin Random House and is scheduled to be released on November 17, 2020, in 25 languages.
4. **A new book titled “Azadi” authored by Arundhati Roy**
Note: Arundhati Roy’s new book titled “Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction” is published by Penguin Books Limited. The nonfiction book is a collection of essays that shows the meaning of Freedom in the world of increasing authoritarianism. The essay collection includes meditations on language and roles

- of fiction and alternative imaginations amid global pandemic due to COVID-19.
5. **Gauri Khan announces her debut book 'My Life in Design'**
Note: Interior designer, Gauri Khan has authored her first book titled "My Life In Design", which will be published by Penguin Random House India in 2021. It is a coffee-table book, in which Gauri has written about her journey as a designer.
 6. **UN Environment Programme launches "The Little Book of Green Nudges"**
Note: A new publication "The Little Book of Green Nudges" has been launched by the United Nations Environment Programme. The newly launched publication seeks to encourage around 200 million students around the world to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
 7. **A new book titled "Let Us Dream" by Pope Francis**
Note: Pope Francis is set to release the book "Let Us Dream" in December 2020. In the book, Pope Francis explains how a crisis can teach an individual to deal with problems they face in their lives. He cites three major crises from his own personal life.
 8. **A book title "The Big Thoughts of Little Luv" authored by Karan Johar**
Note: Bollywood Filmmaker, Karan Johar authored a children's picture book titled "The Big Thoughts of Little Luv" inspired by his Twins Yash and Roohi. The book will be published by Juggernaut Books.
 9. **A book title 'Cricket Drona' on renowned coach Vasoo Paranjape**
Note: A book title 'Cricket Drona' on renowned coach Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe or Vasoo Paranjape will be released on September 2, 2020. The book is written by Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe's son and current national selector Jatin Paranjpe along with Cricket Journalist Anand Vasu and published by Penguin.
 10. **A book titled "Who painted my lust red?" by Sree Iyer**
Note: A book titled "Who painted my lust red?" has been authored by Sree Iyer. The book is something about when Bollywood meets Cricket meets Politicians. This is the second book in this series of Sree Iyer's Money Trilogy series. The first book was "Who painted my money white?".
 11. **A book titled "Gastric Cancer" released by Jitendra Singh**
Note: Union Minister, Jitendra Singh has released a book on cancer named "Gastric Cancer" edited by Dr Ashok K. Vaid. The book was launched during a special session organized during the 3-day virtual conference on Oncology. The book is published by Springer Healthcare Education. Ashok K. Vaid is a Noted Oncologist and was awarded Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding work in the field of medicine.
 12. **A book titled 'One Arranged Murder' authored by Chetan Bhagat**
Note: A book titled 'One Arranged Murder' authored by Chetan Bhagat will be released globally on September 28, 2020. The fiction book portrays a murder mystery in the backdrop of an arranged marriage. The book will be published by Westland Publications Ltd. It is the author's 9th novel and 11th book overall. His last release was The Girl in Room 105.
 13. **A book titled "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020" by Arjun Subramaniam**
Note: Retired Air Vice Marshal, Arjun Subramaniam has authored a new book titled, "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020". It is the sequel to his 1st book, 'India's Wars: A Military History, 1947-1971'. The book portrays the comprehensive account of war and conflict in contemporary India over the past five decades next month. It will be published by HarperCollins Publishers India Pvt. Ltd.
 14. **A book titled "Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World" by Dalai Lama**
Note: The Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama, will release a new book titled "Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World" on climate change with German environmental journalist, Franz Alt in November. The Dalai Lama in the book calls on political decision-makers to fight against deadlock and ignorance on the issue of climate change and to stand up for a different, more climate-friendly world and for the younger generation to assert their right to regain its future.
 15. **A book titled 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing' released**
Note: The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar unveiled an e-version of the book titled 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing'. The book chronicles Shri M Venkaiah Naidu's three years in office as the Vice President of India. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has completed three years in office on 11 August 2020.
 16. **A book titled 'Amazing Ayodhya' authored by Neena Rai**
Note: The book titled 'Amazing Ayodhya' has been authored by Neena Rai. The book offers "authentic information" about the city, which will not only help understand the life and times of ancient Hindus but also the revered figures of Rama and Sita. The book is publishing by house Bloomsbury.
 17. **A book titled 'RAW: A History of India's Covert Operations' authored by Yatish Yadav**
Note: The book, titled "RAW: A History of India's Covert Operations" has authored by investigative journalist and author Yatish Yadav. A new book gives a peep into the heroic covert operations carried by India's external spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and thereby narrates a gripping account

of what actually happens behind the grey walls of the secret society.

18. A book titled “Vishesh: Code To Win” authored by Nirupama Yadav

Note: The book, titled “Vishesh: Code To Win”, has been written by sportswoman-turned-author Nirupama Yadav and published by the publishing house Bluerose. The book is set to be released on August 29, the National Sports Day.

19. A book titled “Siyasat Mein Sadasyata” authored by Vijay Kumar Choudhary

Note: Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar has released a book titled “Siyasat Mein Sadasyata” authored by Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary. The book is a compilation of the author’s views, three dozen articles on different important issues and his life journey. The book was published by Bihar Assembly Secretariat.

20. “Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India” authored by Viral V.Acharya

Note: The book titled “Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India” authored by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor Viral V.Acharya. The book is published by SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd. The book portrays his quest to restore financial stability in India and offers a concrete plan for sustained improvement.

21. “The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World” authored by Dr. S Jaishankar

Note: The former diplomat, and current Minister of External Affairs in the Government of India, S Jaishankar, is releasing his new book “The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World”. The book was published under the HarperCollins India publications.

22. A book titled “Suraj Kade Marda Nahi” authored by Baldev Singh Sadaknama

Note: Sahitya Akademi Award winner, Baldev Singh Sadaknama has authored a book ‘Suraj Kade Marda Nahi’ (sun never dies). The book portrays many aspects of freedom fighter Udham Singh. The book is published by Unistarbooks. The book has been released and will be formally launched on July 31, 2020. Udham Singh 80th death anniversary will fall on July 31, 2020.

23. A book titled “The Endgame” authored by Hussain Zaidi

Note: Crime writer, S Hussain Zaidi has penned a new novel “The Endgame” which talks of politics, betrayal, and unimaginable terror. The book has been published by HarperCollins India.

24. A book titled “If It Bleeds” authored by Stephen King released

Note: A new book titled “If It Bleeds”, a collection of four stories, authored by Stephen King has been released. The book published by Hachette India. The book has the story centres around a bomb at Albert

Macready Middle School. It is a sequel to his bestselling work, “The Outsider”.

25. A book titled ‘A Song of India’ authored by Ruskin Bond to be released

Note: The book titled ‘A Song of India’ authored by Ruskin Bond to be released on July 20, 2020. This book will mark the 70th year of the author’s literary career. The book has been published by Puffin Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House India.

26. A book on Dalai Lama’s biography to release in 2020

Note: A book titled ‘His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography’ will be released in 2020. The book is published by Roli Books. The book is authored by one of the Dalai Lama’s closest aides and advisor of over 40 years, Tenzin Geyche Tethong. The biography is a memorable portrait of the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso.

27. “Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India” authored by R C Bhargava

Note: The Chairman of Maruti Suzuki, RC Bhargava has authored the book “Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India” from his experience as a policymaker and a leading industrialist. The book published by HarperCollins India.

28. Former RBI governor U. Patel pens book ‘Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver’

Note: Former RBI governor, Urjit Patel has written a book titled ‘Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver’ will be releasing later this month. The book focuses on the non-performing assets (NPAs) issue that has afflicted Indian banking in recent years. It is published by Harper Collins India. Patel’s book description says that sovereigns do not need to earn or save before spending money. They can either print or borrow.

29. A book titled “The Future of Higher Education” released by M Venkaiah Naidu

Note: Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has virtually released a book titled “Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends”. The book is authored by CA V Pattabhi Ram. The Virtual event was hosted by ICT Academy.

30. Amish Tripathi launches new book ‘Legend of Suheldev’

Note: Amish Tripathi has released his new fiction book ‘Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India’. The book is published by Westland Publications Pvt Ltd. The book is about the Indian King Suheldev who battles to protect his country, makes huge individual penances, shows radiant initiative and joins everybody inside the nation paying little mind to their religion, rank, area, or status in the public eye.

31. Ruskin Bond’s new book released on his 86th birthday

Note: Ruskin Bond’s new book titled ‘Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes’ was released on his 86th Birthday in an e-book format. The book

narrates some of his memorable travel adventures on boats, trains and planes from his childhood. The book presents its readers with a number of the author's hilarious journeys and travel adventures. The illustrations for Ruskin Bond's new book has been done by Samrat Halder.

32. A Book titled "Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City" authored by Fang Fang

Note: This book is a compilation of online diary entries and social media posts that document 60 days of lockdown during COVID-19. The book was published by HarperNonFiction.

33. Prince Harry-Meghan Markle's biography to be published in August

Note: The first biopic on Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's life, titled 'Finding Freedom: Harry and Meghan and the Making of A Modern Royal Family' would be published on August 11, 2020. The book is a biopic, written by royal reporters Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand.

34. A book titled Vijyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil War Hero, released

Note: The book titled 'Vijyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil Hero' has been released. This book is a biography of Vir Chakra awardee (posthumously) Captain Vijyant Thapar. This book is authored by Vijyant's father Colonel VN Thapar and writer Neha Dwivedi, a martyr's daughter. This book shows the journey of Vijyant Thapar to join the Indian Military Academy and the experiences that shaped him into a fine officer.

35. Union Culture Minister launches e-book "Prof. B.B. Lal: India Rediscovered"

Note: Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launched an e-book titled "Prof. B.B. Lal: India Rediscovered". E-book was launched on the occasion of centenary year of great archaeologist Professor B. B. Lal.

Art and Culture

August

1. Tamil Nadu celebrates Aadi Perukku

Note:

- Aadi Perukku (Aadi monsoon festival) is celebrated in Tamil Nadu from mid-July to mid-August
- Celebrated as a tribute to water's life-sustaining properties thanking Cauvery river for assuring a good agricultural harvest during the year.

2. Grand temple at Rama Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya to follow Nagara architectural style

About Nagara style

- Nagara architectural style is found in northern India.
- Constructed on an upraised platform called jagati.
- It has boundary walls or gateways.
- Garbhagriha, Mandapa, Shikhara and Vahana are the key features of this style

3. Warli paintings on National Fertilizers Limited, Noida

Note:

- National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) under Department of Fertilizers has displayed Maharashtra's famous Warli painting on the outer walls of its Corporate Office in Noida.
- Warli paintings: Resembles like Rock Shelters, Bhimbetka. It has hunting, fishing, farming, festivals as central theme. Graphic vocabulary like circle, triangle, square are used.

- **Warlis:** Indigenous tribe of Maharashtra-Gujarat border, whose roots are traced to 10th century.

4. Onam celebrated across Kerala

Note:

- Onam is celebrated in the first month of solar Malayalam calendar (Kollavarsham-August or September) for 10 days and culminates with Thiruvonam
- Celebrated to welcome King Mahabali and as the festival of paddy harvest.
- Pookolam (rangoli made with fresh flowers), Vallam Kali (boat race), Pulikali (tiger dance), Kai Kottu Kali (Onam dance), Kummattikali (mask dance) are its key features

5. Facelift to 11th century Lingaraj Temple

Note:

- Odisha govt announced to give a facelift to Lingaraj Temple to create a spiritual and ecological ambience
- The temple is dedicated to Shiva built by king Jajati Keshari of Soma Vansh in red stone and Kalinga style of architecture.

6. Celebrating Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's 100th death anniversary

Note:

- Strongest proponent of 'purna swaraj' or 'total self-rule', Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's 100th death anniversary observed on August 1st.
- He was known as 'father of Indian revolution' by JL Nehru

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- He was also known as 'the maker of modern India' by Mahatma Gandhi
- His famous slogan: 'Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it'

5. NGMA organises 'The Great Maestro | Abanindranath Tagore'

Note:

- **National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi** organised virtual tour titled "**The Great Maestro | Abanindranath Tagore**" to commemorate

150th Birth Anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore on 7th August 2020.

- **Abanindranath Tagore** was a prominent artists of **Bengal school of art** and the founder of '**Indian Society of Oriental Art**'
- **His Famous paintings:** Bharat Mata, The Passing of Shah Jahan (1900), My Mother (1912-13), Fairyland illustration (1913), Journey's End (circa 1913).
- **Literary works:** 'BudoAngla', 'KhirerPutul', 'Rajkahini' and Arabian Nights

July

1. Culture Ministry reprints 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur

Note:

- Reprinting of 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur project done under National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM).
- NMM was launched in February 2003 for documenting, conserving, and disseminating the knowledge preserved in the Manuscripts
- Mongolian Kanjur is the most important religious text in Mongolia and is related to Lord Buddha.

2. Ministry of Culture with International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) will celebrate 4th July, 2020 as Dharma Chakra Day.

Note:

- Dharma Chakra Day marks Buddha's first teaching after attaining Enlightenment to the first five ascetic disciples (pañcavargika) on the full-moon day of Asadha at 'Deer Park', Rishipatana in modern-day Sarnath, near Varanasi.
- The day is also known as Esala Poya in Sri Lanka and Asanha Bucha in Thailand.

June

1. Ministry of Culture celebrates Sankalp Parva

Note:

- Sankalp Parva celebrated from 28th June to 12 July 2020 after Prime Minister's call to plant at least 5 trees either in Office campus or wherever it is possible to ensure clean and healthy environment of the country.
- Awla, Bel, Peppal, Bargad, Ashok trees are recommended which represents the herbal heritage of our country

2. Tourism Ministry conducts 'Vedic Food and Spices of India' webinar

- Tourism Ministry conducted 'Vedic Food and Spices of India' under Dekho Apna Desh webinar series that decodes myths related to some foods defining the secret of spices and the technique of preparations to inspire the traveller to come, explore and experience.

3. Ministry of Culture launches Namaste Yoga campaign

Note:

- Namaste Yoga campaign to celebrate International Yoga Day 2020 from 19th to 21st June, 2020 with the goal of making yoga an indispensable part of everyone's life was inaugurated using #10MillionSuryaNamaskar and #NamasteYoga.

- The campaign was organized to create health awareness among the citizen of India.

4. Traditional art of 'talamaddale' goes virtual amid COVID-19

About 'talamaddale':

- It is an ancient debate performance form of Karavali and Malnad regions of Karnataka and Kerala focusing on popular mythology
- It consist of sarcasm, puns, philosophy positions and humorous debate.
- It is a variant of Yakshagana (temple art form) and is said to be art form minus dance, costumes, and stage conventions.

5. Raja Parba festival begins in Odisha (June 14 to 16)

About festival:

- It is a 3-day-long festival dedicated to Mother Earth (Bhuma Devi) and womanhood at large.
- The first day of the festival is called Pahili Raja, the second is Mithuna Sankranti and third Bhu dha or Basi Raja.
- In this unmarried girl perform various customs.
- It depicts end of summer season and arrival of monsoon

6. NGMA launches ONLINE NAIMISHA 2020 Summer Art Program

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- The programme will provide a chance to participants and art enthusiasts to create and learn from artists.
- It will include online workshops sessions on painting, sculpture, printmaking and indrajaal (an interdisciplinary creative workshop).

7. NGMA presents virtual program 'NGMA KE SANGRAH SE'

Note:

- National Gallery of Modern Art presents "NGMA KE SANGRAH SE" to showcase the rarely seen or unseen jewels from its repository on various weekly/ daily themes
- It will give opportunity to art lovers, artists, art connoisseurs, students, teachers, etc. to see the rarely presented artworks from their homes.

8. Ministry of Tourism launches Dekho Apna Desh Logo Design Contest

About the contest:

- Contest is organised to get a logo for 'DekhoApnaDesh' campaign
- The winner will get 5-nights 6 days all expenses covered holiday package for 2 to any destination in India from their residence in India.
- The contest terms and conditions are available on MyGov.in
- DekhoApnaDesh is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism.

May

1. NGMA to organise "Gurudev – Journey of the Maestro through his visual vocabulary" virtual tour

Note:

- "Gurudev – Journey of the Maestro through his visual vocabulary" will be organised from 7th May 2020 to commemorate the 159th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.
- These artworks give a glimpse of his precious contributions to the visual language.

2. IIIT Guwahati organizes poster competition under EBSB Campaign

About EBSB campaign and competition:

- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Campaign is run by government to celebrate the spirit of Unity in Diversity of our Nation with Ministry for HRD as the nodal ministry.
- The competition was held online due to lockdown.
- The topic of the competition was "RAJASTHAN TOURISM AND TRAVELS".

3. ICCR launches song "United we Fight" to fight COVID-19

Note:

- "United we Fight" has been unveiled by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) that brings together composers, musicians and singers from across India to send a message of hope, joy,

resilience, fighting spirit and never say die attitude spreading the essence of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

4. Culture Minister hosted 'Revitalising Museums and Cultural Spaces' webinar

Note:

- Webinar was organised to celebrate International Museum Day and for creating sustainable cultural organizations in post COVID-19.
- **Aim:** Identify the possible policy actions that will help alleviate the short and long-term effects of the COVID-19 crisis on museums, cultural spaces, and their broader ecosystems.
- Technical assistance was given by National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

5. GI tag for Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting and Telangana's Telia Rumal

About Sohrai Khovar painting

- Local tribal women of Jharkhand (Hazaribagh) practices this traditional and ritualistic mural art with different colors of soil.

About Telia Rumal

- It involves complex handmade work with cotton loom using the traditional handloom and exhibits a variety of designs and motifs in particularly red, black and white colours.

GI Tag

- It is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation under **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act,1999** and is covered under **Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement**

| Commodity/ Art/ Culture awarded GI Tag | Belongs To | About |
|--|------------|-------|
|--|------------|-------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Kashmir Saffron | Karewas (highlands) of Jammu & Kashmir | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer and thicker natural deep red colour • High aroma and bitter high flavour • Chemical free processing |
| Kovilpatti kadalai mittai | Tamil Nadu | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candy made of peanuts and jaggery with syrup, coconut dyed pink, green and yellow |
| Chak-Hao (Black rice) | Manipur | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scented glutinous rice • Used as traditional medicine • Higher crude fibre content |
| Gorakhpur terracotta | Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art form used in making animal figures like, horses, elephants, etc. with hand-applied ornamentation • Done with bare hands and natural colours |
| Khaje | Goa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweet dish used in all temples and churches as prasad |
| Harmal Chilli | Goa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich spice with reddish-brownish colour, short length and longer shelf life |
| Myndoli Banana (Moirá Banana) | Goa | |
| Zardozi art (Zari Work) | Bhopal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embroidery with gold threads uses gold coils and beads • Came from Persia |

Science & Technology

September

1. IIT Delhi incubated startup 'Chakr Innovation' launches Chakr DeCoV' to decontaminate N95 masks.

About Chakr DeCoV:

- Designed in the shape of cabinet with an innovative decontamination mechanism using penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask, ensuring complete decontamination of its intricate layers.
- Ozone is a strong oxidizing agent that can destroy viruses

2. India successfully tested indigenous Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV)

About HSTDV:

- HSTDV was tested from APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex, Odisha coast
- Developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)
- It is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft for hypersonic speed flight

3. SCTIMST developed Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) prevention device

Note:

- **DVT:** It is a serious condition that occurs when a blood clot forms in a vein of human body resulting in life threatening complications.

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- The device is cost effective and will facilitate flow of blood from the veins in the legs preventing and giving relief from DVT

4. CSIR-CMERI developed World's Largest Solar Tree to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power annually in Durgapur, West Bengal

Note:

- It ensures maximum exposure of each Solar PV Panel to Sunlight.
- One solar tree comprises of 35 Solar PV Panels having a capacity of 330 wp each.
- It can be used for agricultural activities like High Capacity Pumps, e-Tractors and e-Power Tillers.

August

1. NASA launched its Mars 2020 Perseverance rover aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket

Note:

- It was launched from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.
- The rover will land in Mars' Jezero Crater
- It is a part of America's Moon to Mars exploration and will explore geology and climate of Mars and seek signs of ancient life on the Red Planet.

2. DRDO-lab has developed an automated currency sanitization device titled as NOTESCLEAN

Note:

- It is a device where one has to just place the loose currency notes at the input slot of the device, and the device make the currency to pass through UVC lamps for complete disinfection

3. VSSUT, Odisha became 1st university to set up Space Innovation-cum-Incubation Centre with ISRO

Note:

- Under this, ISRO will offer technical consultancy support and financial assistance of Rs.50 lakhs for development of infrastructure at VSSUT.

4. China launches optical remote-sensing satellites named Gaofen-9 05

Note:

- It was launched from Jiuquan Launch Centre, Northwest China along with Tiantuo-5 satellite by Long March-2D carrier rocket
- They are civilian China High-resolution Earth Observation System (CHEOS).

5. DIAT launches 'Pavitrapati' & 'Aushada tara' in fight against COVID-19

Note:

- **Pavitrapati:** Ayurvedic based Biodegradable Face Mask which will act as a virus neutraliser and will be made available on Amazon, Flipkart etc.
- **Aushada tara:** Anti-microbial body suit which comprises of superhydrophobic, breathing, anti-microbial, comfort feeling properties.

6. IIT Kanpur develops indigenous seed balls titled 'BEEG'

About BEEG:

- BEEG (Bio-compost Enriched Eco-friendly Globule) is developed for the safety of people and farmers during Corona
- It comprises of indigenous variety of seeds, compost, and clay that don't need digging pits for planting saplings
- They are to be thrown at aimed places and will germinate after coming into water's contact

July

1. DST-SERB along with INSA launches photo & film competition

Note:

- It is a 1-minute film competition with theme "Science through My Eyes" and various sub-themes like science in the lab, kitchen, sports, hospital, etc.
- It will help people to understand and appreciate science around them fostering and promoting the scientific spirit
- It is open to Indian nationals only without any entry fee

2. Govt launches Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020

Note:

- It is a joint initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and All India Council for Technical Education for developing COVID-19

drug along with students, academicians, researchers, and professionals

- MyGov portal will be used for participation and works.

3. Imagineering Laboratory dept of IIT Kanpur develops Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing device 'SHUDH'

About SHUDH:

- It stands for Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper
- It has six UV lights of 15 Watts and can disinfect a 10x10 squared feet room in about 15 minutes.
- It's on/off, speed, and location can be controlled remotely using available android application.

4. VNIR Biotech launches fluorescence probes & PCR mix for RT-PCR detection of COVID-19.

Note:

www.gradeup.co

- It is a fully indigenous molecular probe that will be used in COVID test kit
- PCR based test kit has three critical components: oligos, enzymes and molecular probes.

5. China launches communications satellite APSTAR-6D that will work like GPS system

Note:

- It is launched by Long March 3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre.
- It is a high-power broadband communications geostationary satellite into orbit to provide broadband internet service.
- It will be operated by APT Mobile SatCom Limited to provide services for airborne, shipborne, vehicle-borne, and other applications for users across Asia-Pacific region.

6. HRD Minister launches COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit 'Corosure'

Note:

- It is developed by IIT, Delhi and has received ICMR and Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approval
- It is cost-effective and faster covid-19 test kit.

7. Android malware titled 'BlackRock' discovered

About BlackRock:

- It steals data like password and credit card details from 337 apps including Gmail, Amazon, Netflix, Uber, etc through 'Overlays' technique
- It is based on the leaked source code of another malware strain 'Xerxes'
- It basically detects when a user interacts with a legitimate app and places a fake window on top that asks for login and credit card details before the user enters the actual app.

8. IIT Madras startup named 'Modulus Housing' develops Portable Hospital Unit 'MediCAB'

About MediCAB:

- It is foldable and is composed of 4 zones: doctor's room, an isolation room, a medical room/ward, and a twin-bed ICU at negative pressure.
- It can be installed anywhere within 8 hours by 4 people and is very cost-effective that can work well for far flung areas.

9. UAE launches its first space mission to Mars titled as 'HOPE' from Japan

About HOPE:

- It will provide complete picture of the Martian atmosphere
- It is an unmanned mission which is launched by H2A rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center for 7-month journey

10. CSIR-CMERI rolls out COVID Protection System (COPS) for Workplace

About COPS:

- It has solar Based Intelligent Mask Automated Dispensing Unit cum Thermal Scanner

(IntelliMAST) that identifies the body temperature, Face Mask; Touchless Faucet (TouF); 360° Car Flusher

11. Comet NEOWISE approaches closest to the Earth

About NEOWISE:

- It is the brightest comet that can be seen with naked eye in Earth's night sky and is visible only after 6800 years gap
- It was first spotted by NASA's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) mission

12. SpaceX launches South Korea's military communication satellite ANASIS-II

About ANASIS-II:

- It stands for Army/Navy/Air Force Satellite Information System 2
- Launched by Falcon 9 Block 5 rocket at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida
- It is a secure communications satellite for Defense Development and will supplement the Koreasat-5/ANASIS-I satellite, a combined civilian and military communications satellite launched in 2006.

13. China successfully launches unmanned mission to Mars 'Tianwen-1'

About Tianwen-1

- It is the first independent mission of China to another planet
- 'Tianwen-1' or 'Questions to Heaven' will carry several scientific instruments and will deploy a rover for 90 days

14. DST launches India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment Programme

Note:

- It is being launched by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and FASIE of Russian Federation.
- It will connect Indian, and Russian Science & Technology led SMEs and Start-ups for joint Research and development (R&D) for technology development and adaptation

15. AIIMS Nagpur with IIT Jodhpur, IIT Nagpur develops smart wristband for tracking COVID-19

Note:

- It is fully indigenous device that uses geofencing to provide real time warning on any breach in quarantine zone to local authorities and officials
- It provides real data like temperature, pulse rate, respiratory rate and the oxygen saturation, so that the quarantined person will get a health alarm thus helping them seek early medical help.

16. IIT Kharagpur develops COVID-19 Rapid Test technology

Note:

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- It can be conducted in an ultra-low-cost portable device with test results available in a customized smartphone app within an hour without requiring manual interpretation.

- It deploys a disposable simple paper-strip for chemical analysis and visualization of test results.
- It will cost around Rs 400 per test

June

1. IIT-Bombay develops radio frequency receiver chip 'Dhruva' to find locations

About Dhruva:

- It can be used in smartphones and navigation devices to find locations and routes within the country in all-weather condition
- It will receive signals from India's NAVIC navigation satellites (built by ISRO) and GPS
- It can receive signals in multiple frequency bands and handle weak signals

2. NASA headquarters to be renamed as Mary W. Jackson

Note:

- Headquarters of NASA at Washington, D.C will be named after Mary W. Jackson, the first African American female engineer at NASA.
- It will be now called as Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters.
- Mary W. Jackson started her career at NASA in 1951 as a human computer, a mathematician who performed hand calculations for NASA missions.
- She was posthumously awarded with the Congressional Gold Medal in 2019
- NASA Administrator: Jim Bridenstine

3. DST unveils official logo for Golden Jubilee Commemoration Year

Note:

- It will be printed on stationery items, social, digital, and print documents of DST along with its representation on any conference held under the banner of DST.
- Department of Science & Technology (DST) was established on 3rd Mar 1971

4. Cabinet approves creation of IN-SPACE for space sector reform

Note:

- **IN-SPACE:** Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre
- It will boost private sector participation in Indian space infrastructure through various policies and regulatory environment.
- New Space India Limited will reorient space activities from a "supply driven" model to demand driven for optimum utilisation of nation's space assets.

5. ISRO receives patent for Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment (LCHG)

About LCHG:

- It is a protective garment made up of biocompatible fabrics that can be used in space, military applications, firefighting, and personal cooling-heating purposes shielding for long term without skin irritation
- It has a system for circulating temperature controlling fluid into and out of the garments through tubes inside the garment.

6. India witnessed rare Annual Solar Eclipse

Note:

- It is also known as 'ring of fire'.
- It coincides with the summer solstice
- Solar eclipse occurs when the moon comes in between the sun and the earth
- In this, Moon is at the farthest point allowing the sun's disc to be visible while covering the other parts that results in narrow band of light causing 'ring of fire' visible.

7. June 21 marks Summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere

Note:

- It is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and sun reverses its direction on this day.
- The sun reaches its farthest point north of the celestial equator with maximum tilt in the sky on this day.
- Arctic Circle experience continuous daylight for 24 hours on June 21.

8. Central Indian Railways launches AI enabled Captain Arjun robot

Note:

- Arjun stands for Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice
- It is effective for screening and surveillance of passengers and staff along with keeping a watch on anti-social elements.
- It is equipped with motion sensor, one PTZ camera (Pan, Tilt, Zoom Camera) and one Dome Camera with voice and video mode and speaks in local language.
- The robot has a floor sanitisation facility with good battery backup

9. Home Affairs launches GermiBAN device

About GermiBAN:

- It is developed by Atal Incubation Centre & Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India Women Entrepreneurs (ALEAP-WE) HUB.
- It kills 99.9% of surface and air microbes and will be useful for quarantine centres and all general places

10. India's first infectious disease diagnostic lab is all set to start

Note:

- It is a rapid response mobile laboratory built with the support of Department of Biotechnology in a record time of 8 days
- It has BSL-2 facility with onsite Elisa, rRT-PCR test and Biochemistry analysers.

11. MoHFW Harsh Vardhan launches India's first COVID-19 testing mobile lab 'Infectious Disease Diag Lab (I-LAB)'

Note:

- It is developed by Department of Biotechnology and will be deployed in the interior, inaccessible parts of the country.
- It has the capability to perform 25 RT-PCR and 300 ELISA tests per day.

12. DRDO developed sanitizing chamber 'GermiKlean' to sanitise uniforms of security forces

Note:

- It has been set up at Parliament Street Police Station.
- It is a dry heat treatment chamber

13. ISRO to organize online ISRO Cyberspace Competitions-2020 for young minds

Note:

- It involve drawing competition for Class 1 to 3 students, model making competition for Class 4 to 8 and Essay competition for Class 9 and 10th students.
- Essay competition is organized with space quiz contests in Hindi and English will be organised for class 11 and 12.

14. IIT Guwahati develops Flyzy mobile app

Note:

- It is developed for seamless and contactless air travel that supports multi-currency payments
- It provides contactless boarding, easier baggage drop, manageable parking, better shopping experience, flight notification, etc
- The app has smart UI assistant for easy access to elderly people.

15. DIAT develops ANANYA disinfectant spray to combat COVID-19

About ANANYA:

- It is a water-based non-toxic 24 hours spray that can be used on masks, PPEs, hospital linens, and other contaminated surfaces like medical instruments, elevator buttons, doorknobs, corridors, and rooms.

- It has shelf life of more than 6 months.

16. DoNER Minister launches COVID BEEP

About COVID BEEP:

- It stands for Continuous Oxygenation & Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod
- It is India's first indigenous, cost effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients.
- It is developed by ESIC Medical College Hyderabad along with IIT Hyderabad and Department of Atomic Energy.

17. ISRO signs MoU with ARIES for Space Situational Awareness

Note:

- The MoU will be helpful in safeguarding Indian space assets from critical threats from space debris.
- It will help in tracking, analysis, and space weather studies paving way for future establishment of optical telescope observational facilities.

18. U.K Archaeologists using LiDAR data for research amid coronavirus

Note:

- Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is a remote sensing method that works on laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver generating 3D information about Earth's shape and its surface
- The team has found two Roman roads and around 30 prehistoric large embanked settlement enclosures and can locate around 20 prehistoric burial mounds and remains

19. CSIR-CMERI develops new indigenous ventilator

Note:

- It is designed to meet the requirement as per the patient's parameter that responds to the fluctuating variables of a patient
- It will cost around Rs 80,000 to Rs 90,000.

20. SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft landed at International Space Station along with 2 astronauts

Note:

- It was launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida with NASA's astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley after traveling 19 hours.
- With this, SpaceX became the first private company to launch people into the orbit.

21. DRDO develops Ultra Swachh for disinfection of materials

Note: It will disinfect materials like PPEs, electronics items, fabrics, etc that uses **double layer Ozonated Space Technology** for disinfection.

- It also has catalytic converter for environment friendly exhaust that operates on **15 Ampere, 220 Volts, 50 Hertz power supply.**

- It also has safety features such as emergency shutdown, door interlocks, dual door, delay cycle, and leak monitors, etc.

May

1. NASA renames Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) as Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope

Note:

- It is a next-generation space telescope set to launch in 2025 to investigate long-standing astronomical mysteries like universe expansion, distant planets, etc.
- The renaming is initiated to honor Nancy Grace Roman (mother of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope) who is the US space agency's first chief astronomer and paved the way for broader universe space telescopes.

2. Russia to launch first satellite 'Arktika-M' to monitor Arctic climate this year

Note:

- The satellite will be launched by Soyuz -2,1b carrier rocket with frigate booster.
- The remote sensing Arktika-M will monitor the meteorological conditions in the polar region.

3. DRDO develops Ultra-Violet Disinfection Tower 'UV blaster'

Note:

- It is developed for rapid and chemical free disinfection of high infection prone areas for high tech surfaces like electronic equipment, computers and other gadgets
- The product is also effective for areas with large flow of people such as airports, shopping malls, metros, hotels, factories, offices, etc.
- This sanitizer switches off on accidental opening of room or human intervention.

4. NIAB develops portable coronavirus detection kit with saliva samples 'eCovSens'

Note:

- It gives results within 30 seconds and consists of carbon electrode and coronavirus antibody.
- It is a portable bio-sensor antibody, which is capable of binding with spike protein found on the outer layer of the virus and can be connected via Bluetooth.

5. China successfully launches Long March-5B along with a prototype deep-space spacecraft.

Note:

- It took off from Wenchang launch site on the southern island of Hainan.
- The rocket is a massive vehicle with four strap-on boosters that provide extra thrust at liftoff was a

special prototype spacecraft like the deep-space Orion capsule NASA.

6. ICMR-NIV develops indigenous antibody-based COVID KAVACH ELISA test kit

Note:

- It has displayed high sensitivity and accuracy in the validation tests at different sites.
- It can test around 90 samples in approximately two and half hours.

7. DRDO develops DRUVS to sanitize electronic gadgets, papers and currency notes

About DRUVS:

- It will sanitize mobile phones, iPads, laptops, currency notes, challans, paper, envelopes and Bundles of currency notes
- It provides 360-degree exposure of Ultraviolet to the objects placed inside the cabinet.

8. CSIR-NAL develops Non-Invasive Ventilator named as 'BiPAP' to treat COVID-19 patients

Note:

- It is a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with "3D printed manifold & coupler" and Highly Efficient Particulate Air Filter.
- It is cost effective, compact, and configured with majority of indigenous components.

9. Delhi Police along with Indian Robotics Solution launches Thermal Corona Combat Headgear

Note:

- It will help police personnel and frontline warriors to detect temperature of various people from 10-15 metres and will send live imagery to centralized control centre.
- 'Thermal Corona Combat Drone-(TCCD)' which is fitted with day-vision as well as night utility camera and a disinfectant tank is also launched to sanitize an area, loudspeaker and medical box.

10. CSIR-CMERI develops mobile indoor disinfection sprayer units

Note:

- Units are named as **Battery Powered Disinfectant Sprayer (BPDS)** and **Pneumatically Operated Mobile Indoor Disinfection (POMID)**.
- It will be used for cleaning and disinfecting pathogenic micro-organism from touched surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light

switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, and cardboards.

11. LISA technique for lung treatment of newborns launched in Jaipur

About LISA:

- Less invasive surfactant administration (LISA) technique is protective strategy for respiratory management and mechanical ventilation causing damage to the preterm lungs of infants.
- Its regular application would save the lives of premature babies.

12. CSIRO, Australia develops 'heat resistant' corals to fight bleaching

Note:

- It is built using 'directed evolution' will manipulate the microalgae, which is a key factor in the coral's heat tolerance.
- This came in the wake of threat over coral reefs due to global warming.

13. CSIR-IIIM & RIL to develop RT-LAMP based test for Coronavirus

Note:

- Reverse Transcriptase-Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP) is a rapid (45-60 min), accurate and cost-effective test that can be done with indigenous components with minimal expertise and instrumentation.
- It is a nucleic acid-based test that will be carried out from nasal or throat swab sample.

14. CSIR approves project to develop 'hmAbs' that can neutralize SARS-CoV-2

Note:

- It is approved by CSIR through its **New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)** programme.
- **Aim:** To anticipate future adaptation of the virus and generate hmAbs clones that can neutralize the mutated virus so that could be readily used for combating future SARS-CoV infections.
- **Implemented by:** National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), IIT-Indore and PredOmix Technologies Pvt. Ltd. with Bharat Biotech International Ltd. (BBIL)

Defence

September

1. Indian Navy war game named 'INDRA 2020' conducted

Note:

- India conducted 2-day war-game named 'INDRA 2020' with Russia in the southern Bay of Bengal on 4th and 5th September.
- It is the 11th edition of 'Indra-Navy' exercise
- India was represented by guided-missile destroyer INS Ranvijay, stealth frigate INS Sahyadri and fleet tanker Shakti, along with integral helicopters.

2. Iranian Navy conducted Zolfaghar-99 exercise

Note:

- Iranian navy conducted exercise Zolfaghar-99 in Sea of Oman near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, deploying an array of warships, drones and missiles.
- Aim: To devise tactical strategies for safeguarding territorial waters and shipping lanes.
- Surface-to-surface and shore-to-sea cruise missiles and rocket-launching systems will be tested

August

1. Rs 2580 Cr contract for Pinaka Missiles to Indian Army

Note:

- Ministry of Defence signed Rs 2580 Cr contract with Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML), Tata Power Company Ltd. (TPCL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for supplying Six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of Indian Army, designed by DRDO
- It comprises of 114 launchers with Automated Gun Aiming & Positioning System (AGAPS), 45 Command Posts, and 330 Vehicles.

2. India withdraws from Russia's multilateral military exercise Kavkaz 2020

Note:

- India has withdrawn its participation from the multilateral Military Exercise Kavkaz 2020 to be held in Russia between 15th to 26th September 2020.
- The reason for this has been cited as the COVID-19 Pandemic and consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics.
- Kavkaz 2020 would be held in Astrakhan province of Southern Russia where member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

(SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.

- Other countries that would participate in this exercise are- China, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Belarus, Turkey, Armenia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

3. Indian Coast Guard launches Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sarthak'

Note:

- It is developed by Goa Shipyard Limited under 'Make In India' to enhance maritime security.
- It is fitted with Navigation, Communication sensor and machinery and is 105 metre in size
- It has speed of 26 knots, with an endurance of 6000 Nautical Miles

4. Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIO)

Note:

- Defence Minister launched 3-tiered organisation 'NIO' with apex level headed by Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC)
- It will have structures to interact with academia and industry fostering innovation and

1. India and Japan conduct PASSEX naval exercise towards Malacca Strait in Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

About PASSEX

- It was the 15th passing exercise by the two nations in last 3 years
- Rajput-class destroyer INS Rana and Kora-class missile corvette INS Kulish of India JS Shimayuki and JS Kashima of Japan participated in the exercise
- It is conducted for the goodwill training and to promote understanding between two nations

2. Israel launches new spy satellite 'Ofek 16' using Shavit-2 rocket

About Ofek:

- It is launched to keep track on the potential threats.
- Ofek is an electro-optical reconnaissance satellite with advanced capabilities that can capture high-resolution images of the Earth
- Developed by Israel's Ministry of Defence and Israel Aerospace Industries.
- Launched from Palmachim air base in central Israel into space.

3. ISRO launches Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite

About the satellite:

- Launched by Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV)

indigenisation for achieving self-reliance in defences sector

- Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has also been created
- Indian Navy's Indigenisation perspective plans titled 'SWAVLAMBAN' was also released

5. Defence Minister bans import of 101 defence items

Note:

- The banned list was prepared by Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence (MoD) to enhance indigenisation of Defence production in India boosting Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Banned Import Items:** Artillery guns, assault rifles, corvettes, sonar systems, transport aircraft, light combat helicopters (LCHs), radars, etc

6. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launches Interceptor Boat 'ICGS C-454'

About ICGS C-454:

- Built by Larsen and Toubro (L&T).
- It is 27-meter-long boat and has a maximum speed of 45 nautical miles (83 kilometres per hour) and has excellent seakeeping, manoeuvrability and endurance range of 500 nautical miles.

July

- First satellite for Earth observation designed for observing and monitoring the deforestation of Amazon Region and will help in the agricultural and vegetation areas.
- It will not be a hitch-hiking satellite.

4. Indian Navy conducted Passex exercise with US

Note:

- It was conducted by Indian Navy ships Rana, Sahyadri, Shivalik and Kamorta together with USS Nimitz (CVN 68), USS Princeton (CG 59), USS Sterett (DDG 104) and USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114).
- USS Nimitz is a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.
- It will be deployed in the Gulf region from the South China Sea.
- Indian Navy had also recently conducted similar joint exercises with Japanese and French Navy.

5. India anti-tank guided missile 'Dhruvastra' developed by DRDO

Note

- 'Dhruvastra' or helicopter-launched Nag Missile (HELINA) is tested from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
- It is a 3rd generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile system mounted on Advanced Light Helicopter
- It has a range of 7 Km and is equipped with four foldable wings and has a length of 1.85m,

diameter of 0.20m, wingspan of 0.4m and weight of 43kg.

6. DRDO launches innovation contest 'Dare to Dream 2.0'

Note

- Contest launched on the 5th death anniversary of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

June

1. Defence Minister launches NOC portal for exploration projects

Note:

- Portal for No Objection Certificate (NOC) issue of power projects and Research Survey Exploration Exploitation (RSEE) activities in the Indian Territorial Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone launched
- Developed by National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG) and NIC.
- Aim:** Facilitate the applicants in submitting their proposals online for seeking Security Clearance with effective, speedy and transparent mechanism.

2. Navy Inducts Indigenously Developed Advanced Torpedo Decoy System

Note:

- Indigenously designed and developed by DRDO labs (NSTL and NPOL).
- Capable of being fired from all frontline warships.
- Its induction was jointly done by Indian Navy and DRDO.

3. India sent 75 Tri-Service members in Victory Day Parade of World War II in Moscow

Note:

- The parade was held on June 24, 2020 to honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other countries in World War II.
- India's participation will mark tribute and solidarity to Russia

4. Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex inaugurated at Vishakhapatnam

About DSRV Complex:

- Designed to accommodate the newly inducted Submarine Rescue System with DSRV assets storage in a Rescue-Ready state.

May

1. Western Naval Command develops Ultraviolet Disinfection Facilities

Note:

- It will be used for decontamination of tools, clothes, and other items to control the spread of

- It was an open challenge to encourage individuals & startups for innovation in defence and aerospace technologies
- The winners will be awarded with prize money of Rs 10 lakh for startup and Rs 5 lakh to individual category.

- Has Remote Operations Vehicle, Side Scan Sonar, Diver Decompression Chambers, and associated equipment.
- Mobilized by air or road to facilitate submarine rescue operations even at distant locations

5. Ministry of Defence cleared Twin Engined Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF) jet program

About TEDBF jet program:

- Jets will be developed indigenously under Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) project to operate from the deck of INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant
- It will include 4 Pre-Production Prototypes and will be cheaper.

5. IAF inducted indigenous Airborne Rescue Pod Isolated Transportation (ARPIT)

About ARPIT:

- Utilized for the evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude areas, isolated and remote places.
- Lightweight transparent and durable isolation system having life support, monitoring instruments and other essential kits.
- Generates high constant negative pressure that will prevent crew from infection.

6. India and Australia signs Mutual Logistics Support Agreement

- Agreement is signed to allow logistics support in a virtual bilateral summit to provide reciprocal access to military logistics facilities, allow more complex joint military exercise, and improve interoperability between two nations.
- Support the rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region facilitating scaling up of overall defence cooperation.

coronavirus at entry/ exit points to prevent COVID-19

- Large common room will be converted into a UV bay by fabrication of aluminium sheets electrical arrangements for UV-C lighting.

2. Govt invites bid for One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)

Note:

- It will set up a framework for global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources.
- Vision behind OSOWOG is “The Sun Never Sets” and is constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
- It will encourage sharing of solar resources among more than 140 countries of West Asia and South East Asia in the first phase.

3. Indian Air Force IAF inducted Tejas Mk-1 FOC aircraft

Note:

- It is inducted into resurrected No 18 Sqn, the “Flying Bullets” at Air Force Station Sulur enhancing the operational capability of the Air Force.
- It is built under ‘Make In India’ initiative.
- Tejas Mk-1 FOC is a single engine, light weight, highly agile, all weather multi role fighter aircraft capable of air-to-air refuelling.

4. US Navy tested laser weapon that can destroy aircraft mid-flight in Pacific Ocean

Note:

- Laser weapons system demonstrator (LWSD) will provide defence against drones or armed small boats.
- Directed Energy Weapons are electromagnetic systems capable of converting chemical or electrical energy to radiated energy and focusing it on a target, resulting in physical damage that degrades, neutralizes, defeats, or destroys an adversarial capability.

5. India sets up military war game centre for Ugandan People Defence forces (UPDF)

Note:

- The war game centre is named as 'INDIA'.
- It is a type of strategic game that simulates warfare realistically, as opposed to abstract strategy games such as chess.

6. Indian Navy launches Operation ‘Samudra Setu’ evacuation programme

Note:

- Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa and Magar are presently enroute to the port of Malè, Republic of Maldives to commence evacuation operations.
- The evacuated personnel will be disembarked at Kochi, Kerala and entrusted to the care of State authorities.
- This operation is being progressed in close coordination with Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Health and various other agencies of the Government of India and State governments.

7. Defence Ministry signs pact with Tata Power to modernize 37 Airfields for Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Indian Coast Guard.

Note:

- The project will give a boost to over 250 MSMEs that will be directly benefitted under phase II.
- It is a turnkey project that includes installation and commissioning of modern airfield equipment like Cat-II Instrument Landing System (ILS) and Cat II Air Field Lightning System (AFLS) etc.

8. Defence Minister abolished 9,304 post in military engineering services on the recommendation of Shekatar Committee

Note:

- It will enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the Armed Forces as almost 70% of the budget is used for payment of salaries and allowances.
- It will also equip MES with leaner workforce, well equipped to handle complex issues in the emerging scenario in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

9. Indian Army to launch Three Years Short Service scheme or Tour of Duty (ToD)

About the scheme:

- 100 officers and 1,000 men will be initially tested for recruitment and will be a voluntary engagement of civilians catering the shortage of defence personnel
- Tax-free 3-year period experience and will be given preference in public sector jobs as well as post-graduate courses.

10. Defence Minister commissioned 105-metre-long indigenously made Coast Guard ship 'Sachet'

About ICGS Sachet:

- It will carry twin-engine helicopter, 4 high speed boats and 1 inflatable boat for swift boarding and search & rescue operations and can have a speed of 26 Knots with 6,000 nautical miles endurance
- It is also capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to undertake oil spill pollution response at sea.

11. Indigenously developed Utility Ship ‘INLCU L57’ commissioned into Indian Navy in Port Blair

Note:

- INLCU L57 is built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and can carry 160 troops and can be used for transporting and deploying main battle tanks like Arjun, T72, etc.
- It can also carry out multiple activities like search & rescue, disaster relief operation, supply and replenishment and evacuation from distant islands.

Summits & Conference

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September

1. Cycling Federation of India (CFI) to host first ever Cycling Summit in 2021 across Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru

About Cycling Summit 2021:

- It will begin with a cycle ride from the heart of the city to the event venue followed by curated workshops, masterclasses, and open interactions with eminent athletes
- CFI signs MoU with new-age marketing exploration firm, Contarctica for the summit.

2. Ministry for Tribal Affairs inaugurates National Tribal Research Conclave

Note:

- It is 2-day conclave held on 3rd and 4th September 2020.
- It reviewed the progress on the outcome of various projects being implemented under different partnerships and the best practices to be followed by stakeholders along with road map of National Tribal Research Institutes

3. 35th Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) held

Note:

- It was held under the Chairmanship of **Bhutan**.
- APRC 35 focused on regional priorities and issues like COVID 19, state of agriculture, natural resources management, food security and nutrition.
- It was first organized in India in 1953 and is held biennial

4. International Solar Alliance (ISA) organized first World Solar Technology Summit

Note:

- **Aim:** Accelerate affordable and sustainable clean green with next generation technologies in solar power.
- **Tripartite agreement** between India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, World Bank and ISA inked during the summit
- The summit observed launching of ISA's technology journal, **Solar Compass 360**.

5. First Trilateral Dialogue held between India, France, and Australia to enhance cooperation in Indo-Pacific.

Note:

- It was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, France counterpart François Delattre, and Secretary of Australian Foreign Affairs Frances Adamson.
- The meeting observes discussion on Marine Global Commons, regional organisations like ASEAN, IORA and challenges & trends in regional and global multilateral institutions.

6. Ministry of Education to organise 2-day conclave under Shikshak Parv

Note:

- Title of conclave: **'School Education in the 21st Century'**
- **First day:** Addressed by PM Narendra Modi with focus on Principal and Teacher practitioners for implementation of NEP in creative ways.
- **Second Day:** Discussions by Expert Practitioners to demystify important themes of NEP for school education.

August

1. 8th East Asia Summit (Economic Ministers' Meeting) held virtually under chairmanship of Vietnam

Note:

- It will strengthen the regional supply chains, becoming resilient during Covid-19 with economic growth.
- Economic ministers from 10 ASEAN members and other nations including India, US, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Australia and New Zealand attended the meeting

2. NCPUL organizes 2 day long World Urdu Conference in New Delhi

Note:

- The conference is organized by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)
- Urdu writers and personalities will be honoured at the conference with awards in the name of

Amir Khusrow, Mirza Ghalib, Agha Hashar, Ram Babu Saxena and Daya Shankar Naseem.

3. ARIES, Nainital to organise 3-day online International Conference

Note:

- Title of conference 'Aerosol Air Quality, Climate Change and Impact on Water Resources and Livelihoods in the Greater Himalayas'
- It is organised in collaboration with Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University.
- The conference will focus on the topics like rapid increase in the air pollution associated with industrialisation, urbanisation, etc

4. Defence Minister addressed Naval Commanders' Conference 2020

Note:

- It is a 3-day biennial conference which was to be held in April.

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- The agenda of the conference is Navy's Modernisation and Security in the Indian Ocean amidst the situation at the LAC in Ladakh
- It will focus on optimising joint planning structures, Tri-Service Synergy, and operational readiness, as well as functional reorganisation within the Indian Navy to improve efficiency.

5. Health Minister inaugurated CII Public Health Conference virtually

Note:

- It is a part of Inaugural of the Healthcare Week
- Theme of the conference: Strengthening Public health Delivery
- The conference observed the launch of virtual exhibition on Healthcare, CII TB Free Workplaces Campaign and CII Public Health Report.

July

1. 36th biannual ASEAN Summit held virtually under the chairmanship of Vietnamese

Note:

- Its theme was 'Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN'
- The summit focuses on COVID-19 epidemic response, post-pandemic recovery and further cooperation with partners.

2. PM delivered the inaugural address at India Global Week 2020

About India Global Week 2020:

- It is a 3-day virtual conference including 5000 global participants from 30 nations by 250 global speakers across 75 sessions
- **Theme: 'BeTheRevival: India and a Better New World'**
- It will also feature performance on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' by Madhu Nataraj and a special 100 birth anniversary concert in tribute to the sitar maestro Ravi Shankar

3. 5th edition of Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies inaugurated in Delhi

Note:

- **Theme: 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission'**
- It was organised by Tamil Nadu Technology Development & Promotion Centre (TNTDPC), Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- **Aim:** Development of defence and Indian civil Aviation MRO market to enhance Aerospace and Defence industry's market to 70 billion Dollar by 2030.

4. Second U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership held

Note:

6. PM addresses 'Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy'

Note:

- It has been organised by Ministry of Education (Former MHRD) and University Grants Commission.
- The conclave comprised of several sessions dedicated to important aspects of education covered under National Education Policy, 2020 like Holistic, Multidisciplinary and futuristic education, Quality Research, and Equitable use of technology for better reach in Education.

- **Aim:** Review progress, accomplishments, and new areas for cooperation between India and US.
- It was co-chaired by Dan Brouillette (Energy Minister) and Dharmendra Pradhan (MoPNG)
- MoU was signed on Strategic Petroleum Reserves, storing oil, PACE-R and for India's first-ever Solar Decathlon in 2021
- USAID tied-up with POSOCO to develop India's National Open Access Registry (NOAR).
- Public-private Hydrogen Task Force has also been launched

6. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship organises virtual conclave marking 5th year of Skill India Mission and World Youth Skills Day

Note:

- It was addressed by PM Narendra Modi with new mantra for the youth to 'skill, reskill and upskill'.
- **Focus:** ASEEM portal, SWADES, Vision Report 2025, eskill India Platform, and other initiative by MSMEs Ministry

7. PM Narendra Modi addressed United Nations Economic and Social Council session

Note:

- Theme: 'Multi-lateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary'
- India's developmental motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas' was linked with the core Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) principle of leaving no one behind.

8. PM Modi addresses India Ideas Summit 2020 virtually

Note:

- **Focus:** Building global economic resilience through stronger domestic economic capacities

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- It is being hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC) marking its 45th anniversary
- **Theme:** 'Building a Better Future'.

9. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates CII National Digital conference on Ease of Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat

- **Focus:** Policy simplification and asked for industry's feedback and cooperation.
- Conference paved the way for a single window system for industrial approvals that will soon be in place along with easier labour law and soft launch of land bank portal

June

1. I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurates Virtual India Pavilion at Cannes Film Market 2020

Note:

- It took place from 22 to 26 June 2020.
- It facilitates B2B meetings and linkages between film makers, media and entertainment industries stake holders.
- India will screen two films: MaiGhat (Marathi) and Hellaro (Gujarati).

2. Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers inaugurates India's first Virtual Healthcare and Hygiene EXPO 2020

Note:

- It was held from 22nd to 26th June, 2020.
- It has been organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

3. DST constitutes Joint Science Communication Forum for coordination amongst public sector science communication institutions and agencies.

Note:

- It will facilitate easier communication with adoption of common policy and practices.
- It is also mandated to formulate countrywide programmes, policies, and activities in the science communication.
-

4. World Economic Forum to host 2021 Unique Twin Summit

Note:

- Theme: '**The Great Reset**'
- WEF will held the summit both in-person and virtual series 'The Great Reset Dialogues' making it available for everyone across the globe
- It will bring together leaders from across the globe pushing beyond traditional thinking boundaries.

5. PM Modi addresses virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020

Note:

- It was hosted by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and was attended by business leaders, UN Agencies, civil society of 50 countries virtually.
- It witnessed a new era of global health cooperation as world leaders show overwhelming commitment to equitable immunisation and health security due to COVID-19 pandemic.

May

1. Army Commanders' Conference inaugurated in New Delhi

Note:

- The 1st phase of the conference was held from 27 May to 29 May 2020 and the second phase was held in June 2020.
- It is an apex biannual event that takes into consideration operation, administrative, logistics, and security issues.

2. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit 2020 under the chairmanship of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev

Note:

- Theme: "We are together against COVID-19".

3. Bamboo Conclave held via Video Conferencing

Note:

- It featured the participation of representatives of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

(DoNER), Union Ministry of Agriculture and various other stakeholders from different sectors.

- Conclave discussed the significance of Bamboo that will help India economically post COVID-19

4. Technology Development Board (TDB) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) jointly organized Conference "RE-START" Conference

Note:

- RE-START: Reboot the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations
- The conference was organized on the occasion of National Technology Day.
- It was followed by technical sessions on 'Medicines & Medical Technologies', 'Advanced Materials: New Technology Horizons' and 'Technology Alliance for Global Economic Leadership'.

5. 'Van Dhan Scheme: learnings for post COVID-19' webinar launched

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Note:

- It was organised under Know Your Scheme-Lecture Series and hosted by Dept of Science and Technology in collaboration with Trifed, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- TRIFED has also assure revenue of Rs 20k to 30k per person per year through Van Dhan Value addition Scheme's minimum support price.
- TRIFED is also looking towards launching 'Tech for Tribals' initiative for this

Government Schemes

September

1. Govt approves 'Mission Karmayogi' Programme

Note:

- It is a **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**.
- **Aim:** To build future-ready civil servants with right attitude, skills & knowledge, with focus on competency led capacity building.
- It will focus on setting-up PM's Public Human Resources (HR) Council, Capacity Building Commission, Special Purpose Vehicle for digital assets, technological platform for online training, and Coordination Unit

2. Assam Govt re-launches SVAYEM scheme to provide self-employment

Note:

- **SVAYEM:** Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment
- It will provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths who are a part of any self-help groups or joint liability groups.
- Rs 50 thousand as seed money will be provided to selected youths to start business ventures.

