

Monthly GK Digest

September 2020

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<u>Monthly Digest</u> <u>September -2020</u>

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of **September 2020**. This file is important for, **Bank, SSC and Railways** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

- Vedanta has tied up with State Bank of India a longterm syndicated loan facility for Rs.10000 crore. Note: Syndicated loan is a loan offered by a group of lenders to provide credit to a large borrower.As a lender State Bank of India(SBI) has committed Rs.5000 crore.
- ICICI Bank has launched 'Home Utsav', a virtual property exhibition that digitally showcases real estate projects by renowned developers from key cities across the country. Note: The exhibition is available for everyone, including ICICI Bank's customers and those who are not customers of the Bank. It offers them enhanced convenience, as they can simply browse through these projects online, from the comfort of their home and office
- **3. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company** has introduced an Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered voice chatbot, "LiGo", on Google Assistant.

Note: This will enable the company's policyholders to address their queries by simple voice commands. It provides an easy to use and convenient service touchpoint for customers.Expanding the functionalities of LiGo to Google Assistant is part of the company's strategy to be on platforms that customers prefer and to offer them an immersive experience.

4. Federal Bank has partnered with Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt Limited to provide convenient and affordable options of bank's debit card through Innoviti Point of Sale (POS) terminals.

Note: The partnership will offer Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) options to over 7.5 million Federal Bank Debit Card holders at over 70,000 Innoviti POS terminals across 1000 cities. The partnership is in view of COVID-19 crisis as people are cautious about their spending and still will need affordable options in essential categories such as healthcare, education and IT (computers and laptops).

5. Andhra Pradesh government has received the nod from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) to form its Crop Insurance Firm Andhra Pradesh General Insurance Company (APGIC).

Note: Andhra Pradesh is among the few states like Bihar, West Bengal that has chosen to have their own crop insurance schemes.Andhra Pradesh General Insurance Company (APGIC) will run the state's own YSR Free Crop Insurance Scheme.

- Coal India Ltd (CIL) has decided to invest over 1.22 lakh crore rupees on development of nearly 500 projects. Note: It includes coal evacuation, infrastructure, project development, exploration and clean coal technologies in the country. The investment aims at making India self-reliant in terms of coal and achieve the production target of 1 billion tonnes by 2023-2024.
- 7. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched "Chhavni COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana" a group life insurance scheme for employees working in the military cantonment areas across India. Note: Launched during the two-day webinar organised by the Ministry of Defence and Directorate General of Defence Estates (DGDE) to improve the implementation of Central Sponsored Schemes(CSS) in the 62 cantonments around India.
 8 European Investment Bank will invest £ 650 million
- 8. European Investment Bank will invest € 650 million for the first metro line of Kanpur. Note: Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (UPMRC) is the promoter-Financial intermediary for this project.€650 million(Rs 5,551.99 crore) investment is the 5th investment of EIB in green infrastructure and connectivity in India i:e Bhopal, Pune, Bangalore and Lucknow.This investment will boost GOI and its Urban Development "Smart Cities Mission", as Kanpur is one of the first 100 targeted Smart Cities in the country
- **9. PayPal India** and Data Security Council of India (DSCI) has released a report titled 'Fraud & Risk Management in Digital Payments'.

Note: Apex body on data protection in India, set up by NASSCOM, the Data Security Council of India (DSCI), along with PayPal India released a report titled 'Fraud & Risk Management in Digital Payments'.The report suggests to safeguard payments for consumers, MSMEs, businesses, as the e-commerce market in India and UPI transactions are growing manifold during the recent times. It also discussed about the threats in the payment ecosystem and its prevention.

10. As per the data released by the National Statistical Office what is the contraction in India's GDP growth in first quarter of FY 20-21 -- 23.9%.

2 | Page

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Note: This was mainly on account of limited economic activity in the country during the quarter amid lockdowns to control the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. This is the first instance of an economic contraction for the country in at least four decades, and also the first GDP decline since India began publishing quarterly numbers in 1996.

11. SREI Equipment Finance Private Limited has bagged a euro 10 million loan from KfW IPEX-Bank to facilitate German exports to India.

Note: Through this arrangement, KfW IPEX-Bank will provide modern and energy-efficient construction machinery for use in Indian infrastructure projects. The financed machinery from a German construction machine manufacturer includes asphalt machines, road pavers and rollers, said a press statement issued by Srei.

- 12. LazyPay has launched the buy-now-pay-later concept called LazyUPI that will offer a credit limit of One lakh. Note: The offering allows the users to access the real-time credit using UPI across omnichannel networks, which includes offline merchants and e-commerce platforms. It is to be noted that this solution is a strategic response to the market demand for easy access to credit across the (online and offline) platforms and higher ticket-size pay-later options.
- The RBL Bank has launched a cardless cash withdrawal facility from ATMs, through the Instant Money Transfer (IMT) system in partnership with Empays Payment Systems India Pvt Ltd.

Note: This service enables the customers of the RBL Bank to withdraw cash without their debit cards from 389 IMT-enabled bank's ATMs or more than 40,000 other bank ATMs across the country.

14. SBI Mutual Fund has unveiled Magnum Children's Benefit Fund - Investment Plan, an open-ended fund for parents to invest for their children.

Note: The scheme, open for subscription from September 8, is a part of SBI Magnum Children's Benefit Fund that currently has Savings Plan, a predominantly debtoriented offering. The new plan for children aged 1 year going up to when he/she is 14 years old. There would be a lock-in period for at least 5 years or till the child attains age of majority, whichever is earlier.

15. Himachal Pradesh government has signed \$82 million loan agreement with the World Bank for the implementation of the State Roads Transformation Project.

Note: The project will strengthen the transport and road safety institutions of Himachal Pradesh.It aims at improving the condition, safety, resilience, and engineering standards of state road network.

16. Bank of India has launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals who are maintaining an average quarterly balance of Rs 10 lakhs and above.

Note: This international contactless debit card will be available in metal and plastic variants. This card will have a spending limit of up to ₹5 lakhs on POS & e-commerce and ₹1 lakh on ATM

- 17. Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd to launch a portal 'PayBima' through which it will provide digital services to the customers of its insurance brokerage.
 Note: It a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited(Mahindra Finance). PayBima will help Mahindra insurance broking services to transform it into a "phygital" model that will leverage its feet-on-thestreet agents at over 400 locations in the country, with the digital aggregation and settlement services.
- 18. State bank of India is planning to launch loan product 'SAFAL' for organic cotton growers.
 Note: The bank is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in a big way for generating business. Currently, the bank has more than 40 Machine Learning based models which it uses across the spectrum for business, risk mitigation, fraud management.
- **19. Bank of Baroda** finds top position in the Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE) Banking reform index 2020 prepared by Indian Banking Association (IBA).

Note: State Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) got the 2nd and 3rd place respectively. The Indian Banking Association (IBA) makes EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) reform index.

20. The Indian arm of Fitch Ratings, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has projected India's FY21 GDP growth forecast at (-) 11.8%.

Note: 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.

21. Mastercard has launched a digital currency testing platform aimed at helping central banks test their digital currencies.

Note: The platform will allows central banks to test how proposed central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) would work in real life. The system will also demonstrate how consumers can use central bank digital currencies to pay for goods and services wherever Mastercard is accepted worldwide.

22. According to the CRISIL Research the Indian economy will shrink by what percent in financial year 2020-21 -- 9%.



Note: 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.For FY22, Crisil has projected India's GDP to grow at 10%.

- 23. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) laid down guidelines for appointment of chief compliance officer (CCO) in banks for a minimum fixed period of three years.
 Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) laid down guidelines for appointment of chief compliance officer (CCO) in banks to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry.CCO "shall not be given any responsibility which brings elements of conflict of interest.
- 24. Domestic rating agency, CARE Ratings projected what per cent of contraction of Indian GDP in the current financial year (FY2020-21) -- 8-8.2%.
 Note: This decline shows that there will be no increase in capital expenditure (capex) during the year along with a decline in the gross fixed capital formation. The forecast
- for GVA growth in FY21 is -7.7%.
 25. ICICI Prudential Life has partnered with NSDL Payments Bank to offer insurance products. Note:Under the agreement, ICICI Prudential Life will provide its customer-centric protection and savings products to customers of NSDL Payments Bank.
- 26. Punjab National Bank has launched 'Festival Bonanza Offer' for its customers to give a push to subdued loan demand due to the COVID-19 crisis.
 Note:Under the 'Festival Bonanza Offer', the bank will waive all upfront or processing fees and documentation charges on some of its major retail products like housing loans and car loans.
- **27. RIL** has become the 1st India company to cross \$200billion mark.

