



Monthly Current Affairs September 2020

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Important News: State

1. Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal announced 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme'

- Note: Paryatan Sanjeevani scheme will help the tourism entrepreneurs of the state in regaining their business. Under this scheme, an interested entrepreneur can get a loan from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 20 lakhs. The scheme is for the registered stakeholders like the hoteliers, resort owners, tour operators, tourist guide, jeep safari, elephant safari and others engaged in the sector.

2. UP government bags 8 awards in Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan

- Uttar Pradesh government has bagged 8 awards in Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (GKRA) launched by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. The State has also got overall second rank in implementation of Gandagi Mukht Bharat scheme. Uttar Pradesh has got overall first position in the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan.
- Note: Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan: The Government of India has launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan initiative to tackle the impact of COVID-19 on labourers and workers. It is a rural public works scheme which was launched on June 20, 2020.

3. Uttar Pradesh Government launches U-Rise portal

- UP government launched a unified portal called U-Rise (Unified Re-imagined Innovation for Students Empowerment with the Department of Technical Education, Department, Training, Employment and the Skill Development Mission along with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow, UP.
- Note: U-Rise portal would benefit and empower students by providing all possible information from online exams, digital content, digital assessment, digital examination papers, webinars, internship, e-library, recorded video content to employment. In the first phase polytechnics, vocational and skill development and in the second phase, a target has been set to link all the engineering universities of the state.

4. Kerala wins United Nations award for "outstanding contribution" for prevention, control of non-communicable diseases

- Note: The UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) award this year on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases was announced by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- NCDs (Non-Communicable Diseases) are a non-infectious health condition that cannot be spread from person to person. This is also known as a chronic disease



including heart *disease*, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung *disease*, are collectively responsible for almost 70% of all deaths worldwide.

5. Rajasthan Government launches "Moksha Kalash Yojana-2020"

- This scheme is to allow free bus travel to two persons of a family to immerse ashes of their loved ones in the Ganga in Haridwar. The state road transport corporation would be the nodal agency to run this scheme.

6. Assam Government launches Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni

- Under this scheme, the government distributed vehicles to beneficiaries to improve rural connectivity and generate employment in the villages. Light Motor Vehicle Service to be launched in the villages of the state and one vehicle per village would be provided to one beneficiary. Under the scheme, the eligible entrepreneurs will be assisted financially with 25 per cent of the cost of the vehicle by the state government or Rs 1 lakh, whichever is less.

7. Plan to set up a 'Film City' in Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath announced to set up a "film city" in Gautam Budh Nagar by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA).
- Note: Film City is an integrated film studio complex.

8. 'Mukhymantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana' to be started by Chief Minister, Mr Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh

- Under this scheme, additional financial assistance of Rs. 4,000 will be given to the eligible beneficiaries of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi. About 80 lakh farmers of Madhya Pradesh will be benefited. Kisan Kalyan Yojana. Now they will be able to get annual assistance of Rs. 10,000.
- Note: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sammann Nidhi is an initiative by the government of India in which all farmers will get up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support. The initiative was to be announced in 2019.

9. Madhya Pradesh targets household tap connections in all rural areas under Jal Jeevan Mission by 2023

- Public Health Engineering Department is constructing water infrastructure so that rural families of Madhya Pradesh can be provided with clean drinking water through tap connection. The target for completion of this scheme in the rural areas of the entire state is by the year 2023 under the Jal Jivan Mission.
- Note: Jal Jeevan Mission-Government of India has restructured and subsumed the ongoing National Rural Drinking Water Programme(NRDWP) into Jal



Jeevan Mission(JJM) to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household i.e., Har Ghar Nal Se Jal (HGNSJ) by 2024.

10. PM Modi launches optical fiber for internet services in Bihar

- It aims to connect all 45,945 villages in the eastern state through the internet and provide digital services such as e-education, e-agriculture, telemedicine and tele-law.
- Note: Optical fiber is the medium and the technology associated with the transmission of information as light pulses along with a glass or plastic strand or fiber.

11. MP celebrates 'Gharib Kalyan Week' as ' Vanadhikar Diwas':

- In Madhya Pradesh, Gharib Kalyan Week is being organized from 16th to 23rd September to mark the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- On the fourth day of the week, 'Vanadhikar Diwas' was celebrated in the State. And more than 23,000 forest rights pattas were distributed in 47 districts of the State. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Bhopal and Ministers, as well as public representatives, has distributed forest right pattas to the beneficiaries in other districts.