3. Karnataka approves project 'REWARD' with World Bank assistance

About REWARD:

- It stands for Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agriculture Resilience through Innovative Development
- It is designed to ensure soil and water conservation in 20 taluks with low groundwater levels in Karnataka covering 50,000 hectares of parched land
- 70% of the fund will be provided by World Bank

1. Defence Minister launches 'Chhavni COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana.'

Note:

- It is a group life insurance scheme through LIC that will cover more than 10,000 employees in all 62 Cantonment Boards
- The insurance will cover event of unfortunate fatal calamity with an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakhs each benefiting permanent and contractual employees

4. PM to launch Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

Note:

- PMMSY is a **flagship fishery sector scheme** with an investment of Rs. 20,050 crore for 5 years
- **'e-Gopala App'** was also launched, which is a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
- **Other initiatives:** Establishment of fish brood bank at Sitamarhi, aquatic disease referral lab at Kishanganj, fish feed mill at Madhepura and 'Fish on Wheels' at Patna, Fish production technology centre at Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University

5. Odisha rolls out 'GARIMA' Scheme For Sanitation Workers

Note:

- It will ensure economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state.
- **Implementing agency:** Odisha Housing and Urban Development in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha.
- The scheme will benefit around 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families

6. Meghalaya launches Piggery Mission

Note:

- It is being launched under **Meghalaya Livestock Enterprises Advancement Society** and funded by **National Cooperative Development Corporation**
- **Aim:** To reduce the annual import of Pork worth Rs 150 Crore and make Meghalaya self-sufficient ("Aatma Nirbhar") in pork production over the next 3 years.

August

2. NABARD launches credit guarantee programme for NBFC-MFIs

Note:

- It is titled as 'Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Programme'
- It will ensure unhindered flow of credit in rural areas hit by COVID-19 by providing partial guarantee on pooled loans extended to small and mid-sized microfinance institutions (MFIs)

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- For this, NABARD has tied-up with Vivriti Capital and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

3. Odisha bags 1st position in implementation of AMRUT scheme

Note:

- AMRUT stands for **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation**
- The second position is bagged by Chandigarh (75.08%) followed by Telangana (74.04%), Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh.
- **AMRUT:** It is launched in 2015 to ensure that every household has access to basic services and build amenities in cities to improve the quality of life for all

4. NITI Aayog's AIM collaborated with Dell to launch Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0)

1. Govt approves Special liquidity scheme for NBFCs and HFCs to avoid potential systemic risks to the financial sector.

Note:

- It is launched through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) that will purchase the short-term papers from eligible NBFCs/HFCs (whose NPA is not more than 6%) till 30 Sept after which new purchases will be made.
- Commercial papers (CPs) and non-convertible debentures (NCDs) will be used as instruments with 3 months maximum maturity period in this

2. SERB launches inter-ministerial 'Accelerate Vigyan' scheme

About the scheme:

- It provides a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops
- It will encourage high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower identifying research potential, mentoring, training, and hands-on workshop on a national scale.

3. Odisha launches Balaram scheme for agricultural credit to landless farmers

Note:

- It will benefit 7 lakh cultivators and provide agriculture credit worth Rs 1,040 crore to landless farmers of the state in the next 2 years through joint liability groups
- It has been designed in collaboration with NABARD

4. Karnataka launches Weavers' Sammaan Yojana for handloom weavers

Note:

- It is also named as Nekar Samman Yojane
- Scheme will provide annual financial assistance of Rs 2,000 to handloom weavers in the state

Note:

- It has been launched for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) to get mentor support, prototyping and testing support, end-user feedback, intellectual property registration along with patenting of ideas, processes, and products.

5. SIDBI in association with TransUnion CIBIL Limited launched 'MSMESaksham'

Note:

- It is a comprehensive financial education and one-stop knowledge platform for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- It is focused on financial knowledge and access to credit.

July

through Direct Benefit Transfer covering 19,744 weavers in the first phase.

5. HRD Minister launches 1st online NISHTHA Programme for Andhra Pradesh

Note:

- **NISHTHA:** National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement is elementary stage initiative under Samagra Shiksha (flagship programme to improve learning outcomes)
- Online NISHTHA programme will be conducted through DIKSHA and NISHTHA portals by NCERT.
- Around 23,000 Key Resource Persons and 17.5 lakh teachers and school heads have been covered under this NISHTHA and it will cover 12,000 persons in AP.

6. HRD Minister launches Manodarpan initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Note:

- It will cover a wide range of activities to provide Psychosocial Support to students for their Mental Health & Well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond.
- It will be a part of strengthening human capital and increasing productivity.

7. Home Minister unveils Vriksharopan Abhiyan with key thrust of Going Green

Note:

- Under this, large scale plantation would be carried out across 130 locations spread in 38 Districts of 10 coal/lignite bearing States.
- Foundation stone of 6 Ecoparks/ Tourism sites will also be laid.

8. Dept of Post extends all small savings schemes to branch post office level.

Note:

- It brings all **Post Office Savings schemes** to the doorstep in rural areas allowing Branch Post

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Offices to offer **Public Provident Fund, Monthly Income Scheme, National Savings Certificate, Kisan Vikas Patra and Senior Citizen Savings Schemes facilities.**

- Customers will be able to deposit their savings into these schemes through the post office in their village itself through this initiative.

9. Govt launches 4 pharmaceuticals schemes for Bulk Drugs & Medical Devices Parks

Note:

- It is launched for domestic manufacturing promotion of bulk drugs and medical devices parks

June

1. Govt to launch new Floating Rate Savings Bonds 2020 (Taxable) scheme

Note:

- Issuing Authority: RBI only in electronic form
- Eligibility: Person resident in India (Individual basis, joint basis, survivor basis, on behalf of a minor as guardian) and person from Hindu Undivided Family
- Subscription: Cash (upto ₹20,000/- only)/drafts/cheques or any electronic mode acceptable to the Receiving Office.
- It will not be transferable except transfer to nominee or legal hier.
- Rate: 7.15%

2. KVIC launches Sandalwood and Bamboo plantation initiative to spur monetization of its assets

Note:

- The initiative is aimed at creating assets for KVIC as both Sandalwood and Bamboo have high demand in global market can be used in variety of products generating income for the nation as well as employment in the country.

3. NITI Aayog along with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), CSBC, Ashoka University, and MoWCD launches 'Navigating the New Normal' campaign and website

Note:

- **Aims:** To increase public participation in behavioural changes during unlock phase and open source access initiative
- **Website Focus:** mask-wearing, social distancing, hand hygiene, and not spitting in public

4. MSMEs launches Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt for distressed MSME sector.

Note:

- It is also known as Distressed Assets Fund-Subordinate Debt for MSMEs.
- It will provide Rs. 20,000 crores of guarantee cover to 2 lakh MSMEs that are stressed or are under NPA through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for MSEs (CGTMSE).

- The grant-in-aid will be 90% in case of North-East and hilly States and 70% in other States.
- For medical devices, **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** has been launched for 5 years.
- **Focus Areas:** Cancer care / Radiotherapy medical devices, Radiology & Imaging medical devices and Nuclear Imaging devices and Anesthetics & Cardio-Respiratory medical devices including catheters of Cardiorespiratory Category & Renal Care medical devices

- **Moratorium Period:** 7 years
- **Maximum Tenure:** 10 Years

5. Govt launch 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' scheme for rural India

Note:

- It will empower and provide livelihood opportunities to the migrant workers and rural citizens.
- Villages across 116 districts in 6 states (Bihar, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Odisha) will join this programme through the Common Service Centres and Krishi Vigyan Kendras maintaining social distancing.
- It is a 125 days campaign that will work in mission mode involving employment generation as well as infrastructure creation in rural regions.
- A web portal has been launched for monitoring the progress and completion of the works

6. Union Agriculture Minister launched Sahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP)

- **Objective:** To help cooperative institutions access innovative ideas of young professionals while the interns will gain experience of working in the field to be self-reliant.

- It is an initiative by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

- **Stipend: Each intern will get financial support over a 4 months internship period.**

7. Himachal Pradesh launches Panchvati Yojana for senior citizens of rural areas

Note:

- Under this scheme, 100 parks and gardens in every development block with all the necessary amenities will be made
- This will provide elderly people an opportunity to spend their leisure time strolling in these parks and gardens enhancing their life expectancy.

8. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) launches 'Turant Customs' programme at Bengaluru and Chennai

Note:

- It is a mega reform for the ease of doing business by facilitating faster Customs clearance of imported goods using faceless assessment by the Customs officers assigned by automated system located outside the port of import.
- It will be initiated all over the country till 31st December 2020.

9. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) launches Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings Initiative

Note:

- It is launched in partnership with **U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID)** MAITREE program.
- It will address the challenges of retrofitting existing buildings and air conditioning systems ensuring good indoor air quality
- MAITREE: Part of the US-India bilateral Partnership for cost-effective energy efficiency.

10. Power Minister launches '#iCommit' initiative

Note:

- It is driven by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the administration of Ministry of Power.
- It will unite Governments, Corporates, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations, Think Tanks and Individuals to create a robust and resilient 24X7 energy system in the future.

11. Govt launches SWADES initiative for skill mapping of overseas citizens under Vande Bharat Mission

Note:

- **SWADES** stands for **Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support**
- It is a joint initiative of **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of External Affairs.**
- It will create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience for placement opportunities in different companies.

12. The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP) launched for graduates

About TULIP:

1. Government to withdraw RBI Bond scheme 2018 due to declining interest rates

Note:

- It is also known as 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds scheme 2018 which is mostly subscribed by retail investors (Not available for NRIs)

- It originated in Budget 2020-21 under 'Aspirational India' theme
- It is a program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.
- Students who have completed B. Tech, B. Arch, B. Plan, BSc etc. can apply within 18 months from date of its graduation.

13. Government launches 3 electronic incentive scheme boosting large-scale manufacturing of electronics

Note:

- The three schemes are: **Production Linked Incentive** (₹41,000 crore and will incentivize 10 firms), **Component Manufacturing Scheme** (₹3,300 crore) and **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters** (₹3,800 crore).
- It is aimed to manufacture electronics worth ₹8 lakh crore, while generating employment for about 10 lakh people.

14. Kiren Rijiju launches Khelo India e-Pathshala programme

Note:

- It is the first ever National-level open online coaching and education programme of India.
- It featured the participation of young archers, archery coaches and experts from across the nation.
- It has been launched by Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National Sporting Federations (NSF).

15. Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launches PM SVANIDHI for street vendors

Note:

- **PM SVANIDHI:** Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi scheme.
- It is a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loan to street vendors for resuming their livelihoods amidst COVID-19 benefiting 50 lakh street vendors in urban areas
- The scheme will be applicable till March 2022 and 10k working capital can be availed in this.
- MoU between SIDBI and MoHUA has been signed along with a mobile application for maximum coverage of the scheme

May

looking for safety of principal and regular income.

- They are issued at par at ₹100 and minimum amount was fixed at ₹1,000 and are taxable
- They are repayable at 7 years from the issue date with tax on the bond's interest.

2. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana launched

Note:

- **Aim:** To bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fishery sector.
- It will be implemented for 5 years (till 2025) creating employment with other facilities boosting fishery in India.

3. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launches scheme to solarize Konark Sun Temple and town in Odisha

Note:

- It will be implemented by Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency with 100% Central Financial Assistance.
- 100% solarization scheme forecast setting up of 10-Megawatt grid connected solar project with solar trees and solar drinking water kiosks.

4. PM announces special economic package of Rs 20 lakh crore

Note:

- The package is 10% of India's GDP amid COVID-19.
- It will provide relief to almost every segment and sectors of India ranging from MSMEs, Defence to Fisheries, Agriculture through various sector specific schemes and programmes

5. Defence Minister approves Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme

Note:

- It is launched to promote indigenous defence capability, specifically amongst MSMEs and start-ups reducing military imports.
- Govt will 75% funding to the projects under the scheme in the form of 'Grant-in-Aid' and 25% fund will be provided Special Purpose Vehicles, which will have private entities and state government and will be registered under Companies Act, 2013

Obituaries

September

1. Veteran politician and former President of India, **Pranab Mukherjee** passed away recently.
Note: He hold post finance minister and External Affairs Minister Twice. Finance minister from 1982-84 and 2004-2012. External Affairs Minister from 1995-96 and 2006-2009. He also hold the post of Defence Minister from 2004-2006.
2. Renowned **Animation Creator** Joe Ruby passed away recently.
Note: He was the founder of **television animation** production company Ruby-Spears Productions, together with Ken Spears.
3. Noted **Cardiologist** Dr S Padmavati passed away at the age of 103 years due to COVID-19.
Note: She was the first female cardiologist of India and was popularly known as "God Mother of Cardiology". She was the founder of the National Heart Institute. She was born in Burma (now Myanmar) in 1917, a year before the world was hit by the Spanish Flu pandemic.
4. Famous cricketer David Capel held from **England** passed away recently.
Note: He made his Test debut against Pakistan in 1987. Capel made 270 first-class appearances for Northamptonshire from 1981-1998. He became the first cricketer born in the county to play a Test for England in 77 years when he made his debut against Pakistan in July 1987.
5. The petitioner of a historic case, **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala**, Kesavananda Bharati passed

- away recently, he was chief pontiff of Mutt/temple **Edneer Mutt, Kasaragod**.
Note: Shri Kesavananda Bharati was the chief pontiff of Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district, Kerala, India. He was a follower of Smartha Bhagawatha tradition and the Advaita Vedanta school of Hindu philosophy. He took Sanyasa at the age of 19 and headed the Edneer Mutt as the Peetadhipathi until his death.
6. Renowned **Baseball player** Tom Seaver passed away recently.
Note: He became a constant on magazine covers and a media presence, calling postseason games on NBC and ABC even while still an active player. Seaver was elected to the **Hall of Fame in 1992** when he appeared on 425 of 430 ballots for a then-record 98.84%.
 7. Famous **Film Director** Jiri Menzel passed away recently.
Note: His 1st feature film, 'Closely Watched Trains' won an **Academy Award (Oscars)** for Best Foreign Language film in 1968. Menzel won the Czech Lion for lifetime artistic contribution and was honoured by the Karlovy Vary festival.
 8. Renowned **Astronomer** Govind Swarup passed away.
Note: He was the founding director of National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
 9. Renowned **Film maker** Johnny Bakshi passed away recently.
Note: Veteran producer-director, Johnny Bakshi passed away. He mostly worked as a producer, backing films such as Manzilein Aur Bhi Hain, (1974), Raavan,

- (1984) and Phir Teri Kahani Yaad Aayee (1993). He has also directed two films Daku Aur Police (1992) and Khudai (1994).
10. Renowned personality **Jaya Prakash Reddy** passed away.
Note: He was working as a sub-inspector of police when he got an opportunity to act in Venkatesh's 1988 film Brahma Puthrudu. He was last seen in Mahesh Babu starrer Sarileru Neekevvaru (2020).
11. Famous **Actor** Diana Rigg passed away recently.
Note: British actress **Diana Rigg**, whose commanding career stretched from iconic 1960s spy series The Avengers to fantasy juggernaut Game of Thrones passed away. Ms. Rigg also starred in 1967 James Bond thriller On Her Majesty's Secret Service as the only woman ever to marry Agent 007.
12. Renowned **Politician** Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away.
Note: He was a member of the 15th Lok Sabha of India and represented the Vaishali constituency of Bihar. Singh had served as the Union Minister for Rural Development in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's cabinet.
- August**
13. Renowned personality Sonam Tshering Lepcha passed away recently, he was a veteran **Folk Musician**.
Note: He played a major role in reviving and promoting the Lepcha Culture which is one of the indigenous culture of Sikkim. Sonam Tshering Lepcha started his career as a soldier. He composed songs with traditional musical instruments collected from various parts of Sikkim and became the first Lepcha to feature on the All India Radio (AIR) in 1960.
14. Lee Teng-hui dubbed as "Mr. Democracy" passed away recently. He was former president of **Taiwan**.
Note: He was popularly known as "Mr. Democracy" for eradicating the dictatorial rule in favour of unbiased pluralism in Taiwan. He was educated under Japanese colonial rule in 1945 in Japan's culture. He was a fluent Japanese speaker. He served in the Japanese army and the surrender of the army after World War II put him in Kyoto University in Japan.
15. Famous personality Anil Murali passed away recently. He was a veteran **Malayalam Actor**.
Note: Anil Murali started his acting career as a part of the Malayalam tele serials. He first starred in the film Kanyakumariyil Oru Kavitha in 1993. His most known works in Malayalam include Ivar, Lion, Babakalyani, Nasrani, Puthiya Mukham, Pokkiri Raja, City of God and his Tamil and Telugu films include Nimirndhu Nil, Thani Oruvan, Ragile Kasi and Janda Pai Kapiraju.
16. Former **Uttar Pradesh** education minister of Kamal Rani Varun passed away due to coronavirus.
Note: Uttar Pradesh's Technical Education Minister Kamal Rani Varun, has passed away due to a novel coronavirus. Kamal Rani Varun, who served as Minister of Technical Education, is the first minister in Uttar Pradesh to die after contracting coronavirus.
17. **Writer and Singer** Vangapandu Prasada Rao passed away recently.
Note: Prasada Rao who has been associated with Jana Natya Mandali since 1972 enthralled audience with his thought provoking songs and speeches. His famous song 'Emi pillado Eldamostava' brought laurels.
18. Renowned personality Sunnam Rajaiah passed away recently.
Note: A native of Sunnamvaari Gudem village, V.R. Puram mandal, in East Godavari district, Mr. Rajaiah served as Bhadrachalam MLA for three times. He participated in many tribal agitations, protecting tribal lands and their rights in the Agency areas in Bhadrachalam, East and West Godavari districts.
19. **Politician** Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar passed away recently.
Note: The 88-year-old minister who had been suffering from several co-morbidities including diabetes and high blood pressure, and had been tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Pune was admitted at a private hospital. The former CM is survived by wife, three sons, a daughter and grandchildren. His last rites are to be performed in Nilanga his birthplace in Latur district.
20. Renowned **Theatre Director** Ebrahim Alkazi passed away.
Note: He was considered as the father of modern Indian theatre. He was the first Director of National School of Drama (NSD). Also an art connoisseur, collector and gallery owner, he founded Art Heritage Gallery in New Delhi.
21. Nobel Peace Prize winner, John Hume passed away.
Note: He was a founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970 and led the party from 1979 until 2001.
22. **Politician** Ram Pradhan passed away recently.
Note: He served as the governor of Arunachal Pradesh during Rajiv Gandhi government. He was an IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre. He also headed 2-member committee set up in December 2008 to probe the security forces' response to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.
23. Renowned personality Sameer Sharma passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: He was known for her role in TV serials: Geet – Hui Sabse Parayi, Left Right Left, Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii, Sshhhhh....Koi Hai Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, Jyoti, Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon – Ek Baar Phir. He was also seen in Siddharth Malhotra and Parineeti

- Chopra starrer 'Hasee Toh Phasee' movie and Sonakshi Sinha starrer movie 'Ittefaq'.
24. Renowned politician Shyamal Chakraborty passed away due to COVID-19 infection, he was a former governor of **West Bengal**.
Note: He served as the Transport Minister of West Bengal thrice from 1982 to 1996. Shyamal Chakraborty was also elected twice as Rajya Sabha member. He was also a member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1981 to 1996. He was also the state President of Centre of Indian Trade Unions, (CITU), the trade union arm of CPM.
25. Renowned personality Shirley Ann Grau passed away recently, she was a veteran **Environmentalist**.
Note: The famous fiction writer and Pulitzer Prize-winner, Shirley Ann Grau, died at the age of 91 due to stroke in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States. She wrote six novels and four short stories which are all set in the Deep South, from New Orleans to north Louisiana and Alabama.
26. Renowned personality Sadia Dehlvi passed away recently, she was a veteran **Writer and Activist**.
Note: She was born in 1957, came from the royal 'Shama' family, edited the Urdu women's journal Bano. Dehlvi, writing focuses on women, minorities, Islamic spirituality, and Delhi's heritage and culture.
27. Renowned personality Mukund Lath passed away recently, he was a veteran **Culture Historian**.
Note: A prominent culture historian and exponent of Mewati Gharana, Mukund Lath passed away at the age of 82 on 6th August, 2020 in Jaipur. He was awarded India's fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri, in 2010 for his contributions to the field of arts and cultural history.
28. Renowned personality Nandi Yellaiah passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: He was first elected to the Lok Sabha from Siddipet in 1979. He was elected to Lok Sabha six times and Rajya Sabha twice from 2002 to 2014. Nandi Yellaiah commenced his political career as a corporator of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.
29. Famous personality Manitombi Singh passed away, he was a veteran **Sportsman**.
Note: He played for Mohun Bagan and was part of the Hindustan FC team that won the Delhi Soccer Association league title in 2010. Manitombi played for India in the 2002 LG Cup in Vietnam.
30. Renowned personality PK Muthusamy passed away recently, he was a veteran **Songwriter**.
Note: Veteran Tamil film songwriter, PK Muthusamy passed away. He had penned memorable Tamil film lyrics like 'Mannukku Maram Baaramaa?' - which means 'are the trees a burden on the earth?'. His other famous songs composed by Muthusami include 'Mapiilai vandar' and 'Chinna Chinna nadai nadandu' etc.
31. Noted personality Rahat Indori passed away recently, he was a veteran **Urdu Poet**.
Note: With a 50-year career in poetry, Indori, an Urdu scholar of great repute, was one of the biggest mushaira (poetry symposiums) stars in the country and someone who fearlessly called a spade a spade. He was also a bollywood lyricist and known for the lyrics of songs like "M Bole to" from Munnabhai MBBS (2003), and "Neend Churai Mei" from Ishq (1997).
32. Renowned personality GK Menon passed away, recently he was a veteran **Journalist**.
Note: He played cricket at the club level and also was an active member of the Shivaji Park Gymkhana in Dadar, central Mumbai. He was manager of the 1952-53 Bombay University team which won the Rohinton Baria Trophy by beating Delhi in the final at Bengaluru.
33. Chunnakara Ramankutty passed away recently he was a famous poet and film and drama lyricist of **Malayalam** language.
Note: Popular Malayalam poet and film and drama lyricist Chunnakara Ramankutty passed away at a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram. Starting from 1978 he wrote lyrics for Malayalam films, till a few years back.
34. Famous sportsperson Chetan Chauhan passed away recently, he was associated with **Cricket**.
Note: He was Minister for youth and sports in the state of Uttar Pradesh Cabinet in 2018 and has also served as Minister of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, PRD and Civil Security in the UP Cabinet.
35. Noted Carnatic musician Dr B Siva Kumar passed away recently, he was proficient in **Veena** musical instrument.
Note: Dr Siva Kumar, a science graduate of Loyola College Chennai has also taken MA in Music from Bharathi Dasan university and followed it up with a PhD in Music. He has won several awards including the Tamil Iyal Isai Nataka sangam award and the award for Ragam Tanam Pallavi presentation from the Tamil Isai Sangam.
36. Renowned personality Nishikant Kamat passed away, he was a veteran **Film Director**.
Note: Nishikant had directed some popular Bollywood movies like Force, Drishyam and Madaari. He made his silver screen debut in 2004 with the Hindi movie Hava Aney Dey. In 2008, Kamat helmed his first Bollywood film Mumbai Meri Jaan. As an actor, he was known for his performances in Daddy, Rocky Handsome, Julie 2 and Bhavesh Joshi. He was also the creative producer of the web series The Final Call and Rangbaaz Phirse.
37. Renowned personality Pandit Jasraj passed away recently, he was a veteran **Vocalist**.
Note: Pandit Jasraj was a recipient of India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 1975; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1987 and Padma Bhushan in 1999. In the year 2000, the government of India conferred him with Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honour in the country.

38. Legendary sportsperson Angela Buxton passed away recently; she was associated with **Tennis** sports.
Note: Buxton won the women's doubles alongside Althea Gibson at both Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 1956. Buxton also reached the singles final at Wimbledon 1956 but lost to American Shirley Fry.
39. Renowned personality Russell A. Kirsch passed away recently, he was a veteran **computer scientist**.

July

1. Renowned **Actor** Carl Reiner passed away recently.
Note: Legendary comedian, Carl Reiner passed away. He was a prolific writer, comedian, director and actor. He had a run as a movie director with such films as "Oh, God!" (1977) and "The Jerk" (1979). He won several Emmys awards in writing and producing.
2. Renowned personality Saroj Khan passed away recently, she was a veteran **Choreographer**.
Note: In a career spanning over four decades, Khan is credited with choreographing more than 2,000 songs, including Dola Re Dola from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Devdas, Ek Do Teen from Madhuri Dixit-starrer Tezaab and Ye Ishq Haaye from Jab We Met in 2007.
3. Famous sportsperson Everton Weekes passed away recently he was associated with **Crickets** sports.
Note: Everton Weekes made his first-class debut at 19-year-old and his Test debut in 1948 at 22. His test career spanned between 1948 to 1958, where he played 48 Tests & scored 4455 runs at an average of 58.62.
4. Name the Hollywood screen writer, film maker, actor and voice artist passed away recently -- **Carl Reiner**.
Note: Veteran Hollywood and multi-hyphenate personality Carl Reiner, a creator and director of several Steve Martin films, died at 98 of natural causes at his Beverly Hills home. He has won multiple Emmy Awards, among which 5 awards were backed by "The Dick Van Dyke Show" in the 1960s.
5. Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri popularly known as Jagdeep passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: Jagdeep appeared in around 400 films but it is his role as Soorma Bhopali in 1975 film "Sholay. Better known by his stage name Jagdeep, the actor also directed the movie "Soorma Bhopali" with his character as the protagonist.
6. Renowned personality Charlie Daniels passed away recently.
Note: He was country music and southern rock icon who entertained fans for decades with songs like "Long-Haired Country Boy," "In America," and his signature fiddle tune "The Devil Went Down To Georgia", who won his only Grammy Award in 1979. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2016.
7. Renowned personality Nagindas Sanghvi passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.
Note: He was 100 and suffering from acute asthma. Mr. Sangvi was conferred Padma Shri award in the year

Note: Russell Kirsch, a computer scientist credited with inventing the pixel and scanning the world's first digital photograph, passed away at his home in Portland. Pixels, the digital dots used to display photos; video and computer screens were invented by Russell Kirsch in 1957. He scanned the world's first digital photograph.

2019. He was in teaching at Bhavan's College Andheri from 1951 to 1980. Later he moved to Ruparel College, Mahim and Mithibai College, Vile Parle for teaching political science.
8. Famous footballer Wim Suurbier of **The Netherlands** passed away recently.
Note: Suurbier, who won three European championships with the legendary Ajax side of the same decade, had been in hospital since suffering a cerebral haemorrhage in April. Suurbier was an attacking full-back whose role epitomised the "Total Football" style pioneered by the Ajax and Dutch national sides during his heyday.
9. English sports person Jack Charlton passed away recently, he was associated with **Football** sports.
Note: A member of the England 1966 World-Cup winning team, Jack Charlton passed away. He was also an integral part of the great Don Revie-managed Leeds United side that won the 1969 League title and the 1972 FA Cup.
10. Renowned personality Avad Bin Hassan Jami passed away recently, he was a veteran **cartoonist**.
Note: His cartoons were published in Gujarati magazine "Abhiyan" for last over two decades. He had also worked in Gujarati newspaper **Phulchhab** as a cartoonist. He was a drawing teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jamnagar and became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.
11. Amadou Gon Coulibaly who passed away recently was prime minister of **Ivory Coast**.
Note: He recently returned from France after receiving medical treatment. He was also chosen as the ruling party Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (**RHDP**)'s candidate for October's presidential election.
12. First woman election commissioner of Maharashtra **Neela Satyanarayan** passed away recently.
Note: The 1972 batch officer was admitted at the Seven Hills Hospital, Mumbai after she was diagnosed with COVID-19. Neela Satyanarayan retired in 2014. She has penned more than 150 songs. Also, she has composed music for several Marathi movies.
13. Renowned personality John Lewis passed away recently, he was a veteran **Civil Rights Activist of US**.
Note: He was also the youngest and last survivor of the Big Six civil rights activists, a group led by the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr that had the greatest impact on the movement. He was best known for

- leading around 600 protesters in the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.
14. Renowned personality Professor C. S. Seshadri passed away recently, he was a veteran **Mathematician**.
Note: A leader in the field of algebraic geometry, he made breakthroughs that lie at the base of many branches of this profound discipline. Seshadri began his career at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research as one of the first batches of graduate students. He moved to Chennai in 1984, to the Institute of Mathematical Sciences. In 1989, he got an opportunity to start the School of Mathematics as part of the SPIC Science Foundation, which has evolved into the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI).
 15. Renowned personality Lalji Tondon passed away recently, he was governor of **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: Lal Ji Tandon was the governor of Bihar between August 2018 and July 2019 when he took over as Madhya Pradesh's Governor. In 2009, the senior BJP leader and a protege of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, succeeded him as the Lucknow MP. He began his career from his hometown Lucknow in the 1970s and had also served as a state minister in Uttar Pradesh several times between 1991 and 2003.
 16. Renowned personality Bijay Mohanty passed away, recently he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: His performance in his debut film, Chilika Tire, earned him several accolades including the National Film Award. He is most famous for negative roles in films including Samay Bada Balaban, Naga Phasa, Sahari Bagha, Danda Balunga and Chaka Bhaunri.
 17. Rajat Mukherjee who passed away recently was a famous **Film Maker**.
Note: Rajat Mukherjee directed Urmila Matondkar, Fardeen Khan, Sonali Kulkarni and Rajpal Yadav in 2001's Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya. He also directed the 2004 film Love In Nepal, which starred singer Sonu Nigam, Rajpal Yadav and Flora Saini.
 18. Renowned personality **Juan Marse** passed away, he was a veteran **Novelist**.
Note: Spanish novelist, Juan Marse passed away. He was one of Spain's most-respected novelists over the past few decades and the winner of the 2008 Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's top literary award. His most important novel was "Últimas trades on Teresa" ("Last Afternoons with Teresa") published in 1965.
 19. Renowned personality **John Saxon** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: He was born on 5th August 1936 as Carmine Orrico in Brooklyn, New York, United States of America. He was debuted in 1954 and starred in detective and horror shows like "A Nightmare on Elm Street".
 20. Renowned personality P Achyuta Rao passed away due to COVID-19, he was a **Child Rights Activist**.
Note: He is known to have helped prevent child marriages, incidents of child sexual abuse, and child labour. Rao recently filed a petition in Telangana High Court demanding that mid-day meal be served to students in government schools since they have not been able to access it due to the pandemic-imposed lockdown.
 21. Renowned personality Sonam Tshering Lepcha passed away recently, he was veteran **Folk Musician**.
Note: Lepcha was born in Kalimpong in 1928 and started his career as a soldier. He travelled to various parts of Sikkim and compiled a wide range of Indian folk and traditional Lepcha songs and played folk music on All India Radio in 1960.
 22. Renowned personality **Somendranath Mitra** passed away recently he was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: A veteran Congress leader, Somen Mitra as he was often referred to, took charge of West Bengal Congress in 2018. He played a crucial role in forging an electoral understanding of Left parties and Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.
 23. Renowned personality **Kumkum** passed away recently, she was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: Her real name was Zaibunnissa. She has featured in over 100 Hindi films like Mother India, Kohinoor, Ek Sapera Ek Lootera, Naya Daur, Ujala, Raja Aur Runk, Lalkar, Aankhen, Geet, among others.
 24. Renowned personality **Parvej Khan** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Action Director**.
Note: He had been working in the film industry since 1986. Some of his well-known films include Andhadhun, Badlapur, Bullett Raja, Fukrey, Ra-One, Johnny Gaddaar, Vishwaroopam, Vishwaroopam 2, Dev. D, Gangster, Sehar, Ab Tak Chhappan, The Legend Of Bhagat Singh, Soldier, and Mr. And Mrs Khiladi.
 25. Renowned personality **Olivia de Havilland** passed away, she was a veteran **Hollywood Actor**.
Note: She was born on 1st July 1916, in Tokyo, Japan. The actress, who starred in blockbusters like Captain Blood (1935), The adventures of Robin Hood (1938), Gone with the Wind (1939), The Snakepit, The Heiress. She unchained the Hollywoods contract system which was later called as "De Havilland Law".
 26. Renowned personality Amala Shankar passed away, she was a veteran **Choreographer and danseuse**.
Note: She was honored with the West Bengal government's Banga Bibhusan award in 2011 for her contributions to art. First performance of Amala Shankar was in Kaliya Daman which was staged in Belgium in 1931. She also acted in the film "Kalpana" which was released in 1948.
 27. Renowned personality Annie Ross passed away, she was a famous **Jazz Singer**.
Note: he was born Annabelle McCauley Allan Short in Surrey, England, on July 25, 1930. She was a popular jazz singer in the 1950s before crossing over into a successful film career.

June

1. Veteran **Music Director** Wajid Khan passed away recently.
Note: Wajid Khan was the brother of music director Sajid Khan. He was born in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh on July 10, 1977. Wajid along with his brother Sajid served as mentors on singing reality shows "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2012" and "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Superstar".
2. Famous sprinter Bobby Morrow passed away recently.
Note: He is one of the four men (Jesse Owens(1936), Carl Lewis(1984), Usain Bolt(2012 & 2016)) to win three events at a single game (100m, 200m and 4x100m relay). He won three gold medals for 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay in the 1956 Olympic in Melbourne.
3. Former Union Minister and three-time Congress MP P Namgyal passed away recently in **Ladakh**.
Note: Former Union Minister and three-time Congress MP from Ladakh, P Namgyal passes away. He has served as the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Surface Transport and Chemicals and Petrochemicals. He was also an agriculturist, a social worker and served as the secretary general and vice president of the Pradesh Congress Committee in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state.
4. Famous sportsperson turned coach Jayantilal Nanoma passed away recently, he was associated with **Archery** sports.
Note: Former International Archer turned coach Jayantilal Nanoma passed away. He was an Asian Cup and Asian Grand Prix medallist in compound individual and team archery in 2010. He was also the recipient of prestigious Maharana Pratap State Sports Award and was presently serving as the District Sports Officer in Dungarpur.
5. Renowned personality Basu Chatterjee passed away recently, he was a veteran **Screenwriter**.
Note: He worked in Hindi & Bengali cinema and was a dialogue writer and produced a few films. He received the National Film Award for Best Film on Family Welfare in 1992 for his film Durga. He was born on January 10, 1930, in Ajmer, British India.
6. Renowned personality Anwar Sagar passed away recently, he was a veteran **Song Writer**.
Note: He is best remembered for his hit track Waada Raha Sanam from 1992 Akshay Kumar-starrer Khiladi. The lyricist also has to his credit films like Yaarana, Salaami, Aa Gale Lag Jaa and Vijaypath among more. Anwar Sagar also worked with music directors like Nadeem-Shravan, Rajesh Roshan, Jatin-Lalit and Anu Malik.
7. Renowned personality Chiranjeevi Sarja passed away recently,
Note: He has featured in films such as Samhaara, Aadyaa, Khaki, Sinnga, Amma I Love You, Prema Baraha, Dandam Dashaganam and Varadhanayaka among others. He was last seen in the Kannada action-drama Shivarjuna.
8. Ved Prakash Marwah who passed away recently is a former governor of the **Jharkhand, Manipur and Mizoram states**.
Note: Ved Marwah was an alumnus of St. Stephens college. He was the first Secretary of the High Commission of India, London. From 1985 to 1988 he served as the Police Commissioner of Delhi during the repercussions of 1984 anti-Sikh riots and he served as the third Director General of the National Security Guard from 1988 to 1990.
9. Renowned personality Arjun Charan Sethi passed away recently.
Note: He was Water Resources Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Cabinet from 2000 to 2004. He entered Lok Sabha from Bhadrak on a Congress ticket in 1971 and re-elected in 1980, also on a Congress ticket. The veteran politician was also elected to Odisha Assembly twice on Janata Dal ticket in 1991 and 1995 from Bhandaripokhari.
10. Pierre Nkurunziza passed away recently was President of **Brundi**.
Note: He was born on 18th December 1964 in Ngozi Province. He was a sports graduate and assistant lecturer at the University of Burundi and after the Civil War he became the leader of Forces for Defence of Democracy (FDD) in 2001.
11. Famous sport person Tony Dunne, passed away recently, he was associated with **Football** sports.
Note: He joined Manchester United at the age of 18 in 1960 and debuted on 16th October 1960 against Burnley (A) league. He was a part of the winning side of the European Cup in 1968.
12. Famous **Cricket** sportsperson Vasant Raiji passed away recently.
Note: A chartered accountant, he was also a well-known chronicler of cricket, having written books on C.K. Nayudu, Ranjitsinhji, Duleepsinhji, L.P. Jai and Victor Trumper. A Cricket Club of India player, he represented Bombay and Baroda. The cricketer-historian was also a founding member of Jolly Cricket Club in Mumbai.
13. Former Test cricketer of **New Zealand** Matt Poore passed away recently,
Note: He is remembered for catching a stray dog during a match in Bengaluru in 1955 and subsequently taking 12 anti-rabies injections. An all-rounder, Poore had a short but colourful 14-Test career between 1953 and 1956 alongside two greats - Bert Sutcliffe and John Reid.
14. Veteran **Urdu** poet and freedom fighter Anand Mohan Zutshi passed away recently,
Note: Anand Mohan Zutshi 'Gulzar' Dehlvi was the editor of the 1st Urdu science magazine, Science ki

Duniya, published by the Government of India in 1975. He played a prominent role in opening Urdu schools across India & has been a part of a number of mushairas (Poetic symposium), which includes Jashn-e-Rekhta in 2015 and Jigar Fest in 2018.

15. veteran **Actor** Sushant Singh Rajput found dead in his house in Mumbai was a veteran.
Note: 34-year-old actor committed suicide & found dead at his home in Bandra, Mumbai. He was born on 16th January 1986 in Patna, Bihar. He promoted the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog which was launched on 8th March 2018.
16. Renowned **Military personnel**. Raj Mohan Vohra passed away recently due to COVID-19.
Note: Maha Vir Chakra awardee Lt Gen (retd) Raj Mohan Vohra passed away due to COVID-19. He was a 1971 war hero. Lt Gen Vohra had received the coveted award in 1972. The Maha Vir Chakra is that the country's second-highest gallantry award. It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry within the presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.
17. Renowned **Journalist** Dinu Ranadive passed away recently.
Note: The veteran journalist was born in 1925 at a tribal hamlet at Dahanu near Mumbai, he started his journalistic career in 1956. Ranadive started his career as the founder-editor of Samyukta Maharashtra Patrika in the 1950s. He then did exemplary reporting on the Goa Freedom Struggle in 1961.
18. **Malayalam** Film Director, Scriptwriter, and Producer K.R. Sachidanandan passed away recently, he was associated with which language films.
Note: Malayalam Film director, scriptwriter, and producer K.R. Sachidanandan passed away. His directorial debut was Anarkali in 2015. He had co-scripted numerous movies with Sethu and later began composing solo contents. Sachy was a rehearsing legal advisor at the Kerala High Court.
19. Renowned **Economist** B.P.R. Vithal passes away recently.
Note: He also served as the Secretary, Finance and Planning, government of Andhra Pradesh, from 1972 to 1982. B.P.R. Vithal also worked at the International Monetary Fund as the fiscal adviser to the governments of Malawi and Sudan. He also played an

instrumental role in the establishment of Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad.

20. Renowned **Army Man** Lachhman Singh Lehl passed away recently.
Note: Lachhman Singh Lehl took part within the 1948 war in Jhangar area of Jammu and Kashmir as a captain and commanded a division within the 1971 war. He received the Vir Chakra, the third highest gallantry award in India for his role as a forward observer within the 50 Para Brigade.
21. Famous sportsperson Rajinder Goel passed away recently he was associated with **Cricket** sports.
Note: He made his ranji debut in 1957-58 and began his first class career with Patiala (southern Punjab team). He represented Delhi from 1963 and in 1973 he moved to Haryana
22. Famous **Basketball** K Raghunath passed away recently, he was associated with which sports.
Note: Raghunath represented Indian All-Star team which toured Sri Lanka in 1962. He played for Karnataka with distinction in 1960s He was one of the founding members of the still-popular Beagles Basketball Club. Raghunath's tryst with basketball began in 1958.
23. Famous sportsperson Pournima Zanane passed away recently, she was associated with **Shooting** sports.
Note: She started as a shooter in Mumbai and represented India in numerous ISSF World Cups, Asian Championships, Commonwealth Championships. She holds a national record in the 10 m air rifle event. She started coaching shooters in 2012 and she was the coach of the shooters team of Sri Lanka.
24. Renowned **Journalist** Vishwa Bandhu Gupta passed away recently.
Note: He was the chairman and chief editor of the Tej-Bandhu group of publications, The Weekly Sun, The North-East Sun, Treasure monthly and Flash newspaper. He was the President of All India Newspaper Editors Conference (AINEC) and one of the founding members of the Press Club of India (PCI).
25. Noted **Kannada** novelist Geetha Nagabhushan passed away.
Note: She was the first woman writer to bag Kendra Sahitya Academy and Nadoja awards and serve as the chairperson of Karnataka Sahitya Academy. She had presided over 76th Akhil Bharat Kannada Sahitya Sammelan, a prestigious literary fest, held at Gadag in 2020.

May

1. Renowned personality Rishi Raj Kapoor passed away.
Note: Rishi Kapoor was the third generation actor, the second son of actor Raj Kapoor and a grandson of Prithviraj Kapoor. He recently announced his next project, a remake of Hollywood film The Intern, also

featuring Deepika Padukone. Rishi had starred in more than 100 films. His autobiography Khullam Khulla: Rishi Kapoor Uncensored... was published by HarperCollins and launched at "The Hindu Lit for Life 2017".

2. Renowned personality Chuni Goswami, passed away, he was a famous **Sportsperson**.
Note: Former India football captain Subimal Goswami, commonly known by his nickname Chuni Goswami, passed away at the age of 82 in Kolkata. He was the captain of the 1962 Asian Games gold-medal winning team. Goswami played 50 matches for India as a footballer from 1956 to 1964. However, he quit international football in 1964, at the age of 27. Goswami was part of the Bengal's triumphant Santosh Trophy squad thrice in 1955, 1958, and 1959. Goswami was successful in cricket as well, he represented Bengal in 46 first-class games between 1962 and 1973.
3. Renowned personality Bijay Mishra passed away, he was a famous **Playwriter**.
Note: Noted playwright, dramatist, scriptwriter and film director Bijay Mishra of Odisha passed away at the age of 83 due to age-related ailments in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Mishra began playwright from 1960 and his first play 'Janani' was staged in Annapurna Theatre, Cuttack, Odisha. He was also a mainstream script writer in Odia Cinema & TV Industry.
4. Renowned personality Nissar Ahmed popularly known as K S Nissar Ahmed passed away, he was a popular **Poet and Kannada writer**.
Note: He was the 73rd president of Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in the year 2007 held at Shivamogga. He received Rajyotsava in 1981, Padma Shri in 2008 and Pampa Award in 2017.
5. Famous personality Dalit Ezhilmalai passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: He participated in the Indo-Pak War of 1971 as an army officer and received Sainik Sewa Medal for his meritorious service. He served in the Former Post & Telegraph Department of the Government of India Between 1963 and 1987 and deputed to the Army for five years. In 1989 The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) was established and he joined the party and became the general secretary.
6. Renowned personality Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away recently, he was a famous **Historian**.
Note: He served as the Director of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. From 2005 to 2015, he was the Chairman of Syllabus Committees and Textbook Development Committees for Social Science, NCERT and from 2006 to 2007 he acted as a consultant on Indo-Russian Trade for the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.
7. Famous sportsperson Manmeet Singh Walia, passed away, he was associated with which sports **Table Tennis**.
Note: He became the national champion in 1989 when he beat S Sriram in the men's singles final in Hyderabad. He was also one of the finest and consistent performers in the 1980's.
8. Renowned personality Betty Wright passed away recently, she was a famous **Singer**.
Note: The Grammy-winning soul singer, Betty Wright passed away. Her real name is Bessie Regina Norris. She is an R&B (Rhythm & blues) singer, songwriter and background vocalist. She received her first Grammy Award for the Best Song, "Where is the Love?", at the age of 23.
9. Renowned personality Jerry Stiller passed away recently, he was associated with which field **Acting**.
Note: He was renowned for his recurring role as George Costanza's father on TV's Seinfeld for which he was also nominated for Emmy Awards in 1997. His other popular roles includes that of Arthur Spooner in TV sitcom "The King of Queens". He received joint star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame along with his wife Meara in year 2007.
10. Renowned personality Shafique Ansari passed away recently, he was associated with which field **Acting**.
Note: TV actor Shafique Ansari passed away. He was best-known for his appearance in TV series 'Crime Patrol'. He was a member of the Cine & TV Artistes' Association (CINTAA) since 2008. Apart from being an actor, he was a screenwriter and an assistant director too. He is one of the screenwriters of Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini's 2003 film 'Baghban'.
11. Renowned **Actor** Sai Gundewar passed away recently.
Note: Film actor, model, voiceover artist and an entrepreneur, Sai Gundewar passed away. His popularity rose in 2010 after his participation in the hit Reality TV show MTV Splitsvilla, Season 4. He has also acted alongside Aamir Khan in PK, and Rock on.
12. Renowned **Writer** Ratnakar Matkari passed away.
Note: Last week he was tested positive to coronavirus. He was born on 17th November 1938 in Mumbai, India. He was the director and producer of numerous Marathi films and he was a self-taught artist and writer. In the 1970's he wrote many columns for multiple newspapers and magazines. He was known for his acting skills who made his mark in plays like Prem Kahani, Vinashakadun Vinashakade, Lokakatha 78 and State Lote.
13. Former JDS MP **Raja Rangappa Nayak** passed away recently.
Note: He had represented the Raichur constituency, Karnataka and was elected in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1996. He entered into politics as Mandal Pradhan of Rukmapur of Shorapur taluk. He had served as chairman of the health standing committee of Kalaburagi Zilla Panchayat in 1993.
14. Veteran Bengali author **Debesh Roy** passed away recently.
Note: Debesh Roy was known as a writer who broke the set patterns in the fictional world of Bengali literature. He was a regular contributor to many Bengali dailies and a critic of the attacks on liberals in recent

- times and participated in protest meetings. His famous works include Tista Parer Brittanto, Borisaler Jogen Mondal, Manush Khun Kore Keno and Samay Asamayer Brittanto. He won the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'Tista Parer Brittanto' in 1990.
15. Padma Bhushan recipient Bangladeshi professor **Anisuzzaman** passed away recently.
Note: He was born on February 18, 1937, in Calcutta, Bengal Presidency, British India and shifted to Bangladesh soon after the partition in 1947. He made an immense contribution to Bangla language & literature through his research and writings. Anisuzzaman played a significant role in all democratic movements. Anisuzzaman was a member of the Planning Commission to the Government of Bangladesh during the Bangladesh liberation war and a member of the National Education Commission set up by the government after liberation.
 16. Famous sportsperson of **Tennis** Ashley John Cooper passed away at the age of 83 in Sydney
Note: Cooper, the former Ranked No.1 player, led Australia's Davis Cup team to victory over the United States to retain the title in 1957. A right-handed serve-and-volley player, Cooper won 8 Grand Slam titles- 4 Grand Slam singles and 4 Grand Slam doubles titles in the amateur era.
 17. Famous **Hockey** sportsperson Balbir Singh Dosanjh, passed away recently.
Note: Balbir Singh Sr. made his International debut in May 1947 tour of Sri Lanka. He was appointed as the Captain of Indian hockey team for the Melbourne Olympics in 1956. Retiring from his active hockey career, he served as the Manager of India's World Cup winning team led by Ajitpal Singh in 1975. He wrote his biography "The Golden Hat Trick: My Hockey Days" in 1977.
 18. Renowned **Football Coach** Gigi Simoni passed away recently.
Note: He was an Italian football official, player & manager. Simoni played as an attacking midfielder for Mantova, Napoli, Torino, Juventus, Brescia and Genoa. He won the Coppa Italia in 1961-62 with Napoli. He had a well-travelled coaching career and guided 7 teams to promotions from Serie B to the Italian top flight, a record. Gigi Simon was awarded the Panchina d'Oro as the best Italian coach.
 19. Noted **Classical Singer** Shyamala G. Bhave passed away.
Note: Her father, late Govind Vitthal Bhave, trained her in Hindustani music, while she was tutored in the Carnatic stream by noted vocalists A Subbaraya and B Doreswamy. Her mother Lakshmi Bhave was also a classical vocalist. She was bestowed with the title of 'Ubhaya Gaana Vidushi (expert in both styles)' by Sir M Visvesvaraya, the 19th Diwan of Mysore.
 20. Renowned **Author** Mujtaba Hussain passed away recently.
Note: Hussain was described as the Mark Twain of Urdu. He began his literary career from "Siasat", a leading Urdu daily published from Hyderabad. Hussain was awarded the Padma Shri, the country's fourth-highest civilian award, in 2007. He published a book titled "Mujtaba Hussain Jaisa Dekha Jaisa Paya" and "Mujtaba Hussain Aayeinon ke Beech."
 21. Famous **Football** R. Shanmugam passed away.
Note: Shanmugam played for Mohun Bagan in 1968, Indian Railways in the 1969 Nowgong senior Nationals, Tamil Nadu in the 1970 Jalandhar & '71 Chennai senior Nationals. He played for the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) from 1969-77 in the top-tier of the Chennai Football Association (CFA) league. He attended the FIFA Coca Cola coaching course in 1978 & '91, and the Olympic solidarity course in 1996.
 22. Famous personality Stanley Ho passed away.
Note: Stanley Ho is one of the richest men in Asia and the head of Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) holdings and famously known as the Casino kingpin of Gambling. He won the government monopoly license in 1961 and dominated the casino business in the former Portugal colony of Macau. He operated casinos across the globe including Portugal and North Korea and built residential and office buildings in Hong Kong.
 23. First chief minister of **Chhattisgarh** Ajit Pramod Kumar Jogi passed away.
Note: Jogi studied Mechanical Engineering at the Maulana Azad College of Technology & also won the University Gold Medal. He served as a lecturer at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Raipur and was also a successful IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer. In 1998, Jogi was elected as a Lok Sabha member from Raigarh, Chhattisgarh and became a spokesperson of the Indian National Congress (INC) party.
 24. Famous personality associated with Indian cinema passed away recently, he was a veteran **lyricist**.
Note: Famous Indian Lyricist and writer Yogesh Gaur, commonly known as Yogesh in the film industry passed away at the age of 77 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was a prominent lyricist in 1970s Hindi cinema and also worked with the prominent film directors such as Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Basu Chatterjee. He wrote the lyrics of hit songs "Kahin duur jab din dhal jaye" and "Zindagi kaisi hai paheli" that defined the superhit film Anand (1971).

Important Days

September

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1. United Nations celebrates the International Day of Charity globally every year on **05th September**.
Note: The day is being celebrated to sensitize and mobilize people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others via volunteer and philanthropic activities. The day also recognizes the role played by charity in reducing humanitarian crises and human suffering within and among nations.
2. The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed globally on **7th September**.
Note: The day aims to raise public awareness at all levels individual, community, corporate and government that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment. The very first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies will be held on September 7th, 2020.
3. The theme of the 55th International Literacy Day 2020 -- **Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond**.
Note: International Literacy Day is observed globally on 8th September every year. The theme highlights literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective, and therefore, mainly focuses on youth and adults.
4. International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on **9th September**.

Note: The day was established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly, calling on UNESCO and UNICEF to raise awareness of the plight of millions of children living in countries affected by conflict. The resolution proclaiming the Day was presented by the State of Qatar and co-sponsored by 62 countries.

5. The World Suicide Prevention Day is observed every year on **10th September**.
Note: The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented. The theme for the 2020 World Suicide Prevention Day is 'Working Together to Prevent Suicide'.
6. Hindi Diwas is celebrated to mark the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India -- **14th September**.
Note: The Constituent Assembly of India had, in 1949, recognised and adopted Hindi — an Indo-Aryan language written in the Devanagari script — as the official language of the newly-formed nation. Hindi is one of the two official languages of the Union government — the other being English. It is one of the 22 scheduled languages of the Republic of India.

August

1. **World Lung Cancer Day** is being observed on **1st August** to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer.
2. The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week celebrated annually in the first week of August from 1st to 7th of August -- "**Support Breast feeding for a healthier planet**".
3. The World Sanskrit Day was observed annually on **Shravan Purnima (3rd August 2020)**.
Note: On the occasion Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked everyone involved in promoting, teaching and using Sanskrit language.
4. Annually World Heroshima Day is observed every year on **6th August**.
Note: Annually 6th of August marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima during World War II. The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named "Little Boy", on the town of Hiroshima in Japan.
5. **National Handloom Day** is being celebrated every year on 7th August.
6. United Nations observes the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples every year on **09th August**.
Note: The **theme** of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2020 is "**COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience**".
7. The World Biofuel Day is observed globally every year on **10th August**.

Note: The World Biofuel Day is observed every year to aware about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. The day also highlights the various actions taken by the Government in the Biofuel sector.

8. **International Youth Day** is being celebrated very year on 12th August.
Note: This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society. The Day aims to promote the ways to engage the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.
9. The theme of the International Youth Day (IYD) 2020 -- **Youth Engagement for Global Action**.
Note: This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society. The Day aims to promote the ways to engage the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.
10. The 'World Elephant Day' is observed every year across the world on **12th August**.
Note: The day focuses on bringing the world together to help elephants and also inform people and organisations about the threat that an elephant faces. On 12 August, 2012, the first international Elephant Day was celebrated. Since then, it is observed annually and this day is dedicated to the huge animal protection and preservation.

11. The World Organ Donation Day is observed globally every year on **13th August**.
Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people to donate organs after death.
12. The World Lizard Day is observed every year on **14th August**.
Note: Most celebrations of this holiday occur at the local level, through events organized by schools, natural history or science museums, zoos, national parks, conservation NGOs etc.
13. The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed globally every year on **19th August**.
Note: This day is celebrated to pay tribute to humanitarian personnel and those workers who lost or risked their lives while doing humanitarian service.
14. The World Photography Day also known as World Photo Day is observed annually on **19th August**.
Note: The Day is celebrated to inspire photographers across the globe to share a single photo with a purpose of sharing their world to the world.
15. Indian Akshay Urja Day or Renewable Energy Day is observed on every year on **20th August**.
Note: It is significant to promote awareness about renewable resources among people who are ignorant about the subject. Indian Akshay Urja Day was established in 2004 to support renewable energy development programs and promote its use instead of traditional sources of energy.
16. **Rajiv Gandhi** birth anniversary is celebrated as Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day on 20th August every year.
Note: This year on 20th August 2020, we are going to celebrate the 76th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
17. World Mosquito Day is observed annually on **20th August**.
Note: The Day is celebrated to raise awareness about the Causes and Prevention of Malaria and to commemorate the discovery made by British Doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit Malaria between humans.
18. The World Senior Citizen Day is observed globally every year on **21st August**.
Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness about issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and the abuse of the elderly and support, honour and show appreciation to seniors and to recognize their achievements. The World Senior Citizen's Day also recognises and acknowledges the contributions of older people to society.
19. International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism observed globally every year on **21st August**.
Note: The day is observed to pay tribute to the individuals across the globe who have been attacked, injured, traumatized or lost their lives because of terrorist attacks. This year, the 3rd commemoration of the day will focus on the response to the pandemic and cancellation of many memorials and commemorations, it is critical to take the time to remember and honour the victims of terrorism.
20. The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition observed globally every year on **23 August**.
Note: The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. The day was designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.
21. The World Water Week 2020 is observed as the World Water Week at Home (WWWeek at Home) from **24th to 28th August 2020**.
Note: The theme for World Water Week 2020 at Home is '**Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action**'.
22. The Women's Equality Day is being observed in the United States on **26th August**.
Note: This was 100th anniversary of the Women's Equality Day. The day is celebrated to commemorate American women getting the constitutional right to vote.
23. The National Sports Day is observed every year on **29th August**.
Note: The first National Sports Day was celebrated on 29th August 2012, on the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand who was the star of hockey team of India.
24. The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed globally on **29th August**.
Note: The day aims to increase awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
25. The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed every year on **29th August**.
Note: The day is being observed to express deep concern about the rise in **enforced or involuntary disappearances** in different regions of the world including the incidents of arrest, detention and abduction.