Note: Shares of the company were up 6.2 per cent in midday trading in Mumbai after hitting a record intraday high.Asia's richest man, Mukesh Ambani is turning his focus toward retail after successfully building India's top telecom network by customers in less than four years, hoping to take a dominant position as India's huge consumer market comes of age.

28. Yes Bank has fully repaid the ₹50,000 crore provided by RBI as a special liquidity facility (SLF) amid the crises faced by the lender earlier this year.
Note: The government and RBI had replaced the entire board of the lender in March this year and also stopped

depositors from accessing their funds for a few days. A new management was installed, the restrictions were lifted and it also completed a Rs 15,000-crore capital raise during the pandemic which will help it restart lending operations.

- 29. Nvidia company will acquire the UK based chip designer Arm of Softbank for 40 billion dollars.
 Note: The deal puts a vital supplier to Apple Inc and others across the industry under the control of a single player and will face potential pushback from regulators and Nvidia rivals.Nvidia will pay SoftBank \$21.5 billion in shares and \$12 billion in cash, including \$2 billion on signing. The deal will see SoftBank and the \$100 billion Vision Fund, which has a 25% stake in Arm, take a stake in Nvidia of between 6.7% and 8.1%.
- 30. ICICI Lombard has entered into a Bancassurance tie-up with Yes Bank to sell its insurance products.
 Note: Through this agreement, ICICI Lombard aims to offer innovative insurance solutions to Yes Bank's Customers across 28 States and 8 Union Territories. Bancassurance is an arrangement between a Bank and an Insurance Company allowing the Insurance Company to sell its products to the Bank's Client Base.
- **31.** S&P Global Ratings projected **9** per cent of contraction of Indian GDP in the current financial year (FY2020-21) **9 per cent.**

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

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

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

33. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expects the Indian economy to contract by 10.2%. per cent in FY21 (2020-21).
Note: The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expects the Indian economy to contract by 10.2% in FY21 (2020-21) as compared to its previous estimate of 16.7% in June. For FY22 (2021-22), the Paris-based OECD projects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 10.7%.



34. Watch maker Titan Company has partnered with **State Bank of India** to launch India's first contactless payment watches named "Titan Pay".

Note: Using these watches, the account holders of SBI can tap their Titan Pay watch on the contactless payment POS machines for making payments. It is powered by YONO SBI. Under this mechanism, payments of up to Rs. 2,000 can be made without entering a PIN, as per the RBI guidelines.

35. According to Asian Development Bank **10.2%** is estimated GDP growth of India in the financial year 2020-21.

Note: This estimate is worse than ADB's previous estimate of -4%. However, for the FY22 (2021-22), ADB expects India's GDP at 8 per cent. ADB also expects the gross domestic product (GDP) growth for developing Asia at – 0.7 per cent in 2020, the first negative economic growth since 1962.

36. SBM Bank (India) Limited has collaborated with Mastercard World Debit Card for High Net Worth Customers.

Note: It represents a combination of niche banking solutions and thoroughly managed lifestyle privileges, including some of the finest shopping and dining opportunities. The custom built card is an addition to SBM Bank India's Private Wealth offering.

37. The estimated GDP contraction of India as per the UBS Securities projection - 8.6%.Note: UBS Securities has projected India's GDP for 2020-

21 (FY21) to contact 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.

38. ICICI Home Finance has launched "Apna Ghar Dreamz" a new home loan scheme for skilled laborers like electricians, mechanics, painters, grocery store owners etc in the informal sector of Delhi.
Note: The credit amount of this loan ranges from Rs 2 lakh to 50 lakhs. This scheme targets the people of the informal sector without all the documents which are required to get a loan from a formal financial institution.

39. DBS Bank India has launched an online credit solutions platform to provide loans for Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) businesses in a convenient manner with credit facility up to Rs 20 crore.

Note: This segment-flagship platform facilitates access to business credit across the entire spectrum of micro, small and medium enterprises. For loans above Rs 5 crore, customers can avail the loan through a simple online process by uploading bank statements, and

IT(Income Tax) returns. If the lending criteria is met, the platform is enabled to auto-generate an e-offer letter.

- 40. Canara Bank has launched lead management system (LMS) – i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0). Note: The system has been launched to provide its services to customers irrespective of where they reside. Through lead management system (LMS), customers can enquire and get services rendered through simple modes such as internet banking, mobile banking, call centre, SMS and missed call.
- **41. Bandhan Bank** has set new vertical "Emerging Entrepreneurs Business (EEB)" to support the emerging needs of the unbanked and underbanked segment of customers.

Note:The vertical will focus on supporting this segment of customers in their journey to becoming entrepreneurs. In addition to micro loans, the vertical will also manage micro home loan, micro bazaar loan and micro enterprise loan.

- **42. IDFC Mutual Fund** has started a new campaign called SIFI or `SIP in Fixed Income'. **Note:** The new campaign called SIFI has been launched to make investors more aware about the benefits of investing in fixed income products via Systematic Investment Plans.
- **43.** Volvo Car India has partnered with **HDFC Bank** to launch Volvo Car Financial Services to enable buyers get easy finance for its vehicles.

Note: The service facilitates finance of up to 100% of exshowroom price of the car and offers convenient repayment options, with no foreclosure charges under specific conditions. It is a faster, flexible and cost-optimised solution to finance a Volvo car.

- 44. Google Pay has partnered with Visa to allow card-based payments through tokenization.
 Note: Through tokenisation, Google Pay Android users can use their debit or credit card to make payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone without having to physically share their credit or debit card details. The feature will also facilitate use of tap-to-pay feature on near-field communications (NFC)-enabled point of sale (PoS) terminals and online merchants
- **45. State Bank of India** has collaborated with Google to enable customers to use their cards on Google Pay platform.

Note: The payments are managed via a "secure digital token" that is attached to the smartphones so that no user has to share the card details with any vendor. Users will now be able to make card payments using Google Pay app on their Android smartphones in three modes — via tap-and-pay at near field communication (NFC)



enabled point-of-sale terminals, by scanning Bharat QR code at the merchant as well as online payments without using the physical credit card.

46. State Bank of India has started a programme by the name "Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani" (Women Self-Reliance programme) to accelerate SHG finance in the bank.

Note: The basic objective of the programme is to create a strong bonding with the SHG member besides extending credit linkages to the women SHGs nurtured and sponsored by NRLM, Assam for self-reliance and economic upliftment. SBI branches of Assam sanctioned 856 numbers of SHGs sponsored by NRLM with financial outlay of Rs. 38 crore.

47. VISA has announced the launch of a grant program in India to support women entrepreneurs with its partner, IFundWomen.

Note: As an extension of two programs launched in the US this year, women entrepreneurs in India will now receive funding from Visa to grow and expand their business.Visa's partnership with IFundWomen is designed to help women entrepreneurs secure the funding they need through a series of grants.

48. HDFC Life has entered into a Corporate Agency Arrangement (CA) with **Yes Bank** to sell insurance policies.

Note: As part of the arrangement, HDFC Life will provide a diverse range of insurance products to customers of Yes Bank.HDFC Life's wide range of life insurance products includes solutions for protection, saving and investment, retirement and critical illness. It will be available to customers of Yes Bank through the Bank's branches which are spread throughout the country.

49. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 100% equity shares of Medlife International Private Limited by **API Holdings Private Limited.**

Note: It also approved the acquisition of up to 19.59% equity share capital of API Holdings by Medlife's shareholders under Section 31 (1) of the Competition Act, 2002.API directly or through its subsidiaries carries out various business activities including wholesale sale and distribution of drugs; transportation and delivery services primarily focused on pharmaceutical sector; owning technology and intellectual property for developing e- commerce platforms.

50. IDFC First Bank will launch "SafePay" a contactless debit card-based payment facility.
 Note: SafePay embeds Near Field Communication (NFC) technology in the IDFC First Mobile App to enable secure

payments using a debit card issued by the Bank. A social distancing-friendly way to pay, SafePay completely does away with the need to hand over the card to a merchant or even carry it in the wallet.