12. Gujarat government launches Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana:

- The scheme will provide interest-free loans to women's groups in the state. Under the MMUY, 50,000 joint liability and earning group (JLEG) will be formed in urban areas.

13. Manduadih becomes 'Banaras':

- Manduadih railway station has been renamed as 'Banaras' in Uttar Pradesh by The Union Home Ministry.

14. Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan to inaugurate 'Poshan Sarkar' programme:

- The month of September is observed every year as the month of nutrition under the Nutrition Campaign.
- 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. Under the programme, nutrition resolution will be passed in all Gram Panchayats/ Nagar Panchayats /Urban Bodies.

15. Maharashtra CM launched 'My Family, My Responsibility' initiative against COVID:



- Note: Every family in the State will be checked on at least twice in the coming month. The health check-up will monitor family members, senior citizens and oxygen levels. In the case of an ailment, the government health officials will be informed. This management has to be done at the micro-level and so all Sarpanchs should take responsibility for their villages.

16. PM Narendra Modi launches various projects under 'Namami Gange' & 'AMRUT' schemes in Bihar:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for seven projects related to urban infrastructure in Bihar under 'Namami Gange' and 'AMRUT' schemes through video conferencing.
- Among these, two to sewerage treatment and one to riverfront development & four projects are related to the water supply. The total cost of these projects is 541 crore rupees.

17. New AIIMS at Darbhanga in Bihar approved by Cabinet:

- The government has approved the proposal for a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar. AIIMS will be established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) Scheme.
- Note: PMSSY: PMSSY was introduced in 2003 to correct imbalances in the availability of tertiary healthcare services and improve the quality of medical education. The scheme has two components: (i) setting up of new AIIMS, and (ii) up-gradation of selected Government Medical College Institutions.

18. Agra's Mughal Museum to be renamed after Shivaji:

- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath announced the decision to rename the under-construction Mughal Museum in Agra after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

19. 'GARIMA' scheme launched by the Odisha government for sanitation workers:

- 'GARIMA' scheme aims to ensure the social dignity and economic safety of core sanitation workers in the state.
- GARIMA Scheme will be implemented by the state Housing and Urban Development department in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha.
- Around 20 thousand core sanitation workers and their families with about 1 lakh population will benefit from the scheme.
- The Core Sanitation workers and their family members will be covered under the health insurance scheme with regular health check-ups, housing, educational support, mobility support and mobile support.

20. Nine new airports in 15 months in Uttar Pradesh:



- Union minister for civil aviation Ashok Gajapathi Raju said Uttar Pradesh would get nine more airports in next 15 months.
- “Nine airports will come up in Allahabad, Bareilly, Aligarh, Azamgarh, Moradabad, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Myrupur (Sonbhadra), and Shravasti”.

21. PM Narendra Modi to dedicate to the Nation 3 key projects in Bihar related to Petroleum sector:

- The projects include the two LPG Bottling Plants in East Champaran and Banka and Durgapur-Banka section of the Paradip-Haldia-Durgapur Pipeline Augmentation Project and

22. e-office system of Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company

- Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Bhopal is the first power distribution company in the country, in which the e-office system is being operated from the corporate office to local circle level offices.
- There is no physical movement of the file and Corona infection is also being avoided as human contact is minimum.

23. Special force to be constituted in UP

- To provide security to the high court, district courts, administrative offices and buildings, Metro rail, airports, banks, financial institutions, educational institutions and industrial units UP government has taken the decision to constitute a fresh special force.
- the force will constitute of 9,919 personnel. Five battalions will be constituted in the first phase and it will be headed by an ADG-ranked officer. Expenses estimated in the first phase will be around 1,747 crore rupees.

24. Air ambulance service

- Karnataka CM recently inaugurated the air ambulance services in Bengaluru.
- This is the first integrated air ambulance services in the country.
- Also, it happens to be the first air ambulance based out of South India, providing services for medical emergencies.
- Authority involved: Air ambulance firm International Critical Air Transfer Team (ICATT) and aviation technology firm Kyathi from the HAL airport in Bengaluru.