July

1. National Postal Worker Day is observed every year on **1st July**.
Note: National Postal Worker Day is a unique way to say 'thank you' to the postmen and all delivery personnel, as online shopping has become a lifeline for

many of us. In India, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, postal services have uniquely diversified. Workers in postal departments have become the new 'corona warriors', playing an active role in India's fight against COVID-19

2. National Chartered Accountants Day is celebrated every year on **1st July**.
Note: This day is celebrated to commemorate the finding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) by the parliament of India in 1949. Every year on the day of the establishment of the ICAI, CA Day is celebrated to honour the Chartered Accountant.
3. The theme of the National Doctor's Day 2020 which is celebrated every year in the country on 1st July--
Lessen the mortality of COVID 19.
Note: The theme for National Doctor's Day 2020 is "Lessen the mortality of COVID 19" and includes awareness about asymptomatic hypoxia and early aggressive therapy. The National Doctor's Day also marks the birth and death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was the one of the most renowned physicians of India.
4. World Sports Journalists Day is observed globally every year on **2nd July**.
Note: The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work. The day was established in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS). This year 2020 marks the 96th anniversary of AIPS.
5. The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the **first Saturday of July**.
Note: In the year 2020, the International Day of Cooperatives will be celebrated on 4th July with a focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change. UN has also appealed to spread the word: "#Coops4ClimateAction" to celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives 2020.
6. International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) celebrated Dharma Chakra Day on **4th July**.
Note: This day commemorates Buddha's First Sermon to his first five ascetic disciples at the **Deer Park, Rsipatana** in the present day Sarnath near Varanasi, UP. The day is also observed as Guru Poornima by both Buddhists as well as Hindus as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.
7. World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is observed every year on **7th July**.
Note: The day celebrates the existence of chocolate in our lives. It is marked by eating chocolates and sharing with dear ones. The first International Chocolate Day was celebrated in 2009. The day is celebrated on July 7th because it was on this date in 1550 that chocolate was first brought to Europe.
8. World Population Day is observed globally every year on **11th July**.
Note: This day is observed to raise awareness among people about the impact of a growing population and issues including gender equality, the importance of family planning, poverty, maternal health, human rights, etc. This year theme of World Population Day 2020: Putting the brakes on COVID-19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls.
9. The United Nations celebrates World Malala Day to honour the young activist, Malala Yousafzai every year on **12th July**.
Note: Malala Day is commemorated, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honour women and children's rights around the world. On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen after she publicly advocated for the education of girls. Despite the attack, Malala soon returned to the public eye, fiercer in her views than earlier and continued her advocacy for gender rights.
10. World Youth Skills Day is observed every year on **15th July**.
Note: It was designated by the General Assembly in 2014. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a digital conclave on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day (WYSD).
11. World Day for International Justice is observed every year on **17th July**.
Note: 17 July every year to mark the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and for the people to pay attention to serious crimes happening around the world. 17 July is the Day of International Criminal Justice. It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the founding treaty of the ICC, which seeks to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.
12. United Nations celebrates World Chess Day globally every year on **20th July**.
Note: The day marks the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924. To celebrate the International Chess Day 2020 top chess personalities will participate in a high-level virtual event "Chess for Recovering Better".
13. To mark the anniversary of man's first historic landing on the moon the Space Exploration Day is celebrated every year on **20th July**.
Note: On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Buzz became the first humans to land on moon's surface. The Armstrong-Aldrin duo spent 21.5 hours on the surface of the moon. Also, they spent 2.5 hours outside of their capsules. The day is mainly celebrated in the United States.
14. Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated every year on **18th July** by the United Nations.
Note: The day acknowledges Nelson Mandela's contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world. Nelson Mandela Day is an occasion for all to take action and inspire change.
15. National Broadcasting Day is observed every year all over India on **23rd July**.
Note: On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting

Company. The first radio broadcast was made on July 23, 1927, from Bombay Station. The station was then owned by a private company called the Indian Broadcasting Company.

16. Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on **26th July**.

Note: On this day, the country remembers the extreme valour, sacrifice and exemplary courage of Indian soldiers during the 1999 Kargil war. This year nation is celebrating the 21 years of victory in Kargil war.

17. The theme of the 2020 World Hepatitis Day (WHD) celebrated every year on 28th July -- **Hepatitis-Free Future**.

Note: Every year, World Hepatitis Day is marked by the **World Health Organization** and various other organizations all over the world. The day is marked to encourage actions, partners and public for greater response towards controlling Hepatitis.

18. In a bid to promote conservation, raise awareness and encourage sustainability, every year World Nature Conservation Day is observed on **28th July**.

Note: The day is marked globally to spread awareness about the best practices to protect the natural resources as our Earth has limited resources which we need to use efficiently to maintain the balance. People share ideas and some also take-up activities to contribute their bit in preserving nature and its resources. However, this year a global theme has not been decided due to the pandemic.

19. International Tiger Day is observed every year on which date across the globe to create awareness about tiger conservation -- **29th July**.

Note: Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released All India Tiger Estimation Report-2018

yesterday. He also released a poster on small wild cats of India. India is home to nearly 70 per cent of the global tiger population and it leads the world in showing effective conservation of the wild species.

20. United Nations observes 30th July every year as **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** days.

Note: The 2020 theme for the World Day Against Trafficking: "Committed to the Cause – Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking". The theme will focus on the first responders to human trafficking. These are the people who work in different sectors – identifying, supporting, counselling and seeking justice for victims of trafficking, and challenging the impunity of the traffickers.

21. The International Day of Friendship is observed every year on **30th July**.

Note: To mark the International Day of Friendship, the UN encourages governments, organizations, and community groups to hold events, activities and initiatives that promote solidarity, mutual understanding and reconciliation.

22. The International Day for the conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem is observed every year on **26th July**.

Note: It is celebrated each year on July 26 and aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangroves as "a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem". It also aims to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses

June

1. World Milk Day 2020 observed every globally on 1st June **2020**.

Note: June 1 is observed as World Milk Day with the aim to raise awareness about milk and its importance as a global food. Established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as global food, World Milk Day is been observed on June 1 each year since 2001.

2. The theme of the Global Day of Parents 2020 celebrated every year on 1st June-- **Appreciate all parents throughout the world**.

Note: United Nations celebrates Global Day of Parents on 1st of June every year to honour all the parents throughout the world. Not only parents rather grandparents and great grandparents are also a part of this day. So Global Day of Parent's urges upon to show gratitude and due respect to the elderly.

3. World Bicycle Day is celebrated every year on **3rd June**.

Note: The World Bicycle Day is being celebrated since 2018. The day was declared by the United Nations. The

main aim to observe the day is to celebrate uniqueness, versatility and longevity of bicycle. The day is being celebrated as an after effect of Leszek Sibilski's crusade. Sibilski led campaigns to promote UN resolution for World Bicycle Day.

4. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed globally every year on **4th June**.

Note: This day affirms the UN's commitment to guard the rights of children. This day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the planet who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. The main aim of celebrating today is to spread the notice about the pain and sufferings faced by the victims as children.

5. The theme of the World Environment Day 2020, celebrated every year on June 5 -- **Celebrate Biodiversity**.

Note: This year, in 2020, the day is to be hosted in Colombia in partnership with Germany. The day was hosted by India in 2018. It was then India emphasized

- on prevention of Plastic pollution. In 2019, the day was hosted by China under the theme "Air Pollution".
6. Every year June 2nd is celebrated as the **International Sex Workers Day**.
Note: The is celebrated to ensure that the sex workers enjoy the same rights as all the other human beings and tackle the abuse and trafficking problems. More than 100 sex workers occupied the Saint-Nizier Church, Lyon, France On 2nd June 1975 to express their anger on being treated as criminals and their disgraceful living conditions with a banner saying "Our Children do not want their mothers to go to jail" broadcasted their campaign to the world through the media. The gathered were brutally raided by the police on June 10.
 7. The International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing 2020 is celebrated on **5th June**.
Note: The first International Day for the fight against IUU fishing was observed in 2018. In July 2017, The proposal for the day was submitted to the 40th Session of the FAO conference. UN had declared the year 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.
 8. World Pest Day or World Pest Awareness Day is celebrated every year on **6th June**.
Note: The day is observed to raise awareness of how pest management helps preserve the quality of life. The day is initiated by the Chinese Pest Control Association, and co-sponsored by the Federation of Asian and Oceania Pest Managers' Association (FAOPMA), the National Pest Management Association (NPMA), and the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA).
 9. United Nations Russian Language Day is celebrated every year on **6th June**.
Note: The Day is celebrated to promote and support Multilingualism and cultural diversity and to celebrate the birthday of the famous Russian poet Alexander Puskin who was born on 6th June 1799. The First UN Russian Language Day was celebrated in 2010.
 10. The World Ocean Day is celebrated every year on **8th June**.
Note: The Day is celebrated to remind people all over the world about the importance of oceans in everyday life. This year, the World Oceans Day is celebrated under the theme 'Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean'.
 11. World Brain Tumor Day 2020 was observed on **8th June**.
Note: The day is celebrated to improve the care for the patients and to educate the general public about the sufferings and seriousness of brain tumor. The grey ribbon is the international symbol for the solidarity with brain tumor patients.
 12. 9th June of Every year is celebrated as the **World Accreditation Day**.
Note: It is an initiative established by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to promote the value of accreditation. The Theme of World Accreditation Day 2020 is "Accreditation: Improving food safety"
 13. The World Day against Child Labour is observed every year on **12th June**.
Note: The theme this year is, "COVID-19 - Protect children from child labour now, more than ever". According to figures available on the United Nations' website, approximately 152 million children have been pushed into child labour.
 14. International Albinism Awareness Day is observed every year on **13th June**.
Note: This day is observed to educate everyone about the rights of people with albinism and celebrate them. The United Nations General Assembly was first perceived this day as a resolution. The theme of the 5th anniversary of International Albinism Awareness Day is "Made To Shine."
 15. The World Blood Donor Day is observed on every on **14th June**.
Note: This day tries to create awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products. This year (2020) the World Blood Donor Day is celebrated under the theme 'Safe Blood Saves Lives'.
 16. Every year, the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is celebrated on **15th June**.
Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the neglect and abuse of older persons. It also raises awareness of social, cultural, economic and demographic processes that has impacts on elder neglect and abuse. The theme of the 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2020 is "Lifting up Voices".
 17. World Wind Day or Global Wind is observed every year on 15th June.
Note: The day is encouraging and raises awareness on wind energy, which is a natural form of energy and also sheds light on all the ways that wind energy helps to shape the energy systems and the way it encourages economic and other growth in the society. Global Wind Day began in Europe in 2007 and globally in 2009.
 18. The International Day of Family Remittances is observed every year on **16th June** by the United Nations.
Note: The day is observed all over the world. The theme of the for the year 2020 is 'Remittances are a lifeline'. The first International Day of Family Remittances was celebrated in 2015.
 19. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2020 observed every year on 17th June. The theme of 2020 is **Food. Feed. Fibre. – the links between consumption and land**.
Note: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on 17th June every year. The day is observed to spread awareness among people about the cooperation required to combat desertification and the effects of drought.
 20. Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed globally every year on **18th June**.

Note: This day is observed to acknowledge gastronomy as a cultural expression related to nature as well as the cultural diversity of the world. It also reaffirms that each one culture and civilizations are contributors and crucial enablers of sustainable development throughout the planet.

21. World Hydrography Day is observed globally every year on **21st June**.

Note: World Hydrography Day is observed globally on 21st June every year. This day was adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) as an annual celebration to publicise the work of hydrographers and the importance of hydrography. World Hydrography Day 2020 theme is "Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies".

22. World Music Day is observed globally every year on **21st June**.

Note: Over 120 countries celebration World Music Day by organizing free public concerts in parks, streets, stations, museums and other such public places. The aim of celebrating World Music Day is to provide free music to everyone, and also to encourage amateur musicians to showcase their work to the world.

23. The theme of the International Day of Yoga 2020 -- **Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home**.

Note: Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness. The theme of International Day of Yoga 2020 is "Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home".

24. The United Nations Public Service Day is observed globally every year **23rd June**.

Note: This day is widely known by various public service organisations and departments around the world by organising several events to recognise the role of public servants in making developments and improvements in the community. On 20 December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly designated 23 June per annum to watch as United Nations Public Service Day.

25. The International Widows Day is observed globally every year on **23rd June**.

Note: The day is widely known to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they have. Several women around the world after losing her life partner faces challenges and do long-term struggle for basic needs, their human right and dignity.

26. The theme of Day of the Seafarer, 2020 celebrated every year on 25th June -- **Seafarers are Key Workers**.

Note: The Day of the Seafarer was first celebrated in 2011, following its establishment by a resolution

adopted by the Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, held in Manila, Philippines, in 2010. The Day of the Seafarer has now been included in the annual list of United Nations Observances.

27. The theme of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2020 observed every year globally on 26th June -- **Better Knowledge for Better Care**.

Note: For countering the impact that drug has on our societies, it is important that cross border cooperation increases among countries across the globe. This will help in restricting the negative effects of many kinds of misinformation that has caused challenges for the authorities involved in addressing the drug problem.

28. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed every year on **26th June**.

Note: This day is observed by the United Nations to raise awareness among the people about the human torture that it is not only unacceptable but it is also a crime. It's to be remembered that pain or suffering caused by legal penalty isn't considered as torture. On 26 June 1998, the primary International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was held.

29. National Statistics Day 2020' celebrated every year on **29th June**.

Note: The National Statistics Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of PC Mahalanobis, often referred to as the 'father of Indian statistics. On June 29, 2006, the first Statistics Day was observed. "Good Health and Well Being and Gender Equality", is the theme for National Statistics Day 2020.

30. The UN's International Day of Parliamentarism is observed globally every year on **30th June**.

Note: It is also a chance for parliaments to spot challenges and stock ways to deal with them effectively. The Day was established in 2018 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution. This day also acknowledges the formation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global organization of parliaments which was established in 1889.

31. International Asteroid Day is observed globally every year on **30th June**.

Note: The day is widely known to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to tell the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken at the worldwide level just in case of a credible near-Earth object threat. Several events are organized everywhere in the world to teach people about asteroids

May

1. International Labour Day or May Day is celebrated every year on **1st May**.

Note: It is also known as Workers day or May day. This day is observed to pay tribute to the contribution of workers across the world. It was only in the year 1891

when 1st May was announced formally to be observed as International Labour Day each year.

2. World Tuna Day is observed globally every year on **2nd May**.
Note: This day is established by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish. It is observed for the first time in 2017. According to the UN, an outsized number of nations worldwide depend upon tuna for both food security and nutrition. At the same time, more than 96 countries have tuna fisheries, and their capacity is constantly growing. The World Tuna Day was officially proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting resolution 71/124 in December 2016.
3. World Press Freedom Day is observed globally every year on **3rd May**.
Note: It is also known as World Press Day. The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives. They risk their lives at times or may even have to face tough situations in order to bring the news from different corners of the world in front of the public. The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2020 is "Journalism without Fear or Favour".
4. International Firefighters' Day is observed globally every year on **4th May**.
Note: This day is celebrated since 1999, to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible. The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December 1998.
5. International Day of the Midwife is observed globally every year on **5th May**.
Note: This day is celebrated to recognise the work of midwives and raise awareness about the status of midwives for the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns. The theme for 2020 International Day of the Midwife is Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise, unite – our time is NOW!. The World Health Organization (WHO) has designed the year 2020 as 'Year of Nurse and Midwife' to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale.
6. World Hand Hygiene Day observed globally on **5th May**.
Note: The World Health Organization (WHO) has marked 5 May as World Hand Hygiene Day. This day is recognising the role clean and safe hands play in warding off many serious infections. It is also known as Hand Hygiene Day. The theme of the campaign is "SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands".
7. World Asthma Day is observed every year on **1st Tuesday of May**.
Note: This year, World Asthma Day is observed on May 5, 2020. The day spread awareness about asthma disease and care around the world. Whilst the primary focus is supporting the person with asthma, support may also extend to family, friends and caregivers. The

theme for 2020 is 'Enough Asthma Deaths'. World Asthma Day is annually organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).

8. The World Athletics Day is observed every year on **7th May**.
Note: The date is subject to adjustment, the date of World Athletics Day is decided by the IAAF, however, the month stays the same as May. The first World Athletics Day was observed in 1996. The basic objective of World Athletics Day is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.
9. To increase awareness about athletics and to encourage youth to take up sports World Athletics Day is observed every year on **7th May**.
10. World Red Cross Day is observed globally every year on **8th May**.
Note: This day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) founder, Henry Dunant. This day is dedicated to the people who suffer from shortage of food, several natural calamities, war as well as from an epidemic disease.
11. World Thalassaemia Day is observed globally every year on **8th May**.
Note: This day is observed to raise awareness about thalassaemia disease, its preventive measures and to avoid transmission and the importance of vaccination for children's health, society and among the people throughout the world. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, World Thalassaemia Day 2020 will be celebrated through different online activities.
12. World Migratory Bird Day is observed globally every year on **9th May**.
Note: 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". The theme highlights the importance of conserving and restoring the ecological connectivity and integrity of ecosystems that support the natural cycles that are essential for the survival and well-being of migratory birds.
13. Mother's day is celebrated every year on **Second Sunday of May (9th May 2020)**
Note: Mother's Day is widely known to salute the motherhood, to extend the influence of mothers within the society, to extend the maternal bonds to children, etc. Mother, being a protector throughout her life loves her children unconditionally. She plays a special role sort of a teacher, best friend and one's who besides us under all circumstances.
14. National Technology Day is celebrated every year on **11th May**.
Note: This day marks the successfully tested Shakti-I nuclear missile at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan. This day will be focusing on rebooting the economy through Science and Technology. Every year, National Technology Day is

celebrated across India on 11 May to memorize the anniversary of Shakti, the Pokhran nuclear test held on 11 May 1998.

15. International Nurse Day is observed globally on every year **12th May**.

Note: This day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. She was also known as Lady with the Lamp. She was the founder of modern nursing and was a British social reformer and statistician.

16. Armed Forces Day is observed every year on **___ third Saturday in May (16th May 2020)**.

Note:

- In 2020, it falls on the 16th of May.
- This day is celebrated to pay tribute to the men and women who served the United States Armed Forces.
- Armed Forces Day is a joint celebration of all six branches of the U.S. military: Army, Air Force, United States Marine Corps (United States Marines), Coast Guard, US Navy, and therefore the newly created Space Force.

17. The International Day of Light is celebrated every year on **16th May**.

Note: The Day is celebrated to celebrate the role that light plays in science, culture and art, education, and sustainable development, and also in the fields as diverse as medicine, communications, and energy. The day also marks the anniversary of first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.

18. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed globally every year on **17th May**.

Note: The main aim to celebrates the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies. The theme of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day of 2020: "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

19. World Hypertension Day is observed globally every year on **17th May**.

Note: The main aim to celebrates the day is to promote public awareness of increasing high blood pressure (BP) and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer. The day was celebrated for the 1st time in May 2005. World Hypertension Day (WHD) is an initiative of the World Hypertension League (WHL), an affiliated section of the International Society of Hypertension.

20. International Museum Day is celebrated every year on **18th May**.

Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the fact that, "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation

and peace among peoples." The International Museum Day 2020 was celebrated with the theme "Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion".

21. World Bee Day is observed globally every year on **20th May**.

Note: On this date, 20 May, the pioneer of beekeeping Anton Janša was born in 1734 in Slovenia. The purpose of the bee day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. About 33% of the world's food production depends on bees thus they are vital for the preservation of biodiversity, ecological balance in nature and helpful in reducing pollution.

22. International Tea Day is observed globally every year on **21st May**.

Note: The purpose of International Tea Day is to try to improve the condition of tea producers and tea workers. Tea producing countries make a lot of profit but the condition of the labourers working in the tea plantations is very bad. Therefore, the purpose of International Tea Day is to encourage the status of tea workers, workers' rights, daily wages, social security, employment security, and health.

23. World Metrology Day is observed globally every year on **20th May**.

Note: Many nations on this day, internationally collaborate to create awareness about metrology and its advancement in the respective field. World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 in Paris, France by representatives of seventeen nations. The World Metrology Day project is realized jointly by the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) and Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM).

24. Anti Terrorism Day 2020 is observed every year in India on **21st May**.

Note: The day marks the death anniversary of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 21 May 1991. He was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by the Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE) a terrorist group. After this assassination, V.P. Singh government has decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.

25. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is celebrated every year on **May 21**.

Note: The purpose of the day is to deepen the understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to advance the four goals of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. In the year 2001, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted 'Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity' as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.

26. Anti Terrorism Day is observed every year in India on **21st May**.

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Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE) a terrorist group. After this assassination, V.P. Singh government has decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.

27. The United Nations celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity every year on **22nd May**.
Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the issue of significant reduction in biological diversity due to certain human activities. Biological Diversity comprises of wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms including genetic differences within each species, for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock. Theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2020 is "Our solutions are in nature".
28. The United Nations observes International Day to End Obstetric Fistula every year on **23 May**.
Note: The day is being observed to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula, as well as urging post-surgery follow-up and tracking of fistula patients. Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth. The theme for International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 2020 is "End gender inequality! End health inequities! End Fistula now!".
29. World Turtle Day is being celebrated every year on **23rd May**.
Note: The day was created as an annual observance to help people celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises as well as their disappearing habitats around the world. The day was celebrated for the first time in year 2000.
30. International Missing Children's Day is observed globally every year on **25th May**.
Note: This day is observed for missing children who have found their way home, remember those that are victims of crime, and continue efforts to seek out those that are still missing. 25 May is now widely referred to as Missing Children's Day, with the forget-me-not flower as its emblem.
31. World Thyroid Day is observed globally every year on **25th May**.
Note: The main purpose of the WTD is to aware of the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases. This day is established in 2008 as a part of the campaign led by European Thyroid Association (ETA) and the American Thyroid Association (ATA) followed by Latin American Thyroid

Society (LATS) and Asia Oceania Thyroid Association (AOTA) to commemorate the patients with Thyroid diseases and doctors and physicians who treat them.

32. International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed globally every year on **29th May**.
Note: The United Nations commemorates the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. This day is dedicated to all the women and men who have served as military, police or civilians in UN Peacekeeping operations. The Theme of day for 2020 is "Women in Peacekeeping: A Key to Peace".
33. International Day of Action for Women's Health is observed globally every year on **28th May**.
Note: The main purpose of this day is to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all women all over the world. May 28th, International Day of Action for Women's Health is being coordinated by the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR). Every woman has a right to sexual and reproductive health and rights, no matter which part of the world she hails from, what age she is, or what her ethnicity or religion is.
34. World Hunger Day is observed globally every year on **28th May**.
Note: The objective of this day is to raise awareness about more than 820 million people living in chronic hunger worldwide. It is observed since 2011 to not only spread awareness about the malaise of chronic hunger but also to solve hunger and poverty through sustainable undertakings.
35. International Everest Day is being observed every year on **29th May**.
Note: Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary had climbed the Mt. Everest on this day (29th May) in 1953, as the first humans to achieve the feat.
36. World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates World No Tobacco Day every year on **31st May**.
Note: The day is being celebrated to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic including the preventable death and disease it causes. The World No Tobacco Day 2020 provides a counter-marketing campaign and also empower young people to engage in the fight against Big Tobacco by dismissing its lies and rejecting the use of tobacco products.

Appointments

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Prime Minister | | |
| Shri Narendra Modi | Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; | Varanasi(Uttar Pradesh) |

All important policy issues and
All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.

Cabinet Ministers

| Sr. No | Name of the Minister | Portfolio | Constituency |
|--------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Shri Raj Nath Singh | Minister of Defence | Lucknow(Uttar Pradesh) |
| 2 | Shri Amit Shah | Minister of Home Affairs | Gandhinagar(Gujarat) |
| 3 | Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari | Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. | Nagpur(Maharashtra) |
| 4 | Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda | Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers. | Bangalore North(Karnataka) |
| 5 | Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman | Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs. | Rajya Sabha (Karnataka) |
| 6 | Shri Ramvilas Paswan | Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. | Rajya Sabha (Bihar) |
| 7 | Shri Narendra Singh Tomar | Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Panchayati Raj. | Morena(Madhya Pradesh) |
| 8 | Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad | Minister of Law and Justice; Minister of Communications and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology. | Patna Sahib(Bihar) |
| 10 | Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot | Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. | Rajya Sabha (Madhya Pradesh) |
| 11 | Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Minister of External Affairs. | Rajya Sabha (Gujarat) |
| 12 | Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' | Minister of Human Resource Development. | Hardwar(Uttarakhand) |
| 13 | Shri Arjun Munda | Minister of Tribal Affairs. | Khunti(Jharkhand) |
| 14 | Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani | Minister of Women and Child Development and Minister of Textiles. | Amethi(Uttar Pradesh) |
| 15 | Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences. | Chandni Chowk(NCT of Delhi) |
| 16 | Shri Prakash Javadekar | Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise. | Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra) |
| 17 | Shri Piyush Goyal | Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry. | Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra) |
| 18 | Shri Dharmendra Pradhan | Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel. | Rajya Sabha (Madhya Pradesh) |
| 19 | Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi | Minister of Minority Affairs. | Rajya Sabha (Jharkhand) |
| 20 | Shri Pralhad Joshi | Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal and Minister of Mines. | Dharwad(Karnataka) |
| 21 | Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey | Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. | Chandauli(Uttar Pradesh) |
| 22 | Shri Giriraj Singh | Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries. | Begusarai(Bihar) |
| 23 | Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat | Minister of Jal Shakti. | Jodhpur(Rajasthan) |

List of Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

| S. No. | Name of Minister | Portfolio | Constituency |
|--------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar | Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. | Bareilly(Uttar Pradesh) |
| 2 | Rao Inderjit Singh | Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of | Gurgaon(Haryana) |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | Planning. | |
| 3 | Shri Shripad Yesso Naik | Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence. | North Goa(Goa) |
| 4 | Dr. Jitendra Singh | Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and Minister of State in the Department of Space. | Udhampur(Jammu and Kashmir) |
| 5 | Shri Kiren Rijiju | Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs. | Arunachal West(Arunachal Pradesh) |
| 6 | Shri Prahlad Singh Patel | Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Culture and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Tourism. | Damoh(Madhya Pradesh) |
| 7 | Shri Raj Kumar Singh | Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. | Arrah(Bihar) |
| 8 | Shri Hardeep Singh Puri | Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. | Rajya Sabha (Uttar Pradesh) |
| 9 | Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Shipping and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. | Rajya Sabha (Gujarat) |

Ministers of State

| S. No. | Name of Minister | Portfolio | Constituency |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Shri Faggan singh Kulaste | Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel. | Mandla(Madhya Pradesh) |
| 2 | Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey | Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. | Buxar(Bihar) |
| 3 | Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal | Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. | Bikaner(Rajasthan) |
| 4 | General (Retd.) V. K. Singh | Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. | Ghaziabad(Uttar Pradesh) |
| 5 | Shri Krishan Pal | Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. | Faridabad(Haryana) |
| 6 | Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve | Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. | Jalna(Maharashtra) |
| 7 | Shri G. Kishan Reddy | Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. | Secunderabad(Telangana) |
| 8 | Shri Parshottam Rupala | Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. | Rajya Sabha (Gujarat) |
| 9 | Shri Ramdas Athawale | Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. | Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra) |
| 10 | Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti | Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development. | Fatehpur(Uttar Pradesh) |

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|----|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 11 | Shri Babul Supriyo | Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. | Asansol(West Bengal) |
| 12 | Shri Sanjeev Kumar Balyan | Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries. | Muzaffarnagar(Uttar Pradesh) |
| 13 | Shri Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao | Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development; Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. | Akola(Maharashtra) |
| 14 | Shri Anurag Singh Thakur | Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. | Hamirpur(Himachal Pradesh) |
| 16 | Shri Nityanand Rai | Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. | Ujiarpur(Bihar) |
| 17 | Shri Rattan Lal Kataria | Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. | Ambala(Haryana) |
| 18 | Shri V. Muraleedharan | Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. | Vadakara(Kerala) |
| 19 | Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta | Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. | Surguja(Chhattisgarh) |
| 20 | Shri Som Parkash | Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. | Hoshiarpur(Punjab) |
| 21 | Shri Rameswar Teli | Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. | Dibrugarh(Assam) |
| 22 | Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi | Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries. | Balasore(Odisha) |
| 23 | Shri Kailash Choudhary | Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. | Barmer(Rajasthan) |
| 24 | Sushri Debasree Chaudhuri | Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development. | Raiganj(West Bengal) |

National & International

September

1. **Mustapha Adib** has been appointed as the Prime Minister of **Lebanon**.
Note: He was Lebanon's ambassador to Germany. Mustapha Adib was named by four former prime ministers on the eve of binding consultations between the president and parliamentary blocs on their choice for the post.
2. **Matthew Hayden** has been appointed as the trade envoy to India by Australian government along with Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh for advancing business ties with India.
Note: Three new appointments to the board of the Australia-India Council were announced. Lisa Singh, former Labor Party Senator from Tasmania, would be the Deputy Chair. Former Victoria Premier Ted Baillieu and former cricketer Hayden are the other new members.
3. **Hemant Khatri** has assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-owned defence shipbuilder, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL).
Note: He will replace Rear Admiral L V Sarat Babu (Retd). Previously, Hemant Khatri was serving as the Director of Strategic Projects HSL. Hemant Khatri was appointed as the CMD of HSL was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on 27th May 2020 with effective from 1st September 2020 till 31st July 2025 the date of his superannuation or until further orders.
4. **Aveek Sarkar** has been appointed as the chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI).
Note: He succeeds Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers. Aveek Sarkar was the founding Managing Director of Penguin India, the Indian counterpart of Penguin Books, the founding Editor of Business Standard and also the pivotal figure behind the acquisition of STAR News by the ABP Group in 2003.

5. **Usha Padhee** has become the first women Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
Note: She is the first woman and third IAS officer to have been appointed to the post. The central deputation tenure of Usha is scheduled to end on 16th July 2022. She succeeds Rakesh Asthana (IPS) who was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF) on 17th August 2020.
6. **S Krishnan** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab and Sindh Bank
Note: Prior to this appointment, he was an Executive Director at Canara Bank. He will replace S Harishankar, the current MD and CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank.
7. **Murali Ramakrishnan** has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of the South Indian Bank.
Note: Ramakrishnan had retired from ICICI Bank as Senior General Manager at Strategic Project Group on May 30, 2020, and joined the South Indian Bank as an advisor on July 1, 2020. He represented the bank in the board of CIBIL and the risk advisory board of VISA for the Asia Pacific.
8. **VK Yadav** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board.
Note: The chairman and CEO will be the cadre controlling officer responsible for human resources (HR) with assistance from a DG (HR). The Cabinet had earlier approved the restructuring of the Railway Board, whose strength has been cut from eight to five, as part of large scale reforms initiated by the national transporter.
9. **Ayushmann Khurrana** has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Bajaj Allianz Life.
Note: The actor will promote its products and digital services across offline and online mediums. Khurrana will feature in the brand's next campaign 'Smart Living' that encompasses its term plan – Smart Protect Goal and the new digital service – Smart Assist.
10. **Dwayne Bravo** has been appointed as the first cricket ambassador of SBOTOP sportsbook brand.
Note: Bravo is recognised as one of Caribbean cricket's best ever 'all-rounders', representing the West Indies in all formats of the sport. He has represented the country in 256 test matches and 120 one-day-internationals and is also considered as one of the best ever 'all-rounders' of the sport.
11. **Kenichi Ayukawa** has been elected as the President of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).
Note: He will replace Rajan Wadhwa. Ashok Leyland MD and CEO, Vipin Sondhi has been elected as the new vice president of SIAM.
12. **Odisha** state tops Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) or Ease of Doing Business ranking 2019.
Note: Ranking of various States of India on the basis of implementation of Business Reform Action Plan had started in 2015. The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 was a comprehensive plan including 180 reform points covering 12 business regulatory areas such as Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, etc.
13. **Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations** appointed Vinkesh Gulati as its 35th President for the year 2020-22.
Note: Gulati is the Director of United Automobiles, based out of Allahabad and Faridabad. United Automobiles is involved in the Auto Dealership business since the year 1985 and are dealers for brands like Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Auto.
14. **Anil Jain** has been appointed as the president of All India Tennis Association (AITA).
Note: He was elected unanimously to lead the administration of AITA after Praveen Mahajan's tenure as AITA President came to an end this year. Anil Dhupar was elected as the Secretary-General and Rohit Rajpal will serve as the Treasurer of AITA.
15. **S. Mahalingam** has been appointed Honorary Consul of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Chennai, with consular jurisdiction over Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
Note: Mr. Mahalingam retired as chief financial officer and executive director of Tata Consultancy Services. Mr. Mahalingam is replacing former Honorary Consul Suhasini Maniratnam, whose mandate was terminated after five years.
16. **Preeti Sudan** has been appointed to the World Health Organisation's independent panel for pandemic preparedness.
Note: The decision by the panel's two heads, former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clarke and former Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. In a meeting of the Chairs, Helen Clarke is believed to have conveyed that Sudan's experience as the head of the government ministry that led India's response to the pandemic makes her much more suited for the job.
17. **Paresh Rawal** has been appointed as the new chief of National School of Drama (NSD).
Note: In a career span of over three decades, Rawal has been acknowledged with numerous awards, including the prestigious National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1994. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2014 for his contribution to the entertainment industry.
18. **Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Smriti Mandhana** has been appointed as the brand ambassadors of the fantasy sports gaming platforms, Playerzpot.
Note: The partnership will see the cricketers in the brand's upcoming campaigns and promote Playerzpot through engagement activities. The duo will anchor the brand with their sports charisma and help in creating a higher brand recall amongst the key target audience.
19. **Jane Fraser** has been appointed as the first women Chief Executive Officer of the Citigroup.
Note: She will be the first women CEO of Citigroup. She will take over the top job in February, replacing Michael Corbat who will retire. Fraser, who has served as president and CEO of global consumer banking since 2019, will join the board of directors immediately.

- 20. Ayushmann Khurrana.** has been appointed as the celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign titled as 'For Every Child' by UNICEF.
Note: He will support UNICEF towards ending violence against children, by working towards this initiative in

India. After his appointed, Ayushman Khurrana joins the like of former football star David Beckham who is working on this campaign globally

August

- 21. Hamed Bakayoko** has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast.
Note: The Republic of Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara has appointed Defence Minister Hamed Bakayoko (55 years old) as Prime Minister (PM). Hamed Bakayoko will also hold his position as defence Minister. Hamed Bakayoko became acting PM on May 2, 2020 due to the absence of Amadou Gon Coulibaly.
- 22. Indian economist Urjit Patel** has been appointed as the additional and independent director of Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd.
Note: He has been appointed for a term of five years. Recently, he has authored a book titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver'. The book will be published by HarperCollins India.
- 23. Varun Sridhar** has been appointed as the New Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Money.
Note: Sridhar will report to Amit Nayyar, President of Paytm who leads the financial services business of Paytm. He will lead the launch and development of equity development and the mutual funds, NPS and Gold Services.
- 24. Perseverance** launched by NASA to seek signs of ancient life and collect first Martian rock.
Note: The rover will land on Jezero Crater of Mars on Feb. 18, 2021 with duration of at least one Mars year (about 687 Earth days). The outlay of Mars mission 2020 is around \$2.7 billion.
- 25. Mohamed Irfaan Ali** became the President of **Guyana**.
Note: He is a member of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP). He succeeds David Arthur (A.) Granger. David A. Granger is a member of A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change (ANPU-AFC).
- 26. Gen. Charles Q. Brown** sworn in as the first Black Chief of Staff of the Air Force of **USA**.
Note: President Donald Trump hosted the swearing-in of Gen. Charles Q. Brown. Vice President Mike Pence administered the oath of office to Gen. Brown, who was confirmed by the Senate in June in a 98-0 vote.
- 27. Mark Anthony Phillips** has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of **Guyana**.
Note: Former Chief-of-Staff of the Guyana Defence Force Brigadier (retired), Mark Anthony Phillips has been sworn in as Prime Minister of Guyana. He served as the Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force from 2013 to 2016. Meanwhile, former President Bharrat Jagdeo has been sworn in as Vice President.
- 28. Sashidhar Jagdishan** has been appointed as the next Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank for a period of 3 years.

Note: Aditya Puri was the CEO of HDFC Bank since September 1994. He is the longest-serving head of any private bank in India. Sashidhar Jagdishan is a chartered accountant. He holds a Master's degree in Economics of money, banking and finance. He joined the Bank in 1996 and heads finance, human resources, and other departments.

- 29. Manoj Sinha** has been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir.
Note: He will succeed Girish Chandra Murmu, who resigned recently. Manoj Sinha has represented the parliamentary constituency of Ghazipur in eastern Uttar Pradesh thrice in the Lok Sabha. He also served as Communication Minister as well as Minister of state for Railways.
- 30. Girish Chandra Murmu** has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
Note: He will assume office on 8 August 2020. He will replace Rajiv Mehrishi, a 1978 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, as the CAG. Murmu, a 1985 batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, was the first Lt Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
- 31. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Government of India (GoI),** has approved another extension of Ajay Tyagi's term as Chairman of **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved extension of Tyagi's term until February 28, 2022. His tenure would otherwise have ended at the end of this month. In 2017, the government had initially appointed Tyagi for five years as Sebi chief, but suddenly it was cut to three years. With this second extension, he will be at the helm for five years.
- 32. Indian cricketers Suresh Raina & Harmanpreet Kaur** were appointed as Global brand ambassadors of Win Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports.
Note: In addition to this, Suresh Raina has also joined the brand as Strategic Partner. World Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports is a fantasy sports gaming platform, which was formally launched in India and other parts of the world on 6th August, 2020.
- 33. Pradeep Kumar Joshi** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
Note: His tenure as the chairman of the UPSC will be till April 4, 2022. He succeeds Arvind Saxena who retires as the UPSC chairman on 6th August 2020.

- 34. GK Pillai** has been appointed as the chairman of the 3-member committee set up by the government of India for determination of ceiling rates under Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme.
Note: The two other members are Y G Parande, retired Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs member and Gautam Ray, retired chief commissioner of custom and central excise.
- 35. Hardayal Prasad** has been appointed as new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PNB Housing Finance Limited.
Note: Prasad will take over from, Neeraj Vyas the current interim managing director and chief executive officer of the company, will step down from the position on August 10. Prasad is experienced in banking, international operations at SBI and SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card).
- 36. Mahinda Rajapaksa** took oath as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.
Note: The 74-year-old Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) leader has been appointed as the PM of Sri Lanka. Prior to this, Mahinda Rajapaksa was first elected prime minister in 2004 and again appointed for brief periods in 2018 and 2019.
- 37. Alexander Lukashenko** has won the presidential election in **Belarus**.
Note: President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko has won his sixth consecutive term with 80.23 per cent of the vote at the country's presidential election. A former English teacher Svetlana Tikhanouskaya, who emerged as Lukashenko's main rival at the elections gets 9.9 per cent of the vote.
- 38. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala** has been appointed as the Executive Chairman of Financial Services Platform, Capital India Finance Limited (CIFL).
Note: Dr. Bhanwala is a PhD holder and did his Post Graduation degree in Management from Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. He was Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) from December 2013 till May 2020.
- 39. Walter Roger Martos Ruiz** becomes new Prime Minister of **Peru**.
Note: His appointment was confirmed by President of Peru, Martin Vizcarra. Ruiz will succeed Pedro Álvaro Cateriano Bellido. The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Government Palace in Lima.
- 40. Mohamed Ould Bilal** has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Mauritania.
Note: The appointment was made by the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani. Mohamed Ould Bilal is a veteran public administrator and has served as the head of the country's national water agency, a presidential aide and a cabinet minister.
- 41. Pramod Bhasin** has been appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).
Note: He is currently the vice-chair of the board of governors at ICRIER. He will replace Isher Judge Ahluwalia, who has stepped down due to health reasons. Isher had been in this position for 15 years. She will continue as chairperson emeritus, a position specially created to honour her exceptional contributions to the Council.
- 42. Subhash Sheoratan Mundra** has been appointed as non-executive chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH).
Note: Sameer Gehlaut, the co-founder and Chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IBHFL) has stepped down as the Executive Chairman of the company, and taken up the role of Non-Executive, Non-Independent Director of IBHFL He has stepped down to take charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indiabulls Ventures Ltd, a subsidiary company of IBHFL.
- 43. Soma Mondal** has been selected as the next chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).
Note: She will be taking charge when the present Chairman Anil Chaudhary. Mondal had taken over as Director (Commercial) of SAIL in September 2018. Prior to this, she was Director (Commercial), NALCO, Bhubaneswar which was history in making as was NALCO's first-ever female director.
- 44. Rakesh Asthana** has been appointed as the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).
Note: Asthana is currently heading the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) with an additional charge of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), will assume full-time charge of the border guarding force deployed at the approximately 2,280 km long border with Pakistan.
- 45. Kaushik Khona** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of GoAir Airline.
Note: GoAir is owned by the Indian business conglomerate Wadia Group. Khona brings with himself more than 32 years of corporate experience and all at the CXO level. He was with the Wadia Group for almost 4 years from 2008 to 2011.
- 46. Goa Governor Satya Pal Malik** has been appointed as the new Governor of **Meghalaya**.
Note: Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been given the additional charge of Goa, it added. Mr. Malik, who was Governor of Jammu and Kashmir when its special status under Article 370 was abrogated last August, will be replacing Tathagata Roy in Meghalaya.
- 47. Recently, Ashok Lavasa** has stepped down from constitutional post of **Election Commissioner of India**.
Note: Lavasa is set to join the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank as the vice-president from September 2020. He will succeed the incumbent vice-president Diwakar Gupta, who is in charge of private sector operations, and public-private partnerships.
- 48. GP Garg** has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
Note: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has appointed GP Garg as executive director (ED). Prior to this, he was Chief General Manager in Sebi and has handled several assignments since joining in January

1994. He has been closely associated with Sebi's initiatives on financial literacy and investor education in the country.

49. **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Sports eyewear "Oakley".
Note: As a part of the partnership, Sharma will be sporting Oakley eyewear equipped with patented Prizm technology created specifically for sports lenses. With this partnership, Sharma will sport the brand's performance eyewear on and off the pitch. He joins the likes of Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and Milind Soman who have endorsed the brand before.
50. Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona has been sworn in as the 54th President of **Dominican Republic**.
Note: Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections with 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo who was the candidate of the ruling PLD got 37.7%. The 53-year old Luis Rodolfo Abinader was elected to the four-year term on July 5, which ended the 16-year run in power by the Center-Left Dominican Liberation Party (PLD).
51. **Keith Rowley** has been appointed as the **Prime Minister** of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term.
Note: Keith Rowley sworn in as Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term. He is from the ruling People's National Movement (PNM). As per the preliminary result, PNM won 22 of the 41 electoral seats, while the opposition United National Congress (UNC) led by former prime minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar won 19 seats.
52. **Ritesh Shukla** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of the newly launched NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NPCI.
Note: It is also responsible to co-create payment technologies with other countries. NPCI has appointed Ritesh Shukla as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NIPL As per the Regulatory records the NIPL was incorporated on

April 03, 2020 and has Dilip Asbe, MD & CEO of NPCI, Arif Khan, Chief Digital Officer and Rupesh Achayara, Head of Finance at NPCI as directors.

53. **Luis Rodolfo Abinader** has been sworn in as the President of Dominican Republic.
Note: He succeeds Danilo Medina of Liberation Party. Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections with 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo who was the candidate of the ruling PLD got 37.7%. The 53-year old Luis Rodolfo Abinader was elected to the four-year term on July 5, which ended the 16-year run in power by the Center-Left Dominican Liberation Party (PLD).
54. **Ashwani Bhatia** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI).
Note: He has been appointed as the managing director up to the date of his superannuation that is May 31, 2022. Bhatia is currently working as the managing director and chief executive officer at SBI Mutual Fund.
55. **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the **Election Commissioner of India**.
Note: Mr. Kumar has been appointed in place of Ashok Lavasa, who has resigned to join the Asian Development of Bank. Mr. Kumar is an ex-IAS officer of the 1984 batch of Jharkhand cadre.
56. **Vinay Tonse** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Mutual Fund (MF).
Note: Vinay Tonse has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Mutual Fund (MF). He will replace Ashwani Bhatia, who has been now appointed as the managing director (MD) of State Bank of India.
57. **Akinwumi Adesina** has been re-elected as the **President of African Development Bank**.
Note: The 60-year-old Nigerian was the sole candidate to head the continent's biggest multilateral lender, in a virtual vote as a result of the coronavirus, at the end of its two-day annual meetings.

July

1. Gudni Johannesson was re-elected as president of **Iceland**.
Note: In 2016, Gudni became the youngest president of Iceland since Independence in 1944. He enjoyed a solid support from 76 to 86 percent throughout his first term. Iceland is the Second European country to hold polls during the COVID 19 pandemic.
2. **Indra Mani Pandey** has been appointed as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland.
Note: He will represent India in more than 25 important organisation of the UN in Geneva including World Health Organization (WHO) and therefore the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). India

was appointed as the chair of the executive committee of the WHO in 2020 at the World health assembly.

3. **Ravinder Bhakar** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC).
Note: He is a 1999 batch officer of Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS). He will replace Anurag Srivastava. Prior to this, Bhakar was posted as the Secretary & Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railways. He also served as an Indian Engineering Services officer.
4. **Sanjay Dwivedi** has been appointed as the as the Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC).
Note: He is presently serving as the Registrar of Makhnallal Chaturvedi National University of

- Journalism and Communication, Bhopal. K.S. Dhatwalia, Principal Director General in the Press Information Bureau, is presently holding the additional charge of the post of Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC).
- Srikant Madhav Vaidya** has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
Note: Vaidya will also be the chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd, a stand-alone refining subsidiary of IOC, and Indian Oiltanking Ltd, a joint venture providing terminalling services. He will also take over as the head of Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd and also be a director on the board of Petronet LNG Ltd. He has had a decade-long association with India's largest cracker plant—the Panipat Naphtha Cracker Complex.
 - As per the votes during referendum in Russia the President Vladimir Putin can lead the Russia until **2036**.
Note: As per the votes during the Referendum, 77.95 percent of Russian citizens have voted in support of the Amendments to the 1993 Constitution of Russia. Only 21.23 percent of the Russian Citizens voted against the Amendments.
 - V Suryanarayanan** has been appointed as the New **Managing Director** (MD) of Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company.
Note: Suryanarayanan was a Chartered Accountant and Company Secretary served in financial services sector of the Murugappa Group for the past 24 years. Suryanarayanan served in Cholamandalam Investments and Finance for 10 years and moved to Chola MS as the CFO in 2006 and became the President and COO in April 2019.
 - Jean Castex has been appointed as prime minister of **France**.
Note: He is known for his role in drafting the strategy to lift lockdown measures in the country in the French Media. He is known as Mr Deconfinement of French Media.
 - Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the 1st chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for a period of three years.
Note: Besides the Chairman, IFSCA has a member each nominated from RBI, IRDAI, SEBI and PFRDA. There are also two members from the Central Government and full-time or part-time members in the Authority. The IFSCA was recently established by the finance ministry on April 27 as the unified authority to regulate all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in the country.
 - G. Srinivasan** has been appointed as the chairman of the nine-member working Group (WG) set up by IRDAI to study the suitability of insurers offering surety bonds for contractors.
 - Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the first chairman of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) for a 3 years term.
 - Note:** IFSCA regulates all financial services in international financial services centres (IFSCs) in Gandhinagar. In addition to the chairman, IFSCA has other members who have been nominated from the RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA and two members from the Centre. Injeti Srinivas is a 1983 batch IAS officer from the Odisha cadre
 - Jayant Krishna** has been appointed as the first India based Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UKIBC.
Note: He will assume office from 3rd August 2020 succeeding the current CEO Richard Heald. Richard Heald will take charge as the chairman of the Group from 1st September 2020 succeeding Lord Davies of Abersoch, the current Chair. Lord Davies of Abersoch will assume the position of President of UKIBC's new Senior Leadership Council.
 - Sukhbir Singh** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Luxury Ride the multi-brand luxury car showrooms.
Note: He will soon be seen in a full-fledged marketing campaign besides being leveraged across its upcoming brand and product communication initiatives. Luxury Rides is a chain of pre-owned, multi-brand luxury car showrooms. Its pre-owned luxury car portfolio includes Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, Volvo, Jaguar, Land Rover, Mini Cooper, and others.
 - The term of Rajkiran Rai as Managing Director and **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of **Union Bank of India** has been extended for two years.
Note: Rai was appointed as the managing director of Union Bank on July 1, 2017, for a period of 3 years until June 30, 2020. The extension of Rai's tenure implies to facilitate the merger properly. The merged entity is now India's fifth-largest public sector bank.
 - Priyanka Chopra** has been appointed as the ambassador for Toronto IFF.
Note: She joined the list of 50 celebrated filmmakers and actors who are invited as the ambassadors of the TIFF. The esteemed film festival will be opting for digital screenings and virtual red carpets in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The festival is scheduled to kick off from September 10 to September 19, 2020.
 - The Incumbent President of **Poland**, Andrzej Duda has secured a victory in the 2020 Presidential Election.
Note: Andrzej Duda has secured 1,04,13,094 (1 crore 4 lakh 13 thousand 94 votes) votes in the Second Round of the Election to cross the majority figure marginally with 51.21 percent of the total valid votes. Duda's opponent Rafal Trzaskowski secured 99,21,219 (99 lakh 21 thousand 219 votes) to finish at second place with 48.79 percent of the total valid votes. Andrzej Duda's current term will expire on 6th August 2020, with this win, he will continue as the President of Poland for another five-year term.
 - Gyanendro Ningombam** has been appointed as the new President of Hockey India.
Note: He will replace Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad. This was following the resignation letter of Mohd

- Mushtaque Ahmad received by Hockey India on 7 July 2020 due to his personal and family commitments.
- 18. Hemang Amin** has been appointed as the interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
Note: He will replace Rahul Johri who recently resigned as the chief executive officer (CEO) of BCCI and his resignation was accepted by the BCCI office-bearers. Hemang Amin is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Indian Premier League. He joined the IPL operations team in June 2010 and was appointed as the COO of IPL in 2015.
- 19. Ashok Lavasa** has been appointed as the vice president of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
Note: Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa has been appointed as vice president of the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB). Lavasa still has over two years left in his term at the Election Commission of India. He would have retired as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in October 2022.
- 20. Brett Lee** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of SportsAdda, the news and information website for Cricket, Football and Kabaddi.
Note: As the brand ambassador of SportsAdda, Lee conducts activities like quizzes, bowling masterclasses, Q&A's and giveaways featured exclusively on the SportsAdda's app, social media and website.
- 21. Chandrikapersad "Chan" Santokhi** has been elected as the President of Suriname.
Note: Santokhi won Desi Bouterse, former military strongman of National Party of Suriname (NPS) in the general elections held in May. He was born in Suriname, a former dutch colony, and studies in Police academy, Netherlands. He was a police inspector in Suriname from 1991 and was named chief of Police.
- 22. Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda** has been appointed as the first woman prime minister of **Gabon**.
Note: Prior to holding this position, Ossouka Raponda served as Defence Minister since February 2019. Her appointment is the fourth cabinet reshuffle by the President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba since January 2019.
- 23. Ashwini Kumar Tewari** has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Card.
Note: The new appointment will be valid for two years and his appointment will come into effect from August 1, 2020. He was nominated by parent State Bank of India for the position. Tewari's appointment is followed by the resignation of present MD & CEO, Hardayal Prasad who decided to quit from the directorship of the company owing to his voluntary retirement from the State Bank of India.
- 24. Aditya Puri** has become the highest-paid banker for FY20 with Rs.18.92 cr in remuneration.
Note: HDFC Bank Managing Director Aditya Puri has emerged as the highest paid banker among the top lenders for FY 2019-20, with a 38 per cent jump in salary and prerequisites to Rs.18.92 crore.
- 25. Roshni Nadar Malhotra** has been appointed as the new Chairman of IT company, HCL Technologies.
Note: The appointment of non-executive director Roshni Nadar Malhotra to the new role takes effect immediately. She will replace her father, Shiv Nadar. Shiv Nadar will continue to be HCL Tech's managing director, with the designation as the chief strategy officer.
- 26. Sahil Seth** has been appointed as the honorary adviser of steering committee for BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI).
Note: The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a parent organization that promotes commerce and industry in BRICS. It was founded in 2012. The main objective of the BRICS CCI is to create support system to MSME segment. The BRICS CCI mainly aims to reach out young entrepreneurs. It proposes to champion their business and act as voice of young entrepreneurs.
- 27. Arun Kumar** has been nominated as the Vice-Chairman of the International Union of Railways (UIC).
Note: The decision was taken at the UIC General Assembly. The International Union of Railways is also called Union Internationale Des Chemins (UIC). The headquarters of UIC is in Paris.
- 28. Prakash Chandra Kandpal** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Non-life insurer SBI General Insurance.
Note: He is serving as the deputy CEO of SBI General Insurance since June 2019. He will replace Pushan Mahapatra who has been appointed as director.
- 29. Sumit Deb** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).
Note: Deb is presently serving as Director (Personnel) in the NMDC. His tenure as the CMD of NMDC would be applicable till 28 February, 2023. He will succeed N Bajindra Kumar as the CMD of NMDC who will retire as CMD on 31st July 2020.
- 30. R Narayanaswamy** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).
Note: The committee consists of 7 members including the chairman. The members of the committee will support and provide insights to the Executive body of the NFRA on the issues related to the drafts of the accounting and auditing standards.
- 31. Ramesh Babu Boddu** has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Karur Vysya Bank (KVB).
Note: His three-year appointment is effective from the date of taking charge, on the terms and conditions approved by the Reserve Bank of India. He retired as Deputy Managing Director in State Bank of India in April 2020.
- 32. Kulmeet Bawa** has been appointed as the President and Managing Director of Systems, Applications &

Products in Data Processing (SAP) for Indian Subcontinent.

Note: Kulmeet will be responsible for driving and delivering an exceptional SAP experience for employees and customers across our ecosystem, as well as guide businesses in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to adopt a digital-first mindset. Kulmeet will report directly to Scott Russell, President of SAP Asia Pacific Japan.

- 33. Alok Misra** has been appointed as the Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN).
Note: The appointment will be effective from 1st August 2020. Dr Misra takes over from the present CEO, Harsh Shrivastava, who has put down his papers after spending over 2 years at MFIN. Dr. Alok Misra has around 28 years of professional experience in international development, rural finance, microfinance, inclusive finance and research at both policy and implementation level.
- 34. Riva Ganguly** has been appointed as the secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI.
Note: Ms. Das who is an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1986 batch will succeed Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh after her retirement on 30th September this year.
- 35. Partha Pratim Sengupta** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank.
Note: His appointment will be up to date of attaining the age of superannuation which is December 31, 2022, or until further orders whichever is earlier. Currently, he is serving as Deputy Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer at State Bank of India.

- 36. Thierry Bollere** has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR).
Note: He will succeed Ralph Speth, who will continue as non-executive chairman of JLR. Bollere has worked in automotive and auto component companies like Renault, Faurecia and Michelin. He most recently was the CEO of Groupe Renault.
- 37. N. Sivaraman** has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICRA Limited.
Note: Sivaraman held the position at L&T finance (Larson and Turbo) as President and Wholetime Director. In December 2018, he held the position of Chief Operating Officer at IL&FS which ends by July 31, 2020.
- 38. Archana Soreng** has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders.
Note: Archana Soreng joins six other young climate leaders from around the world who have been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.
- 39. Hardik Satishchandra Shah** has been appointed as the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on co-terminus basis.
Note: Currently, He is serving as a Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Before moving to the PMO last year, he worked as the PS to Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar.