- **51.** For **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released Cyber Security Vision Framework. **Note:** The apex bank has taken four different guiding principles in order to formulate the framework. This is because the heterogeneity of UCBs in India in terms of regions, size, digital depth and financial health is huge.
- 52. HDFC Bank has been ranked India's Most Valuable Brand in the 2020 BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands rankings, released by WPP and Kantar.
 Note: The bank is estimated to have a brand value of \$20.3 billion, which, however, is a decline of 11% over last year. LIC, Tata Consultancy Services, Airtel, Asian Paints, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Jio, Flipkart, Paytm and State Bank of India were among the other brands ranked in the top 10 most valuable brand rankings.
- **53. Fino Payments Bank** partnering with fintech has introduced NFC-based contactless payments solution for mass transit systems, especially state bus transport services in India.

Note: Fino, which has over 80 per cent of its banking network of 2.75 lakh points in villages, aims to tap the opportunity to digitise cash used in mass transit systems. Fino has already issued over 30 lakh NFC-enabled smart cards that are accepted across 20,000 Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation buses.

- 54. BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) has selected technology firm Signzy in a bid to digitize its customer verification through 'Video KYC'.
 Note: With this alliance, BFSL has now enabled a quick, zero-contact and paperless KYC that omits the requirement for physical submission of KYC documents. It also ensures end-to-end security in the entire KYC process to both financial services providers as well as their users.
- 55. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected 12.6% percent contraction in the Indian GDP in FY 2020-21.
 Note: The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected the GDP growth for the Indian economy at -12.6% For 2020-21 (FY21) with the remaining three quarters expected to witness a fall. For 2021-22, NCAER projects the GDP of India to grow by 7%.
- **56. SBI Card** has launched its new brand campaign titled 'Contactless Connections', to spreads the message that love and care can be shared even during this difficult period where social distancing is the norm.



Note: The campaign endeavours to bring a fresh breath of positivity by demonstrating that people can connect emotionally and spread joy despite the social distancing practices by which we are bound. Contactless payments, enabled by SBI Card, allow consumers to simply wave their card or phone or scan a QR code to make safe, secure payments, without handing over their card or punching in the PIN.

57. As per the **Reserve Bank of India** approval **Lakshmi Vilas** bank's day to day affairs will be run by a Committee of Directors (CoD) comprising three independent directors.

Note: The development comes after the shareholders of the bank rejected the reappointment of seven of the directors on the bank's board, including its interim MD and CEO, S. Sundar. The three are the only directors out of the proposed 10, who were voted for reappointment by the bank's shareholders.

- 58. The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed a pact with Yes Bank to empower the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) listed on the platform.
 Note: The pact aims at empowering the SME segment through awareness and knowledge-sharing programmes. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), BSE and Yes Bank will conduct knowledge events for SMEs, export promotion of SMEs, in addition to providing banking and financial solutions.
- **59. Vakrangee Ltd** has been granted in-principle approval to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 by the RBI.

Note: The company offers banking, insurance, money transfer services, e-commerce, e-governance and other digital services on behalf of its partner banks, insurers, government agencies, e-commerce players among others through its branches mostly located in rural and semi-urban areas.

60. NABARD is embarking on a Sanitation Literacy Campaign (SLC) to promote literacy on 'WASH' (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) in 2,000 villages across the country.

Note: The objective of the campaign is to focus on inculcating significant behavioural changes towards adapting good hygiene and sanitation practices. The campaign will start from October 2 and would continue till January 26, 2021.

- 61. Fitch Solutions has revised downward its forecast for Indian economic growth and now estimates that India's GDP will contract by 8.6%.
 Note: For the year 2021, UNCTAD projects the Indian economy to grow by 3.9%. The projection was made in its Trade and Development Report 2020.
- **62.** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has predicted that the GDP of India will contract by **5.9%.**

Note: For the year 2021, UNCTAD projects the Indian economy to grow by 3.9%. The projection was made in its Trade and Development Report 2020. The baseline scenario is a sharp recession in 2020 as the stringent lockdown measures, to prevent the spread of the virus have halted, many productive activities across the country.

Obituaries

 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 Affair 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. They were noted for cocreating the animated series Scooby-Doo

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.

- 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 pontiffof Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district, Kerala, India.He was



a follower of Smartha Bhagawatha traditionand 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.He is well known for his many important research contributions in several areas of astronomy and astrophysics.
- **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.

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

Note: The first-time he took oath as Rajya Sabha MP on July, 2020. He is credited for organising the BJP in Raichur district.Gasti, a lawyer by profession and former general secretary of BJP's Other Backward Classes (OBC) Cell, was also a former chairperson of the Backward Class Development Corporation in Karnataka.

- **18. Tamil Filmmaker** Babu Sivan passed away recently. **Note:** He started his career with assisting director Dharani and made his directorial debut in 2009 with movie Vettaikaaran starring Vijay and Anushka Shetty.Later, he also directing daily soap opera Rasaathi
- **19.** Renowned **Mountaineer** Ang Rita passed away recently.

Note:He made all the ascents to the world's tallest mountain between 1983 and 1996 and that too without bottled oxygen. He was therefore also known as the "snow leopard" for his climbing skills.



20. Renowned **Actor** Ashalata Wabgaonkar passed away recently.

Note: She acted in several Marathi films and plays. In Bollywood, she starred in films such as 'Apne Paraye', 'Woh Saat Din', 'Namak Halaal', 'Zanjeer' and others.

21. Renowned **Bollywood Actor** Bhupesh Pandya passed away recently.

Note: Theatre personality and Bollywood actor Bhupesh Pandya, who is best known for his role in Ayushmann Khurrana's debut film 'Vicky Donor' has passed away. He was an alumnus of National School of Drama (NSD).

- 22. Former Australian cricketer and renowned commentator, Dean Jones passed away recently..
 Note: He played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia between 1984 and 1994 before venturing into the commentary. He scored almost 9500 international runs.
- 23. Renowned Nuclear Scientist Dr Sekhar Basu passed away due to COVID 19 related complications.
 Note: A mechanical engineer, Dr Basu is revered for his contributions to the country's atomic energy programme. He was awarded Padma Shri in 2014.He had also pioneered the highly complex reactor for India's first nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant.
- 24. Renowned Nuclear Scientist Suresh Aagadi passed away due to COVID 19 related complications.
 Note: He was A fourth-term parliamentarian from Belagavi in Karnataka. A businessman by profession, Angadi got a major break in his political career when he was appointed as BJP vice president in Belagavi in 1996, and worked his way up in the party. He was elected MP in the Lok Sabha election in 2004, and again in 2009.
- **25.** Veteran **Politician** Jaswant Singh passed away recently. **Note:** He had served as the external affairs minister, defence minister and finance minister of India, during the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Cabinet.

Prior to pursuing a career in politics with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Mr Singh was an officer in the Indian Army in the 1950s and 60s.

26. Famous **Economist** Isher Judge Ahluwalia passed away recently.

Note: In August 2020, she had stepped down as chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) due to her declining health. Ahluwalia was married to former deputy chairperson of Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

- 27. Renowned Lyricist Abhilash passed away recently. Note: His song 'Itni Shakti Hame Dena Daata' has been translated into eight languages and is played as a prayer song across schools and other institutions. In a career spanning five decades, he penned lyrics for films like Raftaar, Awara Ladki, Sawan Ko Aane Do, Jeete Hain Shaan Se Hulchul (1995) etc.
- 28. Renowned personality Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah passed away recently, he was Emir of Kuwait.
 Note: He became Kuwait's Emir in January 2006 after the death of Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah.He was dubbed the "dean of Arab diplomacy" for his efforts to restore relations with states that backed Iraq during the 1990-1991 Gulf War, when Kuwait was invaded by Iraqi forces.
- **29.** Renowned personality Syeda Anwara Taimur passed away recently, she was first and only woman chief minister of **Assam states.**

Note: Taimur was in the news in 2018 when her name didn't appear in the Assam National Register of Citizens. She later informed that her family members may not have applied to get her name included in the list. A four-time Congress MLA beginning with her first election in 1972, Taimur held portfolios like education before becoming chief minister for a brief period from December 6, 1980 to June 30, 1981.

Important Days

- 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.

 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.

- 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.

 National Engineers Day is celebrated every year on 15th September.

Note: In India, the Engineer's Day is celebrated on September 15 every year, since 1968, to recognise the contribution of engineers' in the development of the nation. The day marks the birth anniversary of the engineering pioneer of India, Sir Mokshagundam Vishweshvaraya, (popularly known as Sir MV).

8. International Day of Democracy is observed globally every year on **15th September**.

Note: The International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world. Democracy is as much a process as a goal, and only with the full participation of and support by the international community, national governing bodies, civil society and individuals, can the ideal of democracy be made into a reality to be enjoyed by everyone, everywhere.

9. The United Nations observes International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer every year on **16th September.**

Note: The ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas which protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays

of the sun and thus help in preserving life on the planet. The theme of the day for 2020: "Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection". It marks 35 years of the Vienna Convention.

10. The World Patient Safety Day is observed globally every year 17th September.Note: The theme for World Patient Safety Day 2020:

Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety Day 2020: Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety. Raise global awareness about the importance of health worker safety and its interlinkages with patient safety.Engage multiple stakeholders and adopt multimodal strategies to improve the safety of health workers and patients

11. The World Water Monitoring Day is observed globally every year on 18th September.
Note: This day is celebrated to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world. World Water Monitoring Day engages people of all ages in

monitoring the condition of local rivers, streams,
estuaries and other water bodies. This year theme for
World Water Monitoring Day 2020 is 'Solve Water.'
International Coastal Cleanup Day is celebrated every

 International Coastal Cleanup Day is celebrated every year on 19th September (third Saturday in September).

Note: In 2020, the day is being held on 19 September. This year theme for International Coastal Cleanup Day 2020: "Achieving a trash-free Coastline".

- 13. International Equal Pay Day is observed globally for the first time on 18th September 2020.
 Note: On the occasion of the first International Equal Pay Day, and in the midst of the fallout from the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) will host a virtual global Call to Action to encourage all labour market actors to take the necessary steps to ensure that equal pay is at the heart of recovery efforts worldwide.
- 14. World Bamboo Day is observed globally every year on 18 September.

Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the benefits of bamboo and to promote its use in everyday products. The theme for 11th edition of WBD 2020 is 'BAMBOO NOW.'

15. World Alzheimer's Day is observed is observed every year on **21**st **September**.

Note: This day tries to create awareness about the condition and the challenges one may face. It also attempts to eliminate the stigma that surrounds this condition. Alzheimer's is a progressive diseases which leads to memory loss.



 International Day of Peace in observed around the world on 21st September.

Note: The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is "Shaping Peace Together."

 World Rhino Day is observed globally every year on 22 September.

Note: This special day provides the opportunity for cause-related organizations, NGOs, zoos, and members of the public to celebrate rhinos in their own unique ways. This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need to protect all the five existing species of Rhinoceros

- 18. The theme of the International Day of Sign Languages 2020 -- "Sign Languages are for Everyone!". Note: Also, the last full week of September is observed as International Week of the Deaf.
- 19. World Maritime Day 2020 is observed globally on 24th September

Note: The exact date of celebrating World Maritime Day is left to the individual governments but is usually celebrated during the last week in September.

20. World Pharmacist Day is observed globally every year on -- **25th September.**

Note: The day was an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) along with the council of this organization. This year's theme is "Transforming global health".

21. World Environmental Health Day is observed globally every year on -- **26th September.**

Note: This day is celebrated to shed the light on important work of environmental health around the world. The Theme for the 2020 World Environmental Health Day: Environmental health, a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention.

22. The theme of 2020 World Rabies Day -- End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate.

Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the impact of rabies on humans and animals, provide information and advice on how to prevent the disease and take efforts to control rabies. The theme for the 14th WRD in 2020 is 'End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate'. This year's theme focuses on vaccination and collaboration.

23. World Tourism Day is observed globally every year on 27th September.

Note: The purpose of this day is to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide. This date was chosen by the United Nations World Tourism Organization as on that day in 1970, the Statutes of the UNWTO were adopted.

24. The International Day for the Universal Access to Information is observed globally every year on **28th September.**

Note: Universal access to information means that everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information for healthy and inclusive knowledge societies.IDUAI 2020 will be focus on to the right to information in times of crisis and on the advantages of having constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information to save lives, build trust and help the formulation of sustainable policies through and beyond the COVID-19 crisis.

25. International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is observed globally on 29th September.

Note: This year is the first-ever observance of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. It also comes during the global COVID-19 pandemic, that has brought about a global wake-up on the need to transform and rebalance the way our food is produced and consumed.

26. World Heart Day is observed annually on **29th September**.

Note: The day which is celebrated annually creates awareness of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) including heart disease & stroke and highlights the preventive and control measures. The theme for World Heart Day 2020: "Use Heart To Beat Cardiovascular Disease".

27. The theme of the International Translation Day 2020 --Finding the words for a world in crisis.
Note: This day provides a great opportunity to spotlight the important work of translators, interpreters and others in the language service industry. 30 September celebrates the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator, who is considered the patron saint of translators.



New Appointments

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 Wadhera. 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.
- **21. Sameer Kumar Khare** has been appointed as new Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila.

Note: Khare is a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Assam cadre. He is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs under Ministry of Finance. He has been appointed to the post for a tenure of three years with effect from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

- 22. Rajesh Khullar has been appointed as Executive Director at World Bank in Washington DC.
 Note: The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Rajesh Khulla for a tenure of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till the date of his superannuation (August 23, 2023). Khullar is currently posted as principal secretary to chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar. He will join the World Bank in the first week of November.
- 23. Yoshihide Suga has been elected as the new Chief of Japan's ruling, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Prime Minister-designate of the country.
 Note: He will assume charge of the office from 16 September 2020.Suga received maximum votes of 377 of the 534 valid votes in the Party election, held to pick a successor to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who announced in August 2020 that he would resign due to health problems.
- 24. Takeo Konishi has been appointed as the country director for India by the Manila based Asian Development Bank (ADB).
 Note: Konishi will replace Kenichi Yokoyama who has taken over as Director-General of ADB's South Asia Department. India is the fourth-largest shareholder of ADB and has been its largest borrower since 2010.As head of the country office in New Delhi, Konishi will lead to ADB operations and policy dialogue with the government and other development partners in India.



- 25. Bollywood actorv Amitabh Bachchan has been signed up by the Amazon.com Inc for its Alexa voice assistant. Note: Amitabh Bachchan is the first Indian celebrity to lend his voice to Alexa. Alexa users will be able to access Amitabh Bachchan's voice on Alexa by purchasing the Amitabh Bachchan voice experience. Amazon first used a celebrity voice when Hollywood actor Samuel L. Jackson made a debut on Alexa.
- 26. Sachin Tendulkar has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Paytm First Games (PFG).
 Note: Tendulkar would promote the gaming platform PFG and all its fantasy sports such as cricket, kabaddi, football, and basketball. Paytm is the official umpire partner for IPL till 2022 and has been the title sponsor for Indian cricket.
- 27. Anil Dhasmana has been appointed as the chief of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
 Note: Dhasmana succeeds former Intelligence Bureau officer Satish Jha, who demitted office.Dhasmana, a 1981 batch IPS officer, is a Pakistan expert and was the lead planner of the Balakot airstrikes in February 2019. He had stepped down a few months later when his extended term due to the general elections ended in June 2019.
- 28. Additional charge of Food Processing Industries Ministry following Harsimrat Kaur Badal resignation --Narendra Singh Tomar.

Note: He has been given the additional charge as President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect, under clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution.

- 29. Anil Dhasmana has been appointed as the chief of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
 Note: Dhasmana succeeds former Intelligence Bureau officer Satish Jha, who demitted office. Dhasmana, a 1981 batch IPS officer, is a Pakistan expert and was the lead planner of the Balakot airstrikes in February 2019
- 30. AK DIXIT has been appointed as the new administrator of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank by the Reserve Bank of India.
 Note: He has replaced JB Bhoria who has stepped down from his role as the administrator of the bank due to health reasons. In September 2019, the RBI had superseded the board of PMC bank due to fraud and financial irregularities in the PMC bank.
- **31. Khushi Chindaliya** has been appointed as Regional Ambassador for India by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)- Tunza Eco-Generation.

Note: In her new role, Khusi will raise awareness about climate change and the importance of environmental conservation and the need to safeguard environmental treasures. She will work with the TEG on various environmental awareness programmes till February 2021.