June

- 1. Anita Kotwani** has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Media Agency, Carat India.
Note: She was earlier serving as the senior vice president, new business and client lead, for The Walt Disney business at Mindshare India. Taking over the new role of CEO, Anita Kotwani will work towards Carat India's strategic progress and business growth nationally.
- 2. PR Jaishankar** has been appointed as the as the Managing Director (MD) of the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) for 3 years.
Note: He will serve as the MD of IIFCL for a period of 3 years. He has earlier served as the executive director of the National Housing Bank. The appointment comes after the recommendation of PS Jaishankar by the Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) on March 15, 2020.
- 3. Arun Singhal** has been appointed as the chief executive officer of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
Note: Singhal is special secretary, department of health and family welfare. The food regulator, that comes under the purview of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is responsible for setting up standards for the food industry and regulate the manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale, and import of foods.
- 4. TV Mohandas Pai** has been appointed as the chairman of the advisory committee on service providers by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
Note: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) reorganised its advisory committee on service providers. The appointments of the Insolvency Professionals (IPs) as administrators are provided by the Security and Exchange Board of India Regulations, 2018.
- 5. Rajnath Singh** will chair the committee constituted by the PM Narendra Modi to solve the difficulties faced in the implementation of Rs.3 Lakh crore collateral-free loan for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).
Note: The borrowers can borrow from the financial institutions without any asset or pledge collateral under this scheme. The units with Rs.25 Crore outstanding credit and Rs 100 crore turnover are eligible for the loan. It is for 4-year tenure with interest

rates capped according to the Finance Ministry and the moratorium will be for 12 months.

6. **Subramanian Sundar** has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB).
Note: This was the second extension given to Mr. Sundar, earlier as the MD and CEO (interim) from January 1, 2020 to April 30, 2020. His tenure was again extended from May 31, 2020 to November 30, 2020 or till the appointment of new CEO.
7. **Uday Kotak** has assumed office as the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21.
Note: T V Narendran, CEO and managing director of Tata Steel Limited, is now the president designate of CII for 2020-21. Sanjiv Bajaj takes over as CII vice president for 2020-21. He is the chairman and managing director of Bajaj Finserv Limited.
8. **Krishnendu Majumdar** has been named as the new chairman of British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
Note: He is the first person of colour to be named as the chairperson of BAFTA in its 73 year-long histories of BAFTA. He will replace Pippa Harris. Harris will now continue as deputy chairperson
9. **Virendra Nath Datt** has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL).
Note: National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) is a state-owned Miniratna (Cat-1) company and producer of chemical fertilizers, organic fertilizers and industrial chemicals. Prior to joining NFL, he was Executive Director in GAIL (India) Limited. He also had a 10-year stint with ONGC before joining GAIL in 1995
10. **Rajeev Topno** has been appointed as the senior advisor to the World Bank Executive Director.
Note: He is the 1996 batch IAS officer who has served as a key aide to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Topno had joined the Prime Minister's Office as a deputy secretary in 2009 when Manmohan Singh had just started his second term
11. **Brajendra Navnit** has been appointed as the ambassador to the Permanent Mission for India (PMI) at the WTO in Geneva.
Note: Navnit, a 1999-batch officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, will replace JS Deepak as the ambassador to the Permanent Mission for India (PMI) at the WTO in Geneva. The appointments come at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has plunged the global economy into its worst recession since the Great Depression in 1930s and ravaged world trade. The WTO has already warned of a massive 13-32% contraction in global trade in 2020.
12. **Manushi Chhillar** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Adidas to join Indian star Batsman Rohit Sharma and sprinter Hima Das.
Note: Chhillar becomes Adidas's forerunner in their mission to inspire women to embrace fitness and to create a beneficial social impact through sports. She

supports the #HOMETEAMHERO challenge of Adidas to stay physically and mentally fit in the lockdown due to COVID-19 and use sports as a platform to inspire and encourage the women and children to take up sports.

13. **Ashok Dalwani** has been appointed as the chairman of the rearranged Commodity derivatives advisory committee of SEBI.
Note: The 17 members committee examines issues related to the contract design and new products in the segment and recommend the required risk management system and regulatory framework of commodity derivatives and governance of commodities derivatives exchange
14. **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the first ever brand ambassador of the IIFL Finance.
Note: IIFL finance is one of the leading Non-Banking Finance Companies of India which manages over Rs. 36,000 crore assets. Rohit managed the first campaign by IIFL Finance, IMG Reliance promoting and advertising the people on Safety guidelines and rules that must be followed in the COVID-19 situation.
15. **Nethra** has been appointed as 'Goodwill Ambassador to the Poor' of the United Nations Association for Development And Peace (UNADAP).
Note: She was recognised for her role in feeding the poor during the COVID-19 lockdown by her father C. Mohan, a salon owner by convincing him to give Five Lakh rupees that he had been saving for her education since 2013. Nethra will speak at the United Nations (UN) conferences in New York and in Geneva addressing Civil Society forums and conferences. She was awarded a Dixon Scholarship amounting to Rs 1 Lakh.
16. **G Kishan Reddy** has been appointed as the chairman of the committee for the welfare of the freedom fighters reconstituted by the union ministry of home affairs.
Note: This panel will verify if someone has given affidavits to two or more applicant and also examine the demands to build memorials and museums for freedom fighters.
17. **Pankaj Tripathi** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Patna's Khadi Mall by the Government of Bihar.
Note: Tripathi mentioned that he would not take any salary for this role. The Khadi Mall in Patna is India's first ever Kadhi mall inaugurated by Nitish Kumra, Chief Minister of Bihar in November 2019.
18. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Executive Director of **HDFC Bank** for a period of three years.
Note: Bharucha's re-appointment is subject to the approval of the shareholders at the ensuing Annual General Meeting of the Bank. In his current position, Bharucha is responsible for wholesale banking covering areas of corporate banking, emerging

- corporate group, business banking, capital markets and commodities business, agri lending, among others.
- 19. Imtaiyazur Rahman** has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of UTI Asset Management Company (AMC).
Note: Two years ago he was appointed as the acting CEO of UTI. Rehman was the internal candidate for the position which fell vacant after Leo Puri completed his five-year term in August, 2018. He joined the UTI Group in 1998 and is with the AMC since 2003.
 - 20. Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta** has taken charges as the Chief of Staff of Eastern Naval Command (ENC).
Note: He replaced Vice Admiral S.N Ghormade, who has been appointed as Controller Personnel Services at the Integrated Headquarters, New Delhi. Mr Dasgupta was an alumnus of the NDA and commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1985.
 - 21. Kubatbek Boronov** has been appointed as the Prime Minister of **Kyrgyzstan**.
Note: He succeeded Mukhammedkalyi Abylgazyev who resigned on June 15 following accusations of corruption. Kyrgyzstan's parliament approved the candidacy of Kubatbek Boronov with 105 votes out of 116.
 - 22. Pralay Mondal** has been appointed as the President of CSB Bank Limited.
Note: He has around 30 years of banking experience across multiple business and functions including retail assets, retail liabilities, business banking, products and technology. Before joining Axis Bank, Mr. Mondal was the Senior Group President and Head of Retail and Business Banking at Yes Bank.
 - 23. Volkan Bozkir** has been elected president of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.
Note: Turkish's diplomat Volkan Bozkir has been elected president of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. The 75th session of the UN General Assembly begins in September 2020. Bozkir won the unanimous support of the 178 UN members. He will take over from Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the present General Assembly president. A General Assembly president has a one-year term.
 - 24. Indian American Sethuraman Panchanathan** has been appointed as the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) by the US senate.
Note: He will replace France Cordova, whose six-year term ended in March, as the 15th director of the NSF. He is expected to take office on July 6. Panchanathan is the second Indian-American ever to be nominated to the prestigious science position with the first being Dr Subra Suresh who served from October 2010 to March 2013.
 - 25. Sourav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of JSW cement.
Note: JSW Cement has signed Sourav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri as its brand ambassadors. The cement brand has also launched a new multi-media marketing campaign "Leader's Choice" which includes both sports icons. The multi-media marketing campaign "Leader's Choice" of JSW Cement promotes the ideology of building a solid foundation for a better tomorrow.
 - 26. Urjit Patel** has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).
Note: The appointment of the Urjit Patel has been made for a period of four years. He will be replacing the outgoing chairman Vijay Kelkar. Urjit Patel has earlier served as the Governor as well as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He resigned as the Governor of RBI in December 2018.
 - 27. Nirakar Pradhan** has appointed as new as the Chief Executive Officer of the Professional Risk Managers' International Association (PRMIA) of its new India office.
Note: Pradhan has led teams at State Bank of India and Generali Group in India and Europe. PRMIA is a non-profit led by top professionals dedicated to promoting best practices in risk management.
 - 28. Natarajan Chandrasekaran** has been re-nominated as a Part-Time Non-Official Director on RBI Central board for 2 years.
Note: The government had 1st nominated him as the Director on RBI Central board for 4 years from March 4, 2016. The Natarajan Chandrasekaran joined Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in 1987, he became its Chief Executive Officer from 2009-17, prior to which he was Chief Operating Officer (COO) and executive director of TCS.
 - 29. Wasim Jaffer** has been appointed as head coach of the Uttarakhand Ranji team for the upcoming season.
Note: The highest run-getter in Ranji Trophy, Jaffer had announced retirement in March this year after playing for over two decades, primarily for domestic giants Mumbai and Vidarbha. This will be his first stint as a head coach with a team.
 - 30. T Rabi Sankar** has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS).
Note: IFTAS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India. T Rabi Sankar, currently serving as Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India for Payment Systems, Information Technology, Risk Management and Fintech has taken over concurrent charge, ex officio, as the Chairman of IFTAS.
 - 31. Clare Connor** has been named as the first female president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in its 233 year-old history.
Note: Connor is the current England and Wales Cricket Board's managing director of women's cricket. The 43-year-old will take up the post on 1 October 2021. Current president, former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara, has been offered to stay in the role for a second tenure in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - 32. IAS Vini Mahajan** becomes 1st woman chief secretary of **Punjab** state.

Note: She will replace Karan Avtar Singh, who has now been posted as Special Chief Secretary, Governance Reforms and Public Grievances. While Karan Avtar Singh was set to retire on August 31, Mahajan has succeeded him two months prior to that.

33. Micheal Martin has been elected as new Prime Minister of **Ireland**.

Note: There are altogether 160 seats within the current lower house of Irish parliament with one seat getting to the speaker of the house who wasn't involved within the vote. Micheal Martin has won the election by receiving 93 votes in favour, 63 votes against and 3 votes in abstention. He has been the leader of the Fianna Fáil party since 2011.

34. UP Governor, Anandiben Patel has taken additional charges as the governor of **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note: Lal Ji Tandon, the Governor of Madhya Pradesh has been under treatment at a private hospital in Lucknow since 11th June 2020.

Ms. Patel served as Governor of Madhya Pradesh before Mr. Tandon took over last year.

35. Lazarus Chakwera was elected as the new President of **Mali** after the annulment of the results of the 2019 Presidential Elections following evidence of irregularities.

Note: Lazarus Chakwera was elected as the new President of Malawi after winning 2,604,043 votes, which is 59.34 percent of the total valid votes. 2019 Presidential Election winner Peter Mutharika secured 39.92 percent of the total valid votes in the 2020 Presidential Elections.

May

1. **Shikha Sharma** has been named advisor to Google Pay India.

Note: Google Pay is one of the leading apps on Unified Payments Interface (UPI), battling with the likes of Amazon Pay, Paytm, etc. Sharma's appointment could be a way forward for Google Pay India's attempt at a card-based offering, which could be launched soon. Sharma quit ICICI Bank in 2008 to join Axis Bank. She steered Axis Bank till 2018 and transformed it into a major banking entity of the country. Sharma also serves in the board of IT major Tech Mahindra as an independent director.

2. **Giridhar Aramane** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Note: His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has replaced Sanjeev Ranjan who has been appointed as secretary in the Ministry of Shipping. Giridhar Aramane is a 1988 batch IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre. Before assuming charge as Secretary to MoRTH, he was serving as Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat.

3. **Arvind Kumar Sharma** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Note: His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Before assuming charge as Secretary to MSME Ministry, he was serving as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Arvind Kumar Sharma is a 1988 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre and has worked in the Government of Gujarat at various positions.

4. **Krishnan Ramachandran** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Max Bupa Health Insurance.

Note: He will replace Ashish Mehrotra. Prior to this, he served as the CEO of Apollo Munich Health Insurance. He has over 23 years of experience in health insurance, healthcare and life sciences segments.

5. **Ashok Michael Pinto** has been appointed as the US representative to World Bank's lending arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

Note: He was nominated as US Alternate Executive Director of IBRD for a period of 2 years. He currently serves as Counsellor to the Under Secretary for International Affairs at the United States (US) Department of the Treasury. He has been nominated by the United States President, Donald Trump

6. **Tarun Bajaj** has been appointed as the new director on Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Note: His appointment is confirmed by the Government of India. He is a 1988 batch Indian Administration Service (IAS) officer. He will replace Atanu Chakraborty, who retired on April 30. Prior to taking over as Economic Affairs Secretary, Bajaj was the Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office.

7. **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** has been appointed as the chairperson of the Parliament's public accounts committee (PAC).

Note: He was appointed the chairman of the committee by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The PAC examines accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by Parliament for the expenditure of the Government of India, the annual financial accounts of the Government and others. The PAC is the oldest Parliamentary Committee in which 15 members are elected from the

- Lok Sabha and 7 members from the Rajya Sabha are elected every year for the 22 member panel of PAC.
8. **Dia Mirza** has been appointed as the as the Goodwill Ambassador of India by UNEP.
Note: The actress is also the United Nations Sustainability Development Goal Advocate. As a Goodwill Ambassador, Mirza will continue work with the UN to further spread the message on key areas including clean air, clean seas, wildlife protection and climate change.
9. **Manisha Singh** has been nominated as an envoy to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with an Ambassador rank by US President Donald Trump.
Note: US President Donald Trump announces his intent to nominate Manisha Singh, who is in her late 40's, as the US envoy to OECD on 27th April 2020. Manisha Singh served as the acting secretary of Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment and the deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs of the State Department. She served as the Deputy Chief Counsel to the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
10. **Mustafa al-Kadhimi** sworn in as the Iraq's 6th Prime Minister.
Note: This has ended the leadership crisis that had been going on in the country for 6 months. Mustafa has become Iraq's 1st proper PM after Adel Abdul Mahdi resigned in November 2019 due to massive anti-governmental protests.
11. **Neeraj Dhawan** has been appointed as the Chief Risk Officer of Yes Bank for a period of three years.
Note: He replaced Ashish Agarwal, the current Chief Risk Officer. He assumed charge on 2nd May 2020 in place of Ashish Agarwal who will be assigned to a different role in the bank. Neeraj Dhawan was the Chief risk officer for retail and business banking at Yes Bank with 29 years of experience in the banking industry and financial services.
12. **Ajinkya Madhukar Rahane** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Edu-tech firm ELSA Corp for India, Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and SAARC.
Note: Now Rahane will work with company's mobile app 'ELSA Speak' to popularize it among Indian people who want to better their English pronunciation. English Language Speech Assistant Corporation (ELSA Cor) India is a education technology company based out of the US.
13. **Narinder Batra's** term has been extended as President of FIH until May 2021 by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
Note: International Hockey Federation (FIH) has extended the term of Narinder Batra as President of FIH until May 2021. Batra and therefore the Executive Board members which were due to end in October 2020 have now been extended. The Executive Board (EB) of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has also decided to postpone the 47th FIH Congress, initially planned on 28 October-1 November 2020 in New Delhi, to May 2021.
14. **Kumar Sangakkara** has been appointed as the president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) for a second term.
Note: He is the first non-British President of the Club, he assumed office on 1st October 2019 and entered the list of people who served multiple terms. Sangakkara participated in the club tour of Pakistan his first return to the country after the terrorist attack in March 2009 on the Team Bus of Sri Lanka.
15. Indian sportsperson **Akhil Kumar** has been re-inducted into the Disciplinary Panel of National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA).
Note: Akhil, who is also serving in Haryana Police as ACP Gurugram, was formerly in the panel from 2017 to 2019. The Arjuna award-winning Olympian is among the most accomplished names in Indian boxing and has also been the government observer for the sport between 2017 and 2019. The NADA ADDP also features track-and-field Arjuna awardee Ashwini Nachappa among others.
16. **V. Vidyavathi** has been appointed as the Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
Note: Vidyavathi will be serving in the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India. Her appointment is confirmed by the order of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
17. **Manoj Ahuja** has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
Note: Odisha cadre IAS, Manoj Ahuja has been appointed the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). He is currently served as Special Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Department of Personnel and Training. He will replace Anita Karwal as the chairman of the CBSE.
18. Roberto Azevedo decides to resign a year before his term expires as head of international organization **WTO**.
Note: Mr Azevedo, a former diplomat from Brazil, will step down on August 31st, cutting short a seven-year tenure marked in recent years by intense pressure from US President Donald Trump. In a special meeting of WTO delegations, Mr Azevedo said, it is a personal decision - a family decision.
19. **Zubair Iqbal** has been appointed as new Managing Director (MD) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.
Note: Iqbal will have a three-year tenure. The appointments are based upon the continuous directions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to separate the positions of Chairman and Managing Director for better governance.
20. Benjamin Netanyahu has sworn in as the prime minister of **Israel** for the 5th time.
Note: He will now chair the post until 13 November 2021. With this, the longest political deadlock in the

Isreal's history came to an end. During the standoff, the caretaker government held the reins for more than 500 days and no one got a clear majority in three successive elections.

- 21. Rajesh Goel** has been appointed as the director-general (DG) of the Realtors body National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO).
Note: Prior to this, he was serving as the chairman and managing director, Hindustan Prefab Ltd. He is a professional with over 37 years of experience in leading PSUs under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- 22. Kevin Mayer** has been appointed as the chief executive officer of TikTok, the popular video app owned by China's ByteDance Technology Co .
Note: Kevin Mayer led the successful launch of the Disney streaming service in November but in February was passed over as Disney's new chief executive. Mayer's appointment will be effective June 1, when he will also become chief operating officer of ByteDance.
- 23. Govinda Rajulu Chintala** has been appointed as the chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
Note: The appointments committee of the union cabinet cleared Chintala's appointment for two years till his superannuation in July 2022. He will replace Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.
- 24. Carmen Reinhart** has been appointed as Chief Economist and Vice President of the World Bank.
Note: Reinhart's experience and insights would prove invaluable during the current unprecedented crisis triggered by the coronavirus pandemic and the economic havoc it is wreaking around the globe. She will start her new job on June 15.
- 25. Dilip Oommen** has been appointed as the President of Indian Steel Association (ISA).
Note: He is presently the CEO of Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India. He was unanimously appointed as President for the next two years. He will replace Tata Steel CEO TV Narendran, who stepped down as President on May 1.
- 26. Rajesh Bhushan** has been appointed as the chairman of the 11-member committee constituted by the Ministry of Health to simplify and expedite the drug approval process in India.
Note: The Ministry of Health & Joint Drug Controller of India Eswara Reddy will assist the committee to adopt global standards for drug and medical device regulation amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- 27. Carmen Reinhart** has been appointed as the new Vice President (VP) and chief economist of World Bank.
Note: Reinhart's appointment is effective on June 15, 2020. Reinhart has a PhD from Columbia University and currently teaches international economics at the Harvard Kennedy School.
- 28. Jahnabi Phookan** has been appointed as the 37th National President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organization (FLO).
Note: She took over the position from Harjinder Kaur Talwar at the 36th FLO session in the presence of Om Birla, Lok Sabha Speaker. FLO is the oldest women-led and -focused business chamber of Southeast Asia and the Women's wing of the apex chamber FICCI.
- 29. Abhas Jha** has been appointed as World Bank's Practice Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia.
Note: In his capacity, Jha will be responsible to nurture, lead, inspire and position a team of highly qualified professionals to provide the best solutions for South Asian countries.
- 30. Marcos Prado Troyjo** has been appointed as the President of the New Development Bank.
Note: He will succeed eminent Indian banker Kundapur Vaman Kamath who took over as the first president of the bank in 2015. The decision regarding appointment was taken during the special virtual meeting of the Board of Governors.
- 31. Anil Kishora** has been appointed as the vice president of the New Development Bank (NDB).
Note: Before joining the NDB, he worked as the deputy managing director and chief risk officer of the state-run SBI.
- 32. Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra** has been appointed as the member of the Olympic Channel Commission by International Olympic Committee (IOC).
Note: Batra also heads the International Hockey Federation (FIH). Batra also served as the president of Hockey India (2014-2016) and Asian Hockey Federation (2003-2013)
- 33. Leo Puri** has been appointed as the chairman of JP Morgan South and Southeast Asia after Kalpana Morparia retirement in 2021.
Note: Leo Puri is the former Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UTI Mutual Fund. Puri had joined the asset management company (AMC) in 2013 from Warburg Pincus India.
- 34. Thierry Delaporte** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Wipro.
Note: He will take over the position from Adidali Neemuchwala who will be stepping down from his position on June 1. The operation of Wipro until July 5th will be monitored by its chairman Rishad Premji. He will be based in Paris and report to Rishad Premji.
- 35. Sandip Mukund Pradhan** has been given two-year extension as Director General (DG) of **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**.
Note: The proposal was put forward by the Sports Ministry of India to extend the tenure of Pradhan and was then approved by the cabinet. Pradhan was appointed as the Director-General of SAI in August 2017.

- 36. Ravinder Singh Dhillon** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of State-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC).
Note: He will be the successor of Rajeev Sharma as he retires on May 31, 2020. PFC is one of the largest profit-making CPSE (Central public sector enterprises) on a consolidated basis.

- 37. SN Rajeshwari** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Delhi-based Oriental Insurance Company (OIC).
Note: She will be the successor of AV Girija Kumar, 60 years old, who retires on May 2020. Rajeshwari will serve as the CMD of OIC till May 2022.

Important News – India

September

- According to the annual National Crime Records Bureau report the maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported from **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The cases of suicide and the number of accidental deaths registered an increase across the country last year compared to 2018, according to the annual National Crime Records Bureau report. The maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported from Tamil Nadu (16), followed by Andhra Pradesh (14), Kerala (11) and Punjab (9) and Rajasthan (7).
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract of **Rs 2580 Cr.** for supply of six Pinaka Regiments.
Note: The contract has been signed for supply of six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army and hence will enhance the operation preparedness of our Armed Forces. Induction of Six Pinaka Regiments which comprise 114 Launchers with Automated Gun Aiming & Positioning System (AGAPS); 45 Command Posts to be procured from M/s TPCL and M/s L&T and 330 Vehicles to be procured from M/s BEML, is planned to be completed by 2024.
- Dinesh Pant** will head the six-membered committee constituted by IRDAI on index-linked products following requests for permission from life insurers to introduce such products.
Note: It will also examine the products earlier available in the market in terms of product structure, ease of customer understanding and administrative processes and any other matter of relevance. Current IRDAI product regulations do not specifically permit insurers to sell index-linked products.
- As per the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau **Delhi** city recorded the highest number of deaths due to dangerous driving and overall road accidents in 2019 among all cities.
Note: According to the data, a total of 1,400 persons died in road accidents and 529 persons died because of driving dangerously or carelessly in Delhi followed by Jaipur in Rajasthan where 320 persons died and Asansol in West Bengal where 301 persons died due to reckless driving. Delhi recorded the highest number of deaths due to dangerous driving and overall road accidents in 2019 among all cities, the data shared by National Crime Records Bureau showed.
- Union Power Minister R K Singh launched the GTAM (**Green Term Ahead Market**) initiative that will lead to an increase in the number of participants in the Renewable Energy Sector.
Note: The move, that will lead to an increase in the participants in the renewable energy sector. The initiative will also help in achieving 175 GW renewable energy (RE) target of the country. It will lessen the burden on RE-rich states and incentivize them to develop RE capacity beyond their own RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation).
- India's rank in the 13th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 jointly released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School -- **48th**.
Note: India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and R&D-intensive global companies. Switzerland, Sweden, the US, the UK and the Netherlands lead the innovation ranking, and the top 5 positions are dominated by high-income countries.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has decided to block **118** mobile apps in view of the emergent nature of threats.
Note: The step is expected to safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users and will also ensure safety, security and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace. 118 mobile apps have been blocked by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology by invoking its power under section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009.
- Adani Green Energy Ltd.** has been ranked as World's Largest Solar Power Generation Asset Owner in terms of operating, under-construction and awarded projects by the Mercom Capital.
Note: Mercom Capital Group is a clean energy communication consulting firm. AGEL's under-construction and awarded capacity stands at 10.1 GigaWatts (GW) and its operational capacity is nearly 3 GW. AGEL's renewable energy portfolio stands at 12.32 GW, which exceeds the total capacity installed by the entire US solar industry in 2019.

9. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation

became the first Indian Dairy Company to enter Rabobank's Annual listing of Global Dairy Top 20 Companies of 2020.

Note: Amul was ranked 16th with an annual turnover of USD 5.5 billion (approximately Rs 40,240 Crores). Switzerland's Nestle topped the list. Rabobank is a Dutch multinational banking and financial services company.

10. The chairman of the steering committee constituted by central government for green initiatives in the coal sector -- **VK Saraswat**.

Note: The objective behind this webinar was to discuss the road map for achieving the 100 million tonnes (MT) coal gasification target by 2030 with investments worth over Rs4 lakh crores. Notably, a Steering Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. VK Saraswat for green initiatives in the coal sector.

11. Organization the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised a two-days long "National Tribal Research Conclave -- **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)**.

Note: The inaugural session of conclave was addressed by the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda. The National Tribal Research Conclave was organised to review the progress on the results of projects launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. 10 research partners shared their projects in the 2-days long conclave.

12. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources with its counterpart of **Finland**.

Note: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the MoU. The MoU facilitates cooperation in the field of geology, training, mineral prognostication and suitability analysis, Seismic and other Geophysical surveys

13. **Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad** has developed the 'EnglishPro' mobile app that was launched by the Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

Note: The app is developed by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. The app will help learners develop Indian English Pronunciation in the unique "Indian" way. This app will be "a useful digital tool" and will act as an educational resource for the teachers, students and for people from varied backgrounds.

14. **Mission Karmayogi** approved by the Union Cabinet which is aimed at bringing post-recruitment reforms in the Civil Services.

Note: The objective of this mission is to prepare the Indian Civil Servant for the future with right attitude, skills & knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India by focusing on competency led capacity building.

15. **KIRAN** helpline has been launched by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry for mental health rehabilitation.

Note: The helpline was launched in view of the growing incidence of Mental Illness, particularly in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The helpline – 1800-500-0019 will provide relief and support to persons with mental illness.

16. **Bengaluru** city tops the list of destinations for a career in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Note: Job searches in the field have risen 106 per cent in the past year (June 2019 to June 2020), and this has increased further by 20 per cent from March to July 2020, in line with the onset of the pandemic. AI-related job postings have also seen a steady rise in the last two years, with a 51 per cent jump between June 2019 and June 2020.

17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Patrika Gate in **Jaipur**.

Note: The Iconic Gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in the Pink City. Prime Minister Modi also released two books written by the Group Chairman on the occasion, authored by Gulab Kothari, Editor in Chief of Rajasthan Patrika Group and Chairman of Patrika Group of Newspaper.

18. As per NSO report on 'household social consumption' in its 75th round of the survey **Andhra Pradesh** state emerged as least literate state in the country with 66.4% of literacy rate.

Note: As per the report Kerala again emerged as the most literate state in the country with 96.2% literacy followed by Delhi (88.7%), Uttarakhand (87.6%), Himachal Pradesh (86.6%) and Assam (85.9%). The overall literacy rate in India is pegged at 77.7% where rural areas have 73.5% literacy rate and urban areas has 87.7%.

19. **Sanyukta Samaddar** will chair the Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPLICC) constituted by the NITI Aayog.

Note: It has members from Ministry of Power, Women & Child Development, Telecommunication, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Rural Development, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Food & Public Distribution, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Education, Housing & Urban Affairs, Health & Family Welfare, and Financial Services.

20. The **National Skill Development Corporation**

(NSDC) has partnered with **LinkedIn** to provide access to free learning resources for imparting digital skills to youth for enhancing employability.

Note: According to LinkedIn, Indian professionals with digital skills are 20 percent more in demand than professionals without digital skills in 2020. Under the partnership, 10 free LinkedIn learning paths, consisting of 140 courses for a range of in-demand tech jobs will be made available for free on eSkill India

digital platform till March 31, 2021. It will help India's youth to develop skills needed for jobs.

21. **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** has launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges.
Note: The programme will spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups. The initiative will help identify and promote innovations necessary for boosting the MSME sector.
22. The first World Solar Technology Summit 2020 held virtually was attended by **149** countries.
Note: The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. The main objective of the summit is to pay attention to state-of-the-art technologies and next-generation technologies.
23. **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** has been launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to focus on the focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country.
Note: The scheme will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 20,050 crores within a period of 5 years from the fiscal year 2020-21 to the fiscal year 2024-25 in all states and union territories. The scheme was announced as a part of the centre's AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package. The investment of Rs. 20,050 crores under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector.
24. **Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai** has QR code-enabled contactless check-in mechanism for the passengers.
Note: Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai has put in place a QR code-enabled contactless check-in mechanism for the passengers, which allows them the use of their mobile phones to remotely operate check-in and self-bag drop kiosks for printing boarding passes and bag tags. Passengers at Mumbai airport just need to scan the QR code shown on the kiosks to access a remote keyboard and mouse on their mobile device, without touching the kiosks.
25. Hubballi Railway Station in Karnataka has been renamed after **Siddharoodha Swamiji**.
Note: Union government has approved long-pending demand of Hubballians of renaming the Hubballi railway station. Name of Hubballi railway station, which is headquarters of South Western Railway, is being changed for the second time in the last five years. It was changed in 2015 from 'Hubli' to 'Hubballi'.

26. 'Streets for People' challenge has been launched by **Union Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry**.
Note: The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.
27. As per DPIIT **Gujarat** state emerged as the best performer in developing start-up ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs.
Note: Gujarat was categorised as the best performer among all States and one Union Territory (UT) Delhi, barring north-eastern States and other UTs. A total of 22 States and 3 UTs participated in the exercise.
28. **NIMHANS** institution has developed Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas.
Note: The research by a team of doctors led by Bharath Holla, Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Integrative Medicine; Rose Dawn Bharath, Professor and Head of the Department of Neuro-Imaging and Interventional Radiology; and Dr. Benegal, was published in the journal Human Brain Mapping on August 26
29. **Golden Temple** has been granted Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration enabling it to receive foreign donations.
Note: Govt's decision to allow FCRA to Sri Harmandir Sahib will deepen the connection of Seva between the Sangat and Sri Darbar Sahib. FCRA registration has been given in the name of 'Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Saheb Sri Darbar Saheb Punjab Association', a body set up in 1925. The FCRA will be valid for 5 years.
30. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** became the second Indian firm to attain a market valuation of over Rs. 9 lakh crore after Reliance Industries Limited.
Note: The company's market valuation went past ₹9 lakh crore in early trade helped by a rally in its share price. The stock of the software services firm gained 2.91% to ₹ 2,442.80 — its record high — on the BSE.
31. IT company **Infosys** will acquire Czech Republic-based GuideVision for up to €30 million (about ₹260.4 crore).
Note: The acquisition is being carried out by Infy Consulting Company Ltd, a step-down subsidiary of Infosys Ltd. As per the regulatory filing, the cost of acquisition is "up to €30 million including earn-out and bonuses".

August

32. Recently, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched an incubator capabilities enhancement program 'AIM-iCREST' in collaboration with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation**.
Note: This is a first of its kind initiative for advancing innovation at scale in India. Under the initiative, the

AIM's incubators will be provided requisite support to foster the incubation enterprise economy in order to enhance their performance.

33. 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting was held under the presidency of **Russia**.
Note: Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)

participated in the meeting. The BRICS nations called the initiative to improve the environment and promote the circular economy in national plans for economic recovery after COVID-19

34. Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge in **Bihar**.

Note: Over 5.5 km, this four lane bridge at NH-19 between Patna and Hajipur is being renovated to replace its existing concrete superstructure by new steel deck superstructure, consisting of about 6600 metric steel.

35. **Narendra Singh Tomar** released a booklet on 'Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

Note: The booklet is prepared by Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development. It is based on the presentations made by states during regional and national workshops since inception of the programme. This book is a collection of different best practices that focus on addressing various issues, challenges, and threats to the implementation of DILRMP.

36. **CREDAI Awaas App** has been launched by Housing minister Hardeep Puri to market residential properties.

Note: Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Hardeep Singh Puri released the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs. ARHC as a sub scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

37. As per the recommendation by the Parliamentary Committee on Labour, the minimum eligibility period for gratuity payable to an employee on termination of his employment -- **One year**.

Note: The Committee made this recommendation in its report on Social Security Code, which has been evolved subsuming nine Central Labour laws. The committee, which is headed by Biju Janta Dal MP Bharatruhari Mahtab, submitted the report to Speaker Om Birla.

38. **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has launched "Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21", a national level programme for popularizing science among school students of class sixth to Eleventh.

Note: Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan is an initiative of Vijnana Bharathi (VIBHA) in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, Government of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). It is India's largest Science talent search examination for New India using Digital Devices.

39. **SEBI** is planning to set up a virtual museum of securities market to highlight achievements and milestones in the Indian capital market.

Note: SEBI has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from agencies to develop the virtual museum. The museum is intended to be a visual online organised collection of history of evolution, achievements and

milestones in the Indian securities market over the decades in terms of market infrastructure, regulation and enforcement, among others.

40. Union Minister of Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sirmaur at Dhaula Kuan in **Himachal Pradesh**.

Note: IIM Sirmaur was operationalised by IIM Lucknow from August 2015 as the mentor Institution with the commencement of the first batch of post graduate programme for 20 students from its temporary campus at Paonta Sahib, Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh. The complete full-fledged permanent campus at Dhaulakuan has been envisaged for a student strength of 1170. The Union Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs 531.75 Crore out of which Rs 392.51 Crore is for construction works.

41. A New initiative by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) the Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel has been launched by **Narendra Singh Tomar**.

Note: The channel is a new initiative by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). During the launch event, the minister also rolled out guidance videos made by NCDC on 'Formation and Registration of A Cooperative' for 18-different states in Hindi and regional languages.

42. **Pradip Shah** is the head of the 7-member committee formed by International Financial Services Centre Authority for developing plans on international retail business.

Note: The committee will make strategies enhancing IFSC position for international financial services drawing a roadmap for the growth of international retail at the IFSC. The report will be submitted in 3 months

43. **DD Assam** has been launched by Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar recently.

Note: It is a 24 x 7 satellite channel which will work on the message of unity in diversity. The channel will showcase rich history of Assam and other north East States.

44. India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or Kisan Rail was from flagged off between two stations **Devlali to Danapur**.

Note: The train is making its first move from Maharashtra's Devlali to Bihar's Danapur Railway station with various stoppages carrying fruits and vegetables. It will cover a distance of 1,519 km in 32 hours. Kisan rail was announced in Budget 2020

45. The Government of India has extended Line of Credit of worth 18 million USD to **Maldives** to expand fishing facilities.

Note: The funds granted to Maldives are to be used for the following. To develop 50-tonne ice plant in Gemanafushi. Also, a 100-tonne ice storage facility is to be developed. The funds will be used to set up tuna

- cooked plant and fishmeal plant. Investments towards fish collection.
46. The Ministry of Education organized the “Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy (NEP)” in association with **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.
Note: The event was inaugurated by the PM Narendra Modi. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, Union Minister of Education, Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Communications along with Chairman and Members, Committee for Draft NEP participated in the virtual event.
47. NHAH signs MoU with which **IIT Delhi** to set up Center of Excellence for Advance Data Management System for Highways.
Note: Under the agreement IIT Delhi will work with NHAH to develop advanced analytics based on Artificial Intelligence, prepare simulation models, enhance data storage and retrieval capacities to strengthen data-driven decision making.
48. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) joined hands with Global digital skills training provider to support the continuity of digital skilling of the Indian workforce -- **Simplilearn**.
Note: Under this collaboration, Simplilearn will host more than 1,000 hours of free learning in digital skills and technologies for learners across India under the categories of AI and Machine Learning, Big Data, Data Science & Business Intelligence, Cyber Security, Software Development, Project management, and Digital marketing.
49. A new Platform, “Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste” to support the global reduction of food loss and waste has been launched by **FAO**.
Note: The official launch of the platform will be on the first International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFW) which will be observed on 29th September 2020.
50. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has signed an agreement with **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** for collaborative research and information dissemination in the area of food and nutrition.
Note: The agreement was signed during a ceremony which was presided Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. The collaboration between these two premier institutions of India will contribute in fulfilling the vision of New Food System 2050.
51. The global conference on “Reimagining and Transforming the University: Confluence of Ideas during and Beyond the COVID-19 Disruption” was hosted by Indian university **O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)**.
Note: The event was inaugurated by Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, Union Minister for Education. The conference provided a platform to discuss to reimagine and transform the idea of university that will impact the lives of the students, academics and nations all across the globe.
52. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will open the Silk Training cum Production Center in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: This would be the first Silk Training cum Production Center in the state. Machinery like handlooms, Charkha, Silk reeling machines and warping drums would be installed in the training cum production Center. KVIC has transformed the dilapidated school building into the training cum production center for Eri Silk, and has also selected the first batch of 25 local artisans of Chullyu village to begin the training with.
53. Website portal **My Handloom** has been launched by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, for the individual weavers and organization.
Note: The Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani launched a website portal, ‘My Handloom’ for the individual weavers and organization on the occasion of the 6th National Handloom Day on 7th August, 2020, virtually.
54. **Delhi International Airport Limited** has developed AIR SUVIDHA, a first-of-its-kind portal allowing international arriving passengers to fill a mandatory self-declaration form and eligible passengers to apply for exemption from compulsory institutional quarantine for coronavirus.
55. In a push for ‘Make-in-India’, **Rajnath Singh** has launched ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharat Saptah’ to focus more on the vision of the government to shift to local manufacturing.
Note: The main idea behind this is to emphasize the importance of domestic defence production in the country.
56. National portal **SURAKHSYA** is being launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forest on Human-Elephant conflict to collect real-time information and will also manage conflicts on a real-time basis.
Note: He will also launch portal on Human Elephant Conflict on the eve of World Elephant Day, 2020. The World Elephant Day is observed every year on 12th August to spread awareness about the animal.
57. **Mumbai** become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.
Note: Mumbai’s Dadar has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed traffic signals that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.
58. **121** Police personnel have been awarded the “Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation” for the year 2020.
Note: A total of 121 Police personnel have been awarded the “Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation” for the year 2020. The

award of “Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation” seeks to encourage high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such Excellence in Investigation by investigating officers.

- 59. Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)** has organized the “India@75 Summit – Mission 2022”.
Note: The summit was focused on ‘reinventing technology in India’. The MSME Ministry and Industries should be made import substitutes, cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous.
- 60. Niti Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** has rolled out second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with **Dell Technologies**.
Note: The Student Entrepreneurship Programme has been launched for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) as it will enable them to work closely with Dell volunteers.
- 61. Festive sweet dish ‘Khaje’, spicy Hermal Chilli and Myndoli Banana (Moirā Banana) of Goa** has obtained Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry.
Note: The Bicholim based All-Goa Khaje Producers Association (AGKPA) applied for the GI tag of Khaje through the department of science and technology in 2019.
- 62. Krishi Megh** is the data recovery centre of **ICAR** organization.
Note: Krishi Megh is the data recovery centre of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research). The data recovery centre has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad.
- 63. Tribal freedom fighter museums** are under development by ministry of tribal affairs -- **9**.
Note: The nine museums are being developed in Gujarat(Rajpipla), Jharkhand(Ranchi), Andhra Pradesh(Lambasingi), Chhattisgarh(Raipur), Kerala (Kozhikode), Madhya Pradesh (Chhindwara), Telangana (Hyderabad), Manipur (Senapati) and Mizoram (Kelsi).
- 64. Swachh Bharat Mission Academy** is an IVR based mobile online learning course launched by Union Jal Shakti Ministry.
Note: The IVR based free mobile online learning course on ODF Plus will be crucial in achieving goals underlined in Phase - 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). Swachh Bharat Mission Academy, with its mobile based technology will significantly boost the capacity building efforts in training of Swachhagrahis as well as community-based organizations, NGOs and others associated with phase 2 of the mission.
- 65. Indian Railways** is constructing the world’s tallest pier bridge across river Lajai in **Manipur**.
Note: The bridge which is being constructed across river Ijai near Noney is an engineering marvel because

the tallest pier height will be 141 meter. It will surpass the existing record of 139 meter of Mala - Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.

- 66. NASSCOM** Association with organization ‘Atal Innovation Mission’ has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Step-up module for school students.
Note: The module was launched in a virtual platform attended by CEO NITI Aayog Mr Amitabh Kant, Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission Mr R Ramanan and NASSCOM President Debjani Ghosh. The AI Step-up module is expected to drive AI education and innovation to the next level in the young minds in schools across the country.
- 67. As per the draft plan** prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the “One Sun, One World, One Grid” (OSOWOG) initiative will **140 countries** through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power.
Note: As per the draft plan prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the OSOWOG will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power. “The vision behind the OSOWOG mantra is “the Sun never sets” and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
- 68. IIT Bombay** has secured top position in the ‘Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,’ (ARIIA) 2020 for being the best centrally funded institution in India.
Note: The top five centrally funded institutions in the list are 1. IIT Madras; 2. IIT Bombay; 3. IIT Delhi; 4. IISc Bengaluru; 5. IIT Kharagpur. The ARIIA ranking was launched in 2019 by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The objective of ARIIA is to rank higher education institutions and universities in India as per Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Startup, and Development amongst faculty and students.
- 69. Quality Control Lab** has been set up by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in **Porbandar, Gujarat**.
Note: The Quality Control Lab will offer tests for seafood processors as well as exporters to confirm to product safety as per international regulatory requirements. Quality Control Lab is empowered with advanced testing instruments to evaluate antibiotic residues, heavy-metals, namely cadmium, lead, mercury and arsenic in seafood samples and histamine in fish such as tuna and mackerel.
- 70. The Central Water Commission (CWC)** of India has launched the flood forecasting initiatives across India in association with tech giant **Google**.
Note: The Central Water Commission is the first governmental partner of Google to measure water levels on an hourly basis using around 1000 stream gauges across India. Under the flood forecasting initiatives, Google has sent out numerous public alerts to people in flood-impacted regions of India.

71. With the vision of going one step further towards self-reliance or “Atma Nirbhar Bharat” **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has launched ‘Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge’.
Note: The initiative aims at designing microprocessors for the development of various technological products. Students from all levels and startup companies can participate in the challenge. Prize money of total Rs. 4.30 crore will be provided by the government in the following way. Total of 1 crore to 100 semi-finalists. For 25 finalists, a total of 1 crore and Rs. 2.3 crore for the top 10 teams.
72. **Delhi Police** has signed an MoU with All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) for extending ayurvedic mode of preventive and promotive health services in the residential colonies of the force.
Note: The MoU will offer Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health services in the residential colonies of Delhi Police through a mobile unit named ‘Dhanwantari Rath’ and Police Wellness Centres. These sources would be catered by AIIA, supported by Ministry of AYUSH. “Dhanwantari Rath” is a mobile unit of Ayurveda health care services which comprises a team of Doctors who would be visiting Delhi Police colonies on regular intervals.
73. The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla attended the virtual mode of Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) organized jointly by International Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of **Austria**.
Note: The two days long event was organized jointly by Geneva headquartered Inter Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of Austria with the assistance of the United Nations. The second part of the conference is scheduled to be held next year in Vienna, Austria which is expected to be a physical mode of meeting.
74. Central government departments has launched its new official logo displaying three goals of the department, Accuracy, Validity, and Reliability -- **Labour Bureau**.
Note: The newly launched logo displays the three goals of the Labour Bureau i.e. Accuracy, Validity, and Reliability. It also indicates the Labour Bureau as a data-based organization that deals in data pertaining to workers and work.
75. To improve the production and productivity of raw Jute in the country Jute Corporation of India (JCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Seeds Corporation (NSC)**.
Note: The MoU was signed virtually in the presence of Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Minister for Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani. Around 10, 000 quintals of certified jute seeds of JRO-204 variety to be distributed to the farmers through JCI in the 2021-22 crop year.
76. The Bureau of India Standards (BIS) signed with an MoU with **IIT Roorkee** for collaboration in areas of Standardization and Conformity Assessment based on equality and reciprocity.
Note: In Accordance with the agreement, the collaboration will include several fields like Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical, Earthquake Engineering, Development and Management of Water Resources and Renewable Energy Projects, Infrastructure Development, Medical Biotechnology and Nanotechnology biomaterials. IIT Roorkee and BIS will participate in the standardisation activity through technical committees of BIS at the national and international levels.
77. India’s rank in the 2nd edition of global research “Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2020” released by online privacy solutions provider SurfShark -- **57th**.
Note: The DQL Index 2020 analyzes 85 countries around the world covering 6.3 billion people or 81% of the global population in terms of five core pillars: internet affordability, internet quality, e-infrastructure, e-security, and e-government, and results are premised on 12 different factors.
78. **TL Alamelu** will head the ten-member committee set up by IRDAI to recommend setting up loss prevention entities for non-life insurers.
Note: The ten-member committee headed by Irdai member T L Alamelu has recommended the regulator and industry participants to join hands in establishing this company.
79. **Tata Steel** has launched the FerroHaat App, a first-of-its-kind mobile application (App) in the world to source steel scrap from the traders.
Note: The new app is a major step by the company to organise India’s scrap market while also providing a reliable source of scrap metal for the steel Industry.
80. **Nitin Gadkari** has launched the mobile app named ‘Harit Path’ to monitor plantation along national highways.
Note: Under this initiative, the NHAI planted over 25 lakh plants in 25 days along the stretches of the national highways between July 21 and August 15, 2020. The minister launched ‘Harit Path’, a mobile app to monitor the plantations through geo-tagging and web-based GIS-enabled monitoring tools.
81. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons, a requirement under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
Note: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has set up this council to cater to the transgender community with various essential needs. The Union Minister of social justice will be the head of the commission.
82. As per the recent data published by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), India filed **Less than 1 per cent** of the global patent applications.
Note: The recent data published by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has shown that India filed less than 1% of the global patent applications with total filings of 2,053 in 2019.

- 83.** The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda has e-inaugurated “Tribes India Showroom” in **Mumbai**.
Note: The showroom has been inaugurated in Indian Globe Chambers of LIC Western Zonal Office, Fort, Mumbai. “Tribes India Showroom” is an initiative of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to promote the livelihood of the tribal people marketing. “Tribes India on Wheels” is also launched by TRIFED to boost the sales and enhance tribal income in these challenging times.
- 84.** Ministry of Tourism has signed an MoU with **Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)** and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with primary objective of women empowerment.
Note: The signed MoU will enable FLO & TAAI to focus on personal and hospitality skills, a more flexible work balance and greater options for entrepreneurship with lower capital. The partnership between the three aims to increase the participation of women in the tourism sector and enable them to become an integral part of the tourism workforce of India.
- 85.** APEDA functions under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has signed two MoUs with AFC India Limited and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) for working together in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors.
Note: It has signed two MoUs one each with AFC ((formerly Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd) India Limited, and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Delhi for working together in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors.
- 86.** **Ramesh Chand will** head the task force constituted by the NITI Aayog that recommended linking of Sugarcane prices to sugar rate.
Note: The Niti Aayog task force has recommended linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates to keep the industry in sound financial health. It has also pitched for a one-time increase in minimum sugar price to Rs 33 per kilo to help sugar mills cover the cost of production.
- 87.** IT majors **Tech Mahindra** joined hands with NITI Aayog’s Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to support Indian women entrepreneurs.
Note: WTI awards is an initiative of the WEP to recognise women leaders in entrepreneurship across various sectors like healthcare and life sciences, agritech and education, among others.
- 88.** ReNew Power signed a partnership agreement with **UNEP** to promote increased access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.
Note: This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a part of progressive strategies that India has adopted to realise its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. The aim is to shift the heating and cooling sector to an energy efficient one.
- 89.** **Greenko Energies Private Limited** entered into an MoU with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) to

explore renewable energy power supply solution and energy storage.

Note: This comes under the framework of India’s World largest clean energy programme, a part of global climate change commitments, which aims to have 175 GW of clean energy by 2022. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC limited.

- 90.** **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has developed the ‘**Vendor Performance Evaluation System**’ to establish a transparent and comprehensive performance rating system for its consultants, contractors and concessionaires.
Note: The portal-based objective assessment of vendors was initiated to track the vendor performance for various NHAI projects. The vendors are required to conduct a self-assessment and upload the documents related to the project activities executed by them on the portal.
- 91.** **Central Railway** has introduced a drone-based surveillance system to protect railway assets.
Note: The Mumbai Division of Central Railway zone has recently procured Ninja UAVs. RPF has procured as many as nine drones at a cost of Rs 31.87 lakh at Central Railway, South Eastern Railway, South Western Railway, Modern Coaching Factory, and Raebareli.
- 92.** **Rajnath Singh** has launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile Training App.
Note: The Mobile Training App will support in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets as it has been affected adversely due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. The DGNCC Mobile Training App seeks to offer entire training material to the NCC cadets on one platform.
- 93.** National e-Governance Division (NeGD) is working under **MeitY** that signed an MoU with Common Service Center e-Governance Services India Limited to facilitate delivery of UMANG app services to citizens.
Note: This will benefit those citizens who either do not have access to smartphones or are not comfortable accessing app based e services on their own. Notably, all the UMANG services at CSCs are available at zero cost and will be provided by CSC operators Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).
- 94.** **Piyush Goyal** has launched the National GIS (Geographic Information System)-enabled Land Bank system.
Note: The system is developed by the integration of the Industrial Information System (IIS) with State GIS systems. The platform will provide a database of industrial areas/clusters across the country and will serve as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information.
- 95.** **Mahindra & Mahindra** has partnered with Israel’s REE Automotive to develop commercial EVs .
Note: The corner modular architecture of REE integrated with the design, engineering, sourcing, ecosystem and production capacity of Mahindra will

provide zero emission vehicles, including the autonomous vehicles. This will improve the mahindra's capabilities in the Electric Vehicle(EV) sector.

96. **Valipe Ramagopal Rao** will chair the 5-member committee constituted by DRDO to review charter of duties of 57 DRDO labs on the basis of current and futuristic defence and battlefield needs.
Note: The five-member committee will be chaired by Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi director V Ramagopal Rao. The committee will submit its report in 45 days.
97. Three-member committee headed by **DB Shekatkar** has been to review the effective utilisation of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHQ CS) cadre.
Note: This is in line with the recommendation of the Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (ret'd) committee on enhancing the military's combat potential and rebalancing defence expenditure.
98. In partnership with **UNDP**, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has launched the Sustainable Finance Collaborative (SFC) to Promote Sustainable Finance in India.
Note: In this regard, a three days consultation centered on the broad scope of Sustainable Finance architecture in India was held to accelerate green finance by bringing together leading experts and organizations.

99. Next-generation startup Challenge contest has been launched by the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ravi Shankar Prasad-- **Chunauti**.

Note: This contest is a part of Rs 95 crore programme, spanning over 3 years, will hunt for around 300 startups working in identified areas and to provide them seed funds of up to Rs 25 lakh and other support from government through the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).

100. **Piyush Goyal** represented India in the virtual 8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) chaired by Vietnam.

Note: It was attended by Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Meeting was chaired by Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam.

101. The Union Government is planning to come up with Mega Bamboo Industrial Park in **Ghati**.

Note: Apart from this government is also planning to set up a Mega Bamboo Industrial Park at Ghati near Jammu and Bamboo Technology Training Centre will also come up in the region. This was announced by the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh.

July

1. Two Maharatna PSUs the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has signed an MoU for setting up of a Waste to Energy Plant Okhla New Delhi -- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. & NTPC Ltd.**
Note: In Delhi, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management has been a major issue for the local Municipal Authorities, the Waste to Energy Plant will help in addressing the issue and also will lead us towards a more energy-efficient and greener future. The Plant in Delhi will serve as a demonstrative model, the success of which will further help in establishing such Plants in other cities of the country.
2. The report titled "Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post-Covid-19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sectors" released jointly by NITI Aayog and **Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)**.
Note: The report has recommended specific actions and laid down four principles as a framework by which India can revive two of our economic powerhouses – the transport and power sectors from the COVID-19 effect that has impacted their demand and supply.
3. **SheshNaag** has been given to the longest 2.8 km long freight train operated Indian Railways.
Note: Indian Railways created another record by operating the longest freight train. Indian Railways named it as 'SeshNaag'. The rake had a total of 251 wagons which were pulled by four electric locomotives which were fitted in between. The feat was achieved in

the South East Central Railway zone of the Indian Railways. The train had empty BOXN rakes.

4. According to the report "Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019" by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) **Tamil Nadu** state grabbed the top in annual fish production.
Note: As per the report, Tamil Nadu grabbed the top in annual fish production with 7.75 lakh tonnes followed by Gujarat (7.49 lakh tonnes), which had been holding the first position earlier, and Kerala (5.44 lakh tonnes) which retained the third position. Notably, in the global front, India is ranked 3rd after China and Indonesia in marine fish production.
5. An inter-ministerial scheme called "Accelerate Vigyan" was launched by SERB which is a statutory body functioning under **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
Note: The primary objective of the scheme is to give thrust on encouraging high-end scientific research and manpower that will lead to a knowledge-based economy. The scheme will identify research potential, mentors and provide hands on training on a national scale.
6. Under chairmanship **Ranbir Singh**, the Central Committee for reforms in Criminal Law has been constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
Note: The objective of this exercise is to gather opinions by consulting with experts and collating material for their report to the government. In this

- regard, the committee has invited experts in the field of criminal law to participate in the exercise through an online consultation mechanism.
7. The CBSE has partnered with social media platform **Facebook** to launch a free and comprehensive training program for teachers and students of its affiliated schools in the first phase.
Note: The program will cover teacher training on augmented reality and student training on digital safety and online well-being. The training program will be of three weeks in which 10 thousand teachers will be trained on augmented reality while 10 thousand students will be trained on digital safety and well-being.
 8. 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' was announced by PM Narendra Modi is an initiative of **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
Note: The App Innovation Challenge is an initiative by the MeitY in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission. The prize money for apps is between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 2 lakh depending on the category. The app will be evaluated on the basis of ease of use, robustness, security features and scalability.
 9. For the formation of a **Joint Venture Company (JVC)** to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW on pan-India basis the Coal India Ltd signed an agreement with **NLC India Ltd**.
Note: The equity participation in the proposed JVC between Coal India and NLC will be in the ratio of 50:50. This joint venture company marks a new era in the power sector, with the synergy and expertise of two central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Coal.
 10. **DRDO** has developed 1000 bed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital in New Delhi in partnership with Tata Sons Private Limited.
Note: The facility will be providing treatment and care for the COVID-19 positive patients. Along with Tata Sons Private Limited, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital is developed by DRDO. The facility is set up in the land belonging to the Indian Air Force.
 11. Indian Railways has setup 1.7 MWp Solar Power plant project at **Bina** to directly power the Railway Overhead Line.
Note: This project is unique because, for the first time in the world, the power generated by the solar power plant will be directly fed to the overhead power lines of the national transporter to power the traction system of the electric locomotives to run trains. The pilot project of 1.7 mega-watt solar power plant has been set up by Indian Railways in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL) on railway land.
 12. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is going to establish a research cell at **II T-Hyderabad** to meet the future defence technological requirements of the country.
 - Note:** Envisaged to become a 'Centre of Excellence', it is being established as an extension of the DRDO Research and Innovation Centre (RIC), Chennai. The research cell will ensure seamless execution of different projects between both organisations as IIT-H has a strong research base in advanced technologies.
 13. India's rank has released "Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2020", including the SDG Index and Dashboards by Cambridge University Press -- **117th**.
Note: The index has been topped by Sweden. The report contains data on changes over time in 17 SDG indicators, the future of the SDGs amidst Covid-19, as well as calculations for trajectories until 2030. The 2020 report has reviewed the performance of 193 UN Member States out of which 166 were ranked under SDG index 2020.
 14. India's rank in the "INFORM Report 2020: Shared evidence for managing crises and disasters" released by research centre INFORM -- **31st**.
Note: The report ranked the countries based on "INFORM Risk Index" which has been topped by Somalia with an inform risk of 8.9. The report has analyzed 191 countries. Notably, this report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) on behalf of all INFORM Partners.
 15. Under chairmanship of **K S Reddy**, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has set up an 11-member expert committee to study impact of Covid-19 on human rights of individuals.
Note: The expert panel would be headed by Dr K S Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India. The expert committee would assess the impact of Covid-19 on human rights of people, especially marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society, including migrant laborer.
 16. **Ministry of Home Affairs** has set up an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate investigations related to three Nehru-Gandhi family linked trusts, including the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF).
Note: The committee would be headed by special director of the Enforcement Directorate. Congress president Sonia Gandhi is the chairperson of RGF and its board has among others former PM Manmohan Singh, Rahul Gandhi, P Chidambaram and Priyanka Gandhi.
 17. Asia's Largest and World's Second Largest Uptime Tier IV Designed Data Centre was inaugurated in **Navi Mumbai**.
Note: The Data Centre is named 'Yotta NM1 or NM1' is located inside the 600-Acre Hiranandani Fortune City at Navi Mumbai's Panvel region. Inside the Hiranandani Fortune City, a Data Centre Park named Panvel Data Centre Park or Integrated Yotta Data Centre Park has been developed, NM1 is located inside the Panvel Data Centre Park.