32. Simanchala Dash has been appointed as an advisor to Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington.

Note: The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the proposal to appoint Simanchala Dash as an advisor to Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington. He has been appointed for a period of three years.

33. Girija Shanker Mungali has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Asian Football Confederation's task force.

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

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

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

35. Moctar Ouane has been appointed as the new prime minister of **Mali.**

Note: The interim President of Mali, Bah Ndaw, has named former Malian Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane as the new prime minister of Mali. Moctar Ouane has served as Mali's ambassador to the United Nations from 1995-2002, and as foreign minister from 2004-2009 during Amadou Toumani Toure's presidency.

- 36. PD Vaghela has been appointed as the Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.
 Note: He is 1986-Gujarat cadre IAS officer.Vaghela will succeed RS Sharma, whose tenure as chief of TRAI lapses on September 30. Prior to TRAI, Sharma led the creation of Aadhaar as the director general and mission director of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) during 2009-2013.
- **37. Shekhar Kapoor** has been appointed as the new president of **Film and Television Institute of India**



(FTII) Society and Chairman of the FTII governing council.

Note: Mr. Kapur replaces filmmaker B. P. Singh as the new Chairman. Kapur, who is known for movies from

acclaimed biopic on Queen Elizabeth, will hold the post till March 3, 2023.

Important News - India

- 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.
- **3. 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.

4. 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.

the Indian superhero film 'Mr India' to 'Bandit Queen'

based on the incidents in the life of Phoolan Devi and an

- 5. 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).
- 6. 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 it's 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.

8. 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 underconstruction 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
- 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 (MPICC) 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 Naredra 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 'Hubbil' 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 \gtrless 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".
- **32.** India has been elected as a member of the United Nation's Commission on Status of Women (CSW) from **2021-2025.**

Note: India will be a member for four years from 2021 to 2025. India, Afghanistan and China had contested the elections to the Commission on Status of Women.Even as India and Afghanistan won the ballot among the 54 members, China could not cross the half-way mark.

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

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

- 34. The theme of the 4th edition of Global Ayurveda Summit which was inaugurated by the vice president Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu -- Emerging Opportunities for Ayurveda during Pandemic. Note: The summit will include 8-day International Conference, 30-day International Exhibition and Focused Business to Business Meetings and participation from more than 25 countries. The objective of the summit is to showcase the Ayurveda immunity model to the global level as a solution named 'Health as One' and 'Immunity through Ayurveda'.
- **35.** Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **SwissRapide AG** for Magnetic Levitation Projects in India.

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

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

Note: However, India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report

released by the World Bank. The 2020 Human Capital Index update includes health and education data for 174 countries — covering 98 per cent of the world's population — up to March 2020, providing a prepandemic baseline on the health and education of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries.

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

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

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

Note: The Terminal was inaugurated by the Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The airport will allow movement of 150 jets on daily basis. The new terminal has capacity to handle over 50 passengers in an hour. The Ultra rich population of India has grown by 116% between 2013 and 2018. It is expected to increase more by 37% by 2023. The Ultra rich individuals are defined as persons with the net worth of 30 million USD.

- 39. The Ministry of AYUSH signed an MoU with Ministry of Women and Child Development to control Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
 Note: The MoU will see some time-tested and scientifically proven Ayush-based solutions being adopted for controlling malnutrition in the country. The MoU will help in tackling the problem of malnutrition in mothers and children in the country.
- **40.** Public Sector Undertakings **Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL)** has been granted Bureau of Indian Standards – BIS certification for all its products.

Note: The company is also supporting and implementing the Make in India initiative of Government of India in one or other way. It is a leader in chemical industry has manufacturing unit at Kochi in Kerala.All the products of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL) are widely being accepted, especially in Pharmaceutical industry where the highest product quality is called for.



41. Government entity **Indian Railway** is observing "Swachhta Pakhwara" from 16th to 30th September 2020.

Note: During the Pakhwara, intensive cleaning and sanitization of stations, trains, tracks, colonies and other railway establishments is being carried out with special focus on plastic waste management.

- 42. The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) programme, an international initiative building the world's largest radio telescope will have control systems designed and built by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Note: Several other multiple leading Indian scientific Institutions are also contributing to the project under the leadership of TCS. The National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) is the lead Telescope Manager (TM) of the project, while other institutes like Raman Research Institute (RRI) and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in Bengaluru, Inter-University Centre for Astronmy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune, multiple IITs, among other Indian institutes are scientific partners
- 43. The 1.9 km-long Kosi Rail Mega Bridge project was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in Bihar. Note: This was Mr. Modi's fourth digital inauguration and foundation-laying ceremonies of projects and plans in poll-bound Bihar.The 1.9 km-long Kosi rail mega bridge on river Kosi, constructed at a cost of ₹516 crore, will connect Bihar to its north-eastern part and has strategic importance as well along the India-Nepal border.
- 44. Foundation station for the construction of Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex has been laid down in Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir.

Note: Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex will spread over 270 kanals of land and is being undertaken under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) at an estimated cost of Rs.58.23 crore. The State of Art Sports Complex will be first of its kind sports complex in the Northern Region, having multiple sports facilities of international and national standards in one place.

45. IIT Roorkee has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneshwar to generate frontier technologies and produce quality manpower in the field of agricultural research.
Note: According to the MoU, both institutions will collaborate in research programmes where IITR and OUAT would work jointly in the field of Agriculture in the field of Genomics, Transgenics and Metabolomics, crop improvement, Information and Communication, application of Sensor in agriculture, information and communication, IT-based societal development and related aspects of Agriculture leading to the creation of rural livelihood opportunities

46. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at **Darbhanga, Bihar.**

Note: The total cost will be Rs.1264 crore and is likely to be completed within four years from the date of the approval of Government of India. The medical college will have 100 MBBS seats.

- 47. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19 has been extended for another six months.
 Note: It was announced on 30th March this year for a period of 90 days and it was extended for a further period of 90 days up to 25th September. The scheme has now been extended for another 180 days.
- 48. Jitendra Singh has unveiled the Logo and song for festival "Destination North East-2020".
 Note: The Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh has unveiled the Logo and song for festival "Destination North East-2020" (The Emerging Delightful Destinations) through a video conference. The four-day event is to be formally inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah on September 27, 2020.
- **49.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched "Ghar Tak Fibre" scheme in **Bihar**. **Note:** The optical fibre services are being provided under the scheme "Ghar Tak Fibre". These services are to be executed along with combined efforts of Common Service Centre.
- 50. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched a National Conservation Strategy for One-Horned Rhinoceros.
 Note: The conservation initiatives for rhino has also enriched the grassland management which help in reducing the negative impacts of climate change through carbon sequestration. India is home to the largest number of greater one-horned rhinoceros in the world with a population in the range of 3000 animals in Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.
- **51. HCL Technologies** has announced the acquisition of Australian IT firm DWS Ltd for \$115.8 million in a bid to further expand its digital offerings especially in Australia and New Zealand.

Note: The DWS Group closed FY 2020 with revenues of \$ 122.9 million and has over 700 employees with



operations in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Canberra

- 52. Government department Central Pollution Control Board has celebrated its 46th Foundation Day. Note: The CBCB was established on September 23, 1974 under The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as a technical arm of Central Government for environmental research, monitoring, regulation and enforcement in the country.
- **53. 'KRITAGYA'** name has been given to the hackathon planned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).

Note: This hackathon has been planned to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women friendly equipments. Students, faculties and innovators/entrepreneurs from any university / technical institution across the country can apply and participate in the event in the form of a group.

- 54. The Ministry of Education celebrated 'Shikshak Parv' from 8th September- 25th September, 2020.
 Note: Under the Shikshak Parv initiative, a National webinar on "Curriculum Reforms & National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and Pedagogy" was organized. The webinar was organized to highlight the salient features of the New Education Policy (NEP 2020).
- **55.** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and **NITI Aayog** have organized an Artificial Intelligence (AI), RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020' from October 5-9, 2020.

Note: RAISE 2020 will be a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and chart a course for using AI for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility, among other sectors.

- 56. Indian Railways is planning to complete 100% electrification of broad-gauge routes -- 2023. Note: Around 63 per cent broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year. A total of 23,765 route kilometre lines are yet to be electrified in the country.
- **57.** The central government has allowed the states to spend **50%** of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to fight COVID-19.

Note: The move came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi told chief ministers of the seven worst affected states that his government has increased the states' limit to spend the SDRF to boost infrastructure to fight the pandemic.The areas where the states can spend up to 50 per cent of the SDRF include quarantine, sample collection and screening facilities.

58. For which Indian city a Biodiversity Map has been made by artist and cartoonist Rohan Chakravarty -- **Mumbai.**

Note: The Map has been created by artist and cartoonist Rohan Chakravarty. The map has been created specially, for a campaign called 'Biodiversity by the Bay', initiated by Ministry of Mumbai's Magic, a youth collective for climate action. The campaign has a five-point objective, including getting protected status for the Lesser Flamingo and livelihood support for coastal Koli communities.

Important News – State

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.

 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 officials languages of the Union Territory.Bhoti is spoken in ladakh region

- 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.
- Under Ek Bharat Shresht 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.

7. Uttar Pradesh is all set to create the Udyog Bandhulike 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.

8. 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).

- 9. Tamil Nadu state constituted a seven-member highlevel 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.
- **10. Haryana** government has launched Educational WhatsApp Chatbot "Apka Mitra" and Online Admission Platform for UnderGraduate courses in governmentaided 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 741944449 to get information regarding admission & scholarship.

- 11. Andhra Pradesh government has launched Sampoorna 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.
- 12. 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.
- **13. 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.
- **14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

- 17. 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.

- 19. 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.

- 21. Maharashtra government has launched 'My Family, My Responsibility' Campaign to tackle COVID 19.
 Note: The campaign aims to motivate the maximum number of people to adopt a new lifestyle for effective COVID-19 control and also aims to reach people before the virus reaches them. It's main objective is to achieve effective healthcare education for the control of COVID-29. It will be conducted in 2 phases.
- 22. Gujarat government has signed an MoU with the SIDBI to increase self-reliance and provide capacity building and market support to the MSMEs in the state. Note: The objective is also to hasten technology transfer and innovation within the state.SIDBI will help the small scale industries in the state to come out of the current COVID-19 situation effectively, and also evaluate the feasibility of infrastructure projects and common facility centres for MSME clusters in the state
- **23. Karnataka** government has approved the 'Tourism Policy 2020-25' to boost tourism related aspects

within the state and promote tourism at the district-level.

Note: The policy plans to give a boost to tourism related to heritage, wildlife, spiritual, cultural, adventure, coastal, nature, health and agriculture. The department plans to offer subsidies which have been enhanced to ₹10 crore from ₹1.2 crore under the new policy with a focus on districts and non-traditional tourist circuits.

24. Rajasthan government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to develop its micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) ecosystem.

Note: This MoU will support the state government to have a better understanding and provide better solutions for the problems of MSMEs.Under this MoU, the Department of Industries of Rajasthan and SIDBI will work together to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to the MSMEs in the state. This partnership with SIDBI will promote the state's innovative cluster-based thinking.

- 25. Rajasthan government has launched a new road accident insurance scheme to provide timely treatment to victims that could help to reduce the fatality rate. Note: The scheme has been named after late Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray. Under the Balasaheb Thackeray Accidental Insurance Scheme, an accident victim will be provided treatment in nearby hospitals in the first 72 hours of the incident.
- 26. Mizoram is the happiest state as per the first all India Happiness Report covering all states and Union Territories measuring happiness across the country. Note: Overall, states from the Northeast Indian region have fared well in the survey, and Mizoram has topped in the happiness rankings among all; the states and union territories in the country. Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman, and the Nicobar Islands are the top three in the list of states/union territories.
- **27. Delhi** government has launched a health and nutrition helpline to ensure children under six years of age get nutritional supplements and regular immunization doses.

Note: The helpline, 'Sehat evam Poshan Saathinwas', will remain operational 24X7 in collaboration with NGO Indus Action.Once a call is received on the number, 011-41193903, the team at the DCPCR will connect back with the caller within one-two days and register the grievance.

28. Madhya Pradesh government has launched 'Poshan Sarkar' program to ensure participation and leadership



of local bodies-Gram Panchayats and Urban Bodies in the nutrition campaign.

Note: The main objective of the Poshan Sarkar programme is to eliminate the malnutrition by helping the Gram Panchayat and the Urban Bodies in the nutrition campaign.Various activities will be organized under this. Under the programme, nutrition resolution will be passed in all Gram Panchayats/ Nagar Panchayats /Urban Bodies.

- 29. Gujarat government has launched Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY), a scheme of providing interest-free loans to women's groups in the state. Note: Under the scheme, the government is expected to disburse interest-free loans to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore to women to help them become self-reliant (atmanirbhar).Each group with 10 women members will be eligible for the loan.As part of the scheme, the interest on the loans will be paid to the banks by the government. This is expected to cost the state exchequer approximately Rs 170 crore.
- **30. Gujarat** government approved a letter of intent (LOI) for the world's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal.

Note: The project will be developed jointly by UKheadquartered Foresight Group, Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group and a Netherland-based consortium.Apart from the CNG terminal, the investors would also develop a Ro-Ro terminal (for roll-on/rolloff ships), liquid cargo terminal and container terminal at Bhavnagar.

31. Amazon India has set up an all-women delivery station in **Kadi, Gujarat.**

Note: The new all-women delivery station, operated by a delivery service partner, is part of the company's efforts towards increasing participation of women in the workforce.In 2016, the company had launched its first all-women delivery station in India, with its partner in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

32. Karnataka government has launched the "Arthika Spandana" programme of disbursing loans to the tune of ₹ 39,300 crore through various cooperative institutions.

Note: Under this scheme, ₹15,300 crore would be disbursed to the agriculture sector while a sum of ₹24,000 crore would be earmarked for the non-agricultural sector.

33. Uttarakhand tourism department has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote adventure sports activities in the state.

Note: ITBP along with the department will now work on the building of adventure sports activities like land

base adventure centre, water base adventure centre, aero base adventure centre at Rajiv Gandhi Adventure Sports Academy situated at Tehri Lake.It will train over 200 candidates selected by the state government or tourism department every year free of cost. All arrangements and expenses for the operation of and training in the academy will be borne by the ITBP.

- 34. Madhya Pradesh government announced to launch 'Mukhymantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana' in the lines of Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.
 Note: Under the announced scheme, the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, getting Rs.
 6,000 per annum, will be getting additional financial assistance of Rs. 4,000, making their total annual assistance to be Rs. 10,000 per annum
- **35. Assam** government has launched the "Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni Yojana" of the state transport department.

Note: Under the scheme, Light Motor Vehicle Service would be launched in all the villages of the state to improve rural connectivity and generate employment in the villages. One vehicle would be provided to one beneficiary per village.

- 36. Rajasthan government has approved the 'Moksha Kalash Yojana-2020' to allow free bus travel to two members of the family of the deceased to immerse ashes of their loved ones in the Ganga in Haridwar. Note: This Moksha Kalash Yojana aims to allow free bus travel to two members of the family of the deceased to immerse ashes of their loved ones in the Ganga in Haridwar.
- 37. Rajasthan government to launch web portal 'Dharani' for integrated land record management.
 Note: The launch of the portal, developed by National Informatics Centre. The registration fee survey number wise will be fixed well before the launch of the portal. Training and licences will be issued to document writers at Tahsildar and sub-registrar offices. Data pertaining to all types of properties should be uploaded in the portal before Vijayadasami.
- 38. Odisha government has launched launched Radio Pathshala program for students up to class 8.
 Note: The program will be broadcast from All India Radio stations in the state for 15 minutes daily (10 to 1015 hours) from ten Akshvani Kendras. The audio of the program will also be made available on the online DIKSHA platform for the students for whom schools have been kept out of bounds since March this year.
- **39. Maharshtra** government has banned the sale of unpackaged "loose" cigarettes and beedis, making it the first Indian state to so.



Note: Maharashtra currently contributes to around 8-10% of the cigarette sales volumes. The move is aimed at ensuring that customers see the graphic, public health warnings mandated on cigarette packaging.

40. Assam government has announced a new scheme under which loan up to ₹20 lakh with interest subsidy would be provided to entrepreneurs to revive the tourism industry.

Note: Under the 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme', loan between ₹1 lakh and ₹20 lakh will be extended to interested local youths to take up new initiatives so that the tourism sector gets a fresh lease of life amid the coronavirus crisis.As part of the scheme, the advances will be provided for five years, while the state government will give first year's interest and will be a one-year moratorium on repayment.