18. India's rank in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2020 released by the US-based Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL) -- **34th**.
Note: The Index was released by the United States-based property and investment management services firm- Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL). GRETI was first released in the year 1999. This year marked the 11th edition of GRETI. A total of 163 cities and 99 countries have been covered in the 11th edition of GRETI.
19. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **SEBI** to exchange data between them.
Note: The MoU will facilitate the sharing of data and information between SEBI and CBDT on an automatic and regular basis. In addition to regular exchange of data, SEBI and CBDT will also exchange with each other, on request and suo moto basis, any information available in their respective databases, for the purpose of carrying out their functions under various laws.
20. What is the budget outlay of the Central Sector Scheme "Agriculture Infrastructure Fund" which was approved by the Union Cabinet -- **Rs 1 lakh crore**.
Note: The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. Loans will be disbursed in four years starting with sanction of Rs. 10,000 crore in the current year and Rs. 30,000 crore each in next three financial years.
21. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has joined hands with **Microsoft India Private Limited** company to enhance the digital skills of the country's youth.
Note: The partnership with NSDC is an extension of Microsoft's Global Skilling Initiative. Under this, the company is teaching new digital skills to 25 million people all over the world, which is needed in the coronavirus (Covid-19) economy. The integration between the two firms will give the youth a chance to redefine their skills for the digital economy.
22. Under chairmanship of **Suresh Mathur**, the IRDAI has formed a 9- member working group to look into the possibility of setting up 'Pandemic Risk Pool'.
Note: Suresh Mathur, Executive Director, IrDAI, will be the Chairman for the 9-member working group with industry representatives as members. Apart from studying the need for such as pool, the group will also recommend the structure and operating model.
23. Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) scheme is a sub-scheme under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY)**.
Note: Under this existing vacant government-funded housing complexes across key cities will be converted into ARHCs, and offered to concessionaires for 25 years to rent out the units to urban poor and migrant workers. State and civic bodies will select concessionaire through bidding, according to guidelines issued by the housing and urban development ministry.
24. **IIT Hyderabad** has tie-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India's 1st 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC).
Note: Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is tie-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India's 1st 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC). This centre is established to accelerate research on Artificial Intelligence and its commercial adoption.
25. **Ministry of Culture** released first five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur Manuscript recently.
Note: The first set of five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur published under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was recently presented to the Government of Mongolia. Mongolian Kanjur, the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia. In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.
26. **T-Hub** company has partnered with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Digital India to lead the scale up program of Digital India and Information Technology start-ups.
Note: As many as 10-15 startups with leading-edge solutions in mobility, energy, agriculture, aerospace, manufacturing, consumer, healthtech, medtech, smart cities and logistics and supply chain sectors will be shortlisted. The call for application for the program will commence in July 2020. Startups will be shortlisted from hundreds of applications after an extensive screening process.
27. **Kris Gopalakrishnan** was the head of the 9-member committee to study various issues related to non-personal data that called for a new legislation to regulate such information.
Note: The committee strongly recommends that the proposed Non-Personal Data Governance Framework becomes the basis of a new legislation for regulating non-personal data. The committee was set up last year the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY).
28. India's second VNR 2020 report titled "Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local" was presented by **NITI Aayog** to the UN High-level Political Forum.
Note: The HLPF is the foremost international platform for follow-up and review of progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, presented the VNR.
29. BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding with **IIT Alumni Council** to encourage listing of start-ups and develop 'high investor depth' in its start-ups platform.
Note: The alliance will ensure entity transparency, improvement in governance, market discovery of

- share price, provide liquidity for private equity investors and enable retail participation. IIT Alumni Council is the largest global body of alumni, students and faculty across all the 23 IITs with over 100 city chapters globally.
- 30.** The Ministry of Railways is on a mission mode with the goal of transforming Indian Railways into Green Railways by **2030**.
Note: All routes on Broad Gauge (BG) network have been planned to be electrified by December Indian Railways has also taken a number of initiatives to promote solar energy. Indian Railways is working to harness the potential of 500 Mega Watt (MW) energy through rooftop Solar panels (Developer model). Already awarded for 245 MW and target for completion of these plants is December 2022.
- 31.** India's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely "Anji Khad Bridge" is being built by **Konkan Railway Corporation Limited**. to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
Note: India's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely "Anji Khad Bridge" being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) is all set to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which passes through the Young Himalayas.
- 32.** India along with **Chile** and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has co-hosted the official launch of 2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.
Note: It was called side event of 2020 High-level Political forum – "On the road to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021: Highlighting health and nutritional benefits through sustainable production and consumption of fruits and vegetables".
- 33.** The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with public sector undertaking **Bharat Electronics Ltd.** to collaborate and support the emerging global opportunities in the airport business.
Note: As AAI will act as the development partner, it will assist BEL in its domain of expertise to enable execution of the MEA projects outside India by BEL. The MoU is likely to boost the civil aviation industry. The Organisations will work in cooperation with each other in the civil aviation sector, in present and future projects handled by BEL.
- 34.** **GMR International Airport, Hyderabad** introduced India's first ever fully contactless airport car parking.
Note: The NETC FASTag Car Park is a part of the "One Nation One Tag" – NETC FASTag programme of Indian Government. The GMR airport introduced the first ever National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) FASTag Car Park in India in November 2019.
- 35.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (HCG) by **Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso)**.
Note: CCI has approved acquisition under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso) is an entity which forms part of the CVC Network. The CVC Network consists of three entities which are privately owned and offers investment advice to and / or managing investments on behalf of certain investment funds as well as platforms.
- 36.** **Shripad Yesso Naik** has inaugurated the 5th edition of the conference on "Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies".
Note: Tamil Nadu Technology Development & Promotion Centre (TNTDPC) jointly organised the conference with Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- 37.** The length of the Anji Khad Bridge' being built by Konkan Railway Corporation which will connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) -- **473.25 metres**.
Note: India's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely "Anji Khad Bridge" being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) is all set to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which passes through the Young Himalayas.
- 38.** According to the special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18, released by the Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS) the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India has declined to **113**.
Note: One of the key indicators of maternal mortality is the MMR, defined as the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births. The target 3.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the United Nations aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births.
- 39.** India's largest commercial **shipbuilder Cochin Shipyard Ltd** (CSL) has signed a contract to build the world's first fully automatic electric vessel for **Norway**.
Note: The value of two ships is Rs 125 crore, the cost does not include the value for two optional ships. The vessels are designed by Naval Dynamics Norway, using Kongsberg Maritime systems, with detailed engineering to be carried out by CSL. They will be built under DNV GL Classification and flagged in Norway.
- 40.** India is developing country's first and Asia's leading trans-shipment port Vallarpadam Terminal as part of **Kochi** port of India.
Note: It is a part of the Cochin Port in Kochi, Kerala. It is located on Vallarpadam Island. The Kochi International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT), is known as the Vallarpadam
- 41.** Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) has been accredited by NABL for Testing and Certification of PPE Kit. CIPET works under **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.
Note: The PPE kit includes Gloves, Coverall, Face Shield, Goggles and Triple Layer Medical masks in line

- with International Standards. It is another achievement of CIPET in the fight against COVID-19 Pandemic and a step forward towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- 42.** As per the Railway Ministry private trains are slated to run from **2023**.
Note: According to the railway ministry's projections, the transporter will select the companies that will run the private trains by April 2021. The first 12 are expected to start plying by 2023-24, followed by 45 more in FY 2024-25, the next 50 in FY 2025-26 and the last 44 by 2026-27.
- 43.** Union Environment and Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar hailed the KURMA mobile application related with **Indian Turtles**.
Note: The Mobile Application, KURMA, was launched on 23rd May this year on the occasion of World Turtle Day. The citizen science initiative aims at conservation of turtles and tortoises. The mobile application has been developed by the Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN) in collaboration with the Turtle Survival Alliance-India and Wildlife Conservation Society-India.
- 44.** An e-Portal named "Automobile Solutions Portal for Industry, Research & Education (ASPIRE)" has been launched by **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**.
Note: The portal has been launched to improve the technological capability of Indian automotive sector with the help of exchange of knowledge & expertise, to make them self-reliant and to enable the growth of automobile sector including overall socio-economic progress of the country.
- 45.** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII was developed in collaboration with tech giant **IBM**.
Note: The curriculum was developed in collaboration with IBM (International Business Machines Corporation). The IBM AI curriculum is a part of CBSE's Social Empowerment through Work Education and Action (SEWA) program.
- 46.** India's rank in the Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020 – **3rd**.
Note: The annual Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report was released by the US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield, to rank the most suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in Europe, Americas, and the Asia-Pacific.
- 47.** Name the biopharmaceutical company that announced a global collaboration agreement with Voluntis to develop and distribute digital therapeutics supporting people with diabetes on biologics therapy -- **Biocon Biologics**.
Note: Voluntis, based out of Boston and Paris, creates digital therapeutics that allow people suffering from chronic conditions to manage their treatment on their own every day. Insulia provides automated insulin dose recommendations enabling people with diabetes to self-manage their condition and healthcare teams to remotely monitor progress.
- 48.** **RK Singh** inaugurated India's first public Electric Vehicle charging plaza in New Delhi.
Note: The EV charging plaza is a new avenue for making e-mobility ubiquitous and convenient in India. EESL is spearheading the EV ecosystem development in India by undertaking demand aggregation for procuring EVs and identifying innovative business models for implementation of Public Charging Station.
- 49.** **Manodarpan** initiative has been launched by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health.
Note: The initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health and well-being. Named as 'MANODARPAN' the initiative is covering a wide range of activities to provide Psychosocial Support to students for their Mental Health & Well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond.
- 50.** The acquisition wing of **Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract with **Bharat Earth Movers Limited, BEML** for procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough for Tank T-90 S/SK.
Note: The contract has Buy and Make (Indian) categorisation with a minimum of 50 per cent indigenous content in make portion of the contract. These mine ploughs will be fitted on T-90 Tanks of Indian Armoured Corps which will facilitate individual mobility to Tanks while negotiating mine field.
- 51.** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have partnered with **UNICEF** to strengthen the youth volunteers in the country to achieve Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
Note: The GoI has signed a statement with YuWaah of UNICEF. It is a multi-stake holder platform formed by UNICEF. The YuWaah initiative was launched by UNICEF in India in November 2019. The initiative promotes access to foundational and 21st century skills for youth inside and outside formal education system. This includes life skills, foundational skills, flexible learning and scaling impactful delivery models.
- 52.** India began its trial trans-shipment of goods from India to the North East through **Chittagong, Bangladesh** port.
Note: India and Bangladesh signed an agreement to transit goods to north east via ports of Bangladesh. Indian transshipment goods will enjoy a stay of 28-day free-stay at the ports of Bangladesh according to international transshipment agreement.
- 53.** US based Zoom Video Communications announced to open a new technology center in **Bengaluru**.
Note: U.S.-headquartered Zoom Video Communications announced opening of a new technology center in Bengaluru, India. It selected

- Bangalore as the location for the centre because of the exceptional engineering and I.T. talent.
54. Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant-3 has reached its criticality; the plant is located in **Gujarat**.
Note: This indigenously designed 700 MWe KAPP-3 reactor is a shining example of Make in India. The Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant began its commercial nuclear power production in 1993. In 2015, two of its units were shut down due to coolant leaks. Later, in 2018 the power plant reached partial criticality. The leaks were due to corrosion and cracks.
55. Actor **Sonu Sood** has launched an application “Pravasi Rojgar” for migrant worker to find right job opportunities.
Note: The application provides all necessary information to find jobs and offer specific job training programmes. The application “Pravasi Rojgar” will act as a platform for the workers to find right job opportunities.
56. **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)** published the Global Rights Index 2020 according to which India became the new entrant in the 10 worst countries for working people in the world.
Note: The others include Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Turkey and Zimbabwe. The Middle East and North Africa is the worst region in the world for working people for seven years running due to the ongoing insecurity and conflict in Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Libya coupled with the most regressive region for workers' representation and union rights.
57. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product to effective from **1st December 2020**.
Note: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs by making an amendment in the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008 vide GSR 458 (E) dated 21st July, 2020 “The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Third Amendment Rules, 2020”. The amended Rules will be applicable w.e.f. 1st December, 2020.
58. Acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited (KPCL) by **Adani Group** has been the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
Note: According to the proposed combination, Adani Ports will acquire equity shareholding along with management control of KPCL. Adani Ports is a customer-facing integrated port infrastructure services provider and manages the logistics chain.
59. AIIMS **Nagpur** has designed and developed a ‘smart wristband’ for effective tracking and monitoring of Covid-19 positive and suspect patients.
Note: The new device, a wristband is designed in collaboration with IIT Jodhpur and IIT Nagpur looks to overcome the limitations of existing online mobile apps used for tracking and monitoring coronavirus patients.
60. The Indian Navy's largest solar power plant has been commissioned at **Ezhimala, Kerala**.
Note: It is a 3 MW Solar Power Plant which has been set-up in line with the Indian Government's initiative of ‘National Solar Mission’ which aims to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022.
61. IT major **Wipro** will acquire Salesforce implementation partner 4C for 68 million euros.
Note: This is the company's second acquisition since Thierry Delaporte took over as chief executive officer earlier this month. Founded in 1997, 4C is an independent Salesforce Platinum Partner and it has deep capabilities across multiple Salesforce clouds including sales, marketing and field services.
62. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has entered into a partnership with **IIT, Delhi** for the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).
Note: Tribal entrepreneurs under TRIFED's Van Dhan Programme will now be able to get access to the expertise of the entire network of over 2,600 academic and research institutions under UBA.
63. Indian Institute of Management (IIM) **Kozhikode** has developed a wearable hand band Known as the “Veli Band” that helps in maintaining social distancing.
Note: The device has been developed by Qual5 India Pvt. Ltd, a startup co-founded by a woman entrepreneur, mentored and funded by IIMKs business incubator and entrepreneurship development centre. Veli Band helps implement social distancing and location/contact tracing which can help organisations comply with social distancing norms during the current pandemic situation.
64. Indian city **Hyderabad** ranked 16th among the list of top 20 cities with maximum number of CCTV surveillance cameras installed in a survey done on most surveilled cities in the world by the UK-based Comparitech.
Note: The UK-based Comparitech released the list of top 20 cities in the world which use CCTV cameras for surveillance of open places with an intent to detect and prevent crimes. According to the report, three lakh cameras were installed in Hyderabad to keep a watch on one crore people at the rate of 29.99 cameras per 1,000 people in the city.
65. The **Cotton Corporation of India** decided to setup set up its own warehouse in **Vietnam** to boost cotton exports.
Note: A memorandum of understanding is being worked out to export 1.5-2 million bales of cotton to Bangladesh while the state-run CCI will also set up its own warehouse in Vietnam to boost cotton exports.

66. Defence Ministers' Dialogue between India and Indonesia was held in **New Delhi**.

Note: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the Indian delegation while the Indonesian delegation was led by their Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto. The dignitary is in India for strengthening the ties between the two maritime neighbors. This is in consonance with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two sides.

67. Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App "BIS-Care" has been launched using which the authenticity of ISI-marked and hallmarked products can be checked, BIS is working under **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**.

Note: The mobile app 'BIS-Care', operational in Hindi and English languages, can be operated on any Android phone. Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan also launched three portals of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on standardisation, conformity assessment and training, which consumers and stakeholders can login through www.manakonline.in.

68. On the occasion of "World Hepatitis Day" the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) has organised "2nd Empathy e-Conclave" in collaboration with **Airport Authority of India (AAI)**.

Note: The conclave was held on the occasion of "World Hepatitis Day". The theme of 2nd Empathy e-Conclave is "Keep your Liver Safe in COVID times".

69. As per the update report on India's Tiger Survey from 2018, released by the Union Minister of Environment,

Forest and Climate Change Prakash

Javadekar **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest number of tigers.

Note: India has 2,967 tigers, a third more than in 2014, according to results of a census made public on July 29 last year. The present survey is a more granular estimate of these numbers.

70. The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed an agreement with **IIT Kanpur** to provide training, research and Entrepreneurship Development (ED) in Smart grid technology.

Note: PFC will provide support to the IIT-Kanpur to develop the infrastructure of the research and development on smart grid technology. The PFC will provide financial assistance of Rs. 2.38 crore to the IIT-K under its CSR initiative. The IIT-K provides training in smart grid technology to 90 participants

71. **Ministry of Earth Sciences** has launched a Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet)" under the Digital India initiative of Government of India.

Note: These KRCs will be linked with each other and integrated into the KRCNet portal. This portal would be a single point entry to the intellectual world of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). With the launch of KRCNet, MoES aims to set up a Total Quality Management (TQM) system by securing ISO certification for documenting MoES

June

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a video blogging competition my 'My Life, My Yoga' which is a joint by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and **Ministry of AYUSH**.

Note: The 'My Life, My Yoga' contest (also called 'Jeevan Yoga') is a joint effort by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). It focuses on the transformative impact of Yoga on the lives of individuals and it comes as one of the activities related to the observation of the sixth International Day of Yoga (IDY) coming up on June 21.

2. **Union Ministry of Labour and Employment** in partnership with TCS iON offers free online career skills training through the National Career Service (NCS) project.

Note: The Ministry of Labours announced that around 1 crore job seekers and 54000 employers have registered with this portal and the NCS portal has mobilized more than 73 lakh vacancies In the period of lockdown due to COVID-19 the NCS has conducted around 76 online Job fairs to reduce the gap between the employers and job seekers. NCS in partnership with HireMee, online assessment and hiring service provider, offers creation of video profiles for job-seekers.

3. India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) comes under the purview of **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Arun Singhal as chief executive officer of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Singhal is special secretary, department of health and family welfare.

4. The Union Govt has announced Minimum Support Price List in which how many Minor Forest produce have been included **23**.

Note: Tribal Affairs has notified an Inclusion of 23 additional Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items and stipulation of their Minimum Support Price (MSP). This announcement was made under Central government-sponsored Scheme (2011) titled "Mechanism for Marketing of MFP through MSP and development of value chain of MFP".

5. **CHAMPIONS** platform has been launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help the smaller MSMEs by solving their grievances, encouraging and supporting them to march into the big league as national and global companies.

Note: The portal aims to make smaller units big by supporting them, encouraging, solving their

grievances, helping and handholding. It will act as one-stop shop solution of all entities of the MSME sector.

6. **PM-SAVNidhi** has been launched by the union government for to provide affordable loans to street vendors.
Note: The PM SVANidhi or PM Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi is a credit facility scheme that will help more than 50 lakh urban and rural street vendors. The scheme will help the street vendors restart their livelihoods. Under the scheme, Rs 10,000 of credit is to be provided to street vendors. The street vendors shall return the amount as monthly installments within a year.
7. **DRDO** has developed a disinfection unit called Ultra Swachh.
Note: The Ultra Swachh Unit houses a catalytic converter that makes it environment friendly. It also holds several safety features such as door interlocks, emergency shut down, delay cycle, dual doors, leak monitors, etc. The system complies to International Standards of Industrial, Personal, Occupations and Environmental Safety.
8. **Indian Energy Exchange** has launched Real Time Electricity Market (RTM) to help discoms plan their power requirements.
Note: The market will conduct 48 auction sessions during the day and the power will be delivered within one hour of closure of the bid session. The market, thus, will help distribution companies manage their power demand-supply variation. It will also help meet power supply needs in a better way.
9. The Government has announced that it is to provide Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to 1.5 crore **Dairy Farmers**.
Note: The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the Department of Financial Services has issued KCC application format to all State Milk Federation and Milk Unions for implementing the same on a mission mode. The campaign aims to provide KCC to 1.5 crore dairy farmers. The campaign is a part of the PM's Atma Nirbhar Bharat package for Farmers.
10. "Responsible AI for Youth" which will be run jointly by National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and **NASSCOM**.
Note: Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology (IT), Law and Justice and Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad launched India's National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Portal called www.ai.gov.in. He also launched a National Program for the youth, "Responsible AI for Youth" during the occasion of the first anniversary of the second tenure of the government.
11. **NASSCOM** has provide an end-to-end coronavirus tracking platform for Karnataka, called the Karnataka Listening Dashboard for COVID-19.
Note: As part of the launch, NASSCOM has provided the 1st set of dashboards to state government's use and will add more soon. The analytics-driven platform

is to assist state governments in sustainable industry recovery & helps them make informed decisions to reopen their economies in a phased manner across the state.

12. The Expert Committee on Rationalization of Film Media has submitted its report recently, the committee is operating under **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
Note: The committee has suggested for an umbrella configuration with four broad verticals under which the institutes should work. This includes festival, production, heritage and knowledge. The verticals are to be headed by the professionals. The committee was headed by Bimal Julka.
13. **Nisarga** has been given to the fast-moving depression in the Arabian Sea which intensified into a severe cyclone.
Note: As per the India Meteorological Department, the impact of the cyclone is likely to be felt in Maharashtra and Gujarat. There is a concern about the impact of the cyclonic storm on the battle against Covid-19, as the rain and flooding may set back social distancing and other necessary measures at evacuation centres, and even at some Covid-19 facilities located in low-lying areas.
14. The expert panel constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under Ishaat Hussain has recommended to allow **Non-profit Organizations**.
Note: Allowing non-profit organisations to directly list through issuance of bonds in the form of zero coupon or zero principal bonds. Zero-coupon bond is a debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, drawing a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value. This would help to access funds from donors, philanthropic foundations and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spenders as they will be encouraged to buy zero coupon bonds.
15. **25%** percent of incentive has been announced on capital expenditure in the recently launched "Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)" scheme.
Note: The schemes were approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2020. The Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) will provide incentive of 25% on the capital expenditure. This is extended to certain identified lists such as semiconductor devices, electronic goods, display fabrication units, etc.
16. To foster the inclusion of LGBTQAI+ employees of **Mahindra Logistics Ltd.** has launched a five-year plan which aims at hiring queer people and extending benefits to same-sex partners.
Note: The company's definition of compassionate leave — which can be availed for four days by an employee in case of death of an immediate family member — will be extended to same-sex partners, under the new policy. To make the workplace more inclusive for

- queer employees, MLL will offer LGBTQAI+ staff counselling services on request, for them and three immediate family members, which includes their partner.
- 17.** The union cabinet has approved to re-establish the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy as Subordinate Office under **Ministry of AYUSH**.
Note: The commission has been set up by merging Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine and Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory. The two central laboratories were established at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh in 1975. The commission is an autonomous body that operates under Ministry of AYUSH. It is in operation since 2010
- 18.** **TULIP** programme has been launched by the union government to provide internship opportunities to thousands of fresh graduates and engineers of the county under the 'Smart City' projects.
Note: The TULIP portal has been developed by AICTE. Under the internship programme students will get to work for 100 smart cities under ministry of housing and urban development.
- 19.** **SWADESH** initiative has been launched by the Government of India to map the skills of workers returning to India from overseas under the 'Vande Bharat Mission'.
Note: The full form of SWADESH is "Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support". The exercise, kick-started under the Vande Bharat Mission, aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience, which can be tapped into to fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies.
- 20.** **Nagar Van** scheme has been launched by the government to develop urban forests across the country.
Note: Stressing on the substance theme of "Biodiversity" by the United Nation's Environment Programme (UNEP), The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change celebrated the day by announcing the initiative of urban forests in India. Urban forest are seemingly the best way to bridge the gap of climate change.
- 21.** Researchers at **IIT Hyderabad** have developed a low cost and Artificial Intelligence-based test kit for COVID-19.
Note: These kits can give results in about 20 minutes. The test kits have already been tried at the ESIC hospital and the results are encouraging. The test kits are Reverse Tranion Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)-free and get rid of many processes.
- 22.** **Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati** has developed an artificial intelligence-based computer diagnosis framework for rapid and accurate diagnosis of oral cancers.
Note: The framework developed by the research group at the Central Computational and Numerical Sciences Division, IASST led by Dr. Lipi B Mahanta, will also help grading of oral squamous cell carcinoma. An indigenous dataset was developed by the scientists through collaborations to make for the unavailability of any benchmark oral cancer dataset for the study.
- 23.** **ARCI, Hyderabad** institution developed a rare-earth-based magnetocaloric material that can be effectively used for cancer treatment.
Note: A magnetocaloric materials is a substance in which application and removal of a magnetic field causes the materials to become warmer or cooler. A paper on the research work has been published in the Journal of Alloys and Compounds. ARCI is an autonomous R&D Centre of Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- 24.** India's rank in the recently released 12th edition of the biennial Environment Performance Index (EPI Index 2020) released by the Yale University -- **168th**.
Note: The Yale University recently released the biennial Environment Performance Index. In 2018, India scored 27.6 out of 100 and secured 177th rank. Around 32 indicators were considered to create the ranking.
- 25.** **Jaya Jaitly** will chair the task force constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI to work on the issues of women and child development.
Note: The task force will examine the matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues. The Task Force will be provided secretarial assistance by the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and will submit its report by 31st July, 2020.
- 26.** The ISRO has signed an agreement with **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)** for cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and Astrophysics.
Note: The main objective of the MoU is to shield the Indian Space assets from the space debris's conjunction threats and R&D of Astrophysics, solar sciences and space environment are the base for future space exploration projects and the key to progress in the Indian Space sector.
- 27.** **CSIR** institution has signed a letter of intent (LoI) with the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to promote innovation in the country.
Note: The main focus of the agreement is supporting world class start-ups through CSIR Incubators under AIM initiatives and jointly work on new models of innovation, including setting up of CSIR Innovation Parks
- 28.** **Adani Green Energy Limited** has won one of world's largest solar contract from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop 8 GW of solar projects.
Note: Based on the award agreement the 8 GW of solar development projects will be implemented over the next five years. The first 2 GW of generation capacity will come online by 2022 and the subsequent 6 GW

- capacity will be added in 2 GW annual increments through 2025.
- 29.** Digital learning platform **TCS iON** has partnered with the NSDC to provide its training partners access to the Digital Class Room.
Note: The partnership will strengthen NSDC's online content aggregation platform-- eSkill India--through which it enables e-learning amongst skill seekers and will contribute towards strengthening the Skill India mission.
- 30. Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)** has developed Nano-Technology based disinfectant spray ANANYA to fight against COVID-19.
Note: The spray has been prepared based on Nano-Technology assisted formulation. It will not only stop COVID-19 from entering the body but will also kill the virus that comes in direct contact.
- 31. IIT Bombay** maintains its position as the top institution in India in the QS World University rankings 2021 released recently.
Note: IIT-Bombay still maintains its position as the top institution in India in the QS rankings, but has slipped 20 places from 152 to 172 in the global list. IISc overtook IIT Delhi to make it to the second place, but still dropped a rank to 185. IIT Delhi fell more than 10 places in the rankings to 193 rank, while IIT Madras is at 275. Both IIT Kharagpur and IIT Kanpur crashed out of the top 300.
- 32.** A Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex was inaugurated in **Vishakhapatnam**.
Note: Equipped with the state-of-the-art facilities, the complex is designed to accommodate the newly inducted submarine rescue system and store the DSRV assets in the rescue-ready state. The DSRV system consists of a submarine rescue vessel, a remote operations vehicle and side scan sonar and associated equipment.
- 33. IIT-BHU** has developed an anti-microbial five-layered face mask that annihilates pathogenic microorganisms.
Note: This face mask can annihilate pathogenic microorganisms that are stuck to its outer surface and thereby limit the spread of secondary infections. The mask that is available in the market currently acts as a filter to stop the entry of microbes to oral and nasal airways but does not have any effect on the microbe stuck to the mask surface.
- 34.** The Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) has allocated Rs. 4000 crores to the state governments for the year 2020-21 for implementing **Per Drop More Crop**.
Note: For further allotment of funds, State Governments have identified the beneficiaries to be covered under the programme. This scheme was formulated on July 1, 2015 with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore in five years for extending the water coverage for irrigation under focusing "Har Khet ko pani" and improving water use efficiency aiming at "More crop per drop".
- 35.** The National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) Nangal**.
Note: Under the MoU, ITI's 12 trades will be taught in the NFL & the theory will be studied at ITI Nangal. The MoU was exchanged between Ms Renu R P Singh DGM (HR) I/c, NFL Nangal unit and Sh Lalit Mohan, Principal of ITI, Nangal.
- 36. Infosys** has announced to launch of 'Summer of Ideas' initiative for university students worldwide, an online learning programme.
Note: The global eight-week ideathon, powered by Infosys' digital learning platform Wingspan, will help the global student and academic community overcome the loss of learning opportunities as a result of the disruption caused by COVID-19. The initiative will allow students access to Infosys mentorship and specially curated learning materials virtually.
- 37.** India's rank in the recently compiled by Nature Research, a division of the international scientific publishing company 'Springer Nature' -- **12th**.
Note: The top five positions have gone to the United States of America, China, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan. The Nature Index is a database of author affiliation information collated from research articles published in an independently selected group of 82 high-quality science journals.
- 38.** As per the "26th Annual Cost of Living Survey 2020" released by Mercer Indian city **Mumbai** is the most expensive city in India.
Note: Mercer released its 26th Annual Cost of Living Survey 2020. From India, Mumbai city has been ranked 60th most expensive city globally and also 19th in Asia.
- 39. IIT Bombay** has emerged as the top institutions in the list of 'overall ranking' category in the 5th NIRF Ranking 2020.
Note: The rankings are being announced for India's best universities and institutions in 10 categories namely- Overall, Universities, Engineering, Colleges, Management, Pharmacy, Medical, Dental Architecture, and Law.
- 40.** Name the AI enabled robot launched by Indian Railway to intensify the screening and surveillance of railway passengers and railway staff -- **ARJUN**.
Note: The full form of ARJUN is 'Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice'. This innovation will help Indian Railways to modernise its security measures at the time of covid-19.
- 41.** Name the National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies -- **Aarogyapath**.
Note: This national healthcare supply chain portal will remove supply chain bottlenecks during the Covid-19 pandemic. The vision of this initiative is to set up an

- information management and forecasting database platform at national level.
42. **DRDO** has developed a sanitizing chamber named 'GermiKlean' to sanitise uniforms of security forces.
Note: DRDO's move came after Delhi Police gave their requirement for sanitizing their uniforms, canes, cane shields, helmets. This chamber is designed to sanitise 25 pairs of uniforms within 15 minutes. The sanitizing chamber has been set up at Parliament Street Police Station.
43. Construction company **NHAI** has become the first of its kind in the construction sector to go fully digital.
Note: With the launch of cloud-based and artificial intelligence-powered big data analytics platform Data Lake and Project Management Software, the entire project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to the online portal based. All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through the portal only.
44. **IIT Kharagpur** has developed an Artificial Intelligence-based cyber-physical system to monitor social distancing in public places.
Note: The device will play a proximity alert sound through audio output, whenever any violation will occur. It captures images of the field view and computes the distance as per criteria set by the government.
45. An Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS) has been launched for **Mumbai**.
Note: Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods. The system was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).
46. According to "Poonam Avlokkan" survey the population of the Asiatic lion at the Gir sanctuary grew by approximately **29 per cent**.
Note: The Gujarat Forest Department has recently announced that the number of Asiatic lions in the state has gone up till 674 from 523 that were reported in a Lion Census done five years ago. Which shows almost 29 per cent increase in the population.
47. The 40th GST council meet was held recently virtually, who is the chairperson of the GST council -- **Union Finance Minister**.
Note: Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the virtual 40th GST Council Meeting. The key outcome of this meet was further relief on late fee and interest payable on late payments as a part of compliance burden of businesses. This was the first meeting after COVID-19 breakout in India.
48. **Uday Kotak** will chair the advisory committee formed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation process.
Note: The new 14-member committee, formed in August 2017, will be chaired by Uday Kotak, the Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank. It will suggest and provide professional support on a request from the IBBI or on its own volition on any matter with respect to the Corporate Insolvency resolution and liquidation dealt with by the Board under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
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Note: With the launch of cloud-based and artificial intelligence-powered big data analytics platform Data Lake and Project Management Software, the entire project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to the online portal based. All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through the portal only.
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Note: The device will play a proximity alert sound through audio output, whenever any violation will occur. It captures images of the field view and computes the distance as per criteria set by the government. The system has been successfully tested by installing three prototypes of the device within the IIT-Kharagpur campus
51. **GermiBAN** device launched by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy that kills viruses & other germs by sterilising, sanitising & disinfecting in large areas.
Note: The device has been developed by Atal Incubation Centre & Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP) Women Entrepreneurs (WE) HUB. The recently launched device has the capability of killing 99.9% of surface and air microbes.
52. India's rank in the annual World Competitiveness Index 2020 compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD) --- **43rd**.
Note: In 2019, India was at the 43rd ranking. Since 1989, India had ranked 41st in the World Competitiveness Ranking. However, it slipped to 45th rank in 2017 and secured 44th in 2018.
53. According to the SIPRI Yearbook 2020, India's position as nuclear weapons holder in the world -- **6th**.
Note: However, India's overall possession of nuclear weapons is less than half of Beijing's and also slightly lower than what Pakistan possesses. The number of nuclear warheads in the Indian arsenal pegged at 150 in comparison to the 2019 report (on the basis of 2018) when India had 130-140. On the other hand, China's nuclear arsenal calculated at 320 as compared to 290 of SIPRI's 2019 report while Pakistan's nuclear arsenal remained constant at 160 in comparison to 2019's 150-160.

- 54. IIT Hyderabad** has developed an Artificial Intelligence-powered COVID-19 test, which can be performed at an affordable cost.
Note: The test kit can produce results in around 20 minutes for symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. The test kit has already been field-tested at ESIC Medical College and Hospital in Hyderabad to ascertain its efficiency. It can be transported quickly, enabling the test to be conducted at the point-of-care.
- 55. Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS)** has been launched for **Mumbai City**.
Note: Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods. The system was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The device will be very useful, especially if people need to be evacuated from low-lying areas.
- 56. Mumbai Municipal Corporation** has launched a mobile application "Air-Venti" to provide information on ICU beds, ventilators.
Note: Octaware Technologies Limited, in partnership with Probitry Soft Pvt Ltd, has developed this mobile application for MCGM and therefore the data regarding the ICU beds and Ventilators vacant status. The mobile app 'Air-Venti' launched by the civic body in Mumbai aims to supply overall statistics of ICU beds and ventilators that are occupied and vacant in both govt and private hospitals besides location map, ability to contact hospital through telephonic call and email is additionally available.
- 57. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** going to launch a massive rural public works scheme, Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan in **Six** states of India.
Note: The campaign aims to provide livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens. The campaign of 125 days will be implemented on mission mode. It will involve intensified and focused implementation of 25 different types of works to provide employment to the migrant workers and create infrastructure in the rural regions of the country. The scheme entails a resource envelope of 50 thousand crore rupees.
- 58. IT company TCS** has partnered with IBM to co-develop to accelerate digital and cognitive enterprise transformation.
Note: As part of the tie up, TCS will establish an IBM Enterprise Cloud Architecture Unit, which will include technical professionals from both companies. TCS and IBM plan to co-develop solutions designed to help clients migrate workloads across applications, analytics, data estate and platforms.
- 59. Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** has been inaugurated in **Ranchi**.
Note: The centre was inaugurated by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot, and Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda. This is the 21st Composite Regional Centre (CRC) which will serve to fulfil the needs of Persons with Disabilities in Jharkhand.
- 60. Amitabh Kant** will lead the high-powered committee of top executives of technology companies formed by NITI Aayog to develop a job platform for migrant labours who lost their job during lock down.
Note: The committee will look into technology-based measures to address the issue related to migrant laborers. The platform, which will use technology with public and private participation, will connect job seekers, employers, overnment agencies, skill centers and external partners who are using new technology such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).
- 61. India's first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform, "Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)"** has been launched with headquartered in **New Delhi**.
Note: It has been launched on the lines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to provide clean, affordable, sustainable and equitable supply of energy to every citizen. Notably, IGX will work as a wholly owned subsidiary of the India Energy Exchange (IEX), which is India's energy market platform. IGX is headed by Rajiv Srivastava as its Director.
- 62. Two Indian Startups Stellapps and Zestmoney** were featured in the List of Technology Pioneers of 2020, released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
Note: The List includes the pioneers focusing on carbon capture, alternative meat, circular economies, food security and financial access. More than 25 industries in the list are led by females which is twice the industry average.
- 63. Indian Railways' Central Railway zone** has installed 1st of its kind an Automated Ticket Checking & Managing Access (ATMA) machine at **Nagpur station**.
Note: The machine has been introduced at the station under the New, Innovative Non Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme (NINFRIS) policy to prevent transmission of COVID-19. This is an Innovative Earning Contract, implemented by Nagar (NGP) Central Railways (CR) for the prevention of COVID-19. ATMA ensures safety for passengers & railway staff as it adheres to social distancing norms.
- 64. FICCI** has been managing the Indian Pavilion at Cannes Film Market 2020 on behalf of the GoI at Cannes.
Note: The e-inauguration of the Virtual India Pavilion at Cannes Film Market 2020 was done by Minister of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar. He also unveiled the booklet and poster of the 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which is scheduled to take place from November 20 to 28, 2020 in Goa.
- 65. chartered accountancy firm** has been appointed to audit PM Cares Fund -- **SARC & Associates**.
Note: The appointment is significant because critics have questioned the rationale for a fund other than the

Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for relief work and have also sought more transparency about the usage of monies from the Fund.

66. Researchers at **IIT Bombay** has created a chip named 'Dhruva' that can be mounted in smartphones and navigation devices to find places and routes within the country.

Note: The radio frequency receiver chip was designed in 18 months by students and researchers at IIT Bombay. It can receive in multiple frequency bands and handle weak signals. Besides, it can be converted into digital bits and processed by any standard digital signal processor (DSP) to determine one's location precisely.

67. A Five-day Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene Expo was organized by industry bodies **FICCI**.

Note: The event is to create a self-reliant ecosystem in the Pharmaceuticals and Health & Hygiene Sector by ramping up domestic production. In our resolute fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, this sector has a greater significance.

68. For reducing the carbon dioxide emission caused due to transportation in the country, NITI Aayog will launch the project 'Decarbonising Transport in India' in collaboration with **International Transport Forum (ITF)**.

Note: India's Decarbonising Transport initiative is a part of the DTEE project. DTEE stands for Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies. DTEE is a project of ITF under which apart from India, currently Argentina, Morocco, and Azerbaijan are the participants.

69. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA)' via video conference from **Khagaria** district of Bihar.

Note: The outlay of this campaign is Rs 50,000 Crores and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is the nodal Ministry for its implementation. GKRA, the mission mode campaign of 125 days will cover 116 districts comprising more than 25,000 returnee migrant workers each across 6 states viz. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha.

70. Maharatna company **Coal India Limited** has entered into the partnership with NITI Aayog's flagship initiative Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), to actively support the key innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across India.

Note: The tie up will help the talented youth of our country to develop great innovations that have not developed or fallen short and thus enable them to have a AtmaNirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). This will also create employment at the local level in the coming years

71. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) India has partnered with **IIT Delhi** to support state and national governments in achieving food and nutrition security.

Note: The overall objective of this partnership is to use advanced analytics and operations research to develop practical solutions that support long term strategic planning of procurement, storage, and movement of food grains by agencies such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI). It also focuses on to create cost-effective supply chain networks for distribution of food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at the state level.

72. What is the budget outlay for the recently approved Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) by the Union Cabinet -- **15,000 crore**.

Note: The aim of setting up AHIDF is to unlock private sector investments in the animal husbandry sector. Through the fund, Infrastructural developments will be promoted in dairy, animal feed, and meat processing plants. As per Government estimate, the fund will help in creating up to 35 lakh jobs across the country.

73. The Union Cabinet has approved the declaration of the Kushinagar Airport as an international airport, it is located in **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note: Kushinagar is a Buddhist pilgrimage town where Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana. The move will provide a much-needed boost to the tourism sector of the country in the post-COVID-19 world as International connectivity will increase number of foreign and as well as domestic tourists.

74. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved additional investment of USD 121.27 million by ONGC Videsh Ltd. in Shwe oil and gas project located in **Myanmar**.

Note: OVL, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), had picked up a stake in the Shwe Project in Myanmar in 2002. The firm has invested USD 722 million in the project till March 31, 2019. The first gas from the Shwe Project was received in July 2013 and plateau production was reached in December 2014.

75. **Nitin Gadkari** launched the scheme 'Distressed Assets Fund- Sub- Ordinate Debt for MSMEs' announced as part of AtmaNirbhar Bharat Package by GoI.

Note: The scheme is also called as Distressed Assets Fund- Sub- Ordinate Debt for MSMEs. This scheme was announced as a part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Package by Finance Minister.

76. As per the data released by the United States (US) Treasury Department what is India's position as a holder of US government securities -- **12th**.

Note: Notably, the holding touched a record high of \$177.5 billion in February, 2020 which was drastically reduced in March. The country with maximum exposure to US government securities is Japan at US\$1.266 trillion followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK) at the second and third positions, respectively at the end of April 2020.

77. **Adani Power Ltd** will acquire US-based The AES Corporation's 49 per cent equity stake in Odisha Power Generation Corporation.

Note: Adani Power Ltd (APL) has signed an agreement to acquire the 49% of stake (a total of 89,30,237 equity shares) in Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) from the affiliates of the US-based global energy company, AES Corporation (AES) for USD 135 million (around Rs 1,019 crore). The remaining 51% stake in OPGC is held by the Government of Odisha. The 49% stake includes the total issued, paid-up and subscribed equity share capital.

78. A behaviour change campaign named 'Navigating the New Normal' has been launched by NITI Aayog in partnership with **Melinda Gates Foundation**.

Note: As the country is now in an Unlock phase, the aim is to develop an appropriate COVID safe behavior in the country, such as by making people adapt to wearing masks as a part of their daily routine. Until a vaccine is developed, it is essential for the citizens of the country to adopt certain behavioral changes in their day to day life by practicing hand hygiene, wearing masks, etc.

79. As per the Annual Tuberculosis Report 2020 released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare what is the percentage rise in TB patient in 2019 - **14%**.

Note: It should be noted that the sustainable goal of eradicating TB globally is 2030, but the Indian government is committed to achieve this target in the country by 2025.

80. Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has become the 1st airport in India to get an indigenously developed Aviation Weather Monitoring System (AWMS) at both ends of the runway.

Note: The technology is developed by Bengaluru-based CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL). The AWMS sensor has been installed on a 10 meters mast which is a 1st of its kind, designed by NAL.

81. Two Indian Institutes **IIT Ropar** and **IIT Indore** secured their ranks in the top 100 in the "THE Young University Rankings 2020" released by the Times Higher Education.

Note: The Times Higher Education (THE) released THE Young University Rankings 2020 for the universities which are 50 years old or younger. The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (Pune) and Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar ranked 101-150.

82. Ministry of Culture is celebrating the "Sankalp Parva" from 28th June to 12 July 2020.

Note: This initiative has been launched following the call of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to plant at least five trees either in Office campus or wherever it is possible in order to ensure clean and healthy environment of the country. Under the "Sankalp Parva" celebrations, Ministry of Culture expects its Subordinate Offices, Academies, Attached Institutions as well as Affiliated Institutions to plant trees in its campus or at the surroundings wherever it is possible.

83. The Government of India has signed an agreement with World Bank to provide affordable housing to the urban poor of **Tamil Nadu** state.

Note: The agreement signed has two projects under it- (i) Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program and (ii) Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project. The loans for both the project are from the lending arm of the World Bank Group the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

84. Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan virtually inaugurated Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service (QIS) in **Chandigarh**.

Note: The battery swapping technology provides the best alternative to slow charging and enables drivers to optimize the use of the operational hours. The model was initiated to target the commercial segment like electric autos, rickshaws, electric 2W and the electric vehicle, which is factory fitted or retrofitted.

May

1. The central government has brought the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) under **Jal Shakti Ministry**.

Note: Earlier it was under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. This decision is a formality of business allotment, which means that the authority must report to the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The move will have no impact on the independent nature of the functioning of the authority. Water management authorities of other rivers have also been brought under the ministry, which was earlier under the same ministry as CWMA.

2. Atanu Chakraborty chaired the task force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) which submitted its Final Report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Note: The task force has submitted its Final Report on NIP for FY 2019-25 projecting total infrastructure investment of Rs 111 lakh crore during a 5-year span of FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25. The report highlighted policy deficits and challenges in India's infrastructure sector and recommended reforms to scale up investment in the sector. For NIP projects, the Centre would invest 39% of the projected expenditure while states' share would be 40%, followed by private sector with 21%.

3. According to Mercom India Research's 'India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020' report **7.3 Giga Watt (GW)** solar energy generation capacity India has added during calendar year 2019.

Note: According to Mercom India Research's 'India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020' report, India has

installed 7.3 Giga Watt (GW) of solar power in Calendar Year (CY) 2019. India has total solar installations of approximately 35.7 GW by the end of December 2019. Mercom Communications India, a subsidiary of global clean energy communications and consulting firm Mercom Capital Group, has released its report 'India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020.

4. India's rank in the 7th edition of 'Open Budget Survey 2019' conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP) -- **53rd**.

Note: In the survey time New Zealand has been topped the list with a score of 87. The global average transparency score on this survey was 45. The survey ranked the countries in 5 different categories based on their scores. [0-20: scant, 21-40: minimal, 41-60: limited, 61-80: substantial, 81-100: extensive]. It evaluates each nation's 8 key budget documents of the Central or Federal Government, and assesses whether these are made public, in a timely manner, and provide comprehensive information.

5. **National Council for Science & Technology**

Communication (NCSTC) has initiated a programme on health and risk communication focusing on COVID-19 titled "Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)".

Note: Its aim is to convey authentic best practices to the general public to minimize the risk of transmission of virus at all levels, in the absence of vaccines and cure for COVID-19. This programme will provide scientific awareness and health preparedness to combat the pandemic scenario like COVID-19 outbreak which has posed concerns and challenges around the globe.

6. **Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) India Private Limited** has started the production of Coal for the first time.

Note: The coal allocated to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) in 2016 with a capacity of 20 million tonne per annum from the Talabira II and III mines of Odisha will suffice the requirements of existing and future coal fired power plants. The NLC will generate competitive power in the future since the coal of grade G 12 and the stripping ratio of this mine is 1.09. NLCIL achieved Renewable Energy Generation capacity of 1404 MW comprising 1353 MW of Solar and 51 MW of Wind Power

7. National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) has permitted the use of 98.59 hectares of land for opencast coal mining project in **Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve in Assam**.

Note: The coal mining project will be done by North-Easter Coal Field (NECF), a unit of Coal India Limited. While, the rest of the area may be used for underground coal mining. Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve that includes the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary (also known as Jeyapore Rainforest) consists of an 111.19 sq km area of rain forests and several reserve forests in Sivasagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.

8. **Ravi Shankar Prasad** attended the Extraordinary Virtual G20 Digital Economy Ministers meeting was held to discuss the challenges posed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: The meeting was attended by Digital Ministers of G20 Members, invited countries and International Organizations. India was represented by Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad.

9. Name the webinar organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and National Institute of Urban Affairs on theme "The future of River Management" --

IDEAthon.

Note: Recently, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) organized an IDEAthon on "The Future of River Management". The event aimed to explore how the Covid-19 crisis can shape river management strategies for the future. The IDEAthon sought to brainstorm the learnings from Covid-19 pandemic, the following lockdown and its impact on river management.

10. India's rank in the in scientific publication in 2018 among the countries -- **Third**.

Note: The National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), Department of Science and Technology (DST), has conducted a survey on Research and Development (R&D) Statistics and Indicators 2019-20. The survey included more than 6800 S&T Institutions spread across varied sectors like central government, state governments, higher education, public sector industry, and private sector industry in the country.

11. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated in the virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the first time since 2014, **Azerbaijan** presented the group.

Note: Modi became the first full-time Indian prime minister to skip the NAM summit in 2016 and again in 2019. India was represented by the vice president in the last two summits in 2016 in Venezuela and 2019 in Azerbaijan. Manmohan Singh had participated at the Tehran NAM meet in 2012. Azerbaijan is the president of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) grouping till 2022 and the meet is being organised under the leadership of its president Ilham Aliyev.

12. India's first "COVID-19 test bus" has been launched by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Alumni Council in **Mumbai**.

Note: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Alumni Council launched a "COVID-19 test bus" in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The COVID-19 Testing bus will reduce 80% of the testing cost without compromising on the testing capacity. According to the IIT alumni council, a global alumni body for all the 23 IITs this will increase the testing capacity within 100 days and support the health department in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic

13. IIT Kanpur has partnered with Bharat Dynamics Ltd for development of affordable ventilators for Covid-19 treatment.

Note: Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur has joined hands with Bharat Dynamics Limited for the development of affordable ventilators for Covid-19 treatment. An MoU to this effect, has been signed between BDL, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kanpur's incubator Foundation for Innovation and Research in Science and Technology and Nocco Robotics Private Limited (NRPL), an incubated start-up of IIT Kanpur.

14. NITI Aayog has launched virtual 'Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan' to ensure well being of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic in association with Piramal Foundation.

Note: The aim of the campaign is to create awareness about various aspects of senior citizens' health and lifestyle including preventive measures and requisite behavioural changes in view of COVID-19 pandemic. It focus on behaviour change, access to services, early detection & tracking of COVID-19 symptoms

15. Operation Samudra Setu has been launched by the Indian Navy as a part of a national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.

Note: The operation aims to evacuate personnel who repatriate Indian citizens from overseas. Under the operation, a total of 1000 persons are planned to be evacuated during the first trip, catering for COVID-related social distancing norms vis-a-vis the carrying capacity and medical facilities available onboard. This operation is done by the Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Health, and various other agencies of Central/State governments.

16. CISF has launched 'e-karyalay' an electronic office application to enable the movement of files and documents without physical touch.

Note: It is designed by CISF in-house technical team for the usage of the 1.62 lakhs personnel & it resembles each and every function of traditional file movement. It has digital signature features to handle various securities related concerns and keep pace with existing standards. App's 'Dak' or letters management section handles all sorts of communication between various levels of functional hierarchy & it enables to transfer the dak (snail mail) directly to the file noting.

17. Under chairmanship the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a committee to frame standard professional indemnity policy for insurance intermediaries that can be issued by all the insurers-- **Yegnapriya Bharat**.

Note: The panel has been asked to prepare a standard professional indemnity policy "which covers all the contingencies and conditions (retroactive date, indemnity limits, excess, etc) mentioned in the Regulations" that can be issued by all insurers. The development came after the regulator witnessed several instances where policies taken by insurance intermediaries did not comply with the regulatory

provisions. It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act - IRDA Act, 1999 as an autonomous & statutory body to regulate & promote insurance and reinsurance in the country.

18. Raj Kumar Singh unveiled e-book titled "A Report on Impact of Energy Efficiency Measures" for the year 2018-19.

Note: India reduced energy intensity in 2018-19 by 20% as compared to the 2005 level. India has set a target to reduce the energy intensity by 33-35% by 2030 compared to 2005 level. The energy efficiency efforts have also contributed in reducing 151.74 Million Tonnes of CO₂ (MTCO₂) emissions (in 2018-19), whereas last year (2017-18) this number was 108 MTCO₂.

19. India will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Coking coal with **Russia**.

Note: Indian Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Russian Energy Minister alexander Novak held a meeting through video conference. The ministers reviewed ongoing projects. The ministers emphasized on the cooperation in coking sector. They also held talks about signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Coking coal. The Russian minister briefed about the OPEC+ agreement that was recently signed

20. Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched the mobile application 'AYUSH Sanjivani' App and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation.

Note: The app was developed by the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY). The AYUSH Sanjivani mobile app will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact on the prevention of COVID-19. It is expected to reach out to a target of 50 lakh people.

21. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) the country's unemployment rate rose to **27.11%**.

Note: As per the Mumbai-based think tank, the unemployment rate in the urban areas is high in red zones due to COVID-19 cases at 29.22%, against 26.69% for the rural areas. In the previous week ending April 26, the urban unemployment rate was at 21.45% and the rural unemployment rate at 20.88%. CMIE's weekly series of data indicated a steady rise in unemployment since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in India, showing a sharp spike of 23.81% from the week of March 29.

22. The Defence Ministry has signed a contract with **Tata Power** for Phase-II of Modernisation of Air Field Infrastructure of 37 airfields for Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.

Note: The proposal is approved by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The project will give a boost to

- over 250 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) which will directly benefit from the execution of various activities of this project.
- 23. National Institute of Virology, Pune** has developed first indigenous antibody-based ELISA test kit - COVID KAVACH for diagnosis of novel Corona Virus.
Note: This test is expected to change the dynamics of COVID-19 testing in the country. The kit has displayed high sensitivity and accuracy in the validation tests at different sites. It can test around 90 samples in approximately two and half hours.
- 24. Mission Sagar** has been started by the Government of India to provide assistance to Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations amid the coronavirus crisis.
Note: Under the mission, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari has been deployed, carrying on board two medical assistance teams, essential Food Items and COVID related Medicines and Special Ayurvedic Medicines five to Island countries in the Indian Ocean. The five countries are Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.
- 25.** The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) tie-up with **Bharat Biotech** companies to develop indigenous COVID-19 vaccine.
Note: ICMR has shared one of the 11 virus strains that it managed to culture with Bharat Biotech. The industry partnership is to develop the vaccine candidate and ICMR has transferred the technology to them. One of the strains has now been successfully transferred from NIV to Bharat Biotech International Ltd. (BBIL) in Hyderabad as part of the partnership. ICMR-NIV will provide continuous support to BBIL for vaccine development.
- 26. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras** has designed and developed a personal protective equipment (PPE) doffing unit for Government Chengalpattu Medical College.
Note: Financial support for construction of the doffing unit came from corporates through their CSR arms. Koshiy Varghese and Anil Jayachandran, professors in the civil engineering department, fabricated the unit in collaboration with a team of public works department officials at the hospital, complying with the safety norms required for COVID-19 pandemic.
- 27. Research Centre Imarat (RCI)** of the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) has developed Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitizer (DHRUVS).
Note: The RCI of DRDO based in Hyderabad has developed a Ultra Violet Cabinet to sanitize mobile phones, laptops, iPads, passbooks, challans and paper. It can also be used to sanitize currency notes and papers. It provides 360-degree exposure to UV rays to the objects placed inside the cabinet. DHRUV is a contactless ultraviolet sanitization cabinet that is highly useful to sanitize electronic gadgets.
- 28.** Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh recently approved the abolition of 9,304 posts in the military engineering services on the recommendation of **Shekatkar Committee**.
Note: The Union Ministry of Defence had constituted a Committee of Experts under Chairmanship of Lt Gen (Retd) DB Shekatkar for recommending measures to enhance combat capability & rebalancing defence expenditure of Armed Forces with an aim to increase "teeth to tail ratio". The committee had submitted around 99 recommendations. If all the recommendations are implemented according to the committee, India can save Rs 25, 000 crores.
- 29.** As per International Energy Agency (IEA) "Global Energy Review 2020" due to COVID 19 India's energy demand falls by **30%**.
Note: It means that with each additional week of lockdown, India's annual energy demand is reduced by 0.6%. The impact on Q1 2020 energy demand in India was modest, with demand increasing by 0.3 relative to Q1 2019. In India, energy demand would decline for the first time, following on from low demand growth in 2019. The report is based on an analysis of around 100 days of real-data of 2020.
- 30.** Vehicle manufacture **Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.** has announced the launch of 'Own-Online', an end-to-end online vehicle ownership solution.
Note: Mahindra Own-Online will be a one-stop available 24x7 where customers can finance, insure, exchange, accessorise and own a Mahindra vehicle in four steps, without having to visit a dealership. This platform has been launched by (M&M) to offer its customers a transparent, seamless and contactless experience from selection to the delivery of the vehicle. Through this platform, a customer can own a Mahindra vehicle in four simple steps, from their homes, in few clicks.
- 31.** CSIR institute has developed a Non Invasive BiPAP Ventilator "SwasthVayu" to treat COVID-19 patients -- **National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore**.
Note: The unique features of the Non-Invasive BiPAP Ventilator "SwasthVayu" helps to alleviate the fear of the virus spread. The ventilator is very simple to use without any specialized nursing and is cost effective, compact and configured with majority of indigenous components. A BiPAP Non Invasive Ventilator "SwasthVayu" is a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control system.
- 32. Bengaluru** cities has launched "Pranavayu Programme" to create awareness about the respiratory health of the residents.
Note: The initiative aims to help people in increasing oxygen level of the people by themselves. This will help them to keep track about their health before their ailments become fatal. There are several deaths reported in the country due to Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI). Especially, COVID-19 causes

Hypoxia (deficiency of oxygen in tissues). This is like starving the body of oxygen.

33. Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched "Bharosa" helpline for **Central University of Odisha**.

Note: This helpline has been launched with an objective of relieving the student community from the distress caused during the troubled time of the COVID-19 pandemic. All University Students of Odisha will be offered Cognitive Emotional Rehabilitation Services via this helpline. The Helpline "Bharosa" will address the issue of distress faced by any student of any University in Odisha in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic

34. **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated 80km strategically crucial road link connecting Lipulekh pass (China Border) with Dharchula in Uttarakhand through video conferencing.

Note: The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has constructed the road that originates from Ghatiabagarh and it ends at Lipulekh Pass which is a gateway to Kailash-Mansarovar. It will help pilgrims visiting Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet as it is around 90 kms from the Lipulekh pass. This road, which has an altitude ranging from 6000 to 17060 feet, constructed along the banks of river Kali between India and Nepal.

35. (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' announced various modifications in the **Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) Scheme**.

Note: The modification will be done to boost research in the country & to enable more students to avail the benefit under the scheme. The scheme is designed to improve the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in the country & with attractive fellowships it seeks to attract the best talent into research through realizing the vision of development by innovation.

36. To send medical aid to five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amid COVID-19 pandemic India has initiated -- "**Mission Sagar**".

Note: In this regard, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food items, COVID related Medicines including Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams. For Maldives, 600 tonnes of food items will also be provided and for Comoros medicines related to dengue would be given. This mission is launched in coordination with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and other agencies of GOI.

37. Two scientific papers on child survival published by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative stated that the under-5 Mortality Rate in India has dropped by what percent since 2000 -- **49 per cent**.

Note: The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative has recently published two scientific papers. The initiative has given its report on district-level trends of

child growth and child mortality. The findings show there were 1.04 million under-5 deaths in 2017, down from 2.24 million deaths in 2000. The child mortality rate has dropped by 49% between 2000 and 2017.

38. industry body **ASSOCHAM** has organised the Indo-Bangladesh "Virtual Conference".

Note: Union DoNER Minister of State (I/C) Dr Jitendra Singh addressed the virtual conference. The conference featured the participation of Minister of Commerce Bangladesh Tipu Munshi, Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma and Riva Ganguli Das High commissioner to Bangladesh.

39. **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has organized the digital conference, RE-START - 'Reboot the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations is association with Technology Development Board (TDB)

Note: The Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, and Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan addressed the digital conference, RE-START - 'Reboot the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations. The conference was organized by the Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

40. India's rank in the recently released Global Energy Transition Index (GET Index) 2020 by the World Economic Forum (WEF) -- **74th**.

Note: The World Economic Forum released Global Energy Transition Index (GET Index). The World Economic Forum has ranked 115 countries based on GET Index in its report "WEF Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2020 report". Sweden has topped the ranking for the third consecutive year. It was followed by Switzerland and Finland.

41. As per the new definition of MSMEs what is the maximum investment limit for a micro unit -- **1 crore**.

Note: The GoI has changed the definition of MSMEs. The new definition has increased the investment limit upwards. Previously, an enterprise with investment up to Rs 25 lakh was called a micro unit. Under the new definition, a firm upto investment of Rs 1 crore is to be called Micro unit, of Rs 10 crore is to be called as small unit and investment greater than Rs 20 crore will be called as medium unit.

42. TVS group, Sundaram Medical Foundation in collaboration with which IITs has developed an automated respiratory assist device Sundaram Ventago -- **IIT Madras**.

Note: This versatile and mobile device will assist the clinicians in constantly monitoring and reporting respiratory parameters. The device has been developed to provide respiratory support to patients through the controlled and automated squeezing of a self-inflating or AMBU bag. To the needy patients, the Sundaram Ventago also provides safety feature such as

audible alarms for line disconnection or in case that the PIP exceeds a certain threshold. With the help of this device, the respiratory support will become more affordable and available to all.

43. For the first time the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has included which region of POK in its weather forecast -- **Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad.**
Note: The department taken this decision as it says that it is a part of India and the country always maintains its position that PoK belongs to India. The agency has included the regions as part of its meteorological sub-division of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in its daily forecast for 'north-west India'.
44. Theme of the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting held through Video Conferencing -- **Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response.**
Note: Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare participated in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting through Video Conference on 14 May. The meeting was held with a theme: Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response.
45. Amount **Rs 3100 crores** has been allocated from Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund Trust to fight against COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: PM CARES (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations) Fund Trust has allocated Rs 3100 crores to fight against COVID-19 pandemic. Out of the total amount around Rs 2000 crores will be allocated for the purchase of ventilators, Rs 1000 crores to care migrant labourers and Rs 100 crores to support vaccine development.
46. Central Government has set up a new body Rice Export Promotion Forum to give impetus to rice exports under the aegis of **APEDA.**
Note: Centre set up a new body Rice Export Promotion Forum to give impetus to rice exports under the aegis of Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Promotion Development Authority (APEDA). The Constitution of Rice Export Promotion Forum has been done considering the importance of exporting rice and inherent the potentials and multifarious issues faced in the exportation.
47. Prime Minister announced the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan with an economic stimulus package worth Rs 20 lakh crores which is almost what percent of GDP – **10%.**
Note: Recently, the Prime Minister has announced the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (or Self-reliant India Mission)' with an economic stimulus package — worth Rs 20 lakh crores aimed towards achieving the mission. The package is expected to focus on land, labour, liquidity and laws

48. Indian Institute of Science (IISc),

Bengaluru has developed a low-cost device to detect the presence of melamine (adulterate) in milk and dairy products.

Note: The techniques currently used to detect the presence of melamine are time-taking and typically require expensive and sophisticated equipment and highly trained personnel. With the help of a newly developed fluorometer device. Researchers were able to detect up to 0.1 parts per million (ppm) of melamine in water and milk, which is much lower than the acceptable limit of 1 ppm.

49. Flagship social security scheme of the Government of India '**Atal Pension Yojna**' has completed five years of its implementation in May 2020.

Note: The scheme is being administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority through National Pension System (NPS). Any citizen of India can join the APY scheme. The age of the subscriber should be between 18-40 years. The contribution levels would vary and would be low if a subscriber joins early and increases if she joins late.

50. Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh has approved Rs 400 crores for **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme.**

Note: The establishment of defence testing infrastructure will provide easy access and thus meet the testing needs of the domestic defence industry. The scheme will run for a period of 5 years & envisages to set up 6 to 8 new test facilities in partnership with private industry. This will facilitate defence production, therefore reduce imports of military equipment and help make the country self-reliant.

51. National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) has partnered with fintech start-up **DotPe** to build its own tech platform.

Note: This platform enables them with online payments for digital ordering, bill settlements, and contactless dining.

DotPe will provide us with a tech solution. This partnership would directly take on existing food-tech aggregators, Zomato and Swiggy.

52. Additional amount **40,000 crores** has been allocated for the under MGNREGS which will help in generating total work of nearly 300 crore person days.

Note: With this allocation, GoI will ensure to address the need for more work including returning migrant workers in Monsoon season as well. It will also led to the creation of larger number of durable and livelihood assets including water conservation assets. Hence it is expected to boost the rural economy through higher production.

53. For multi-mode access to digital/online education Government of India has decided to launch **PM-eVIDYA programme.**

Note: Under the programme the DIKSHA programme will provide "one nation, one digital platform" for

school education in states/UTs. It will also include the launch of Energized Textbooks for all grades. One earmarked TV channel will be launched for per class from 1 to 12 following the concept of “one class, one channel”.

54. Manodarpan initiative will be launched to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for their mental health and emotional well being under the PM-eVIDYA Programme.

Note: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched Manodarpan, an initiative to provide psychological support and counselling to students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional well-being

55. National Disaster Management Authority has developed “National Migrant Information System (NMIS)” to secure information regarding the movement of migrants workers.

Note: An online dashboard “National Migrant Information System (NMIS)” has been developed by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The dashboard has been developed by NDMA to secure information regarding the movement of migrants and to facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across States. A central repository on migrant workers would be maintained by the dashboard NMIS.

56. Landing Craft Utility Ship ‘INLCU L57’ commissioned into Indian Navy in **Port Blair**.

Note: The “INLCU L57” is the seventh LCU Mark IV class warship. The primary role of the warship, being transportation and deployment of main battle tanks, armoured vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore. The first ship of the Mark IV LCU Vessels INLCU L51 was commissioned into Indian Navy in March 2017.

57. Mobile application National Test Abhyas developed by the National Testing Agency will help the candidates to take mock tests for exams such as JEE Mains, NEET, etc.

Note: The mobile application was developed by the National Testing Agency. The application will help the candidates to take mock tests for exams such as JEE Mains, NEET, etc. The application is powered by Artificial Intelligence and therefore the students will get instant results after taking the tests. The application also aims to help the candidates take high quality mock tests from their homes. It is currently available in Android and iOS versions. The main aim of the application is to help students during closure of educational institutions.

58. The Indian Railways operationalized the first 12,000 HP electric locomotive built in Electric Locomotive Factory, Madhepura locomotive establishmet.

Note: The locomotive was built by the French Alstom Company under the Make in India initiative. It is capable of hauling 6000 tonnes at a top speed of 120 km/hr. The locomotive was manufactured as a joint venture between the Indian and French share holding

of 74% and 26%. With this, India has become the sixth country in the world to produce high horse power locomotive.

59. South Central Railway zone has developed a robotic device, “RAIL-BOT” (R-BOT).

Note: R-BOT is getting used to supply medicines, medical accessories and to serve food to the patients, with none need for physical contact. Using this device will enable doctors, nurses and other support medical staff to remain faraway from the danger of contracting infections. The R-BOT is operated through a singular mobile application developed as a part of the Innovation, supported by Wi-Fi facility.

60. Six cities rated 5 star in Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities, for the assessment year 2019-2020.

Note: In rating Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysuru, Indore and Navi Mumbai were rated 5 Star (6 cities). 65 other Cities rated 3 Star and 70 Cities rated 1 Star out of 141 cities. He also launched the revised protocol for the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities.

61. The Union Cabinet has extended Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) till year **2023**.

Note: It is a social security scheme for senior citizens for those who are above 60. The government has fixed its annual rate of return at 7.4% for financial year 2020-21. Now, Senior citizens will have time till March 31, 2023 to invest in Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana which provides higher return than any bank.

62. National Thermal Power corporation (NTPC) has signed an MoU with **ONGC** to set up a joint venture company for renewable energy projects.

Note: The MoU will enable both companies to achieve their respective targets in renewable energy business. As per the MoU, NTPC and ONGC will explore and set up renewable power assets including offshore wind, in India and overseas

63. The National Skills Development Corp. (NSDC), along with an artificial intelligence company will create a **skilled and certified workers** platform to map.

Note: The skill management information system aims to create a local ecosystem in every region to minimise the need to depend on migrants, as well as to provide workers with opportunities closer to their homes. NSDC is the implementing body of the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship. The platform will map details of skilled professionals by region, as well as demand across industries, using artificial intelligence-based solutions.

64. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a scheme for 100% solarisation of **Konark** city of India

Note: The scheme has been launched to develop the historic Sun Temple in the town of Konark. Also, the scheme will develop the town into Surya Nagri. The scheme mainly aims at promoting solar energy.

65. CII organization has organized the E-Conclave of Defence MSME which was chaired by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

- Note:** The E-conclave was organized by CII (Confederation of Indian Industry), SIDM (Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers) and Department of Defence Production. Around 800 Defence MSMEs participated in the conclave that was held through video conferencing.
66. Public sector oil company **Oil India Ltd(OIL)** will get the environmental clearance for extension drilling and testing of hydrocarbons at 7 locations inside the Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (NP).
Note: The clearance was given as part of the Centre's target to reduce 10% imports and the Northeast Vision 2030. And the commercial production from this area shall also enable OIL to meet the same centre's target
67. India's position in manufacturing personal protective equipment (PPE) body coveralls -- **Second**.
Note: PPE body coveralls are crucial to safeguard against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. China is the world's leading producer of PPE body coveralls, crucial to safeguard against the COVID-19 pandemic.
68. **National Health Authority** is the nodal agency for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
Note: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare (HFW), Harsh Vardhan to mark 1 crore treatments (milestone) of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The National Health Authority (NHA) is responsible for implementing the scheme.
69. In the first meeting of the 15th Finance Commission's on Fiscal Consolidation Roadmap it estimated India's GDP growth to **-5% to 1%**.
Note: The first meeting of the 15th Finance Commission's (XVFC) committee on Fiscal Consolidation Roadmap was held through video conferencing (VC). The committee headed by Nand Kishore (NK) Singh has recommended the judgement of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on monetisation of fiscal deficit.
70. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm **REC Foundation** has partnered with TajSATS to provide specially made nutritious meal packets for medical staff in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
Note: REC is already providing cooked meals and ration to the needy across the nation in collaboration with various district authorities, NGOs and electricity distribution companies. Every day, 300 food packets are being delivered as a gesture of gratitude to the frontline healthcare warriors of New Delhi. Now with REC- TajSATS initiative, over 18,000 meals will be delivered in New Delhi.
71. Indian software company **TCS** has launched 'Ignio' an AI Digital Workspace solution.
Note: Tapping into the rising demand for automation amid the covid-19 pandemic, Digitate, a software venture of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has announced the launch of ignio AI. Digital Workspace. It is an end-user experience management software that helps employees and service desk teams boost productivity.
72. **Indian Navy** has formed PPE kit with innovative breathable fabric material.
Note: This PPE kit provides comfort to healthcare workers working against COVID-19 pandemic wearing multi-layered coverall PPE treating patients within the hot and humid condition for quite 12 hours. The ability of the material to permit water vapour to undergo and stop the water from entering is understood as Breathability.
73. **Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad** has developed an AI-based Attendance application (AINA) which allows non-contact based personnel verification, using facial features of the person in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic _____.
Note: AINA can be deployed with minimal upgradation to the legacy attendance infrastructure with RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) readers. AINA can be installed on a normal desktop computer with a GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) based display adapter.
74. Market Regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹7 lakh on **NHAI** for delay in disclosing financial results.
Note: The market regulator observed that NHAI had delayed filing half yearly financial results between FY16 and FY19. The delays ranged from 4 days to 78 days. According to Sebi's listing obligation and disclosure norms (LODR), the half yearly results have to be filed within 45 days from the end of the half year.
75. The Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering of IIT **Delhi** has developed a breathable and light-weighted Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to fight COVID-19.
Note: The Head of the Department Professor Dr SM Ishtiaque along with his PhD student, Biswa Ranjan Das, Scientist 'D' and Assistant Director, DMSRDE (DRDO), Kanpur, developed an advanced version of PPE. Priced at ₹905 (including GST), the PPE overall would cost around ₹300 for one time given the option to reuse.
76. The Army Commanders' Conference was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Army Commanders' Conference is an apex level biannual event that was earlier scheduled to be held in April 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. It was then planned to be conducted in two phases. The second phase of the conference will be held in the last week of June 2020.
77. The length of the tunnel built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Rishikesh-Dharasu Highway (NH 94) in Uttarakhand -- **440 Km**.
Note: Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the 440 metre-long tunnel as part of the Chardham Connectivity Project in Chamba. The tunnel will significantly reduce the time taken by travellers on the Rishikesh-Dharasu and Gangotri stretch of the Chardham Highway (NH 94).

78. Electric mobility company Ola Electric Mobility has acquired Amsterdam-based electric scooter-maker Etergo.

Note: It would leverage Etergo's design and engineering capabilities to build its smart electric two-wheeler for international and Indian markets. Ola Electric aimed to launch its global electric two-wheeler in India in 2021.

79. IIT Madras has developed magnesium alloy to replace steel, aluminium in cars.

Note: There has been an excellent deal of specialising in lowering the carbon footprint of vehicles by using light-weight material in their bodies. Lighter vehicles consume less fuel to run and are therefore play a strategic role in increasing energy-efficiency. Vehicular emissions alone contribute 27 per cent of total CO2 emissions currently.

80. Adille Sumariwala will chair the 11-member committee constituted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to monitor annual grant and affiliation fee of its members for the 2020-2021 cycle.

Note: Besides Mr. Sumariwala, the panel includes D R Saini, Vagish Pathak, S M Hashmi, Sekhar Chandra Biswas, Vithal Shrigaonkar, M P Singh, D V Seetharama Rao, Abu Mehta, Madhukant Pathak and B K Roka. The committee will review and monitor issues concerning the disbursement of IOA's annual grant to its members in coordination with the finance department

81. Recently, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has started looking into allegations against **Alphabet**.

Note: According to the allegations, Google is abusing its market position to unfairly promote its mobile

payments app (Google Pay) in the country. The complaint alleges the USA tech giant more prominently showcases its Google Pay app inside its Android app store in India, giving it an unfair advantage over apps of competitors.

82. Tejas Mk-1 FOC aircraft has been inducted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) into the recently resurrected No 18 Squadron the "Flying Bullets" at Air Force Station **Sulur**.

Note: Tejas Mk-1 FOC is a single engine, light weight, highly agile and all weather multi role fighter aircraft. The aircraft is capable of air-to-air refueling and hence makes the Squadron the first in the IAF to induct this platform.

83. Swath Sagar has been given to the plan to modernize the fisheries sector which is part of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

Note: Also, Government will register "Sagar Mitra" and encourage formation of Fish Farmers Producer Organizations (FFPOs) to help achieve the PMMSY goals by enhancing domestic fish consumption with corresponding health benefits.

84. Missile Park Agneeprastha being established in Eastern Naval Command (ENS) at INS Kalinga, Visakhapatnam.

Note: Agneeprastha aims to capture glimpses of Missile History of INS Kalinga. Agneeprastha is to provide a one-stop arena for motivation and stimulation of people regarding the missiles and related technologies, from school children to Naval personnel and their families.

Important News – State

September

1. Madhya Pradesh government has launched 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo' campaign.

Note: During the campaign over 7 lakh, people took the oath to maintain cleanliness and eight lakh 70 thousand people were approached to make compost from wet waste. Four lakh 65 thousand masks were distributed with the help of citizens under the mask awareness campaign.

2. According to the J&K official languages Bill 2020, Bhoti is not an official of Jammu and Kashmir union territories.

Note: The J&K official languages Bill 2020 will be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming Monsoon Session. This bill will include Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri as official languages of the Union Territory. Bhoti is spoken in Ladakh region

3. Odisha government has launched AMA SAHAR and SWACHHA SAHAR web app.

Note: With the launching of web app, the urban local bodies (ULBs) will be able to submit utilisation

certificate online which will bring better fiscal management.

4. Under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Programme, Goa is paired with **Jharkhand**.

Note: Stalls of Jharkhand displayed delicacies from that state and Goans enjoyed savouring the same. Folk dances presented by Jharkhand artistes also were appreciated by Goan artistes. Later Goan artistes also visited Jharkhand and presented Goan folk dances.

5. Andhra Pradesh government has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) to set up a Bulk Drug Park (BDP).

Note: The objective of the MoU is to develop a collaborative partnership between the State government and CSIR-IICT to establish Bulk Drug Pharma park in the State. It seeks financial support from the Centre.

6. Punjab government has launched 'I Rakhwali' app for Environment Protection.

- Note:** With this new initiative, the state govt aims to safeguard the state forest area by making people a stakeholder in this process. The state govt came up with the concept of the app to encourage people to come forward and contribute to the protection of the environment.
- Uttar Pradesh** is all set to create the Udyog Bandhu-like body for farmers to assist Farmer Producer organizations.
Note: Uttar Pradesh (UP) is all set to create a dedicated body, on the lines of Udyog Bandhu, to assist enterprising farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in investing in projects for post-harvest infrastructure management and community farming assets with the help of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) that the Centre had announced in August.
 - First ever Cannabis medicine project will be setup in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: Cannabis Medicine Project will be set up in collaboration with Canada and Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu. It is the first major foreign investment in Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union Territory (UT).
 - Tamil Nadu** state constituted a seven-member high-level committee to study the National Education Policy of the Centre and to make recommendations.
Note: Vice-Chancellors of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University K. Pitchumani; Alagappa University N. Rajendran; Madurai Kamaraj University M. Krishnan; and Thiruvalluvar University S. Thamarai Selvi are among the members in the panel.
 - Haryana** government has launched Educational WhatsApp Chatbot “Apka Mitra” and Online Admission Platform for Undergraduate courses in government-aided and self-financed colleges for the new academic session 2020-21.
Note: ‘Apka Mitra’ is the first-of-its-kind educational WhatsApp Chatbot to resolve admission related queries of the students. Students can send a message on Whatsapp chatbot number 7419444449 to get information regarding admission & scholarship.
 - Andhra Pradesh** government has launched Sampoonna Poshana Yojana scheme for providing food to lactating mothers and pregnant women so as to fulfil their nutritional requirements.
Note: The scheme aims at providing food to lactating mothers and pregnant women so as to fulfil their nutritional requirements. The scheme will bring down malnutrition among the vulnerable section of state.
 - Delhi** government has inaugurated an online portal for e-filing of consumers’ complaints.
Note: Accessible via delhistatecommission.nic.in, the software has been developed by National Informatic Centre (NIC) in coordination with State Bank of India, which is providing payment gateway for payment of fees digitally. The Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DSCDRC) decided to launch the portal for the convenience of consumers especially due to the pandemic.
 - Assam** government has launched Kitchen Garden to promote nutritious food, as part of the Poshan Maah.
Note: Kitchen Garden or Nutri garden will be set up at Anganwadi Centres and Government Primary Schools across the state. Poshan Maah is India’s flagship programme, launched in March 2018 to improve the nutritional status of children up to 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
 - Tamil Nadu** government has launched a portal for eye donation.
Note: He also pledged to donate his eyes as part of the National Eye Donation Fortnight. The portal will enable persons who wish to pledge to donate their eyes - www.hmis.tn.gov.in/eye-donor.
 - Karnataka Chief Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa inaugurated a flyover named after historic personality **Veer Savarkar**.
Note: The inauguration of the 400-metre long flyover built on Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road in the city. The Bengaluru’s civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) built the flyover at the cost of Rs 34 crore.
 - Robotic Process Automation (RPA) software company, UiPath has partnered with **Andhra Pradesh** Skill Development Corporation to bridge the growing skill requirements.
Note: The programme is designed to bridge the growing skill requirements and build RPA resiliency in more than 50,000 students, in the next one year. In line with this, APSSDC will act as the regional center for all UiPath Academic Alliance activities in the State. To start off, UiPath will onboard 100 APSSDC institutes.
 - From which state country’s second and South India’s first “Kisan Train” was flagged off- **Andhra Pradesh**
Note: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy & Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar flagged off the train, via a video link from New Delhi and Amaravati. This train, loaded with 14 parcel vans, will cover a distance of 2,150 km in 40 hours.
 - An Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (IGRAMS) has been launched in **Jammu & Kashmir**.
Note: The system will replace the current portal launched by the government in 2018. This is the first UT that will be linked to the central government system—CPGRAMS.
 - Odisha** state government has launched ‘GARIMA’ scheme to ensure the economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state.
Note: State Housing and Urban Development department will be the scheme’s implementing agency in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha. The scheme will benefit around 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families.

20. India's largest piggery mission was launched at **Meghalaya**.
Note: With funding of Rs 200 crore, the mission will have a transformative effect benefitting over 20,000

enterprises in Meghalaya. The Meghalaya State Piggery Mission was launched with the support of NCDC.

August

21. **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched a public awareness campaign "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" from August 1-15.
Note: The Scheme will spread awareness about wearing masks as prevention from Covid-19 infection. Establishment of Mask Banks, where people can donate masks which in turn will be distributed free to poor people. Citizens can also donate masks through NGOs in every district/urban body.
22. **Maharashtra** government approved MagNet project worth Around Rs 1,000 crore to Help Farmers.
Note: The project aims to help farmers across all districts in the state for the next 6 years. This will boost the fruit and vegetable production and will improve processing and minimise the losses in the sector of perishables.
23. **Andhra Pradesh** state government has signed an MoU with Hindustan Unilever Ltd, P&G and ITC to Support Economic Empowerment of Women.
Note: The MoU was signed in the presence of Y S Jaganmohan Reddy at his camp office in Tadepalli. The state government of Andhra Pradesh is set to launch two schemes YSR Cheyutha and YSR Asara to support the empowerment of women.
24. Union territories **Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu** has launched E-Gyan Mitra mobile application for online education.
Note: Through the app, the students from primary till the higher secondary can take online classes along with attempting. The app will have lectures and quizzes posted by teachers along with a system of monitoring in which teachers can monitor students' progress
25. 'Thenzawl Golf Resort' project has been inaugurated in **Mizoram**.
Note: The project will develop Golf Tourism attracting both national and international tourist in the country. It will have an international standard of 18 holes Golf Course with a total cost of Rs 92.25 crore. Designed by: Canadian based Golf Course Architect Firm Graham Cooke & Associates and 30 Eco Log Huts.
26. 'E-Raksha Bandhan' awareness programme launched by Andhra Pradesh is related to **Cybercrime**.
Note: It is a month-long online campaign that will create awareness on Cyber crimes across the State with slogan 'Let us make August a month of e-freedom and e-safety. It will be organised by various organisations including Crime Investigation Department (CID), FM Radio, Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC), Cyber Peace Foundation and other organisations.

27. **Haryana** state government has launched "Pariwar Pehchan Patra" to enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes.
Note: This is to monitor each family (around 54 Lakh) living across Haryana. PPP each family will be considered as a single unit and will be allotted a 8 digit unique identification number. The 8-digit number will enable seamless delivery of state government services.
28. **Andhra Pradesh** state government has entered into an MoU with the Indian School of Business (ISB) for setting up a Policy lab to spur growth with special focus on economic development and job creation.
Note: The MOU will nurture a think tank by setting up a Policy lab called the GoAP-ISB Policy Lab, a public policy laboratory to drive evidence-based policy decisions.
29. **Uttarakhand** state is set develop India's first Snow Leopard Conservation centre.
Note: The main aim of the centre is to conserve and restore Himalayan ecosystems. It also aims to conserve elusive snow leopards and other endangered Himalayan species. A number of snow leopards have been spotted in the districts of Pithoragarh and Uttarkashi. However, the actual figures are unknown. So far, the state government has concluded that there are 86 snow leopards in the state.
30. **Haryana** state government has launched "Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana" to provide free sanitary napkins to girls and women of below poverty line (BPL) families.
Note: This scheme was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar through video conferencing. This scheme focusing on adolescent girls and women between 10 to 45 years of age of about 11,24,871 BPL families will provide a 6 piece packet of free sanitary napkins every month for a year.
31. **Haryana** state government has launched "Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana" to provide fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder to women and children.
Note: This scheme was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar through video conferencing. This scheme was initiated under the aegis of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).
32. **Chhattisgarh** government has launched "Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahaak Samajik Suraksha Yojana" for tendu leaves collectors.

- Note:** Used for making bidis (leaf-wrapped cigarettes), these are collected by forest dwellers and from them it is purchased by the state government. Mahendra Karma was popularly known as Bastar tiger for his tough stand against Naxals. He was among 29 people, including senior Congress leaders, who were killed in a Naxal attack in Jhiram valley of Bastar district on May 25, 2013.
- 33. Maharashtra** became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom.
Note: Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray announced the partnership with Google which will blend google's learning programmes that integrate the classroom approach with online learning, over a virtual launch event. The aim of the partnership is to progress Maharashtra in education with effective use of online resources, platforms and technology and to bridge the gap in education amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- 34.** India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, Flipkart has signed an MoU with One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme of **Uttar Pradesh** government.
Note: The MoU will bring the artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme into the scope of the "Flipkart Samarth" initiative. This will provide artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme a momentum to expand their business online as they face social and economic challenges.
- 35.** The Ministry of Railways has inaugurated a dedicated museum for railways in **Hubballi, Karnataka**.
Note: This is the first of its kind museum in Northern Karnataka and second in South Western Railways after the historic railway museum at Mysore, Karnataka. The main objective of the museum is to preserve and portray the glorious heritage of various branches of Railways and displays the gradual evolution of advanced systems in all spheres of Railway.
- 36.** US Based IT Firm "Boston Group" has signed an MoU with **Andhra Pradesh** government to set up an IT company.
Note: The new IT company stated to be installed in the state according to the MoU is expected to create 250+ jobs in the IT sector. The employees of this centre would be deployed in the R&D on Learning platforms and leverage advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Cyber Security and Human Resources.
- 37. Gujarat** state government has launched Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana.
Note: The yojana has been announced for the current Kharif season and all farmers of the state will be covered under this scheme. Farmers would not have to pay any premium or registration process for the scheme.
- 38. Goa** state government has signed an MoU with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) for setting up a World-Class Skill Development Institute to provide Advanced Skills Training under "Skill India Mission".
Note: The institute is proposed to be set up at the heritage building of Old Asilo Hospital, Mapusa, North Goa. The institute will provide Advanced Skills training in highly specialized areas across sectors like healthcare, tourism and hospitality and other emerging business domains to meet industry demands.
- 39. Assam** state government has started "Orunodoi Scheme" for women's empowerment.
Note: Under the "Orunodoi" scheme, Rs 830 per month aid would mean an additional annual income of Rs 10,000 to the poor households to meet their medical, nutritional, and academic needs besides to meet the additional spending during various festivals."
- 40. Arunachal Pradesh** government has formed a nine-member committee to discuss and arrive at a possible solution to the touchy issue of creation of two autonomous councils in the State.
Note: The panel headed by Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein has seven Cabinet colleagues, including Home Minister Bamang Felix and Tribal Affairs Minister Alo Libang, as members. The ninth member is Home Commissioner Kaling Tayeng.
- 41.** The Madhya Pradesh state government has announced to name Gwalior-Chambal Expressway after **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
Note: The Gwalior Chambal Expressway is a 6 lane expressway connecting Madhya Pradesh with Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, through the ravines of Chambal region. The expressway will go parallel to the Chambal river via Shivpuri, Bhind, Morena to Kota (Rajasthan).
- 42. Nagaland** state government has launched "YellowChain" centralized e-commerce platform.
Note: Yellow Chain will act as an integrated platform for the people of the state, where any Seller/Service Provider/Individual/Group can register themselves and upload their products, trades, skills, services etc. to enable the citizens/buyers to have access to their Service or Product.
- 43. Chhattisgarh** state government has launched a student centric scheme named as "Padhai Tuhar Para" .
Note: Chhattisgarh government has announced to launch a student centric scheme named as "Padhai Tuhar Para". The scheme will enable the school students to study with the help of community in their localities and villages, in view of the suspension of classes due to coronavirus outbreak.
- 44. Madhya Pradesh** state top in implementing PM SVANidhi Scheme.
Note: Madhya Pradesh is the leading state in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma-Nirbhar Scheme (PM SVANidhi). The state has sanctioned interest free loans of Rs 10000 to more than 58000 street vendors, so far. Identity cards are distributed to the registered vendors.

45. Madhya Pradesh has launched the 'Ek Sankalp – Bujurgo ke naam' campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

Note: This unique campaign is proving to be a boon for the **Elderly People** living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

46. Madhya Pradesh has launched the 'Ek Sankalp – Bujurgo ke naam' campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

Note: In this campaign, the police are taking care of the elderly people from the food to their health. Renowned social activist Anna Hazare has also praised this initiative of Chhatarpur Police.

47. Delhi state government has launched the Niranman Mazdoor Registration Abhiyan for construction workers from August 24 to September 11.

Note: Special camps would be set up for construction workers to register themselves and take advantage of nearly 18 different assistance schemes. Delhi government will set up camps at 70 schools—one each in all the 70 assembly constituencies of Delhi—to help workers who are not tech-savvy.

48. Uttar Pradesh government has signed a 'plan of cooperation' with **Israel** to resolve water crisis in Bundelkhand region.

Note: The partnership between the two governments seeks to address water crisis in drought hit regions of Bundelkhand. It will support regional farmers with latest farming technologies such as drip irrigation, meant for water deficient regions like Bundelkhand

49. Odisha government is working on a mobile-based application to enable farmers to upload picture of grievances such as water availability in canals and their redressal in a fixed timeframe.

Note: The application being developed through Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) will use command area of projects as geo-fencing region to forward the grievance to the authority concerned.

50. Maharashtra government has extended a ₹50 lakh insurance cover to private doctors who die of COVID-19.

Note: The Maharashtra government has extended ₹50 lakh insurance cover to private doctors who die of coronavirus infection during the pandemic. In a circular issued, director of state Health Services Dr Sadhana Tayde said the insurance cover, which is being given to doctors in government and semi-government services, has now been extended to private medical practitioners who succumb to the infection.

51. Kerala is to host the first-ever State Dragonfly Festival 2020.

Note: The festival has been christened as Thumbimahotsavam 2020. 'Pantalu' is the official mascot of the festival. As part of the festival, various programmes will be rolled out in the coming months to reach out to various sections of society.

52. The longest river ropeway of India has been inaugurated in **Assam**.

Note: The ropeway will be operated from Kachari Ghat in Guwahati to Dol Govinda temple in North Guwahati. The new ropeway service empowered with state-of-the-art technology will decrease the travel time between Guwahati and North Guwahati.

53. Odisha has launched a new scheme for promoting intensive aquaculture through Biofloc technology in fisheries.

Note: The scheme will provide livelihood support to entrepreneurs, unemployed youth and interested progressive fish farmers and will also increase fish production in the state.

54. Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 45 highway projects in **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note: He also announced that Rs.700 crore from the Central Road Fund (CRF) will be utilised for the road sector of Madhya Pradesh. The aim was to complete projects worth Rs 50,000 crore out of Rs 1.25 lakh crore by 2023.

55. Haryana government has inked an MoU with the M3M Foundation to facilitate online preparation, training and mentoring for government jobs to students.

Note: Through this MoU, a program will be implemented to select 50,000 candidates for online training based on their past performance in government examinations in the state. Under the MoU, M3M Foundation will finance the initiative, identify, select and hire suitable students and undertake a periodic review of the implementation of the program.

56. Kerala state will establish the first international women's trade centre (IWTC) of India.

Note: The IWTC seeks to accelerate the women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity. It will also offer a safe place away from home to women to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.

57. Uttar Pradesh government has launched 'Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana' scheme under which 19 International Players will get road connectivity to their homes.

Note: The initial list includes 19 International Players from the state, and later on more players are expected to be added to the list. The list includes Indian Cricketers Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Piyush Chawla and Mohammad Kaif.

July

1. Madhya Pradesh government has launched "Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya" campaign to take care of

academic regularity of the students during the Lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.

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- Note:** The scheme will start on 6th July 2020. Under the scheme, the school bells are going to be heard within the student's house and the teachers will begin the class of the students after the bell. The scheme provides a school-like environment for the children taught at their home through online classes.
- 2. Karnataka** government has launched a portal, 'Skill Connect Forum' to connect job seekers and employers on a common platform.
Note: Job seekers can register on <https://skillconnect.kaushalkar.com> by uploading details of their educational qualification, skill sets and other details. Employers will also register on the portal. The portal matches the requirement and availability. The job seekers can search for jobs in different sectors and different regions within the state.
 - 3. The UK India Business Council** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) with **Maharashtra** for Sustainable Business Relation.
Note: MIDC is the premier industrial infrastructure development agency of the Government of Maharashtra. This business framework between the UKIBC and Government of Maharashtra will help the State to proactively better its business environment and strengthen its collaboration with British business.
 - 4. Delhi** State government has launched an e-learning portal — LEAD for schoolchildren.
Note: The portals will give students access to textbooks, study material and course content as per the syllabus of the CBSE, NCERT and Delhi government's curriculum online. It will include digital QR coded textbooks, explanatory videos, practice questions and evaluation.
 - 5. World's largest, 10,000 bed Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH)** was inaugurated in **Delhi**.
Note: SPCCCH is built on the campus of spiritual organization 'Radha Soami Satsang Beas'. SPCCCH is located in South Delhi's Chhatarpur area. SPCCCH is an air-conditioned facility that will be cooled by 18,000 tons of air-conditioners. To date, SPCCCH is the World's largest COVID-19 Treatment and Care facility.
 - 6. Madhya Pradesh** government has launched a social media campaign, 'Intzaar Aap Ka' to attract tourists in the state.
Note: The campaign will be conducted by describing the characteristics of the tourism destinations in Madhya Pradesh through photographs and videos. Through the campaign, the tourism board aims to establish the confidence back in the tourism sector by offering tour packages to the tourists that are specially designed by keeping in mind safe travel, stay, and excursion for prevention from COVID-19 infection
 - 7. Odisha** state government has launched 'Balaram Yojana' to provide crop loans to landless farmers.
Note: Under the new scheme, the landless cultivators will get loans through joint liability groups (JLGs). Under 'Balaram' scheme, the government has set a target to provide farm loans to 7 lakh landless farmers in the next two years.
 - 8. Uttar Pradesh** government has launched a mega plantation programme 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020'.
Note: The name of the mega plantation programme is 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020'. Yogi Adityanath planted 3 saplings at the Kukrail Reserve Forest's Harishankari Vatika in Lucknow to inaugurate the Mission Vriksharopan-2020. He planted saplings of a Banyan tree, Ficus Virens and Ficus Religiosa.
 - 9. Haryana** government has decided to bring an ordinance under which 75 percent of the jobs with a salary of less than Rs 50,000 per month will be reserved for the locals of the state.
Note: In the month of June 2020, Haryana had the highest unemployment rate among all states in the country. The unemployment rate in June 2020 was 33.6 percent. The proposed draft Ordinance is named 'Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Ordinance 2020'.
 - 10. 'Self Scan'** mobile application has been launched by **West Bengal** government as an alternative for the much popular Chinese document scanning application- Cam Scanner.
Note: Following the ban of 59 Chinese mobile applications by the Central Government on 29th June 2020, the West Bengal State's Information Technology Department has developed a mobile application that will serve as a better alternative for the much popular Chinese document scanning application- Cam Scanner. The Chief Minister launched the 'Self Scan' mobile application that will be available free of cost at various application download platforms.
 - 11. Maharashtra** government has launched 'Maha Jobs' portal that will bridge the gap between the Industrial Units/Employers and the Workers.
Note: Anyone can access the portal by visiting- 'mahajobs.maharashtra.gov.in'. For registration in the Maha Jobs portal, a domicile certificate of the state of Maharashtra is compulsory for the workers. The portal will help in the resumption of business and industries in the state of Maharashtra, which will further help in recreating the economic cycle in the state that was disrupted due to the nationwide lockdown imposed against the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - 12. Karnataka** government has launched 'Nekar Samman Yojane' for the weaver's community in the state.
Note: The name of the scheme is 'Nekar Samman Yojane', which means Weaver Samman Yojana. For becoming a beneficiary of the scheme, silk, cotton, woolen and other handloom weavers in the state of Karnataka have to register themselves at the Seva Sindhu portal.
 - 13. Odisha** finance commission has recommended for Rs 23,848 crore for the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies over six financial year.
Note: These funds allocated will be for strengthening the ULBs and PRIs in the state financially so that

various developmental projects and maintenance of existing assets can be taken up by these institutes and bodies.

14. **Assam's** Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is being upgraded to a National Park is located in which state of India.

Note: It is located within the larger Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, spreading across the coal- and oil-rich districts of Upper Assam (Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar). After upgradation, Dehing Patkai will be the 6th national park in Assam. The other five are Kaziranga, Nameri, Manas, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

15. e-Commerce marketplace Flipkart has signed an MoU with **Karnataka** state MSME and Mines department to promote the states arts, crafts and handloom sectors.

Note: The partnership under the Flipkart Samarth programme will enable local artisans, weavers and craftsmen of Karnataka to showcase their hallmark products to a pan-India customer base, the company said in a release. Both the Government of Karnataka and the Flipkart Group will focus on creating avenues to increase business and trade inclusion opportunities for these underserved segments of the society, thereby adding further thrust to Made in India efforts.

16. **Odisha** becomes the first state in India to use Space Technology & Artificial Intelligence for safeguarding government lands.

Note: The Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System is a geo-tagged repository that would monitor and detect all government lands in Bhubaneswar. This will be done by using high-resolution satellite imagery.

17. **Maharashtra** government will be setting up a stress relief fund of around ₹700 crore to ₹1,000 crore, in a bid to support developers undertaking Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) projects.

Note: The State government's contribution will be around ₹700 crore to ₹1,000 crore, while the State Bank of India's contribution will be bigger."

18. **Manipur** Chief Minister N Biren Singh has inaugurated five water supply projects worth Rs 48.39 crore.

Note: The five Water Supply projects located at different districts of Manipur were constructed with the total cost of 48.39 crore rupees having total capacity of more than 26.15 millions of liters per day. The New Development Bank has sanctioned 3,000 crore rupees to provide potable water to every household of the state and work orders for the projects have been issued.

19. **Uttar Pradesh** state government has approved the Startup Policy 2020.

Note: The validity of this policy is five years from the date of notification which is estimated to provide direct employment to more than 50,000 people and generate self-employment to around 1.5 lakh people. UP was anointed as the "Inspiring Leader" in the national startup ranking in 2018.

20. **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched 'Roko - Toko' campaign for those who do not wear masks.

Note: In Madhya Pradesh, the government will now run a Roko -Toko means stop and campaign for those who do not wear masks. As the Use of masks is mandatory in all public places in the state. Now selected voluntary organizations will provide masks to the people who do not wear masks in public places and will charge an amount of Rs 20 per mask from the concerned.

21. India's first e-Lok Adalat to ensure the administration of justice and to solve the financial crisis of the parties and lawyers amid COVID-19 pandemic was organized in **Chhattisgarh**.

Note: The high court Chief Justice P R Ramchandra Menon inaugurated the e-Lok Adalat through video conferencing. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute grievance mechanisms or a forum where pending cases or disputes in the court of law are settled or compromised whereas e-lok adalat will be handled virtually.

22. **Jharkhand** government has signed an MoU with HDFC Bank to provide digital payment solutions to the state's transport department.

Note: The Digital solution will enable the traffic police to equip themselves with Point of Sale (POS) machines to collect traffic-related penalties. The traffic rules violators can also use this online payment facility to pay a fine.

23. **Madhya Pradesh state** has topped among the other states in the implementation of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).

Note: The scheme is presently benefiting the beneficiaries of 378 urban bodies of the state. Till now 8,70,330 street vendors have registered under the scheme, out of which 1,76,000 street vendors have been issued the identity cards and vending certificates.

24. **Telangana** Govt. has launched 'CybHER', a month-long virtual awareness campaign to make cyberspace safe for women and children.

Note: The campaign is organized by WSW in collaboration with Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad. To tackle cyberattacks in the midst of social isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic by offering proactive measures to stay safe in the digital world. To create an interactive and informative platform for a healthy discussion on cyber safety

25. Poba Reserve Forest would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary in **Assam**.

Note: Assam Chief Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has announced, Poba Reserve Forest in Dhemaji district would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary. The announcement was made during a meeting with senior officials of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Majuli districts at Jonai. Poba Reserve Forest declared in 1924 with an area of 10,522 hectares is home to a large number of flora and fauna.

26. **Andhra Pradesh** government has announced Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020, which permits the sale of power to the other states of India.

- Note:** Aim of the policy is to utilize the unused potential and to attract private investments to boost the economy and to generate additional revenue to the government. To implement the projects the New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of AP Limited (NREDCAP), will be the nodal agency under the new export policy 2020.
27. **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched "Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana" for all-round development of the Scheduled Castes.
Note: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched "Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana" for all-round development of the Scheduled Castes. The state government is extending financial help to make people self-dependent.
28. **Delhi** state government has approved 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana', which will be launched in six to seven months.
Note: It will be linked to Centre's 'one nation, one ration card' scheme. The scheme will help the beneficiaries get ration delivered at home. They will not have to come to the ration shops. The scheme is expected to benefit lakhs of people in the national capital through 2016 PDS shops.
29. **Punjab** government has approved a US \$285.71 million project for canal-based water supply for its two major cities under World Bank financing.
Note: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) would finance \$200 million (70%) and Punjab government \$85.71 million (30%) as per the proposal mooted by the local government department.
30. **Punjab** government has an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, in the area of skill development.
Note: The institute will help the state in developing a model ITI and a model polytechnic. The IIT to help the state in the manufacture of small devices for controlling water wastage in irrigation.
31. **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched "Godhan Nyay Yojna" for cattle ranchers.
Note: Under the 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' Chhattisgarh government will purchase cow dung at the rate of Rs 2
- per kg. This scheme will turn cow dung into a profitable commodity.
32. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the ₹3,054-crore "Water Supply Project" in North Eastern state **Manipur**.
Note: The project outlay is Rs 3054.58 crore, with a loan component funded by the New Development Bank.
33. **Mizoram** becomes the first state in the country to implement the Green-Agriculture (Green-Ag) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
Note: It was launched by Agriculture minister of Mizoram C Lalrinsanga. Mizoram is first among the 5 states where the project is to be implemented. The other states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
34. The **UK India Business Council** (UKIBC) signed a **memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) with which state government to speed up the business and industrial development in **Gujarat**.
Note: Neelam Rani, Managing Director of iNDEXTb and Kevin McCole, Managing Director of UKIBC signed the MoU. The objective of the MoU is to enhance the business environment of Gujarat and to strengthen the collaboration of British business in Gujarat.
35. **Haryana** government has employed the aerial seeding technique to improve green cover in the Aravalli area of the state.
Note: The project is being carried on a pilot basis to rejuvenate the low vegetation density of Aravalli and Shivalik hills. Using this method plantation on 100 acres is planned to be attempted during the pilot project.
36. **Kerala** government has announced a new Entrepreneurship Development Programme to address the issues of shortage of working capital.
Note: The programme will be implemented through the Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC), which will provide loans up to 90 percent of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs 50 lakh at 10 percent interest. The government will give 3% interest as subsidy thereby; the net interest rate will be 7%.

June

1. **Uttar Pradesh** becomes the first state in the country to prepare one lakh beds for COVID-19 patients.
Note: The beds in the hospitals are classified into three categories- Level 1, level 2 and level 3. While level one and two beds are for patients exhibiting mild symptoms, level three beds are meant for graver infections. The hospitals catering to level one patients will have facilities for oxygen support, those catering to level two patients will have a few ventilators in addition to oxygen support.
2. **Uttar Pradesh** state government has signed an MoU with industry associations to create 10Lakh job for migrants.
Note: The State MSME Minister Sidharth Nath Singh signed the MoU with the Industries and Business Chambers to promote the MSME sector and provide employment for around 10 lakh skilled and semi skilled workers. The migrant workers will be supported with the motto of "work to every hand and Employment to every house"
3. **Delhi** government has launched a mobile application that will inform people in the state about the

availability of the hospital beds and ventilators in the government and private hospitals.

Note: The Application mainly aims at providing real time information. The application will provide information related to availability of hospital beds and ventilators in the city. It is now available on Google Play.

4. **Kerala** becomes the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizen.

Note: It is to provide free internet access for the poor by December 2020 and become the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizen. It would be implemented by Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited and Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB).

5. **Rajasthan** state occupied the first rank in the COVID 19 Management Index analysed for 10 states by the Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI.

Note: Rajasthan has occupied first rank in the COVID-19 management index analysed for 10 States by the Central government which included parameter such as active cases, recovered cases, and mortality rate. Mortality rate in the state is 2.16%. Recovery rate is 67.59%

6. **Jammu & Kashmir** has launched a salary tracker mobile app 'MeraVetan' for government employees.
Note: With the launch of MeraVetan App (V-1), the employees especially posted in remote & rural areas who don't have access to the DDO will easily access their salary and other details anytime. This application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) - J&K State Centre on the Android Platform to provide end to end computerization of JK Payment System (JKPaySys) application.

7. **Chhattisgarh** has launched a special campaign "Spandan" to check mental stress and depression among its police personnel.

Note: The motive of the campaign is to prevent the force from depression and stress pushing them to take extreme steps. As part of the campaign "Spandan", senior police officers will visit police lines, police stations and armed forces companies to interact with the personnel to know about problems being faced by them.

8. **Gujarat Govt.** occupied top position in the 'Food Safety Index 2019-20 released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) among the larger state.

Note: Gujarat is followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released the results of the second 'State Food Safety Index' to celebrate the World Food Safety Day during a webinar.

9. The World Bank has granted loan worth of Rs. 1,950 crores to **West Bengal** for tackling coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and developmental work.

Note: The loan amount has been lent to the West Bengal Government to tackle COVID-19 situation and

developmental work in the state. Out of the total amount of Rs 1950 crore, West Bengal Government will spend Rs. 850 crore on various Social-Welfare schemes while the remaining Rs 1,100 crore will be spent to create Industrial infrastructures.

10. The colour of water in Lonar lake has changed to pink due to salinity and presence of algae in the water body. The lake is located in **Maharashtra**.

Note: The lake was formed after a meteorite hit the Earth some 50,000 years ago. Located around 500 km from Mumbai, the Lonar lake is in Buldhana district of Maharashtra. The lake, which is a notified national geo-heritage monument, has saline water with pH of 10.5.

11. **Himachal Pradesh** government has launched 'Panchvati Yojana' for the senior citizens of rural areas of the state.

Note: Under the yojana parks & gardens will be established in every development block with mandatory facilities under Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) 2005, Scheme of Rural Development Department.

12. Maharashtra government has decided to rename the state's Environment Ministry as 'Environment and Climate Change Ministry'.

Note: The decision to change the name comes just weeks after the state was hit by a severe cyclonic storm Nisarga on June 3, 2020. Maharashtra is one among a few states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana in India which have a dedicated department to address climate change.

13. Financial assistance **Rs 10,000** will be provided tailors, barbers and dhobis under 'Jagananna Chedodu' scheme launched by Andhra Pradesh state government.

Note: Andhra Pradesh government has launched the 'Jagananna Chedodu' scheme to provide financial assistance to tailors, barbers and dhobis (washermen). In total Rs.247 crore was transferred to their bank accounts under financial liability so that bankers cannot use the money to offset the loan repayment balances.

14. **Uttar Pradesh** state government has launched 'Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana' to educate child labourers in the state.

Note: This scheme has launched, on the occasion of the International Child Labour Prohibition Day. The government will give monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,200 to selected boys and girls, respectively. If these children pass classes 8, 9 and 10, they will be given an additional amount of Rs 6,000 for clearing each standard.

15. **Punjab** government has launched 'Ghar Ghar Nigrani' app for house-to-house surveillance to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Note: The app, 'Ghar ghar nigrani', was launched by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh through video conference. With the help of the application, the Punjab Government is to cover all the persons that are below

the age of 30 years. The survey will cover persons that have influenza like illness.

- 16. Odisha** has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students.
Note: This feat has been achieved due to 'Mission Suvidya' project which was launched by ST&SC Welfare Department to provide all the tribal hostels of the state uniform standards of infrastructure, amenities and human resources earlier. The audit team for certification visited hostels across the state and accorded the certification.
- 17.** amount has been allocated by central government to Jharkhand for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the financial year 2020-21.
Note: The state is planning cent percent household coverage by 2023-24. Out of 54 lakh rural households in the State, only 4.37 lakh have functional household tap connection (FHTC).
- 18. Kerala** governments implemented 'Food forest' project in tribal belts of the state.
Note: As part of the "Tribal Comprehensive Development Programme in Kerala the "food forest" project is being implemented in cooperation with the Mahila Kissan Sashaktheekaran Pariyojana of the Central Government. The project aims to provide food security to 192 tribal villages in Attapadi.
- 19. Uttar Pradesh** government has set up a labour commission to ensure social and economic security for migrant workers.
Note: The objective of the Commission is to provide maximum employment to the workers at the local level in private and non-government sector as per their skill and employment opportunities. The workers in the state will be given access to employment opportunities by skill development and it will also help the economy of the state gain momentum.
- 20. West Bengal** government has launched Karmo Bhumi, a job portal to help IT professionals who have lost their jobs after the outbreak of COVID-19 and returned to the state.
Note: IT professionals can use the portal 'Karmo Bhumi' to connect with companies based in the state. A web portal will act as a medium between the professionals and IT companies in Bengal. There are around 700 IT and ITeS companies at Salt Lake Sector V and Rajarhat where at present around 2.5 lakh people work.
- 21. Uttar Pradesh** government has decided to adopt the scheme of Flatted Factory Model, which means the non-polluting industries can operate in Multistoried buildings.
Note: The committee is headed by Alok Kumar Principal Secretary (Infrastructure & Industrial Development). The members of the committee includes the Chief Executive officers (CEOs) of UPSIDA, NOIDA,

Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA).

- 22. Uttar Pradesh** has become the top state in India to provide employment to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA).
Note: According to the data released, 57 lakh 12975 workers got employment is around 57 thousand village panchayats of the state which is 18% of the total work generated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country. The state government has generated 7.93 crore man-days and the government will provide jobs to 10 lakh more workers.
- 23. Tripura** state government has decided to start 'Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho' –meaning 'Play Little, Study Little' scheme.
Note: The scheme will be implemented via SMS or WhatsApp. For students, those who have access to smartphones of their parents will be able to access the scheme through WhatsApp. For students having feature phones, they will be able to access through SMS. The objective of the scheme is to make sure that students invest their time in studies during these times of uncertainty as it could still take a couple of months for schools to reopen due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 24. Rajasthan** state government is going to launch Indira Rasoi Yojana for the poor.
Note: Under this scheme, pure and nutritious food on concessional rates is going to be provided to the needy twice each day. The State government will spend ₹100 crores every year on the scheme.
- 25. Jharkhand** state government is to launch a job guarantee scheme to provide 100-day work guarantee to the unskilled workers living in the urban areas of the state.
Note: The scheme aimed to enhance the livelihood security for the urban poor will be named Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK (Shahri Rozgar Manjuri For Kamgar). Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS) is the 100-day employment guarantee scheme of the Kerala Government for urban poor.
- 26. Haryana** state government has signed an agreement with Reliance Jio TV to benefit around 52 lakh rural students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: The four channels of EDUSAT can be accessed through television, Laptop, desktop, tablets and smartphones for free of cost which will be available on the Jio platform. The contents aired on the television will be available on Jio TV for a week so that the students can access the content to their convenience and time.
- 27. Himachal Pradesh** state's Panchayati Raj Department won the 1st prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020.
Note: All the 3,226 panchayats of the state have been provided internet facility and people can access various services online. The various services such as family

register, registration of birth, death and marriages are registered online in the panchayats.

28. **Tripura** state government has launched Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme to provide nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women.

Note: The scheme is a part of the state's efforts to fight malnutrition and maternal mortality. The scheme was announced by state Minister for Social Welfare and Social Education Santana Chakma. The government expects to incur an expenses of about Rs 8 crore annually for this scheme.

29. **Madhya Pradesh** state government will launch a campaign called 'Kill Corona' from 1st July 2020 under which door-to-door Survey will be conducted to control the spread of COVID-19.

Note: During the campaign, the highlight will be the number of tests conducted. The campaign will double the COVID-19 testing capacity from 4000 per 10 lakh people to 8000 per 10 lakh people in the state.

30. World's Largest Plasma Therapy Trial under Project 'Platina' was launched in **Maharashtra** state.

Note: The name of the project is Platina.

The project was virtually launched by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray.

31. The forest department of **Uttarakhand** state has developed India's first lichen park.

Note: Lichens are found in the Himalayas up to 5000 metres are important species as they are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels. Uttarakhand has more than 600 species of lichens followed by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir with 503 and 386 species respectively.

32. **Gujarat** state government has launched 'At One Click' Initiative for MSMEs & Other Bigger Industries.

Note: Through the initiative, the State Government looks to restore the former vibrancy of the state by motivating sectors such as MSME, traders, bigger industries, and businesses. The online initiative is to encourage these sectors for taking up the challenge that the COVID-19 crisis has bought and convert this into an opportunity.

May

1. According to an official statement which state tops among other states in providing employment under MGNREGS -- **Chhattisgarh**.

Note: According to an official statement Chhattisgarh is 1st state to provide employment to over 18(18.51) lakh unskilled labourers, followed by Rajasthan (2nd) to 10.79 lakh workers & Uttar Pradesh (3rd) to around 9.06 lakh workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). As per the data released by the Union Rural Development Ministry around 77.85 lakh people are engaged in different work under the scheme across the country.