41. Maharashtra government has modified Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 that will enable tribals and other traditional forest dwelling families to build houses in the neighbourhood forest areas.
Note: The move aims to prevent the migration of forest-dwelling families outside their native villages and provide them housing areas by extending the village site into forest land in their neighbourhood. The notification is the result of the consistent efforts of Vayam — a community-based organisation — working for the empowerment of tribal communities in Palghar and Nashik districts.

Important News - World

- 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.

5. 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.

- 6. 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 a l e r t s 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

- 10. 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.
- **11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

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

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

16. Cyclone 'Sally' hits USA.

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

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

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



- 18. Fiumicino International Airport (FCO), Rome has become the first airport in the world to be certified with "COVID-19 5-star airport rating" from Skytrax, a U.K.-based airport and airline review firm.
 Note: FCO, also known as the Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport, is the busiest airport in Italy. The COVID-19 ratings for hygiene by Skytrax was based on a combination of procedural efficiency checks, visual observation analysis and ATP sampling tests. Fiumicino Airport earned the 5-star rating for the hygiene processes and other preventative measures in place to help reduce the spread of Coronavirus.
- **19. Liberia** declares rape a national emergency after spike in cases.

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

- 20. Aviation company Airbus to launch World's first Commercial Hydrogen aircraft by 2035.
 Note: The three concepts of the company has been introduced under the code name ZEROe. The concept of are as follows:
 - Turbofan design. It can accommodate 120 to 200 passengers and can fly at a range of 2000 plus nautical miles.
 - Blended wing body design. This type can accommodate up to 200 passengers. Here the wings merge with the main body of the aircraft.
 - Turboprop design. This type of aircraft can accommodate up 200 passengers. It is capable of travelling at a speed of 1000 + nautical miles. They are perfect for short haul trips.

- 21. The first ever Cargo Ferry Service has been launched between India and Maldives.
 Note: The Cargo Ferry Vessel MCP Linz operated by the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) will connect Tuticorin and Cochin ports in India with Kulhudhuhfushi and Male ports in the Maldives. The MCP Linz is a combination vessel which can carry 380 TEUs and 3000 MT on bulk cargo, and will have a turnaround time of 10-12 days for its voyages.
- 22. Britain will co-host the a global climate summit on December 12, 2020.
 Note: National governments will be invited to present more ambitious and high-quality climate plans at the summit, which would involve government leaders, as well as the private sector and civil society. The summit is intended to increase momentum ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) to be held in Glasgow in November 2021.
- 23. Denmark and India has established Green Strategic Partnership to fight against Climate Change.
 Note: During the summit, the leaders established Green Strategic Partnership to fight against Climate Change. The Partnership is mutually beneficial to both the countries to advance political cooperation, create jobs, expand economic relations. It will focus on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals. The partnership is to be built on the existing Joint Commission for Cooperation that was signed between the countries in 2009.
- 24. Sri Lanka has banned the cattle slaughter recently. Note: Sri Lanka is a Buddhist majority country, those following the religion constitute 70% of the country's population. Most of them do not eat beef, as they consider cows sacred, while minority Muslims, who make up about 10%, Christians and a section of Hindus consume beef.

Honor & Awards

- 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.



- 3. NTPC Limited has won the All India Management Association (AIMA) Chanakya (Business Simulation Game) National Management Games (NMG) 2020. 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.
- 7. Aditya Puri has been conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020.

Note: The publication has recognised the iconic leader for his skills in building a world-class Indian bank at a time where there were no similar institutions in existence.The coveted honour from the global financial magazine in recognition of his illustrious career in banking comes just ahead of his retirement next month.

8. Udit Singhal has been named in the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Note: He has been named in the 2020 list of young leaders who promote sustainable development

goals.Udit Singhal is the founder of Glass2Sand, an initiative that is based on a zero-waste ecosystem to tackle the challenge of glass waste in Delhi.

- 9. Margaret Atwood has been honoured with 2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize.
 Note: Atwood would receive the 2020 Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award. She receives \$10,000 as prize money. The award celebrates the power of literature to create peace, social justice and understanding around the world.
- **10. Narendra Modi** has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education.

Note: He has been awarded the prestigious award for "using the COVID-19 pandemic to teach the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists and doctors can".PM Modi is the second Indian Prime Minister to be honoured with the Ig Nobel Prize. Prior to this, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was awarded in 1998.

- 11. Indian film won the Amplify Voices Award at the 45th Toronto International Film Festival -- The Disciple. Note: It share the prize with Ivorian director Phillipe Lacote's "Night of the Kings". American-Chinese director Chloe Zhao's "Nomadland", the Venice Golden Lion winner, took home TIFF's coveted People's Choice Award, which is regarded as a prognosticator for the Oscar Awards.
- **12.** Film '**Aavruthi**' has won the best film trophy at the closing ceremony of IFFT-Orange Short and Documentary Film Festival which is jointly organised by the Orange Academy and the IFFT from Thrissur, Kerala.

Note: "Aavruthi" (Fence) also bagged the best director and best cinematography trophies for director Dharman and Arun Sekhar, respectively. Gokul Ambat's "Black Mark" was declared the second best film, while Kiran KR won the best editor for "Atom".The best sound designer award went to Shaiju M and Sony James for "21 Days".

13. Sonu Sood has been honoured with the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
Note: He has received the award for selflessly extending a helping hand and sending lakhs of migrants, stranded students across geographies abroad, back to their homes. Besides that, he has also been providing free education and medical facilities to young children and has been creating free employment opportunities to the needy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



14. Usha Mangeshkar has been conferred with the "Gansamradni Lata Mangeshkar" award for 2020-21.Note: The award carries a cash prize of Rs five lakh and a citation. It has been constituted for the felicitation of senior vocal artistes and their contribution. The award is given by the cultural department of the state government. Usha Mangeshkar is the youngest sister of Lata Mangeshkar.

Sports News

- 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 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.
- **3. 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 Iniyan 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.

- 7. 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.
- **Bominic 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.
- 9. 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.

- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- **12.** The Thomas and Uber Cup 2020 was postponed to next year by the Badminton World Federation, the tournament was scheduled to be held in **Denmark**.



Note: India had announced both the men's and women's squads for the prestigious event which was scheduled to be held in Aarhus, Denmark from October 3 to 11.However, after Indonesia and South Korea on Friday joined Thailand, Australia, Chinese Taipei and Algeria in pulling out due to the dreaded disease, the sport's governing body held a virtual emergency council meeting.

 International Tennis Federation (ITF) has renamed which tennis tournament as 'Billie Jean King Cup -- Fed Cup.

Note: Billie Jean King was pioneer of women's tennis who helped United States win the inaugural event of ITF.Billie Jean King Cup is the world's largest annual women's international team sports competition in terms of the number of nations that compete.

14. Lewis Hamilton has won the F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020.

Note: Lewis Hamilton won a hectic Tuscan Grand Prix to clinch his 90th Formula One win at Mugello Circuit, Italy and move one behind Michael Schumacher's record. This was his 6th win of the season and 90th F1 win of his career. Valtteri Bottas came second followed by Alexander Albon at third place.

15. Vikas Khanna has been honoured with the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: He was honoured for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic through a massive food distribution drive that he coordinated, thousands of miles away from his Manhattan home.Khanna, 48, is

the only Indian among the six honourees named by the leading organisation.

16. Novak Djokovic has won the Men's Single Italian Open title 2020.

Note: Novak Djokovic has defeated Argentine Diego Schwartzman, 7-6, 5-3, to win 2020 Men's Single Italian Open title and his fifth overall Rome title. In Women's single, Simona Halep defeated champion Karolina Pliskova, 6-0, 2-1, to win her first Italian Open title.

17. Simona Halep has won the Women's Single Italian Open title 2020.

Note: Novak Djokovic has defeated Argentine Diego Schwartzman, 7-6, 5-3, to win 2020 Men's Single Italian Open title and his fifth overall Rome title. In Women's single, Simona Halep defeated champion Karolina Pliskova, 6-0, 2-1, to win her first Italian Open title.

- 18. Ashleigh Barty has won the Brookwater Golf Club women's tennis championship 2020.
 Note: The 24-year-old Australian, who famously played professional cricket during a year out from tennis, decided not to leave home for the U.S. Open or her title defence at Roland Garros because of the pandemic
- 19. Valtteri Bottas has won the Formula One Russian Grand Prix 2020 held at Sochi Autodrom, Russia.
 Note: Max Verstappen (Red Bull–Netherlands) came second followed by the 6-time world-champion Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), who stood third because of penalties.

Books and Authors

1. First newspaper for kids 'The Young Minds' has been launched in **Assam.**

Note: Specifically designed for kids the newspaper is the brainchild of Neelam Sethia and Neha Bajaj.The Young Minds, reportedly, will cater to kids of 4-14 years of age.

- Karan Johar has authored the children's picture book titled "The Big Thoughts of Little Luv".
 Note: The book will be published by Juggernaut Books. The book narrates the story of the twins Luv and Kusha and features the challenges faced by the parents and the difference imposed between the boys and girls by the parents while raising them
- **3. Ramachandra Guha** has authored the book titled 'The Commonwealth of Cricket: A Lifelong Love Affair with

the Most Subtle and Sophisticated Game Known to Humankind.

Note: The book portrays the entire arc of the game(cricket) in India, across all levels at which it is played and gives a glimpse of local heroes, provincial emblems and international stars. The book will be co-published by HarperCollins India and William Collins.

4. Pope Francis has authored the book titled "Let Us Dream" set to release in December 2020.
Note: The book will be an outcome of numerous exchanges between Pope Francis and his Biographer Austen Ivereigh in the weeks following the Coronavirus outbreak around the world. Austen Ivereigh is a Roman Catholic Journalist, Commentator, the author based out of Britain.



5. The book titled "Invertonomics: 8 ideas to transform India" has been authored by **Goonmeet Singh Chauhan.**

Note: The book presents practical ideas and models to solve the 8 specific fundamental problems of India like, Social inequality, Air pollution, Cleanliness, Safer Cities, Women empowerment and rural economy deteriorating etc. It was published by published by HarperCollins India.

6. Radha Nair has authored the book titled 'Breaking The Cocoon @ 40'.

Note: It is a delightful collection of select events from her life, which also holds a mirror to the time the incidents are set in.Acting on her brother's suggestion, Radha decided to write about her experience of working as a dream merchant in the ad agency.

7. Radha Nair has authored the book titled 'Breaking The Cocoon @ 40'.

Note: Acting on her brother's suggestion, Radha decided to write about her experience of working as a dream merchant in the ad agency. However, she realised that it would be a slim book indeed if it were to cover only her ad agency days.

8. Gauri Khan has authored the book titled "My Life in Design".

Note: It is a coffee-table book, in which Gauri has written about her journey as a designer. The book will feature unseen pictures of her interior design projects, family and residence. She will also talk about her design philosophy and style. The book will be very visually appealing with exclusive pictures and information that guide aspiring designers or those who are just generally interested in the art of design.

9. Arundhati Rai has authored the book titled 'Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction'.

Note: The book has been published by Penguin Books Ltd. The author challenges the people to reflect on the meaning of freedom in a world of growing authoritarianism, especially during the time of Coronavirus Pandemic through her book. She was awarded 1997 Booker Prize for her novel 'The God of Small Things'.

10. Claude Arpi has authored the book titled 'End of an Era, India Exits Tibet".

Note: The book highlights India Tibet relation between 1947 and 1962. it also focuses on India losing all its influence in Tibet.It shows Nehru Memorial Library papers, de-classified Indian and Chinese documents and personal interviews.

11. Vikas Khanna has authored the book titled "Kitchens of Gratitude".

Note: In this book he will write about his Feed India initiative, one of the world's largest food drives serving meals to the underprivileged amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, said by publishing house Penguin Random House India. The book, "Kitchens of Gratitude", will be released in 2021 under the 'Ebury Press' imprint.

12. Romila Thapar has authored the book titled "Voices of Dissent".

Note: The book is a historical essay that explores dissent, including its articulation and public response to its forms, with a focus on the recent protest in India against the citizenship law and the National Register of Citizens. Romila Thapar hails from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Her works include A History of India (1966), Interpreting Early India (1992), Early India: From the Origin to AD 1300(2003).

- 13. Dr Krishna Saksena has authored the book titled 'A bouquet of flowers' which was launched by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
 Note: Dr Krishna Saksena is the first lady to get a PhD, in 1955 from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. The book has been designed to allow the readers to travel their own journey and arrive at their own very personal realization and be inspired by it.
- 14. The book titled 'Sach Kahun Toh' is memoir of which award-winning actor Neena Gupta.
 Note: The memoir, 'Sach Kahun Toh', will chronicle her life from her childhood in Delhi's Karol Bagh, and her time at the National School of Drama, to her move to Bombay in the 1980s, as well as her struggles to find work. It will be published under Penguin 'Ebury Press' imprint.

Science and Defence

 The remote-controlled medical trolley developed by the Indian Railway to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients – MEDBOT. Note: During Corona crisis, apart from providing transport facilities and essential items like foodgrains to people, Indian Railways has also provided facilities for COVID-19 patients. It is providing service in the Central Hospital of the Diesel Rail Engine Factory of Indian Railways



- 2. Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur has developed World's Largest Solar Tree. Note: The solar tree has the annual capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power while its installed capacity is above 11.5 kWp.The Solar Tree has been designed in such a way that it ensures maximum exposure of each Solar PV Panel to Sunlight. A single solar tree comprises of 35 Solar PV Panels each having a capacity of 330 wp each.
- **3.** India along with **Russia** scheduled to hold the bilateral naval exercise, Indra 2020, in the Andaman Sea, close to the strategic Strait of Malacca.

Note: Three Russian navy ships will take part in the exercise along with an equal number from the Indian Navy, along with some aircraft. This is also the first bilateral naval exercise since all such engagements were suspended due to COVID-19.

- 4. The students from IIT Bombay have launched a free-of-cost mobile scanner application "AIR Scanner".
 Note: The app saves the scanned document in PDF format and stores directly in the device. The AI (Artificial Intelligence) based Reading Assistant and Document Scanner app is developed by Rohit Kumar Chaudhary and Kavin Agrawal.
- 5. IIT Delhi has launched a special decontamination device called 'Chakr DeCoV', to decontaminate N95 masks. Note: The Chakr DeCoV device is designed in the shape of a cabinet. Chakr DeCoV is built with an innovative decontamination mechanism, which utilises the high penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask, ensuring complete decontamination of its intricate layers.
- 6. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight-tested a Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) with the ability to travel at six time of speed of sound. Note: The test was conducted from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha. Now, India has joined the elite club of the United States, Russia and China to develop and successfully test Hypersonic Technology.
- **7.** Recently, a team of researchers found traces of phosphine gas in **Venus** planet is associated with the living organisms which on Earth.

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

- 8. India conducts 10th Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting virtually with USA. Note: The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Raj Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, from the Indian Ministry of Defence and Ms. Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, from the U.S. Department of Defense. During the meeting, the co-chairs signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) that declared their intent "to strengthen our dialogue on defense technology cooperation by pursuing detailed planning and making measurable progress" on several specific DTTI projects.
- Researchers at which university have developed the world's smallest ultrasound detector Helmholtz
 Zentrum München and the Technical University of Munich (TUM).

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

- 10. The Indian Navy (IN) conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the navy of Australia.
 Note: The exercise involved participation of HMAS Hobart from the Australian side and Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Karmuk. The Passage Exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices from each other.
- 11. DRDO has conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS-High speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicle. Note: ABHYAS-HEAT is an air vehicle. It uses twin underslung boosters.ABHYAS was designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment of DRDO. The missile is powered by a small gas turbine and has MEMS based Inertial Navigation System.
- **12.** India's first Coast Guard academy will be established in **Mangaluru.**

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

13. Three-day-long maritime military exercise, JIMEX 2020 was conducted between the navies of India and Japan. Note: This would be the first military exercise after the two countries signed a landmark agreement recently that will allow their militaries to access each other's bases for logistics support. The JIMEX is a series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with a special focus on maritime security cooperation. The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam coast.



14. Shivangi Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the Rafale combat aircraft that was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Note: She is one of the 10 Indian women fighter pilots in IAF. Five Rafale Aircraft were formally inducted into the IAF's 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows' on September 10, 2020, at a function held at Air Force Station, Ambala (Haryana).

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

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

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