2. Chak-Hao, the black rice of which state gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag -- **Manipur**.

Note: Chak-Hao- the Consortium of Producers of Chak-Hao (Black Rice), Manipur and was facilitated by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Manipur and the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC). The black rice is glutinous rice cultivated in Manipur over centuries, is characterised by its special aroma & is consumed mainly after being cooked like rice or kheer. It has a deep black colour and when cooked, it usually turns purple. It's dark purple colour is primarily a product of its anthocyanin content which is considered as boosting up the antioxidants level, apart from this it also has vitamins, minerals, fibre, proteins, among others.

3. Terracotta work of which place has been granted with the Geographical Indication(GI) tag -- **Gorakhpur (UP)**.

Note: It is a centuries-old traditional art form, the work is done with bare hands including the

ornamentation & natural color which stays fast for a long time. There are more than 1,000 varieties of terracotta work designed by the local craftsmen, Some of the major products of craftsmanship include the Hauda elephants, Mahawatdar horse among others.

4. Kovilpatti kadalai mittai of which place has been granted with the Geographical Indication(GI) tag -- **Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu)**.

Note: It is a peanut candy manufactured in Kovilpatti and adjacent towns and villages in Thoothukudi district, the southern part of Tamil Nadu. It is produced by using groundnuts and vellam (jaggery) and water from the river Thamirabarani which enhances the taste naturally. It is sold as single rectangular chunks, or rather cuboids, sealed in packets.

5. Saffron of which state has been granted with the Geographical Indication(GI) tag -- **Kashmir Saffron**.

Note: It is a spice grown in some regions of Kashmir, including Pulwama (saffron bowl of Kashmir), Budgam, Kishtwar and Srinagar. Iran is the largest producer of saffron and India is a close competitor. In India, GI registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from September 2003. Darjeeling Tea(2004) is the 1st indian product to get a GI tag.

6. **Maharashtra** government has announced a free and cashless health insurance scheme to all its citizens.

Note: Under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, people in the state can avail of the benefits of free and cashless health insurance. Documents such as ration cards and domicile certificates are essential to apply for the scheme. At present, the scheme covers

85% of the population; but benefits are now extended to the remaining 15%.

7. **Andhra Pradesh** state government has launched a mobile application 'CMAPP (Comprehensive Monitoring of Agriculture, Price, and Procurement)' to monitor the agriculture needs of the farmers in the state.

Note: Andhra Pradesh government has launched the mobile application 'CMAPP to monitor the agriculture needs of the farmers in the state. The mobile app showcases all data relating to the cost, procurement, and marketing facilities of the farmers for their agriculture produce.

8. **Himachal Pradesh** government announced to launch the "Nigah" Scheme to properly sensitize and educate family members of people coming from other states so that social distancing is effectively maintained.

Note: Under the scheme, a team of ASHA workers, health workers, and Anganwadi workers would visit the family members of persons arriving from other states. They will educate them about the importance of social distancing so that they could be saved from any possible infection. The state government also ordered to mark the people who have come from other states.

9. **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched the Ayush Kavach app that will provide health-related tips and information about ayurvedic medicines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: Ayush Kavach mobile app will help people access prescriptions to strengthen their resistance through the ancient mode of Yoga and Ayurveda of India. The mobile app Ayush Kavach was developed by the Ayush Department of Uttar Pradesh in view of the COVID-19 health crisis.

10. **West Bengal** government has launched "Exit App" for stranded people of other states.

Note: "Exit App" will enable these people who are willing to go back to their native states, by applying online on this app. The permission for the exit of these people would be granted in an automatic and extremely easy manner. The "Exit App" can be accessed by the stranded people from the West Bengal government's 'Egiye Bangla' website. Hence, this initiative of the West Bengal government will help large number of people who are stuck, in their return to their native state.

11. **Himachal Pradesh** government has decided to start the "Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna".

Note: In this Yojna, 120 days' assured employment will be provided to people living in urban areas. It is being launched to revive the coronavirus-hit economy of the state. Adequate training will be given to the people for their skill upgrade if required. The cabinet also decided to provide an assistance of Rs 2,000 to each of the 1 lakh workers registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers Board.

12. **Madhya Pradesh** has become the 1st state in the country to provide mid-day meal ration.

Note: Distribution of the mid-day Meal ration with the help of Anganwadi workers, Panchayat representatives and local teachers was taken in sending ration to the students at their home after the school closing in April. To provide mid-day meal to school children in the corona outbreak an amount of Rs 117 crore has been transferred online in the bank account of the parents of 66 lakh 27 thousand students of primary and secondary school by the state government. Under door-to-door mid-day meal scheme, ration has also been provided to 56 lakh 87 thousand children.

13. **Uttar Pradesh** government has passed an ordinance to suspend labour laws to boost industrial investment and employ the large number of migrant workers that have come back to their native villages in the state.

Note: Uttar Pradesh State government passed an ordinance 'Uttar Pradesh Temporary Exemption from Certain Labour Laws Ordinance, 2020' to suspend labour laws for the next three years. The move is aimed to boost industrial investment and employ the large number of migrant workers that have come back to their native villages in the state. The Ordinance has been sent to Governor Anandiben Patel for assent.

14. **Tripura** government has launched 'Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana'.

Note: The scheme was announced by the Education Minister of Tripura Ratan Lal Nath on 4th March 2020 during a meeting of the council of ministers. The Scheme aims to provide grants for the purchase of smartphones to the students of final year to empower them digitally & help them leverage the advantages of an interconnected world. Through the implementation of the scheme, the student will be able to get employment through internet platforms

15. **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana' to lodge FIR.

Note: Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to implement such an innovative scheme under which now people would not be required to visit police station to lodge an FIR. 'FIR Aapke Dwar' Yojana has been started as a pilot project in 23 Police Stations including one urban and one rural Police Station at 11 Divisional Headquarters. For this Yojana "Dial 100" vehicle would have trained Head Constables to lodge FIR.

16. To provide support to the migrant workers which state has launched 'Pravasi Raahat Mitra' -- **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note: The mobile application is developed by the state revenue department in collaboration with United Nation Development Program (UNDP). The 'Pravasi Raahat Mitra' helps the migrants to monitor their health and provide the requirements like job and livelihood related to their skills. The app will also record the status of distribution of ration kits to migrant citizens.

- 17. Tamil Nadu** government has constituted a 24 member high-level committee headed by C Rangarajan to assess the immediate and medium-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on various sectors of the State's economy.
Note: The committee will examine fiscal challenge & suggest ways to improve its fiscal position including increasing the tax-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio and diversifying revenue sources and re-prioritising expenditure. State Finance Secretary S Krishnan will be the coordinator of the committee. The committee will submit its final reports to the Government within 3 months apart from the interim reports.
- 18. Uttarakhand** government has launched "HOPE" (Helping Out People Everywhere) portal to help unemployed youth to get jobs opportunities.
Note: The portal will be used to collect the data on the youths of the state who are staying in as well as the recently returned migrant youths. This platform will help unemployed youths for job seeking and skill development. The database in the portal will help employers to find suitable candidates for their requirements.
- 19. West Bengal** government has launched 'Matir Smristi' scheme to utilise 50,000 acres of barren land in 6 districts.
Note: This scheme helps to generate income activities in horticulture and pisciculture involving the locals. The 'Matir Smristi' scheme will benefit around 2.5 lakh people in rural Bengal. In West Bengal at least 50,000 acres of barren land in Birbhum, Purulia, Bankura, Jhargram, West Burdwan and West Midnapore districts, which cannot produce anything naturally nor can the farmers cultivate on the strip.
- 20. Rajasthan** government has levied 2% Krishak Kalyan fees on agricultural produce brought or bought or sold in mandis.
Note: Recently, the Rajasthan government has levied 2% Krishak Kalyan fees on agricultural produce brought or bought or sold in mandis. The 2% fees collected will be deposited in the Krishak Kalyan Kosh — dedicated to the welfare of farmers in the state. The Rajasthan government had announced the creation of the Krishak Kalyan Kosh for the purpose of ensuring fair price for farmer's produce and to strive towards "ease of doing farming" in 2019.
- 21. Madhya Pradesh** government has launched Charan Paduka campaign, first of its kind initiative for migrant labourers passing through the state.
Note: Under the campaign the migrant workers were provided with shoes and slippers to reduce their pain. The Charan Paduka campaign is being conducted by the Police of Madhya Pradesh state. Eventually, the initiative received full support of the public. By providing slippers, the pain of the migrant workers is being reduced.
- 22. Karnataka** state has launched its first cyber security-specific accelerator programme 'H.A.C.K' for start-ups recently.
- Note:** This comes even at a time when there are serious discussions around surveillance and lack of safety through government-run online software for COVID-19. The programme is implemented by CySecK, which is state's CoE (Centre of Excellence) in Cyber Security meant for creating a cyber-safe environment for industry collaboration. It is housed at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- 23. Jammu and Kashmir** UTs has issued new rules to provide domicile certificates to its residents.
Note: The "J&K Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) rules 2020" has been provided through an amendment of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment) Act, 2010. The rules have included extraordinary penalty of Rs 50,000 to the competitive authority in case the issuing of domicile certificate is delayed.
- 24. Jammu & Kashmir (UTs)** Department of Information and Public Relations has started an initiative "SUKOON – COVID-19 Beat the Stress" programme.
Note: This initiative spread awareness about the psychological impact of lockdown and measures to be adopted to overcome them. The programme will be telecast on Doordarshan Kashmir Channel every Tuesday at 9.00 PM during which psychiatrists, eminent doctors and scientists will share their knowledge on psychological health.
- 25. "Mee Annapurna"** initiative has been launched by an IRDA licensed insurance intermediary Integrated Risk Insurance Brokers Limited (IRIBL) in **Maharashtra**.
Note: This initiative has been launched by Integrated Risk Insurance as a part of its commitment as a Corporate Social Responsibility towards the welfare of the farmers and agriculture community in Maharashtra. This initiative is based on three commandments namely: Expertise, Engagement and Entitlement.
- 26. Chhattisgarh** government has launched "Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana" on the occasion of death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
Note: The farmer centered scheme aims to stimulate the rural economy in the state, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The provision of the scheme was made in the Budget 2020-21. The scheme is expected to benefit over 1.87 million farmers.
- 27. Uttar Pradesh** government has set up a 'Start-up Fund' under the its Information Technology and Start-up Policy 2017.
Note: An MoU has been signed between the Uttar Pradesh government and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the fund will be managed by SIDBI. Initial contribution of Rs 15 crore has been made to the fund. The fund aims to support the registered start-up ventures present across different verticals in Uttar Pradesh.
- 28. Madhya Pradesh** state the women Rural Livelihood Mission started Didi Vehicle Service for rural women for the safe delivery and other emergency services.

- Note:** The mission has been started in tribal-dominated Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh (MP).the women Rural Livelihood Mission started Didi Vehicle Service for rural women for the safe delivery and other emergency services. This vehicle service is completely free.
29. **Uttarakhand** become the first state to release report on conservation of endemic, threatened floras.
Note: The project aims at Germplasm conservation so that species remain conserved with the forest department & also to promote conservation of plant species among the general public so as to end plant blindness. The report is one of the largest repositories of conserved plants & is carried out by the research wing of the state forest department.
30. NBFCs **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** has entered into an agreement with Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd. (NBPCL) to fund projects worth ₹22,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh.
Note: The funds will be deployed by NBPCL for setting up hydroelectric projects of 225 MW and power components of 12 major multipurpose projects in state. Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd. (NBPCL) is a wholly-owned company of Madhya Pradesh government.
31. The Mango Board and Marketing Corporation of **Karnataka** state has signed a memorandum of understanding with e-commerce firm Flipkart to sell mangoes on its platform.
Note: The latest tie-up is part of Karnataka government's efforts to enable farmers to sell their produce online as the covid-19 induced lockdown has hit sales and their earnings. Farmers produce organisations from Bengaluru Urban, Kolar, Haveri, Hubballi-Dharwad and Belgaum will be onboarded on the Flipkart platform as sellers.
32. Adani Power has received approval for setting up of a 1,320 MW thermal power plant in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: Adani Power got an approval from the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission for setting up of a 1,320 MW thermal power plant in Madhya Pradesh. The commission has also approved sale of entire electricity from the plant to the state through Adani Power arm Pench Thermal Energy.
33. **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched 'Rozgar Setu Yojana' for skilled migrant workers who returned to the state.
Note: The government of Madhya Pradesh launched a portal 'MP Rojgar Setu Portal' for the unemployed migrants to register and find jobs in the field related to their skills.
34. **Uttarakhand** state government has launched "Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana" to retain the migrants who have returned to the state during the lockdown.
Note: The scheme aims at providing self-employment opportunities to youth and a boost to reverse migration, specifically entrepreneurs returning to Uttarakhand. The scheme will offer credit facility through nationalised banks, scheduled commercial banks and cooperative banks.
35. **Uttar Pradesh** government announced to develop 800 km herbal roads along the state and national highways through the state.
Note: These herbal roads will have herbal and medicinal trees on the both sides of the road. The trees on the herbal roads include Peepal, Neem, Sehjan along with herbal trees like Brahmi, Ashvagandha and Jatropa.

Important News – World

September

1. The publication of "Ease of Doing Business" report has stopped by **World Bank** to probe data collection irregularities in the annual ranking of countries' business and investment climates.
Note: According to World Bank "A number of irregularities have been reported regarding changes to the data in the Doing Business 2018 and Doing Business 2020 reports, published in October 2017 and 2019". World Bank would conduct a systematic review of data changes in the last five Doing Business reports, and independent auditors will probe data collection and review processes.
2. **Japan** is providing an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of an amount of approx. Rs. 3,500 crores to India to fight COVID-19.
Note: Japan has committed the loan for the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support in order to fight the COVID-19 crisis. The ODA loan will support India's efforts in its fight against COVID-19. It will also assist the country to prepare the health system to handle future epidemics. It will also increase the resilience of India's health systems against infectious diseases.
3. **UAE** has launched Agriota, a new technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market platform that will bridge the gap between millions of rural farmers in India.
Note: It has been launched by Dubai's free-zone Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) and the government of Dubai's authority on commodities trade and enterprise. This initiative will enable Indian farmers to connect directly, bypassing intermediaries, with the entire food industry in the UAE, including food processing companies, traders and wholesalers.
4. **Togo** becomes the first African country to eliminate sleeping sickness.

- Note:** Togo has not reported any cases in the past 10 years. There are two forms of sleeping sickness. The first, due to *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense*, is found in 24 countries in west and central Africa and accounts for more than 98% of cases. The second form, due to *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense*, is found in 13 countries in eastern and southern Africa and represents the rest of cases.
- Three countries **India-Australia-Japan** have to launch a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in the Indo-Pacific region.
Note: The initiative will help in building a resilient supply chain with focus on free, transparent trade & investment environment in the region. Proposed by Japan and to reduce the dependency on China.
 - Google has partnered with **Bangladesh** to bring the flood warning services to the country.
Note: Announcing this on its official blog Google said that it currently covers more than 40 million people in Bangladesh and it is working to expand its coverage to the whole of the country. More than 65 per cent of people who receive advance flood warnings take action to protect themselves and their assets. The company is also partnering with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to build to deliver alerts to people who don't have smart phones to receive the alerts directly.
 - Bhutan** chaired the 35th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC 35) held virtually.
Note: The Conference was held under the Chair of the Host Country, Bhutan. The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Parshottam Rupala represented India in the conference. The conference focused on regional priorities and issues such as COVID 19, the state of agriculture, natural resources management, food security and nutrition.
 - Social Media platform Whatsapp has partnered with **CyberPeace Foundation** to create awareness on cyber safety among students.
Note: The facebook-owned messaging platform noted in a press release that "this is an effort to build on their earlier partnership with WhatsApp under the "e-Raksha" program that reached thousands of students. With the collaboration, the platforms aim to reach nearly 15,000 students across five states including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra by the end of 2020.
 - International organization **UNEP** has launched a new publication, "The Little Book of Green Nudges" for university students.
Note: The books aimed to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles. The book is UNEP's first on behavioural science and nudge theory, which focuses on human actions and how to change them and was drafted with The Behavioural Insights Team and GRID-Arendal.
 - Saudi Arabia** will host the G20 Education Ministers Meeting to be held at the end of 2020.
Note: The Saudi Arabian Presidency has selected the following theme for the G20's 2020 activities: Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All. The meet was chaired by Saudi Arabia's Education Minister Dr Hamad Al-Asheikh where India was represented by Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, in the virtual mode.
 - The Netherlands** and eight companies of that country the Andhra Pradesh government has signed MoUs in the food processing sector.
Note: Representatives of seven companies from across the country and the Netherlands government signed the MoU in the presence of chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. These companies would help farmers through the state government in the food processing sector, including harvesting, processing and packaging of fruits, vegetables, fish and aqua products.
 - Zolfaghar-99 is an annual three-day naval exercise of **Iran** that was held near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.
Note: Units from the navy, air force and ground forces participated in the maneuver in the Gulf of Oman. Iranian submarines and drones were used during the exercise. The annual maneuver dubbed as Zolfaghar-99 was aimed at improving readiness in confronting foreign threats and any possible invasion.
 - With a focus on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region **India, France, Australia** have held the first trilateral dialogue.
Note: The three countries also had an exchange on the priorities, challenges and trends in regional and global multilateral institutions, including the best ways to strengthen and reform multilateralism. The trilateral dialogue helped underscore the goal of guaranteeing peace, security and adherence to international law in the Indo-Pacific.
 - India and **Japan** signed the Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services agreement boosting the interoperability between the armed forces of the two countries.
Note: The agreement was signed by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Ambassador of Japan Mr Suzuki Satoshi. This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in the reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in bilateral training activities, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities

August

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15. India collaborated with **Israel** country to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds.
Note: They have started to conduct trials at a special testing site at Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya (RML) Hospital on a large sample of patients for 4 different kinds of technologies namely, Voice test, Breath analyser test, Isothermal testing and Polyamino acid testing. The rapid testing has been developed jointly in cooperation with the Directorate of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D) of the Israeli Ministry of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
16. Former king of **Spain** Juan Carlos decided to leave his country to protect the monarchy after a barrage of corruption allegations surfaced against him.
Note: The once-popular, now scandal-ridden, king left Spain before Monday's announcement, local media said, with no indication of where he may have gone. The bombshell move stunned Spaniards and left them divided over whether the 82-year-old, who keeps the title of King Emeritus, was right to depart or should have stayed to face justice.
17. **Great Britain** is considering minting a coin to remember Mahatma Gandhi.
Note: Rishi Sunak Britain's current Finance Minister issued an order in a letter to the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC) to pursue recognition of individuals from the BAME community. Taking a step ahead in following the order RMAC will mint a coin to commemorate Gandhi.
18. Barakah Nuclear Plant of **UAE** has achieved first criticality and successfully started up is located in which country.
Note: The announcement, coinciding with the Muslim holiday of Id al-Adha, comes hot on the heels of the UAE's launch of the Arab world's first probe to Mars. The new plant is part of the UAE's graph to become less reliant on oil and gas, the current source of the vast majority of its energy. UAE is among the world's biggest fossil fuels producers.
19. **Russia** becomes the first country to officially register a coronavirus vaccine and declare it ready for use.
Note: The Russian vaccine will be called "Sputnik V" in homage to the world's first satellite launched by the Soviet Union. The vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Institute in Moscow uses a different virus -- adenovirus -- that's been modified to carry genes for the "spike" protein that coats the coronavirus, as a way to prime the body to recognise when a real COVID-19 infection comes along.
20. Indian origin senator **Kamala Harris** named as US Vice Presidential candidate for Democratic party.
Note: In the United States, Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden has named Indian-origin senator Kamala Harris as his Vice-Presidential running mate. Joe Biden made history by selecting the first black woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket. Kamala Harris is currently the US Senator from California. Former US President Barack Obama has often described her as a trailblazer.
21. **Reliance Foundation** has launched the "W-GDP Women Connect Challenge" across India in association with US Agency for International Development (USAID).
Note: The "W-GDP Women Connect Challenge" has been launched to bridge the gender divide as well as the digital divide in India. The Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) challenge supports private sector-led approaches that close the gender digital divide, expand business opportunities and empower women.
22. India announced a \$500 million package to fund a project in **Maldives**.
Note: An air connectivity "bubble" for travel, a direct ferry service, a submarine cable for telecom connectivity; and assistance for the Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) to connect Male to three neighbouring islands. India has sought to regain diplomatic influence in the islands after a new administration led by President Ibrahim Solih took power following the defeat of the pro-China strongman Abdulla Yameen in elections in 2018.
23. The Dragon Endeavour is the spacecraft of space company **SpaceX**.
Note: NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley are aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon Endeavour spacecraft as it is lifted onto the SpaceX GO Navigator recovery ship shortly after landing in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Pensacola, Florida, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020.
24. **Israel** has successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, "Arrow-2" ballistic missile interceptor.
Note: The Missile test was conducted in the test site in Central Israel over the Mediterranean Sea. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) of the United States of America along with Israeli Air Force and Israel Aerospace Industries conducted the testing.
25. Intergovernmental organization **European Union** has launched project 'Nirmanshree' for enhancing the women skill towards housing construction sector.
Note: This is the first-of-its-kind sustainable housing on a large scale in India with 1-million-euro. The project will be implemented in Beed and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra and the Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts of Odisha.
26. **United Kingdom** has launched £3 million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India to support scientists in academic arena and industry to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.
Note: The fund invites tech innovators with connections to the AI-Data cluster in Karnataka and the future mobility cluster in Maharashtra to submit research and development proposals for tackling COVID-19 or which promote a greener planet.
27. Recently, India has signed a cultural agreement with **Israel** that outlines a three-year programme of

cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations.

Note: India and Israel signed a cultural agreement that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations today. It aims to promote greater people-to-people exchanges.

28. UAE became the first Gulf Arab country to have active diplomatic ties to Israel.

Note: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates, have agreed for the Israel–United Arab Emirates peace agreement, or the Abraham Accord to establish full diplomatic ties. It is expected that the peace accord will be signed in the White House, US in early September, 2020.

29. The first meeting of the National Coordination Committees for monitoring implementation of mutually agreed projects between India and **Uzbekistan**.

Note: Both nations reexamined the activities of bilateral economic and trade cooperation which are in operation or planned for the future. The Committee was set up under the supervision of the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

30. Tech giant **Google** has launched ‘The Anywhere School’ initiative in more than 250 countries around the world.

Note: Under the initiative, Google will roll out over 50 new features across products like Google Meet, Classroom, G Suite and other products. Google will launch custom and blurred backgrounds in Google Meet to provide ‘extra privacy’ to the users.

31. China has launched its New Optical Remote-Sensing Satellite “Gaofen-9 05” along with 2 Smaller Payloads.

Note: The satellite, Gaofen-9 05, was sent into orbit by a Long March-2D carrier rocket. A multifunctional test satellite and another satellite named Tiantuo-5 were also launched via the rocket.

32. A pair of gold-rimmed spectacles worn by Mahatma Gandhi were sold in an auction for £260,000 (over Rs 2.5 crore) in **UK**.

Note: The iconic spectacles were sold to an American collector within six minutes of bidding at an auction in Bristol. The glasses had been dropped in their letter box by a man who claimed that they were originally gifted to his uncle by Gandhi himself.

33. Indian Institute of Technology’s (IIT) Alumni Council has signed an agreement with **Russia** to build the world’s largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India.

Note: The most promising areas for Indo-Russian joint projects are Information and Communications Technology, space exploration, climate change, quantum technology and data security.

34. Global telecom company **Ericsson** has partnered with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to help map school internet connectivity in 35 countries by the end of 2023.

Note: This joint initiative is a part of the Giga initiative launched by UNICEF and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in September 2019 to provide internet connection to every school and their surrounding communities.

35. Singapore will offer free coronavirus tests to community groups such as taxi drivers, food delivery workers and hawkers as part of efforts to expand the COVID-19 testing regime.

Note: Singapore will offer free coronavirus tests to community groups such as taxi drivers, food delivery workers and hawkers as part of efforts to expand the COVID-19 testing regime.

July

1. According to the US-based news agency Associated Press, **China** has been running a number of in-human campaigns to slash the birth rates among the minority Muslim population called ‘Demographic Genocide’.

Note: Experts have labeled this Campaign of China as ‘Demographic Genocide’. Among the Muslim minorities in China, most belong to Uyghurs ethnic groups. The Chinese Government continues to claim that the camps set up at the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China are for offering voluntary education and training.

2. India and Japan have conducted Naval Exercise ‘PASSEX’ to promote mutual understanding and for tactical and communications training.

Note: This was the 15th exercise undertaken by the navies of these two nations in the last three years. The overall content of this PASSEX was goodwill training and to promote understanding.

3. New Zealand has cancelled the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is opting to lead a virtual summit.

Note: New Zealand cancelled the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that was scheduled to be held in Auckland, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is opting to lead a virtual summit. The 2019 leaders’ meeting was cancelled by Chile due to violent anti-government protests and the virtual APEC meeting of 2020 are being hosted by Malaysia.

4. Uganda became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Note: Uganda became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change (UNFCCC), which has opened the way for potential results based payments to Uganda. The submitted documents will help Uganda to claim the funds through the Green Climate Fund's forest conservation scheme.

5. **Israel** has successfully launched a new spy satellite "Ofek 16".

Note: Ofek 16 is a small electro-optical imaging satellite, which will capture high-resolution images of the Earth for Israel's Ministry of Defence. With the launch of Ofek 1 in September 1988, Israel became the eighth country to develop its own orbital launch capability. It uses this capability exclusively for military payloads, relying on foreign rockets to carry its civilian and commercial satellites into orbit.

6. **Fourth** edition of "Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)" was held virtually for the first time in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: From India, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar participated in meet. The meet was co-chaired by European Union (EU), China and Canada.

7. **Sri Lanka and Maldives** became the first two countries from the South East Asia Region of WHO to have successfully eliminated both the Measles and Rubella Virus.

Note: Sri Lanka and Maldives the first two countries from the South-East Asia Region of the WHO to achieve the target. The target year set by the WHO for eliminating Rubella Virus from the South-East Asia Region is 2023.

8. **Germany** become the first industrialized country to phase out of both coal and nuclear energy.

Note: This phase out is a part of Germany's "energy transition" to reduce the use of fossil fuels and to support the use of renewable resources. German closed its last coal mine in 2018 and committed to close its nuclear power plants by 2022.

9. India's rank among 10 Asia-Pacific countries in the "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control" prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)-- **eighth**.

Note: The 10 Asia-Pacific countries included in this report were — Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. India records below-average scores across all three pillars in the EIU's ICP — policy and planning, care delivery, and health system and governance.

10. According to Dun and Bradstreet's (D&B) Country Risk and Global Outlook Report in 2020 the global economy is likely to contract by **5.2%**.

Note: As per report, the global economy will not reach pre-pandemic levels of activity again before 2022. India's economy is expected to contract this fiscal year after four decades of positive growth. In March, 2020 D&B downgraded India's rating to DB5c from DB4d,

stating the magnitude of downgrade and the risk level highest since 1994.

11. **Nepal** has imposed a ban on all private Indian news channel.

Note: Except for the Indian State-owned Doordarshan's news channel DD News, Nepal based Multi-System Operators have issued a broadcasting ban on all other Indian News Channels in Nepal.

12. What will be the rise in mean average global temperature in next 5 years as per the report "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-24" released by the WMO -- **1.5°C**.

Note: This is because of man-made greenhouse emissions and there is a 20% chance that it will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) in at least one year between 2020-2024. Overall, it is very likely to be within the range 0.91 – 1.59°C. The 1.5 C mark is the level to which countries have agreed to try to limit global warming as per 2015 Paris accord.

13. World Health Organization (WHO) has formulated an independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 -- **Helen Elizabeth Clark & Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**.

Note: The Panel will be co-chaired by former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Elizabeth Clark and former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. While Helen Clark served as an administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the other hand, Ellen Sirleaf is a recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. Both will choose other Panel members.

14. The ADB has entered into a 5-year agreement with Qatar-based Education Above All Foundation to work jointly for project worth of **\$100 million**.

Note: It will put at least 3.2 lakh out-of-school children, including refugees and internally displaced children into quality primary education. Initially, 10 nations have been selected for projects namely- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

15. Recently **UAE** has expressed interest to have an Open Sky Agreement with India.

Note: Open Sky Agreements are bilateral agreements that the two countries negotiate to provide rights for airlines to offer international passenger and cargo services. It expands international passenger and cargo flights. Open skies between India and UAE will allow unlimited number of flights to the selected cities of each other's countries.

16. **Kuwait** has approved an Expat Quota Bill.

Note: According to the bill, Indians should not exceed 15% of the population and if it is enacted into law, over 8 lakh Indians could be forced out of Kuwait. The draft expat quota bill has been deemed constitutional and will be transferred to the respective committee so that a comprehensive plan is created. Lawmakers and

government officials including the Prime Minister of Kuwait have been calling to reduce the number of expats from 70% to 30% of the population.

17. World's first gold-plated hotel was unveiled in **Vietnam**.

Note: The hotel overlooks the Giang Vo Lake. It boasts of a gold-plated infinity pool on the roof. The 25-storey hotel cost approximately \$200 million to build. Rooms at Dolce start at \$250 per night.

18. **Russian** Gamalei Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology's COVID-19 vaccine becomes the first in the world to successfully completed the Human Clinical Trials.

Note: The trials on volunteers were conducted from 18th June 2020 at Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University. At Sechenov University, the Director of Institute for Translational Medicine and Biotechnology has informed that the First Group of Volunteers will be released on 15th July 2020 while the Second Group of Volunteers will be released next Monday (20th July 2020).

19. According to the data released by the United Kingdom, **India** has become the second largest Foreign Direct Investor in the United Kingdom (UK) after the United States in 2019.

Note: The United States of America remains as the top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of the UK, delivering 462 projects and 20,131 jobs. The List is followed by India, Germany, France, China and Hong Kong.

20. **China** has launched a two-month campaign to clean up websites aimed at users under the age of 18.

Note: The campaign will be for a period of two months, mostly websites providing online learning content through live streamlining or video conferencing. They will be checked as a part of the campaign, also instant messaging tools and android applications offering entertainment, quick part-time jobs for easy money, etc will be checked.

21. **Iran** drops India from Chabahar rail project, cites funding delay.

Note: Four years after India and Iran signed an agreement to construct a rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, the Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction on its own, citing delays from the Indian side in funding and starting the project.

22. UNICEF India joined hands with **FICCI** to jointly develop UNICEF's "#Reimagine Campaign".

Note: The campaign aims to support the most vulnerable populations and children during the COVID-19 response and its after-math in India. It will also help in avoiding the potential long-term damage to business operations as well as employment pipeline.

23. **China** has successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite via a Long March 3B carrier rocket.

Note: China Academy of Space

Technology has developed the commercial satellite 'APSTAR-6D'. APSTAR-6D marked the 18th Rocket Launched by China in the year 2020. The APSTAR-6D satellite was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology Corp. (CASC), a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp.

24. Elyes Fakhfakh resigned from the post of prime minister of **Tunisia**.

Note: His resignation has come after a campaign to oust him in a vote of no confidence gathered momentum and to avoid more conflicts between state institutions in the country. Elyes Fakhfakh was appointed prime minister of Tunisia in January 2020.

25. **UNICEF** has partnered with SAP India to improve the employability skills of young people in a COVID-19 as well as post COVID-19 era.

Note: Under this initiative, UNICEF has collaborated with YuWaah (Generation Unlimited) to offer digital education as well as occupational skillset to the underserved young people of India. The UNICEF – YuWaah – SAP India partnership has a prime objective to empower young people, to utilize their creativity, problem-solving and leadership assets, to improve their own lives as well of their communities.

26. Pakistan and China signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project being built on **Jhelum** river of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Note: The first agreement, for the 1,100 MW Kohala project, was signed on June 23. That project, worth \$ 2.3 billion, too will come up on the Jhelum near Muzaffarabad. Gezhouba set up a special purpose joint venture with the Laraib Group, a Pakistani renewable energy developer.

27. **Jordan** apex court dissolved the country's branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, a transnational Islamist movement.

Note: The Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1928, is a pan-Islamic movement with both charitable and political arms. It has faced years of pressure, especially in the wake of the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings and has been outlawed as a "terrorist" group in Egypt and banned in several other countries.

28. The first Arab space mission dubbed as 'HOPE Probe' was launched by United Arab Amirate (UAE) from **Japan**.

Note: H2A, the rocket carrying the Hope Probe to space, was launched from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan. It is the Arab world's first interplanetary landmark mission, putting UAE firmly ahead of all the countries in the Middle East in the area of space and technology. Hope Probe Spacecraft is expected to reach the Red Planet by February 2021, to coincide with UAE's 50th anniversary of its formation.

29. The United Nations has declared Noor Wali Mehsud associated with terrorist organization **Tehrik-e-Taliban** as a global terrorist.

- Note:** The UN has blacklisted Mehsud for participating in the financing, planning and perpetrating acts on behalf of and in support of entities associated with al-Qaeda.
- 30. India** and Maldives signed an agreement to establish “Emergency Medical Services” in Male.
Note: The Emergency Medical Service is financed by India under grant assistance of 20 million USD for neighbouring countries. This will help to increase the collaboration between the countries, especially in the areas of health care facilities, disaster responses during critical times, etc.
- 31.** Rescue package **€750 billion** has been announced by the European Union (EU) to rebuild the bloc’s economies ravaged by COVID-19.
Note: The European Commission plans to raise the money in the financial markets, rather than injecting new money into the system.
- 32. Saudi Arabia** hosted the G20 Digital Ministers’ Meet 2020.
Note: Union Minister of Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad attended G20 Digital Ministers’ Meet. The Saudi Arabian Presidency has selected the theme, “Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All”
- 33.** 75th session of United Nations General Assembly is to be conducted virtually in 2020 for the first time in its history.
Note: Every year, world leaders meet at UN headquarters in New York to debate important issues of the planet. The UNGA is the main policy making body of the United Nations. It was created under Chapter IV of the UN charter. The charter was signed in San Francisco in 1945.
- 34. Nicaragua** has become the 87th country to join the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, an initiative led by India to promote sustainable energy.
Note: The ISA is an alliance of 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- 35.** World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council has granted the “Observer” status to Asian country **Turkmenistan**.
Note: After receiving the observer status from WTO, Turkmenistan has become the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the trade body. Turkmenistan has become the 25th observer of the organization.
- 36. China** has successfully launched “Tianwen-1” its first independent mission to Mars.
Note: China had launched an orbiter destined for Mars on a Russian rocket in 2011, but the mission failed because the rocket malfunctioned. Tianwen-1, whose name means “Questions to Heaven,” is a combined orbiter, lander and rover that aims to explore the Martian environment and search for hints of life.
- 37.** India handed over 10 Railway Locomotives to **Bangladesh** to bolster its Neighborhood First Policy.
Note: India had committed to Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina during her visit to India to provide broad gauge diesel locomotives to the country. The handing over event was conducted virtually and was attended by Indian External Affairs Minister S Jai Shankar, Railways Minister Piyush Goyal and their Bangladeshi counter parts.
- 38.** The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** is published by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** organization that says that India and Thailand are the main source of (82%) of illegal shipment of tiger body parts.
Note: According to the report Thailand and India are the main source countries for shipments seized in international trade of tiger parts. The report says that India and Thailand source 82% of illegal shipment of tiger body parts. The tiger body parts have great medicinal values. The medicines made of bones of the tiger are used to heal ligament injuries, joint and bone fractures.
- 39.** Kali temple (300 years-old) is being reconstructed in **Bangladesh** with the support of India.
Note: The reconstruction is happening with Indian grant assistance of Bangladeshi Taka 97 lakhs and a total cost of Bangladeshi Taka of 1.33 Crores under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) scheme of India.
- 40. Delhi** government has launched a free website ‘Rozgaar Bazaar 2020’, that will connect the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform.
Note: The portal connects the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform. The aim of the portal is to boost the economy and employment in Delhi. In this website, the employers and companies can post their jobs and vacancies.
- 41.** Under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA) NTPC Ltd planned to establish solar power plants in **Sri Lanka**.
Note: The Ceylon Electricity Board(CEB) has an installed power generation capacity of around 35.8 GigaWatts(GW).The NTPC’s Sri Lanka Solar park with installed capacity of 62.91 GW is one of the contracts to help the ISA member countries to build a 10 GW solar capacity.
- 42. Zimbabwe** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
Note: The objective of the MoU is to promote traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy between two nations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.
- 43.** The polycarbonate facility of SABIC in **Spain** is set to become the world’s first large scale chemical

production plant which will run entirely on renewable energy.

Note: Once the solar plant is operational, SABIC's customers including the ones from automotive and

constructive sectors will have access to polycarbonate solutions produced with 100 per cent renewable power.

June

- SpaceX** become the first private rocket company to send astronauts to space.
Note: SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft with two NASA astronauts successfully docked with the International Space Station last night after a historic launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It has marked the dawn of a new age in commercial space travel.
- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has extended the individual sanctions, travel ban and an arms embargo on **South Sudan** country till May 2021.
Note: An arms embargo is a restriction or a set of sanctions that applies solely to weaponry. This extension has been drafted by the United States (US), which received 12 votes in favour while Russia, China and South Africa abstained it. The resolution will encourage developments in South Sudan's peace process as the nation is emerging from a brutal six-year civil war that left 380,000 dead and millions displaced.
- In association with **Costa Rica** country the World Health Organization has launched COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).
Note: More than 30 countries have signed up to support this initiative. C-TAP was first proposed by Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado in March 2020. He also joined WHO's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during the video launch of the initiative. The nations who have not signed up for the WHO launched initiative are the economic powers such as France, China, Germany, Turkey, Japan, the US, and the UK.
- India's rank in the "Countries Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem 2020" report prepared by Zurich based global innovation mapping and research company StartupBlink -- **23rd**.
Note: The third-largest ecosystem – India, in terms of number of technology startups, has been ranked even behind emerging ecosystems such as Estonia, Lithuania, Brazil, Denmark etc. The ranking has been led by the US, the UK, and Israel while China has improved its rank by 13 spots to 14th position this year and Japan stood at 21st spot.
- South African National Space Agency (SANS)** has partnered with NASA to host a deep-space ground station, which will support human spaceflight missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond.
Note: With this collaboration, South Africa became the fourth country after the US, Spain and Australia to host a deep space ground station. The partnership between the South African National Space Agency (SANS) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) to host the space station followed an earlier agreement between the two organisations for the establishment of the station at Matjiesfontein town in the Western Cape Province.
- India has signed an MoU with **Bhutan** on cooperation in the areas of the environment that was approved by the union cabinet.
Note: A Memorandum of Understanding covering air, waste, chemical management, climate change has been considered keeping in view bilateral interest of both sides. The MoU shall come into force on the date of signing and shall continue to remain in force for a period of ten years.
- United Kingdom** has hosted Virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020.
Note: The virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020 featured the participation of over 50 countries including the business leaders, civil society, government ministers, UN agencies, Heads of State and country leaders. During the virtual summit, India pledged a contribution of 15 Million US Dollars to Gavi, the international vaccine alliance.
- Australia** signed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) with India to increase military interoperability through defence exercises between the two countries.
Note: The first India-Australia virtual leader's summit was held between Indian Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison. The focus of the meet was to further strengthen the bilateral ties in areas like healthcare, trade and defence.
- What is the theme of the 51st WEF annual summit to be held in January 2021 --- **The Great Reset**.
Note: The announcement was made by Prince Charles of Wales and WEF Founder and Executive Klaus Schwab during a virtual meeting. WEF annual meeting will be held every year at Davos, Switzerland. 50th annual WEF meeting was held from January 21-24, 2020.
- An Unmanned submersible of **China** to dived deep down to 10,907 metres to the world's deepest point Mariana Trench,
Note: A team of scientists left for an expedition on April 23, 2020. The researchers tested acoustic detection, video transmission, high precision depth detection during the deep-sea diving operation.
- Kathy Sullivan** has become the first woman and the fifth person in history to descend to the deepest known spot in the world's oceans called the 'Challenger Deep' in the Mariana Trench.

- Note:** She was also the first American woman to walk in space in 1984. Sullivan is now the only human who has walked in space and reached the deepest point in the ocean. Challenger Deep is the deepest point in the Earth's sea bed. It is at a depth of 10,902 metres.
- 12. Italy and Greece** has signed an agreement demarcating their maritime boundaries, amid tension in the Mediterranean region over rights to natural resources.
Note: The agreement signed at the foreign ministry during a visit to Athens by Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, tackled an issue that had been pending for 40 years. It demarcates the exclusive economic zone — the maritime area in which a nation has the right of energy exploration and use of marine resources — between the two neighbors, as well as settling fishing rights.
- 13. Massachusetts Institute of Technology** institute/university maintains its position as the top institution in world in the QS World University Rankings 2021 released recently.
Note: In the QS World University Rankings 2021 feature not a single Indian institute among the top 100 universities across the world. Only three educational institutes from India IIT Bombay (172), IISc Bengaluru (185), and IIT Delhi (193) featured in the top 200 list.
- 14. New Zealand** has declared that the nation has become free from “Coronavirus”.
Note: The announcement was made when the last person who was being monitored for coronavirus was released from isolation and regarded as recovered. Hence, New Zealand has announced to lift all the coronavirus measures that were implemented in the country and move to national alert level 1 from midnight on 9 June 2020.
- 15. Bangladesh** has launched an initiative named ‘Shohojodha’, an online network to facilitate plasma exchange between recovered patients of COVID-19.
Note: The initiative has been launched by the ICT division of the government of Bangladesh in collaboration with Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The plasma therapy for the Coronavirus patients in Bangladesh is under trial process awaiting final approval from the government.
- 16. India** has signed an MoU with **Denmark** country to strengthen the cooperation in power sector.
Note: Under the MOU to implement the agreement of the identified areas a Joint Working Group (JWG) will be established and co-chaired by joint Secretary-level officials who will report to a Steering Committee jointly chaired by the Secretary level officers from both the sides.
- 17. United Kingdom** has announced ‘Jet Zero’ plan to drive down aviation emissions and to make carbon-free transatlantic flights possible.
Note: The U.K. is chasing a target to make the country a net-zero economy by 2050, and transport emissions are proving among the toughest to get down. Aviation emissions currently account for more than 2% of global greenhouse gases and have risen by 70% since 2005. The International Civil Aviation Organization forecasts that they will rise another 300% by 2050 in the absence of measures to bring them down.
- 18. Western Railway** has created a new world benchmark by successfully running first Double-Stack Container Train in high-rise in Over Head Equipment electrified territory on.
Note: This achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of Green India. The Operations successfully commenced on 10th June from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat.
- 19. Teams for Education** features launched by Microsoft to engage and prepare students and teachers for new remote and hybrid learning formats in the upcoming school year.
Note: These features include expanded audience view of up to 49 participants, custom backgrounds, class insights, and virtual breakout rooms, among other new features. Aimed at increasing student participation and give educators new methods to keep students digitally engaged, Teams will expand its grid view to 7x7, accommodating up to 49 participants.
- 20. India** has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term.
Note: Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the Security Council elections held last night. India was a candidate for a non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term. India's two-year term will begin on January 1, 2021.
- 21. India** will send 75-member Tri-Service contingent to participate in the military parade to **Russia** on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.
Note: The parade will honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other friendly people. Defence Minister of Russia had invited an Indian contingent to take part in the Victory Day Parade scheduled to be held on 24th of this month.
- 22. Accordance** to the annual report on displacement titled “Global Trends- Forced Displacement in 2019” released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with **approx 1.0 per cent** of world population faced forced displacement.
Note: On the Global front, the displacement number is 79.5 million or one in every 97 people on the planet at the end of 2019. This number of forced displacement has almost doubled since 2010 (41 million). It should be noted that this figure is the highest since these statistics have been systematically collected. It is approximately 1% of the world's population.
- 23. China** has decided to join the multilateral Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).
Note: China was one of the 23 countries back in 2013 when it abstained from the vote to adopt the treaty at

- the United Nations. The U.S. President has announced in April 2019 that the U.S. will never ratify the Arms Trade Treaty under his administration (the U.S has signed the treaty but was yet to ratify).
- 24. China** has successfully launched the last Satellite of its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).
Note: The satellite was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch center in Sichuan Province. BDS is one of the four global navigation networks among the US's GPS, Russia's GLONASS and European Union's Galileo.
- 25. Mt. Merapi** an active volcano erupted twice in June, 2020 is in **Indonesia**.
Note: Merapi (Mountain of Fire) is the most active of Indonesia's 130 active volcanoes. Indonesia is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire. It is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- 26. As a commemorations** of the 6th International Yoga Day, world's first Yoga University outside India was launched in **Los Angeles** United State.
Note: The university will be known by the name- Vivekananda Yoga University. The University was launched as a part of the commemorations for the 6th International Yoga Day. Chancellor of SVYASA- Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana, Dr. H R Nagendra will be the first Chairman of the Vivekananda Yoga University.
- 27. Pakistan** remained in the FATF's Grey List.
Note: The decision has been taken as Pakistan has failed to check flow of money to terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The decision was taken at the Financial Action Task Force's third and final plenary held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 28. African country Mali** granted the Project Management Consultancy (PMC) contract for the development of a 500 MW solar park to NTPC Limited.
Note: In the event chaired by RK Singh, Minister of State for Power and President of International Solar Alliance (ISA), Sekou Kasse, Ambassador of Mali handed the award letter to Gurdeep Singh, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of NTPC. To support the electricity requirements of their citizens, the Republic
- of Mali has taken various initiatives with more focus on Solar power and its applications.
- 29. A Tripartite Power Purchase Agreement** was signed for the construction of the 1124 MW Kohala Hydro Power Project between Pakistan, China, and Azad Kashmir. The Project is built on **Jhelum** river.
Note: The agreement was signed in between the Government of Pakistan, Chinese Company- China Three Gorges Corporation (State-owned company of Chinese Government), and Government of Azad Kashmir (PoK). The Hydropower project is located near the villages of Siran and Barsala in Muzaffarabad district of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.
- 30. India** become the first country to control locusts through drones.
Note: India is the first country to control locusts through drones. Under the Make in India initiative, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW), Agriculture Ministry has indigenously developed a vehicle-mounted Ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayer for locust control. Locust is a crop-threatening migratory pest that has entered the country through the India-Pakistan border.
- 31. According to latest study** by OECD's 'Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes, which are top three countries as Exchange of Information partners of Switzerland -- **India, France and Germany**.
Note: India is getting detailed information on request, from Switzerland about bank accounts and beneficiary ownership of entities established by its residents. India is also rated as 'largely compliant' by this OECD's review. It has also named Italy, Netherlands and Spain among other significant EOI partners for Switzerland.
- 32. The theme of the '36th ASEAN Summit** held via video conference under chairmanship of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc -- **Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN**.
Note: The summit was chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc as Vietnam is ASEAN's chair in 2020. The focus of the meet was on COVID-19 response, post-pandemic recovery and further cooperation with partners.

May

- 1. The geological survey of USA** has released the first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon namely "Unified Geologic Map of the Moon".
Note: The scientists from United States Geological Survey (USGS) Astrogeology Science Center, in collaboration with NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and the Lunar Planetary Institute have virtually released the first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon namely "Unified Geologic Map of the Moon". It will serve as a blueprint for future human missions and a source of research and analysis for the educators and the general public interested in lunar geology. It should be noted that the moon is the closest cosmic body to Earth
- 2. Russia** country will launch its first Arktika-M satellite for monitoring the Arctic climate and environment at the end of the year.
Note: Russia will launch its first Arktika-M satellite for monitoring the Arctic climate and environment at the end of the year. Russia's Arktika-M remote-sensing and emergency communications satellites will gather meteorological data in the polar regions of the Earth, which will allow to improve weather forecasts and will enable scientists to better study climate change.

3. **USD 400 million** of multi-year financial support has been approved by the World Bank for India.

Note: It will help protect coastal resources by focusing on the rehabilitation of coastal beaches and mangroves. The 1st phase covers 8 coastal States and 3 coastal Union Territories, with USD 180 million in funding, for Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency (ENCORE). The loan from the international bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 14.5 years including a grace period of 5 years.

4. Arabian country **Iran** has decided to change its currency from Rial to Toman by slashing four zeros from the rial.

Note: Iran's parliament has passed a bill allowing the government to slash four zeros from the rial and authorizing its replacement with another basic unit of currency called the toman (redenomination). Under the bill, Iran's national currency will be changed from the rial to the Toman, which is equal to 10,000 rials. It is the process whereby a country's currency is revalued due to significant inflation and currency devaluation, or when a country adopts a new currency and needs to exchange the old currency for a new one at a fixed rate.

5. **China** country has successfully launched a new rocket named "Long March 5B" into space which will pave the way of its Moon landing plans.

Note: This rocket is launched in Wenchang launch site that is located on the island of Hainan, China. The rocket is a massive vehicle and is being compared with deep space Orion capsule of NASA. The rocket in the future will help China transport astronauts to space station by 2022. The rocket launch will also aid China in its plans of building a huge space station called "Tiangong". Tiangong is the space station programme of China.

6. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN) postal agency released a commemorative postage stamp on the 40th anniversary of the eradication of **smallpox**.

Note: The commemorative stamp was designed and developed by Sergio Baradat, United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) in collaboration with WHO. The stamp will be available for purchase at unstats.un.org and it can be used to mail postcards and letters around the world, provided that they are sent from the UN headquarters in New York, Geneva or Vienna respectively.

7. **Israel** named street after Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th anniversary.

Note: Israel named it 'Tagore Street' to commemorate the poet's birth anniversary. Tagore, who wrote his poetry, novels, stories and plays in Bengali, in 1913 he won the prestigious Nobel prize in literature and till now, he is the only poet from India to have done so.

8. **India** hold the chair of the World Health Organization in May 2020 after Japan completes its tenure.

Note: India is to hold the chair of the World Health Organization in May 2020 after Japan completes its tenure. India will continue to hold the chair for the next three years. This comes during the time when there are world wide criticisms faced by WHO. Especially the US, one of India's primary trading partner, accused WHO being China-centric. It is to be noted that US has also cut the funds allocated to the WHO.

9. As per the World Health Organization's Global Nutrition Report, 2020 India is one among the 88 countries that are to miss global nutrition targets set for the year **2025**.

Note: The World Health Organization released Global Nutrition Report, 2020. According to the report, India is one among the 88 countries that are to miss global nutrition targets set for the year 2025. India also has highest rates of domestic inequalities, especially in malnutrition. Along with Nigeria and Indonesia, India was declared the least performing in case of disparities in stunting.

10. World Health Organization (WHO) has released the first "The State of the World's Nursing 2020" report amid COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with Nursing and **International Council of Nurses (ICN)**.

Note: In accordance with the report, there are 28 million nurses worldwide but still, there is a global shortfall of 5.9 million. Countries facing the greatest shortfall of nurses are in Africa, South East Asia and the WHO Eastern Mediterranean region as well as some parts of Latin America. Between 2013 and 2018, nursing numbers increased by 4.7 million. More than 80% of the world's nurses work in countries that are home to half of the world's population.

11. In the fight against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic, the United Nations (UN) and its partner agencies have appealed to governments, companies and billionaires to donate **\$ 6.7 billion**.

Note: In this campaign, special attention is being given to dealing with more vulnerable countries and combating food insecurity, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, among others. As per the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock, the \$ 2 billion initial appeal by the United Nations on March 25, 2020, has been boosted because income and job losses have increased. However, due to increasing human needs continuously, the updated "COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan" for the remaining time of 2020 was 6.7 billion dollars.

12. **Italy** country has developed 'iFeel-You' bracelet for social distancing.

Note: The Genoa-based Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) has developed 'iFeel-You' bracelet for social distancing. This bracelet will help users respect social distancing rules. The bracelet has been developed as the measures for safeguarding against the coronavirus lockdown is being gradually lifted.

- 13. FAO organization** has released Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020.
Note: According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment(FRA) 2020 released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the forest loss rate in 2015-2020 has declined to an estimated 10 million hectares (mha), down from 12 mha in 2010-2015. The world has lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya.
- 14. Russia** country hosted the SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting via video conferencing on COVID-19 which was attended by the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
Note: EAM mentioned that the security challenges faced today are not associated with the physical or political boundaries and stated that the threat to security and stability in the region of SCO requires collective actions. He also stated about the Pakistani deep state's alleged involvement in the cross-border terrorism in Kashmir violating the ceasefire as the focus of India is on combating against COVID-19. India and Pakistan became the members of the SCO in 2017.
- 15. recently USA** announce to donate ventilators to India.
Note: The announcement is seen as a reciprocal gesture of India's lift on the export ban of the anti-malarial drug Hydroxychloroquine. India recently lifted the export ban over HCQ drugs. This benefitted the United States to larger extent.
- 16. India** along with 61 other countries moved a proposal in the World Health Organization to **identify the source of COVID-19**.
Note: The countries together moved a proposal at the WHO to identify zoonotic source. Only three permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have backed the resolution namely Russia, France and UK. The other countries to support the resolution includes South Korea, Japan, Australia, South Africa, India, New Zealand, etc.
- 17. Slovenia** becomes the first country in Europe to declare an end to its COVID-19 epidemic.
Note: The country officially marked an end to its virus epidemic after the government authorities confirmed less than seven new cases each day for the past two weeks. Slovenia, a country with a population of two million, has also opened its borders after declaring the end of the virus. The country shares its borders with Croatia, Austria, Italy and Hungary, and now people have started arriving in Slovenia from other European Union states.
- 18. USD 2 billion** amount has been announced by China over two years to fight the coronavirus pandemic at WHO assembly.
Note: The decision comes after, when China faced growing global pressure over the lockdowns, the death toll and a huge increase in coronavirus cases that has brought the world to a standstill. WHO announced the coronavirus outbreak to be a worldwide health emergency on January 30th 2020.
- 19. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** partnered with Indian telecom company **Airtel Africa** to support the school children in the coronavirus affected areas of Africa.
Note: Under this partnership, UNICEF and Airtel Africa will use mobile technology to benefit an estimated 133 million school age children currently affected by school closures in 13 countries across sub-Saharan Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic. Airtel Africa will zero-rate select websites hosting educational content, which will provide children with remote access to digital content at no cost.
- 20. Alfanar group of Saudi Arabia** will sell 300MW wind power projects in India which is likely to be among the largest wind energy deals in India.
Note: Riyadh-based Alfanar Group has a clean energy portfolio of 1.4 gigawatts (GW) in West Asia, Africa, Europe and Asia. In India, Alfanar has a wind project portfolio of around 600MW that it won in auctions conducted by state-run Solar Energy Corp. of India (SECI). India is running the world's largest clean energy programme, with an aim of having 175 gigawatts (GW) of clean energy capacity by 2022
- 21. India** handover war game centre named as "INDIA" to **Uganda**.
Note: The state of the art military training facility was handover by the Indian Association Uganda (IAU), in association with the Indian Military Advisory and Training Team to the UPDF. The Ugandans of Indian origin made voluntary contributions for the establishment of war game centre.
- 22. NASA** has renamed its next-generation space telescope "Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST)", which is set to launch in 2025 in honour of **Nancy Grace Roman**.
Note: Nancy Grace Roman is the US space agency's first chief astronomer, who paved the way for space telescopes focused on the broader universe. She left behind a tremendous legacy in the scientific community when she died in 2018.
- 23. Social media platform Facebook** has launched a group calling application named as "CatchUp".
Note: The app allows its users to engage in group calling with up to 8 members. However, this is not the first platform from Facebook that gives users this facility including WhatsApp, Messenger Rooms, etc

Honour & Awards

National Sports Awards 2020

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1. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2020

| S. No. | Name of the Sportsperson | Discipline |
|--------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Shri Rohit Sharma | Cricket |
| 2. | Shri Mariyappan T. | Para Athletics |
| 3. | Ms. Manika Batra | Table Tennis |
| 4. | Ms. Vinesh | Wrestling |
| 5. | Ms. Rani | Hockey |

2. Dronacharya Awards 2020

Life- Time Category

| S. No. | Name of the Coach | Discipline |
|--------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Shri Dharmendra Tiwary | Archery |
| 2. | Shri Purushotham Rai | Athletics |
| 3. | Shri Shiv Singh | Boxing |
| 4. | Shri Romesh Pathania | Hockey |
| 5. | Shri Krishan Kumar Hooda | Kabaddi |
| 6. | Shri Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar | Para Powerlifting |
| 7. | Shri Naresh Kumar | Tennis |
| 8. | Shri Om Parkash Dahiya | Wrestling |

Regular Category

| S. No. | Name of the Coach | Discipline |
|--------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Shri Jude Felix Sebastian | Hockey |
| 2. | Shri Yogesh Malviya | Mallakhamb |
| 3. | Shri Jaspal Rana | Shooting |
| 4. | Shri Kuldeep Kumar Handoo | Wushu |
| 5. | Shri Gaurav Khanna | Para Badminton |

3. Arjuna Awards 2020

| S. No. | Name of the Sportsperson (Shri) | Discipline |
|--------|---------------------------------|------------|
|--------|---------------------------------|------------|

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| | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Shri Atanu Das | Archery |
| 2. | Ms. Dutee Chand | Athletics |
| 3. | Shri Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy | Badminton |
| 4. | Shri Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty | Badminton |
| 5. | Shri Vishesh Bhriguvanshi | Basketball |
| 6. | Subedar Manish Kaushik | Boxing |
| 7. | Ms. Lovlina Borgohain | Boxing |
| 8. | Shri Ishant Sharma | Cricket |
| 9. | Ms. Deepti Sharma | Cricket |
| 10. | Shri Sawant Ajay Anant | Equestrian |
| 11. | Shri Sandesh Jhingan | Football |
| 12. | Ms. Aditi Ashok | Golf |
| 13. | Shri Akashdeep Singh | Hockey |
| 14. | Ms. Deepika | Hockey |
| 15. | Shri Deepak | Kabaddi |
| 16. | Shri Kale Sarika Sudhakar | Kho Kho |
| 17. | Shri Dattu Baban Bhokanal | Rowing |
| 18. | Ms. Manu Bhaker | Shooting |
| 19. | Shri Saurabh Chaudhary | Shooting |
| 20. | Ms. Madhurika Suhas Patkar | Table Tennis |
| 21. | Shri Divij Sharan | Tennis |
| 22. | Shri Shiva Keshavan | Winter Sports |
| 23. | Ms. Divya Kakran | Wrestling |
| 24. | Shri Rahul Aware | Wrestling |
| 25. | Shri Suyash Narayan Jadhav | Para Swimming |

| | | |
|-----|--------------------|----------------|
| 26. | Shri Sandeep | Para Athletics |
| 27. | Shri Manish Narwal | Para Shooting |

4. Dhyan Chand Award 2020

| S. No. | Name of the Sportsperson | Discipline |
|--------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Shri Kuldip Singh Bhullar | Athletics |
| 2. | Ms. Jincy Philips | Athletics |
| 3. | Shri Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe | Badminton |
| 4. | Ms. Trupti Murgunde | Badminton |
| 5. | Ms. N. Usha | Boxing |
| 6. | Shri Lakha Singh | Boxing |
| 7. | Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu | Football |
| 8. | Shri Ajit Singh | Hockey |
| 9. | Shri Manpreet Singh | Kabaddi |
| 10. | Shri J. Ranjith Kumar | Para Athletics |
| 11. | Shri Satyaprakash Tiwari | Para Badminton |
| 12. | Shri Manjeet Singh | Rowing |
| 13. | Late Shri Sachin Nag | Swimming |
| 14. | Shri Nandan P Bal | Tennis |
| 15. | Shri Netarpal Hooda | Wrestling |

September

- Satyendra Singh Lohia** becomes the first Divyanga sportsperson of the country to get the prestigious Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award 2020.
Note: He is also the first Asian Divyanga swimmer to cross the 42-kilometer Catalina Channel in the US in just 11 hours 34 minutes. Para-swimmer Satyendra Singh was also conferred with the Best Sportsperson National Award by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on World Divyanga Day.
- Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad** has won the 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent

Energy Efficient Unit' awards at the 21st National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management'.
Note: It was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC). The award was given during the 19th edition of 'Energy Efficiency Summit', Virtual Conference and Exposition on Energy Efficiency held from August 6-28, 2020.

- NTPC Limited** has won the All India Management Association (AIMA) Chanakya (Business Simulation Game) National Management Games (NMG) 2020.

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Note: AIMA Chanakya National Management Games is an online Business Simulation Game which is conducted every year. The championship aims to ensure that executives participating in the event get the onboard experience about the complexities of running an organisation and gain expertise and skills from this event. It also enables the Corporate Managers to face the thrill of Managing Business in a competitive mode.

4. **Sir David Attenborough** has been conferred with the prestigious Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019.

Note: He is an English broadcaster and a historian. He is popular for writing and presenting the BBC Natural History Unit. He worked to make aware to preserve and protect the biodiversity of the planet.

5. American global aerospace and defence technology company, Northrop Grumman, announced to name its next Cygnus capsule after Astronaut **Kalpana Chawla**.

Note: Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defence technology company, announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named the "S.S. Kalpana Chawla", in memory of the mission specialist who died with her six crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003.

6. Indian filmmaker **Chaitanya Tamhane** has won the best screenplay award at the Venice Film Festival. **Note:** Chinese American filmmaker Chloe Zhao bagged the top prize of the coveted Golden Lion for her drama Nomadland. The Jury headed by two-time Oscar winner Cate Blanchett. Mr. Tamhane became the first director from the country to compete in the main category of a European film festival after Mira Nair.

August

7. **Sunil Ydv SS** has been conferred with the Karmaveer Chakra Award instituted by the United Nations and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO).

Note: He received the award for his relentless contribution to society through his Telegram channel "SS Motivation."

8. **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)** has won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020, a national-level digital product building competition.

Note: It was jointly organized by MHRD and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) at Noida Institute of Engineering & Technology (NIET), Uttar Pradesh. The team of DIAT named as 'Age of Ultron' had six members under Dr. Sunita Dhavale. Prize Money: Rs 1 Lakh

9. **Moothon** film has won the Best Film Award in the 20th edition of New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) of Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC).

Note: It was conducted as a virtual event with the celebrities of the film industries and award winners participating from all across India and the United States. Nivin Pauly starring film Moothon was directed by Geetu Mohandas. The movie portrays the story of a 14-year-old who travels in search of Moothon (elder brother) Akbar who left Lakshadweep for Mumbai."

10. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recognized Venkatraipur and Noliyasi, villages of **Odisha** as 'Tsunami Ready' for their overall preparedness to face the tsunami.

Note: With this recognition, Odisha became the first state in India and India became the 1st Country in the Indian Ocean region to achieve the honour from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

11. The researchers from **IIT Kharagpur** institutions has won the Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Awards 2020 for developing a mechanism for generating electricity from wet clothes left under sunlight to dry.

Note: The work has been published in Nano Letters, a high-impact journal in the field, and the innovation has been patented by them. The same award was presented separately to another team of the IIT Kharagpur for addressing the problem of energy conservation and thermal management in wearable and flexible electronic devices.

12. **Nitin Sethi** has won the Asian College of Journalism's award 2019 for investigative journalism.

Note: The awards ceremony was conducted online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Sethi won in the investigative journalism category for his six-part series titled "Paisa Politics" published by The Huffington Post India.

13. **Shiv Sahay Singh** has won the Asian College of Journalism's award 2019 the K P Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for social impact journalism.

Note: He won the inaugural social impact journalism award for his story titled "Death by digital exclusion: On faculty public distribution system in Jharkhand" published in The Hindu.

14. **Akshay Kumar** is the only Indian actor to be listed among the top 10 world's highest-paid actors of 2020. **Note:** Akshay is placed at sixth place in the list. Most of his income came from product endorsements. The list takes into account the earnings between June 1, 2019, and June 1, 2020. The list has been topped by Wrestler-turned-movie star Dwayne Johnson, for a second straight year, with the total earning of \$87.5 million. Johnson is also known by his ring name The Rock.

15. Indian origin physician **Ravi Solanki** is among 19 winners of the UK's Royal Academy of Engineering President's Special Awards for Pandemic Service.
Note: Ravi Solanki, a physician working on neurodegenerative diseases, along with Raymond Siems, an engineer working in machine learning, were awarded for their volunteer work to help build a secure and fully functioning website for a new National Health Service (NHS) charity HEROES.
16. Rohit Sharma, Vinesh Phogat, Manika Batra and M Thangavelu were recommended for **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020** award by the National Sports Awards selection committee.
Note: Rohit Sharma will be the fourth cricketer after legendary Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli to be conferred the award. Tendulkar was awarded the Khel Ratna in 1998, Dhoni got it in 2007 and Kohli received in 2018.
17. St Christopher School of **Nagaland** has won the Gold Award along with cash prize of Rs.1 Lakh from the first ever Pallikkutam National Award for Innovation in Education instituted by Rajagiri Media.
Note: The St Christopher School won the award for ensuring a seamless class for the students with the limited infrastructure and resources in the rural area. The Prize money for Gold Award is Rs.1,00,000. The rural school provided a balanced online and offline activities for the students over the whatsapp. The award was sponsored under the CSR initiative of the Federal Bank Ltd.
18. **Indore** city became India's cleanest city for the fourth year in a row in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards.
Note: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the Swachh Survekshan 2020 result at the Award Ceremony 'Swachh Mahotsav' in the national capital being organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA). This is the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of the country. A total of 129 awards will be handed out to the top-performing cities and states.
19. Water technology company **VA Tech Wabag Ltd.** has won the prestigious Global Water Award for its 45 million liters a day Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis Plant.
Note: The plant has won the distinction award under the category of 'wastewater project of the year'. The plant is one of the largest and technologically advanced water treatment plants in India.
20. **NLCI** has bagged the "Swachhta Hi Seva award" for transforming Neyveli Township into a plastic-free, green campus.
Note: The award was conferred to three units of the PSU - Township administration office (First rank), Thermal Power Station -I (second rank) and Mines Sub-stores (third rank). NLCIL implemented the Swachhta Hi Seva programme in two phases -- the first phase from September 11 to November 2, 2019 and the second phase from October 3 to 27, 2019.
21. **Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash** has won the first ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations World Cup (MCWC).
Note: Bhanu Prakash had secured the gold medal with a score of 167, Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal with a score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.
22. **Tenzin Priyadarshi and Zara Houshmand** has authored the book titled 'Running Toward Mystery: The Adventure of an Unconventional Life'.
Note: The book provides an account of how the Dalai Lama traced his Spiritual Teacher Khunu Lama in India. Tenzin Priyadarshi is the President and CEO of The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Zara Houshmand is an Iranian American author and literary translator.
23. **Marieke Lucas Rijneveld** has been adjudged as the winner of the International Booker Prize 2020.
Note: The book was first published in Dutch in 2018 and eventually translated into English by Michele Hutchison. The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator to give equal recognition to both.
24. "Nayi Disha" is the HR initiative of **SBI** bank has been awarded with **Brandon Human Capital Management (HCM) Excellence Award 2020**.
Note: The award is also known as the Academy Awards of Learning & Development 2020. The SBI has been awarded with the global recognition for its HR initiative, "Nayi Disha". The award winners will be honored at Brandon Hall Group's annual HCM Excellence Conference, January 26-28, 2021 at the Hilton West Palm Beach, Florida.

July

1. **Raghuram Rajan** has been conferred with the first Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award in Official Statistics for lifetime achievements.
Note: He received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution in providing solutions in the issues related to the estimation of national income. The award has been instituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) from 2020
2. **Ravindra Jadeja** has been named as the India's 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) of the 21st century by Wisden.
Note: He made his debut in 2009 and represented India in 49 test matches, 165 ODIs and 49 T20Is as of 2020. Jadeja's MVP rating is around 97.3 which is second only

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- to Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka making him the second most Valuable Test Player of the 21st Century.
- Name the Indian-American who were listed among the 38 immigrants to be honoured as the '2020 Great Immigrants' by the Carnegie Corporation -- **Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee and Prof Raj Chetty**.
Note: The noted biologist, oncologist and the author Siddhartha Mukherjee was awarded Pulitzer Prize in 2011 for his book: The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer. Raj Chetty was chosen as the recipient for the award for his efforts in launching a real-time economic impact monitor of COVID-19.
 - Government announced to release commemorative stamp to honour **PV Narasimha Rao**.
Note: PV Narasimha Rao served as 9th prime minister from 1991 to 1996. He is the only non-Gandhi who completed a full term as prime minister. He was also the 1st prime minister of the country to hail from South India. His 100th birth anniversary was celebrated on June 28, 2020.
 - Mon District of **Nagaland** state received 2020 SKOCH awards under three categories in the 65th SKOCH summit 2020.
Note: The SKOCH Crucible Award for its focus on mission mode implementation of opening bank accounts through the Indian post Payment Bank (IBBP). SKOCH Order of Merit for its quick and innovative response to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and its initiative to home deliver the essentials to assist the citizens.
 - A new category of awards titled 'Prerak Daur Samman' has been announced as a part of **Swachh Survekshan 2021**.
Note: The Prerak Daur Samman has a total of five additional subcategories namely, Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze) and Aarohi (Aspiring). In Swachh Survekshan 2020, cities are evaluated on the criteria of 'population category' but for 2021, they will be categorised on the basis of six select indicator wise performance criteria
 - Freya Thakral** has received the 2020 Diana Award for her "Recycler App".
Note: She developed this App to connect users with waste-handlers as a measure to help the ragpickers of Delhi. Her recycler App is a web-based mobile application which connects the users with waste handlers.
 - Chhattisgarh** state's Darpan Portal and Mobile app, which contains the details of the schemes of the government received the Elites Excellence Awards 2020 by the IT institution Elites Technomedia under the Digital India Initiative.
Note: The e-certificate was presented during the three-day virtual conference from 10th July to 12th July organised to encourage innovation in the IT Sector of the Government. The conference was inaugurated on 10th July 2020 by Nitin Gadgari, Union Minister of MSME.
 - Sachin Awasthi** has been honoured with the "Top Publicist" award in the Global Humanitarian Awards 2020 held as a webinar over a virtual platform in London.
Note: The Global Humanitarian Award 2020 is instituted as a part of the Honoring the Honorable initiative of the World Humanitarian Drive (WHD). The award is to honour the popular men and women who contribute to the betterment of the society and the world.
 - NTPC Limited** has won the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019, under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category.
Note: The company has also received Commendation for Significant Achievement in the category of CSR. CII-ITC Sustainability Awards recognize and reward excellence in sustainability practices. It is considered to be the most credible platform for sustainability recognition in the country.
 - Kezang D Thongdok** has won the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2020.
Note: Kezang D Thongdok won the 2020 Dada Saheb Phalke Award for his documentary "Chi Lupo". The documentary Chi Lupo portrays the customs and practices of the Shertukpen community.
 - Edappadi K Palaniswami** has been honored with Paul Harris Fellow recognition.
Note: The recognition is in the honor of Rotary founder, Paul Harris who contributed to The Rotary Foundation. The Paul Harris Fellow recognition is conferred to honour the efficient service of people who provide drinking water, sanitation, prevention of diseases, environment, world peace etc. to its people.
 - Ashok Kumar** has been honoured with the Lifetime achievement award by the football club – Mohun Bagan Athletic Club.
Note: The Club decided not to celebrate any physical programme for 2020 Mohun Bagan Day on 29th July 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. The awards will be personally presented to the awardees available in Kolkata and for the other awardees the award will be handed after the pandemic.
 - Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index as the world's richest man -- **6th**
Note: Larry Page is ranked in 7th position with a net worth of USD 71.6 billion, Sergey Brin in 9th position(USD 69.4B) and Elon Musk in 10th position(USD 68.6 billion). Warren Buffett is ranked in 8th position with a networth of USD 69.7B, after he gave away USD 2.9 billion to charity.
 - Parkash Dudeja** has been awarded with coveted 'Infra Business Leader of the Year' award for 2020.
Note: He is the vice chairman of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA). He has been awarded for his contribution towards the infrastructure development.

16. N Chandrasekaran has been awarded the 2020 USIBC Global Leadership Award along with Lockheed Martin CEO Jim Taiclet.

Note: Every year, the USIBC Global Leadership Awards are conferred upon executives in recognition of outstanding leadership and for promoting Indo-US trade and business. The earlier receivers of this award include Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Google CEO Adena Friedman, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, and Sun Pharmaceuticals Founder and Managing Director Dilip Shanghvi.

17. Amal Clooney has been awarded with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award 2020.

Note: In recognition of her tremendous efforts towards the freedom of press, CPJ is awarding Clooney the highly prestigious award. She has been a strong supporter of CPJ's advocacy in recent years and has taken up the call for governments to provide

emergency visas to journalists in distress.

She is currently representing Maria Ressa, CPJ's 2018 Gwen Ifill award winner, who has been convicted of cyber libel, a criminal offense, in the Philippines.

18. Greta Thunberg has been awarded with the 'Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2020'.

Note: The Climate Activist is to donate the prize money to organizations focused on environment and climate change. Miss Thunberg is the first person to receive the prize. She was selected among 136 nominees from 43 countries.

19. Arnab Chaudhuri has been conferred with 'Legend of Animation' award instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG) as part of the Animation Masters Summit (AMS) 2020.

Note: The award is being presented for his invaluable contribution to the animation and entertainment industry of India.

June

1. Virat Kohli has become the only cricketer and the only Indian to feature in the Forbes' Top 100 highest paid athletes of 2020.

Note: Kohli ranked 66 with Forbes Magazine estimated earning of around 26 million USD (24 million from endorsements and 2 million from salary/winnings). Tennis player Roger Federer Tops the list for the first time with estimated earnings 106.3 million USD. He placed 4th in the 2019 list with the estimated earnings of 95million USD.

2. Kritika Pandey is the author of the book 'The Great Indian Tee and Snakes' for which she bestowed with Commonwealth short story prize 2020 for Asia region.

Note: The 29-year-old writer won for her story The Great Indian Tee and Snakes, which is about two young people trying to navigate the idea of love in an era of hatred and prejudice. The story about a Hindu girl falling in love with a Muslim man had made it to the shortlist for the Asian region.

3. The World Health Organization (WHO) has accorded the "World No Tobacco Day Award 2020" to **SEEDS** NGO.

Note: SEEDS has been working closely with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to prevent & control smokeless tobacco use. Deepak Mishra, executive director of the SEEDS has been nominated by the ministry as a member of the task force on the de-addiction campaign

4. Akshay Kumar. is the only Indian celebrities to find a place in the Forbes 100 list of world's highest paid celebrities during June 2019 to May 2020.

Note:With an estimated pre-tax earnings of USD 48.5 million (roughly Rs 366 crore) during June 2019 to May 2020. Forbes puts Akshay at the 52nd spot in the list topped by makeup mogul Kylie Jenner, whose estimated earnings during the same time were USD 590 million (roughly Rs 4,453 crore).

5. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been named as EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2020.

Note: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw became the 2nd woman to hold the title, following Olivia Lum of Hyflux Limited from Singapore in 2011. She was chosen for this title among 46 entrepreneurs from 41 countries.

6. Indian Airport received Platinum Recognition in ACI Asia-Pacific Green Airports recognition 2020 -- **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad.**

Note: The focus of Green Airport Recognition 2020 is Water Management. The Airports Council International (ACI) awarded the highest Platinum Recognition on World Environment Day.

7. Javed Akhtar becomes the first Indian to receive the prestigious Richard Dawkins Award for 2020 for critical thinking.

Note: Javed Akhtar is a renowned lyricist in the Indian film industry. He was awarded Padma Shri in 1999. He has also won the Sahitya Akademi award and Padma Bhushan. It is to be noted that Javed Akhtar raised voice on social media like twitter, literary events and in interviews about the issues with Citizenship Amendment Act, public policy, reopening of liquor shops after lock down, communism in the society, etc.

8. India's first solar-powered ferry which has been shortlisted for the Gustave Trouve Award -- **Aditya.**

Note: Gussies Electric Boat Awards were instituted in memory of Gustave Trouvé, a French electrical engineer and pioneer in electric cars and boats. Trouvé was a prolific inventor with over 75 patents. Back in 1881, he developed a 5-m-long prototype electric boat.

9. Australian player **Michal Clarke** has been appointed an officer in the Order of Australia, an honour for achievement or meritorious service.

Note: Clarke joined iconic ex-skippers like Allan Border, Mark Taylor, Ricky Ponting, Bob Simpson and Steve Waugh who have received the national

- recognition. Clarke, who led Australia to the 2015 World Cup title, has been appointed an officer (AO) in the general division of the Order of Australia, an honour for achievement or meritorious service.
- 10. The Ramon Magsaysay awards**, regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, have been cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the award foundation is located at **Manila, Philippines**.
Note: The Manila-based foundation also cancelled the award due to a financial crisis in 1970 and a disastrous earthquake that hit the Philippines in 1990. The awards are named after a popular Philippine president who died in a 1957 plane crash and honor "greatness of spirit in selfless service to the peoples of Asia."
 - 11. Renjith Kumar** has been honoured with "NASA Distinguished Service Medal" for his administration to NASA.
Note: He worked in relationship with NASA for over 30 years and contributed to updating the International Space Stations (ISS). He is CEO Emeritus of the Virginia based Analytical Mechanics Associates (AMA). RK Chetty Pandipati was the First Indian to win this honour in 2002.
 - 12. Rattan Lal** has been conferred with prestigious World Food Prize 2020.
Note: He was named as the 2020 World Food Prize Laureate for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change. He will get USD 250,000 as prize money. The first recipient of this prestigious award in 1987 was Indian agricultural scientist Dr M S Swaminathan, the father of India's Green Revolution.
 - 13. Shobha Sekhar** has been chosen for the 'Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)'.
Note: She started the Kalakruthi in 1994 affiliated with The Music Academy, Chennai and has been training many aspirants of Carnatic music. The medal of the order of Australia is awarded to the individuals contributing to their community or to Australia globally or domestically.
 - 14. Angad Singh Rana** has been adjudged as the winner of New Zealand's first 'Virtual' Chef competition – the 'Quality NZ Culinary Cup' held in India.
Note: Chef Angad Singh Rana has won QualityNZ Culinary Cup 2020. The award was announced by Cricket legend and Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming. This award is the New Zealand's first 'Virtual' Chef competition – the 'Quality NZ Culinary Cup' held in India.
 - 15. Deccan Development Society (DDS)** has won the Biodiversity award 2020 of Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.
Note: The award was announced in a teleconference by Olivier Wenden, Vice President and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. The award is given to recognise the individuals for their actions and the organisations for their contribution in preserving the planet in the three priority areas of the foundation.
 - 16. Jammu and Kashmir** has been conferred with three prestigious Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sashaktikaran Puraskar for its outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development of the Gram Panchayats across the state/UTs.
Note: Panchayat Rathal, (Block Rajouri) and Panchayat Badakana, (Block Thana Mandi) of District Rajouri and Panchayat Meej, (Block Pampore) of Pulwama district were adjudged the best performing panchayats in recognition of their work in improving the delivery of services for socio economic development and implementation of various schemes.
 - 17. Amartya Kumar Sen** has been selected for the 2020 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade.
Note: He will be presented with the award by German Publishers' and Booksellers' Association, Borsenverein in a ceremony that will take place on October 18, 2020, in Paulskirche (Germany). Every year since 1950, the German Book Trade Peace Prize has been given.

May

- 1. Thangjam Dhabali Singh** has been conferred with "Order of Rising Sun- Gold and Silver Rays" by the Japan government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between 2 countries.
Note: The Japan Government conferred the decoration on Singh while announcing the names of the foreign recipients of the Spring Decoration 2020. He is the founder and the former president of the Manipur Tourism Forum (MTF). Singh organised the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal of the Second World War and several Japanese citizens, including officials from the Embassy of Japan in India had participated in the event.
- 2. Shobhana Narasimhan** has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science.
Note: Prof. Shobhana Narasimhan from the Theoretical Sciences Unit (TSU) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science (AAAS). JNCASR is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology. AAAS honors such scholars and leaders who have distinguished themselves in the sciences, arts, humanities, and public life.
- 3. Sania Mirza** has become the first Indian to be nominated for the Fed Cup Heart Award from the Asia/Oceania zone.

Note: Sania had recently made a comeback to Fed Cup after four years. With her 18-month son Izhaan present in the stands, Sania had helped India qualify for the Play-offs for the first time. The winners of the Heart Awards will be determined by online voting by fans which will go live on May 1 and will go on until May 8.

4. **Kim Jong Un** has been honoured with a commemorative World War II medal to mark the 75th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany by Russian President Vladimir Putin.
Note: The medal was awarded to Kim for the role he played in safeguarding the memories of Soviet soldiers who died in the territory of North Korea. Russian ambassador in North Korea, Alexander Matsegora presented the award to North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Son-gwon.
5. Indian journalist **Siddharth Varadarajan** has been named for Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award 2020.
Note: Siddharth Varadarajan, one of the founding editors of non-profit online newspaper The Wire, was handed a notice for appearance by a police team on April 10, 2020 following a story about a politician violating COVID-19 guidelines by participating in a religious ceremony. The Wire was accused of “causing a riot” and “leading to panic.”
6. **Sania Mirza** has become the 1st Indian to win Fed Cup Heart Award 2020 for Asia/Oceania zone.
Note: She decided to give a prize money of \$ 2000 to the Telangana Chief Minister Relief Fund to help battle against coronavirus. Sania is one of 4 winners chosen by a public vote, alongside Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia (wins Qualifiers award), Mexico’s Fernanda Contreras Gomez (Americas I zone) and Estonian Anett Kontaveit (Europe/Africa I zone).
7. Indian airport **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru** has won this year’s SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia.
Note: The airport was voted by customers because of the Best Regional Airport in India & Central Asia for the third time in four years at the 2020 World Airport Awards. The Awards have supported the planet Airport Survey questionnaires completed by over 100 nationalities of airport customers during the 6-month survey period.
8. **Akshay Kumar** has been conferred with the Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy for the year 2020.
Note: He commissioned in Anti-Submarine Warfare School of the Southern Naval Command in Kochi. The

award ceremony was held at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Kochi, Kerala. This trophy was instituted in 2013 for the officer performing best in tactics during the year-long warfare specialisation course. The trophy was instituted within the memory of the late flag officer GM Hiranandani, who was the commissioned naval officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Naval Command from 1985 to 1987 and retired as Vice Chief of Naval Staff in 1989.

9. **Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar** has been awarded the Alexander Dalrymple Award 2019.
Note: This award is given to him for his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the broader Indian Ocean region. The award was presented by the UK Ministry of Defence.
10. **Naomi Osaka** becomes the highest paid female athlete in the world.
Note: Osaka has been ranked No.1 by the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA). The complete Forbes list, due to be released next week. She toppled American great Serena Williams.
11. Indian American inventor **Rajiv Joshi** has bagged the prestigious “Inventor of the Year award” in recognition of his pioneering work in advancing the electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence capabilities.
Note: He was awarded in recognition of his pioneering work in advancing the electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence capabilities. Dr Joshi, who is a master inventor with more than 250 patented inventions in the US, works at the IBM Thomson Watson Research Center in New York.
12. **Suman Gawani** has been selected for the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019) along with Brazilian Naval Officer Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo.
Note: Suman Gawani becomes the 1st Indian peacekeeper to win the award. The award will be given during an online ceremony presided over by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on May 29, the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
13. **Quarraisha Abdool Karim** has been awarded Christophe Merieux Prize 2020 for finding a topical gel could stop many women catching the HIV.
Note: Christophe Merieux Prize is one of France’s top science prizes. She won the half a million-euro (\$551,000) Prize for her work for the Durban-based Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), which she heads.

Sports News

September

1. **Para-Athletic Jayanti Behera** has been awarded with the Biju Patnaik sports award in Odisha

Note: Indian women’s hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekka and para-athlete Jayanti Behera received

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- the Biju Patnaik sports award for outstanding performance. Both of them received a citation along with cash award of Rs 2 lakh each.
- The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in **2021**.
Note: The Cycling Summit 2021 will consist of cyclists, athletes, fitness and sports enthusiasts, cycling coaches, health and nutrition experts, and influencers. There will also be indigenous and global brands that cater to the needs of health, fitness and cycling enthusiasts. The summit is estimated to attract around 25,000 people in each city.
 - Sumit Nagal** becomes the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last 7 years.
Note: He went into second round of the ongoing US Open Tennis by defeating Bradley Klahn of USA 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the US Open. Prior to him, Somdev Devvarman is the last player to reach the second round of the Australian Open, French Open and US Open in 2013. He will now face Austria's Dominic Thiem in the 2nd round.
 - P Iniyana** has won the prestigious Annual World Open online chess tournament.
Note: He scored 7.5 points out of a possible 9 with six victories and three draws to finish on top. The 48th edition of the annual event was held online from August 7-9.
 - Famous cricketer, Ian Bell announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, he held from **England**.
Note: He made his debut in 2004. He played 118 Tests, 161 ODIs, and 8 T20Is for England. He retired from ODIs in 2015 to focus on Test cricket. He won five Ashes series out of seven. He was the Player of the Series in the 2013 series, where he scored 562 runs at an average of 62.44.
 - Pierre Gasly** has won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2020 held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Italy.
Note: This is his first Grand Prix win. Carlos Sainz Jr. (McLaren, Spain) came second followed by Lance Stroll (Racing Point, Canada) in third place. Lewis Hamilton ended at 7th place after he earned a 10-second stop and go penalty.
 - Poonam Khatri** has been crowned as Wushu World Champion. Iran's Maryam Hashemi failed her dope test.
Note: Her medal got upgraded after Iran's Maryam Hashemi failed her dope test. Maryam won the gold medal in the Women's Sanda event at this Championship last year in October. She defeated Poonam in the 75 kg category in the final which was held in China.
 - Dominic Thiem** has won the men's singles title at the 2020 US Open tournament.
Note: Thiem is also the first player to capture a Grand Slam title from two sets down since Gaston Gaudio at 2004 French Open. For the first time in six years, there was a first-time Grand Slam champion at the US Open.
 - Japan's Naomi Osaka has won the women's single title at the 2020 US Open tournament defeating **Victoria Azarenka**.
Note: Osaka previously won the title at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open. She is now the first Asian player to win three Grand Slam singles titles. The victory has moved up Osaka to number 3 in the world rankings.
 - The Formula one driver **Sebastian Vettel** will drive for the Racing Point in the next season.
Note: Four-time Formula One champion Sebastian Vettel will drive for Racing Point starting next season. The team, which will be renamed Aston Martin. The team said Vettel has signed for the 2021 season "and beyond" but did not reveal the length of the contract.
 - Lewis Hamilton** has won the Formula One (F1) Tuscan Grand Prix 2020.
Note: This was Hamilton's 6th win of the season and 90th F1 victory of his career. Mercedes racer Valtteri Bottas (Finland) bagged 2nd position, followed by Alexander Albon (Red Bull-Thailand) at the F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020. It was the 1st edition of Tuscan Grand Prix and 9th race of F1 2020

August

- German** Famous footballer Benedikt Howedes retired recently.
Note: He was one of the 3 players who had played every minute for the team in the tournament. Benedikt Howedes has played 44 times for German National Team from 2011-17. In September 2007, German Football Association honored him with the Fritz Walter Medal, under-19 Gold Medal which is given to the best youth players.
- The **Indian Government** has provisionally granted permission for the 13th edition of **Indian Premier League's (IPL's)** 2020 to be rescheduled in **UAE**.
Note: BCCI has also decided to host a Women's T20 Challenge to be held from November 1 to 10 in UAE. Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah will be the three venues of the tournament. No spectators to be allowed in the initial phase of the tournament
- India has withdrawn from the women's world team **Squash championship** scheduled to be held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
Note: India has withdrawn from the **women's world team Squash championship** scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15th to 20th December, due to lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of its

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- players. Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has decided to withdraw from the championship.
15. **Lewis Hamilton** won the **British Grand Prix (GP) 2020**.
Note: It is officially known as the Formula 1 Pirelli British Grand Prix 2020. The tournament was held at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom (UK). This is his 7th time to win this title. He is the only racer to win most in British GP.
 16. **Sports Authority of India** with CISCE and CBSE, will host an online program for training of Physical Education (PE) Teachers on "Khelo India Fitness Assessment of School Going Children".
Note: The program will target 7500 participants across 2615 CISCE schools. It will assess the fitness levels of the school children and identify potential future champions. Khelo India Fitness Assessment through Khelo India Mobile App (KIMA) will be done. The session is titled 'Whole School Approach to Fitness'.
 17. Indian umpire **KN Ananthapadmanabhan** has been included in ICC's international panel of umpires.
Note: Ananthapadmanabhan played 105 First-Class and 54 List A games for Kerala, taking 344 and 87 wickets respectively. Ananthapadmanabhan has officiated in all major domestic events including the IPL.
 18. **INOX** company will be the official sponsor Indian team for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympic.
Note: The Tokyo Olympics was rescheduled to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be held from July 23 to August 8 in 2021. As part of the partnership the Group will also support team's promotions through its entertainment company -- INOX Leisure Limited, which owns a chain of multiplexes in the country.
 19. "Fit India Freedom Run" would be organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from **15th August to 02nd October 2020**.
Note: The ministry is organising "Fit India Freedom Run" to mark the 74th Independence Day of India on August 15 to 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2. This would be the largest country-wide run, targeted to encourage fitness among the masses while following the COVID-19 protocols.
 20. **Max Verstappen** has won the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix.
Note: His victory ended Mercedes dominant Formula 1 season. 70th Anniversary Grand Prix 2020 was the 5th race of 2020 Formula 1 season and was held at Silverstone, United Kingdom
 21. **India** will host the ICC Men's T20 World cup 2021.
Note: While the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will be held in Australia in 2022. Cricket's governing body has also decided to postpone the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 in New Zealand till February – March 2022 because of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on cricket globally.
 22. Suresh Raina announced his retirement from **Cricket** sport.
Note: He made his international debut against Sri Lanka in 2005 and represented India in 226 ODIs, 78 T20Is and 18 Tests in his cricketing career that spanned over 13 years. He scored 7,787 runs across all the formats in international cricket. He also claimed 167 catches in his international career, setting the bar high with his athleticism on field. Suresh Raina is the first Indian batsman who has scored a century in all three formats of the game.
 23. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain.
Note: Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain. This was his 4th win of the season and the 88th win of his career. Max Verstappen (Red Bull–Netherlands) came second followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) at third.
 24. The Asian Boxing Championship has been postponed to next year owing to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the tournament was scheduled to be held in **India**.
Note: India last hosted the men's Asian meet back in 1980 in Mumbai before conducting the women's event in 2003 in Hisar. The tournament became a combined event for men and women last year. The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown sporting calendars haywire the world over with several big events, including the Olympics and the T20 World Cup of cricket, postponed.
 25. **Dream 11** has bagged the title sponsorship rights of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020.
Note: Dream 11 has bagged the rights as Expression of Interest (EOI) was invited by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for IPL 2020's title sponsorship after the Chinese mobile phone brand, Vivo, pulled out of it. The title rights bagged by the fantasy gaming start-up "Dream 11" are valid till December 31, 2020.
 26. Famous cricketer Laura Marsh of **England** has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket.
Note: In her international career, Marsh played 9 Tests, 103 ODIs and 67 T20Is. She managed to score 1,588 runs across all formats and also registered 217 wickets. The 33-year-old announced her retirement from international cricket in December and has now decided to call time on her domestic career as well.
 27. **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Professional Scouting Organization

(IPSO) to conduct online Scouting Workshops throughout India.

Note: Under the agreement, IPSO will conduct online workshops which will provide a number of courses and webinars with regards to scouting in India. The workshop will be a starting point to become a scout or an analyst and will also help anyone to understand the foundations and protocols in talent identification, scouting & analysis.

28. Football team **Sevilla** has won the Europa League for a sixth time.

Note: Italy's wait for a first European trophy in a decade, and Inter's nine-year trophy drought, goes on after Lukaku could not stop Carlos's spectacular strike. It is Europe's secondary club football tournament organised by UEFA, and the 12th season since it was renamed from the UEFA Cup to the UEFA Europa League.

29. **Table tennis player** Manika Batra has been selected for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020.

Note: The government has announced the National Sports Awards 2020. Rohit Sharma(Cricketer), Mariyappan Thangavelu(Para-Athlete), Manika Batra (TT player), Vinesh Phogat (Wrestler) and Rani Rampal (Hockey) will receive the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

30. Former cricketer Lisa Sthalekar has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame, she held from **Australia**.

Note: Former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame in a virtual ceremony along with Legendary South African all-rounder Jaques Kallis and Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas. Pune born Sthalekar represented Australia in eight Tests, 125 ODIs and 54 T20s. Sthalekar is the 27th from Australia and the ninth woman player in the list, which includes five from her country.

31. **Sophia Popov** has won the Women's British Open 2020 title in Golf.

Note: German Golfer Sophia Popov won the Women's British Open 2020 title (rebranded as 2020 AIG Women's Open) by defeating Thailand's Jasmine Suwannapura by two strokes at Royal Troon in Scotland. Sophia has now become the first female

golfer from Germany to win the LPGA Tour's major title.

32. Football club **Bayern Munich** has won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20 title.

Note: Bayern Munich has become the first European Cup winners who won all their matches during the tournament. This is the sixth European Champions League title for Bayern Munich.

33. Famous all-rounder Cameron White was playing for **Australia** announced his retirement from all forms of professional cricket.

Note: He represented Australia in 4 Test matches, 91 ODIs and 47 T20Is. He also led the Australian limited-overs team in 7 international games. He amassed 146 runs in tests, 2072 runs in ODIs and 984 runs in T20Is.

34. **Table Tennis** player Poulomi Ghatak announced her retirement.

Note: Poulomi Ghatak belongs to the state of West Bengal. She won three junior national championships as well as seven senior national championships between 1996 and 2016.

35. **James Anderson** became the first-ever fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test Match Cricket.

Note: Overall, he is the 4th bowler to take 600 test wickets after 3 spinners Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, and Anil Kumble. Anderson, who made his Test debut in 2003 against Zimbabwe, had become the highest wicket-taker among seamers in 2018 when he dismissed Mohammed Shami against India at The Oval to go past Glenn McGrath's tally of 563 Test wickets.

36. **India** will host BRICS Games 2021.

Note: This announcement came after Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju attended a meeting of Sports Ministers of the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). India will get the chairmanship of the five-nation independent international group in 2021.

37. Brothers pair, Mike Bryan and Bob Bryan have announced their retirement from the sport. They are associated with **Tennis** sport .

Note: They are the most successful men's doubles pair in tennis history. The brother's pair captured an Open Era record with 119 trophies in 26 seasons which comprises all four Grand Slams, all nine ATP Masters 1000s as well as the Olympic gold medal.

July

1. **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App".

Note: The recently launched mobile application aims to bridge the gap between NADA and the athletes by offering easily-accessible information on various aspects of sport, prohibited substances as well as dope-testing.

2. **G. Akash** has become the country's 66th Grandmaster.

Note: Akash got his third GM norm in the National senior chess championship in Majhitar (Sikkim) last year, but his rating fell short of the required Elo mark of 2500. He played another five tournaments across the world to reach that rating. He attained his final norm in Bad Worishofen (Germany) in March.

3. **Quinton de Kock** was named the men's 'cricketer of the year' at Cricket South Africa's (CSA) annual awards ceremony.

- Note:** The 27-year-old also bagged the Test cricketer of the year while young opener Laura Wolvaardt took home the women's cricketer of the year and ODI cricketer of the year awards. Pacer Lungi Ngidi was named ODI and T20 player of the year while David Miller was voted the fans' favourite player.
4. **Valtteri Bottas** has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2020.
Note: Austrian Grand Prix 2020 was the first race of 2020 Formula One season. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished second while McLaren's Lando Norris came third. Another Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton being handed a 5 second penalty that dropped him from second place to fourth. The event was held at the Red Bull Ring without spectators
 5. **China's** two-times Olympic badminton champion Lin Dan announced his retirement.
Note: During his 20-year glorious national team career, he won the Olympics singles titles in Beijing in 2008 and the 2012 London Games.
 6. **Valtteri Bottas** has won the Formula One's season opening Austrian Grand Prix 2020.
Note: Austrian Grand Prix 2020 was the first race of 2020 Formula One season. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished second while McLaren's Lando Norris came third. Another Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton being handed a 5 second penalty that dropped him from second place to fourth.
 7. Egyptian Raneem El Welily is associated with **Squash** announced her retirement recently.
Note: Nouran Gohar of Egypt claims the No.1 ranking after the retirement of Welily. Raneem El Welily became the top- ranking squash player in 2015 and became the 1st Arab woman to secure the world's top ranking in any sport.
 8. Joshna Chinappa is associated with **Squash** sports who secured 10th position in World Women's Ranking 2020.
Note: She first entered the top 10 list in 2016 second to Dipika Pallikal, the other Indian woman squash player to enter the top 10 ranking. Saurav Ghosal, India's top male squash player, remains in the 13th position in the latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) ranking.
 9. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Styrian Grand Prix 2020 at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria.
Note: Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) finished second while Max Verstappen (Red Bull- Belgium) was third. It was the second race of the 2020 Formula One World Championship and the first running of the Styrian Grand Prix.
 10. Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has announced to postpone the Asia Cup cricket tournament until **June 2021**.
Note: The tournament was earlier scheduled to be held in September 2020. India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament and is the defending champions, having won the last two tournaments.
 11. Mile Jedinak is associated with **soccer** sports who has announced his retirement.
Note: Former Socceroos captain Mile Jedinak has announced his retirement from the sport. Socceroos is the official nickname of the Australia national soccer team that represents Australia in international men's soccer.
 12. Australian sportsperson Mile Jedinak is associated with **Soccer** sports who has announced his retirement.
Note: He has played in 2010, 2014, 2018 FIFA World Cups. Mile captained the Socceroos' to win the 2015 Asian cup in his own country. He has represented many clubs in his career.
 13. The International Olympic Committee has postponed the Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games to year **2026** due to COVID 19 Pandemic.
Note: The postponement of Dakar 2022 allows the IOC, the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the International Federations (IFs) to better plan their activities, which have been strongly affected by the postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020
 14. Sports person **Marcus Rashford** becomes the youngest ever recipient of an honorary degree from The University of Manchester is associated with **Football**.
Note: He will receive the degree in recognition of his achievements as a footballer and as a passionate campaigner against child poverty. He will follow in the footsteps of Manchester United legends Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Bobby Charlton by receiving an honorary doctorate.
 15. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary.
Note: Lewis Hamilton won the Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary. Max Verstappen (Dutch-Red Bull) was second, followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes- Finland) at the third spot. Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 was the third race of the 2020 Formula One World Championship.
 16. World cup winner famous footballer **Andre Schurrle** has announced retirement from the sport held from **Germany**.
Note: He helped his country to win the 2014 FIFA World Cup. He represented Germany in 57 matches, scoring 22 goals. He also played for Chelsea from 2013-15 and also won a Premier League winners medal in 2015.
 17. **Fabio Quartararo** has won the Moto Grand Prix 2020.
Note: Quartararo, 21, who rides for the Yamaha satellite outfit, had started on pole position and his main threat was removed when reigning world champion Marquez crashed out on lap 20.

- 18.** Football Club **Real Madrid** has been crowned with the La Liga Champions for the 34th time after defeating Villarreal 2-1 at Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano.
Note: Karim Benzema was the leading scorer for a 2-1 victory against Villarreal. Real Madrid, who are standing at the top spot with 26 wins from 37 matches, will lock horns with Leganes in their last game of the 2019-2020 La Liga season on July 20. Last time the team won the title in 2017.
- 19.** Due to COVID-19 the ICC Men's T20 World Cup has formally been postponed to **2022**.
Note: Besides rescheduling the T20 World Cup to October-November, 2022 the ICC Board also decided to push the 2023 ODI World Cup in India to October-November 2023 from its designated window in February-March, 2023. India's 2018 Asian Games mixed relay medal upgraded to gold after disqualification of **Bahrain**.
Note: The medal was upgraded to gold following the disqualification of Bahrain squad that finished first in the 4x400 mixed relay final. The Bahrain squad was disqualified as Kemi Adekoya of Bahrain has been handed a 4-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit for failing a dope test.
- 20.** **Haryana** state will host 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.
Note: The announcement was made by the state's chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union sports minister Kiren Rijiju via video conference. The Games will be held in Panchkula. Haryana has done well in all three editions of KIYG. While they came second in both 2019 and 2020 editions (200 medals in 2020 and 159 medals in 2019) Haryana won it in 2018 with 102 podium finishes (38 gold, 26 silver, 38 bronze).
- 21.** **Jamie Vardy** has won the Premier Leagues Golden Boot award after netting 23 goals across the 2019/20 season.
Note: He beat Arsenal striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (22 goals), Southampton Danny Ings (22 goals), and Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling (20 goals) to scoop the prestigious individual award.
- 22.** Bangladesh bowler **Kazi Anik Islam** has been banned for two years by the national cricket board for failing a dope test in 2018.
Note: Bangladeshi pacer, Kazi Anik Islam has been handed a 2-year ban by the national cricket board for failing a dope test in 2018. Kazi, who was Bangladesh's leading wicket-taker in the 2018 U-19 World Cup, tested positive for Methamphetamine, a prohibited substance, during a National Cricket League game in the same year. The 21-year-old admitted to the offence. His two-year ban began on February 8, 2019.
- 23.** **Mohun Bagan** became the country's first-ever football club to feature on NASDAQ billboards in New York's Times Square.
Note: The billboard announcing "131 years of unmatched legacy" of the club also reminded fans about the, "time to start believing, again," in an obvious reference to Mohun Bagan's recent amalgamation with the ISL champion ATK.
- 24.** Rajat Bhatia associated with **Cricket** sports has announced his retirement.
Note: He started his career with Tamil Nadu in 1999-2000 but played most of his cricket for Delhi. Bhatia played 112 first-class games, scoring 6482 runs at an average of 49.10 and taking 137 wickets at a shade under 28. He also played 119 List A games and 146 T20s.

June

- 1.** Cricketer **Rohit Sharma** has been nominated by the BCCI for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards 2020.
Note: The period of consideration for a person to get nominated is from January 2016 to December 2019. Rohit has become the first T20 cricketer to score four centuries. Also, he holds record of 150 plus score in around 8 ODIs. He also holds the greatest number of centuries in ODI matches since 2017, that numbered to 18.
- 2.** Indian long distance player **Kiranjee Kaur** has been slapped with four year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
Note: The period of her ban started from December 15 and on February 26 she was provisionally suspended by World Athletics. The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) disqualified Kaur from all the competitive results from 15th December 2019 to 26th February 2020.
- 3.** In association with **National Sports Federations (NSF)** the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has launched India's 1st -ever national-level open online coaching and education programme called "Khelo India e-Pathshala".
Note: Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju and Union Minister of Tribal Affairs and Archery Association of India president Arjun Munda have inaugurated the programme via a webinar. A total of 21 games are included in this program, where veteran players showcase their technical skills and talk to young players and help them improve their technical and overall game.
- 4.** **India** will host Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup 2022.
Note: The tournament is likely to be held in the 2nd half of the year. The tournament will feature 12 teams from an earlier slot of 8 teams.

5. The Athletes Integrity Unit (AIU) of the World Athletics has imposed a four-year ban on which Indian player who won the gold medal in 2019 Asian Athletics Championships -- **Gomathi Marimuthu**.
Note: She won the gold medal in the women's 800 m event at the 2019 Asian Athletics Championships held in Doha, Qatar with her personal best timing. Gomathi had won gold with a timing of 2 minutes and 2.70 second.
6. The doping charge against Indian sportsperson has been dropped due to "non-conformities" in the handling of her sample -- **K Sanjita Chanu**.
Note: The IWF made the decision based on the recommendation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The 26-year-old, who claimed innocence since the beginning, was informed about the final verdict via an e-mail, signed by IWF's legal counsel Lilla Sagi.
7. Spain's sports council has accepted the change in status for the competitions, which will also be valid for men's and women's futsal.
Note: The move is another step to promote the development of these competitions that until now were considered amateur football.
8. Former European high jump champion, Alexander Shustov banned for four years by Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), he held from **Russia**.
Note: This was confirmed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The Russian Athletics Federation stated that his ban was dated from June 5, and his results had been disqualified for a period from 2013 to 2017.
9. Lightweight boxing champion Oleksandr Gvozdyk also known as "The Nail" announced his retirement held from **Ukraine**.
Note: He won the Bronze medal in the 2012 Olympic games. He won the 2018 World Boxing Councils (WBCs) light heavyweight world title against Adonis Stevenson in Quebec.
10. The 4th edition of Asian Youth Para Games to be held in **Bahrain** in December 2021.
Note: Around 800 athletes under 20 years aged are expected to compete in nine sports: athletics, badminton, boccia, goalball, para taekwondo, powerlifting, swimming, table tennis and wheelchair basketball. The event is being organised in conjunction with the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Bahrain with the support of the government.
11. **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** has won the World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020.
Note: He won the coveted title and price of \$3000 after scoring 7.5 points from 10 rounds. Indian Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna finished second in the Championship after scoring 6.5 points from 10 rounds. Sharjah Online International Chess Championship was hosted by the Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club.
12. Indian tennis player **Niki Poonacha** has been elected as a player member to ITF World Tennis Tour Player Men's panels.
Note: The Men's and Women's Panel will be headed by Mark Woodforde and Mary Pierce respectively who are the athlete representatives on the ITF board of directors. Poonacha is chosen as one of the two players from Asia/Oceania locale with a second-most noteworthy number of votes (62) among all challenging players.
13. Football club **Liverpool** has won the English Premier League 2019-20.
Note: This is the first time that Liverpool has won the English Premier League title. As of 26th June 2020, Liverpool by winning 28 of their 31 games in the season has accumulated 86 points.
14. Wicketkeeper-batswoman Rachel Priest of **New Zealand** has announced her retirement from International Cricket.
Note: She had a long career which spanned for 13 years. After her retirement, she has now signed up a contract with Cricket Tasmania to play in Australia Women's National Cricket League and will represent Tasmanian Tigers for the 2020/21 season.
15. Indian umpire **Nitin Menon** has been inducted into International Cricket Council's Elite Panel of Umpires.
Note: Nitin Menon was earlier a part of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Umpires. He has an experience of officiating in three Tests, 24 One Day Internationals and 16 T20 Internationals.
16. **Germany** footballer Mario Gomez has announced his retirement from the sport.
Note: He is considered as one of the best German forwards of his time. Mario Gomez played for different clubs in his soccer career. He won the Bundesliga title in 2007 while playing for Stuttgart, and two more titles while playing for Bayern Munich.
17. **Australia and New Zealand** will host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.
Note: The joint offer put together by Football Federation Australia and New Zealand Football got 22 of the 35 substantial votes cast by the FIFA Council individuals in the first voting form, with the Colombian Football Association having acquired 13 votes.
18. **Rahul Dravid** has been declared as the greatest Indian Test batsman of all time, according to a poll conducted by Wisden India.
Note: Dravid beats Sachin Tendulkar by a narrow margin of votes in the final round of voting. Dravid got 52 per cent of the votes, with as many as 11,400 fans participating within the final round of voting.
19. **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App".

Note: The recently launched mobile application aims to bridge the gap between NADA and the athletes by offering easily-accessible information on various

aspects of sport, prohibited substances as well as dope-testing.

May

1. Sports organization **FIFA** has launched the campaign “#WeWillWin” to pay a special tribute to health workers and other professionals.
Note: Through this campaign FIFA tribute a special video to health workers and other professionals who ensure the society continues to function among COVID-19 pandemic. Former India football captain Bhaichung Bhutia who is also featured among 50 past and present football stars.
2. The governing body of swimming the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) has postponed the 2021 aquatics world championships to 2022. The tournament is scheduled to be held in **Japan**.
Note: Following the postponement of 2020 Tokyo Olympics to 2021 the governing body of swimming Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) has postponed the 2021 aquatics world championships, Fukuoka, Japan to May 12 to May 29 of 2022 due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. FINA had to move the championships because the 2021 slot of Jul 16 to Aug 1 clashed with the new date for the Tokyo Games, which were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Sandeep Kumari has been given a 4 year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) after failing a drug test, she is associated with **Discus throw** sport.
Note: World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has banned Indian discus thrower Sandeep Kumari for 4 years after failing a drug test. National Dope Test Laboratory (NDTL) had failed to detect the banned substance “steroid” which was present in her blood sample. This blood sample is collected by NDTL officials during the Inter-State Championships in June 2018, in Guwahati, Assam where Kumari had won the gold with a throw of 58.41 meters in the competition. WADA referred Kumari’s results management to the AIU (Athletics Integrity Unit) which notified her of the charges & provisionally suspended her in November 2018.
4. Tennis player **Youssef Hossam** awarded life-time ban by the Tennis Integrity Unit following his conviction on multiple match fixing and associated corruption charges.
Note: Egyptian Youssef Hossam has been banned from tennis for life after being found guilty of multiple match-fixing and other corruption offences. A Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) investigation found that the 21-year-old had committed 21 breaches of anti-corruption rules between 2015 and 2019 and conspired with others to carry out a campaign of betting-related corruption at the lower levels of professional tennis.
5. Remy Di Gregorio has been banned for 4 years for using a form of banned blood-boosting hormone EPO (Erythropoietin) is associated with **Cycling**.
Note: French cyclist Remy Di Gregorio has been banned for 4 years by the International Cycling Union (UCI) for using a form of banned blood-boosting hormone EPO (Erythropoietin). Remy Di Gregorio had tested positive for the hormone during a long-distance trip from Paris to Nice during a doping test on March 8, 2018. His suspension starts from the date of the test so he is going to be suspended until 7 March 2022.
6. **China** has won the 1st edition of FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup.
Note: China was adjudged the winner on the basis of its topping the points table in the round-robin stage. In this tournament, India finished at 5th rank. The Superfinal concluded six days of online competitive chess at the highest level between six international teams full of top grandmasters. These 6 teams are China, USA, Europe, Russia, India, Rest of the world
7. **India** will host the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup in 2021 which was postponed due COVID 19 pandemic.
Note: FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup was scheduled to be held in India from November 2 to 21, 2020 across 5 venues and has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. FIFA announced that the tournament will keep original eligibility criteria despite the postponement: players born on or after 1 January 2003 and on or before 31 December 2005 will be eligible to compete.
8. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna awardee Deepa Malik announced her retirement, she is associated with **Shot-put**.
Note: She is the 1st Indian woman to earn a medal at the Paralympic Games (silver). She announced her retirement as per the national sports code so as to hold her post as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI). She is the 1st woman para-athlete to receive Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna on August 29, 2019 and is a recipient of Arjuna Award (2012) & Padma Shri (2017).
9. The Bundesliga of **Germany** becomes the world’s first major sports event to resume after COVID-19 lock down.
Note: The Bundesliga games began with empty stadium though the stadium had capacity to hold more than 80,000 players. The players are being tested twice a week. The teams participating in the games were kept under quarantine. The teams entered the ground at different times. The substitutes sat well apart during the matches.

- 10.** The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) provisionally suspended Savita Kumari and Ankit Shisodia for violating anti-doping rules. They are associated with **Powerlifting** sports.
Note: Athletes were given an opportunity to present themselves before the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) and explain their cases on the date and time fixed by the panel for a hearing. Both athletes were given a chance to present themselves before the Anti Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) to explain their cases. But because of lockdown amid COVID-19 pandemic, no sitting of panel could take place.
- 11.** Tennis player Jamie Hampton announced her retirement from the professional tennis belong to **UAS**.
Note: American tennis player Jamie Hampton has proclaimed that she is taking retirement from the professional tennis. Former World Top 25 player played her last official match 6 yrs ago when she was ranked 24th in the world. The right hander player then suffered numerous injuries and was unable to play against Venus Williams in the semi finals of ASB Classic in Auckland in 2014.
- 12.** The World Health Organization (WHO) has partnered with **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** to work together to promote health through sport and physical activity.

Note: The collaboration is to work with host countries to ensure Health of athletes, supporters and workers at the games. The two institutions will also work to ensure that the games leave a healthy legacy in host countries through enhanced awareness of the value of sport.

- 13.** Sri Lankan cricketer **Shehan Madushanka** has been suspended from all forms of cricket with immediate effect for alleged possession of heroin.
Note: The decision to suspend will stand until the board conducts a full inquiry of the matter. Madushanka took a hat-trick against Bangladesh on his one-day international debut in January 2018.
- 14.** Indian sprinter **Kiranjeet Kaur** has been banned for four years by the World Athletics' anti-doping body for testing positive for a banned substance.
Note: She will be stripped of the gold medal she won at the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K. Her ban period begins from December 15 (2019), the date of in-competition sample collection. She was provisionally suspended by World Athletics on February 26.
- 15.** Spanish Famous footballer Aritz Aduriz has announced his retirement citing medical reasons.
Note: He has won 13 caps for Spain and also become the Spain's oldest goalscorer in 2016, scoring at the age of 35 years and 275 days.

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