25. Veer Savarkar flyover

- Inaugurated by Karnataka CM
- Veer Savarkar: Commonly known as Swatantryaveer Savarkar or simply Veer Savarkar in Marathi language.



- He was an Indian independence activist and politician who formulated the Hindu nationalist philosophy of Hindutva.
- He was a leading figure in the Hindu Mahasabha.
- He opposed the Quit India movement in 1942.
- Book: The History of the War of Indian Independence
- 'Barrister Savarkar' was the first biography of Savarkar under the pen name Chitragupta and the second edition by the Veer Savarkar Prakashan.

26. Government of Andhra Pradesh and Lawrence Dale Agro Processing India (LEAF)

- Andhra Pradesh government signed 8 pacts with reputed global and domestic players.
- These MOUs will help the food processing sector of various agricultural products, including bananas, tomatoes, mangoes, sugar, chillies, vegetables, and aqua products.
- Lawrence Dale Agro Processing is India's leading end-to-end supply chain specialist in fresh produce.
- With this expertise in post-harvest management, we are pioneering India's most trusted fresh produce brand - 'LEAF'.
- The brand 'LEAF' stands for safe & hygienic fresh produce.

27. Electronic Hardware Manufacturing Policy-2020

- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy released the state's Electronic Hardware Manufacturing Policy-2020.
- Target: The manufacturing of electronic goods worth 100-billion US Dollars by the year 2025.
- It envisages making the state contribute 25 per cent of the country's total electronic hardware export.
- It aims at attracting semiconductor fabrication units to the state.
- Mobile phones, LED's, fabless chips, printed circuit boards, solar photovoltaic cells and medical and automobile electronics are some of the areas that are being given focus in the new policy.

28. Himachal Pradesh and World Bank

- The government of Himachal Pradesh and the World Bank signed \$82 million loans for the implementation of Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project which will strengthen transport and road safety institutions of Himachal Pradesh by improving the condition, safety, resilience, and engineering standards of the state road network.



29. Cannabis medicine project

- The first-ever cannabis medicine project will be set up in Jammu with Canadian collaboration.
- It is a joint project set up with the collaboration of Canada at the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu.
- The medicine prepared from this plant can be utilised even for export to other countries.
- A few other projects are also being set up through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

30. Assam promotes nutritious food

- Promoted through Kitchen Garden as part of PoshanMaah.
- As a part of the PoshanMaah, the Social Welfare Department in Assam has taken steps to promote nutritious food through Kitchen Garden.
- Kitchen Garden or Nutri garden will be set up at Anganwadi Centres and Government Primary Schools across the state.
- The aim is to plant locally available nutritional food and vegetables.

31. Karnataka approves new IT policy

- The Karnataka cabinet recently approved a new Information Technology (IT) policy to help the state increase its contribution towards the goal of a trillion-dollar digital and create six million jobs during the policy period.
- The new policy from 2020-25, the government said, would help in Karnataka retaining and leveraging its position in technology and innovations.
- The policy outlines its goal to enable “the State’s IT industry to contribute 30% to India’s goal of becoming a trillion-dollar digital economy”.
- The new policy also aims to boost IT penetration & innovation, enable a remote, distributed labour force beyond Bengaluru and evolve a Cyber Security policy, the government said in a statement.

32. Delhi govt’s anti-dengue campaign

- The Delhi government’s 10-week anti-dengue campaign commenced.
- The ‘10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute’ campaign seeks to build awareness about the prevention of vector-borne diseases.
- Citing numbers, he said that last year, there were only 1,400-1,500 dengue cases in Delhi, which was a “big achievement for us because this number was around 14,000-15,000 a few years back”.



Important News: India

1. SAMVEDNA - A Toll-Free Helpline number for children

- The apex child rights body NCPCR has launched a toll-free tele-counselling helpline number for children affected during COVID-19 for providing counselling and psycho-social support. The Commission acknowledges that all children have unique vulnerabilities owing to specific needs and demands at different stages of growth until the time they reach adulthood.
- Note: SAMVEDNA(Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance) Toll-Free Tele counselling number (18001212830) will be able to address the fear, stress, anxiety and other issues among children.
- Note: NCPCR (The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights)is a constitutional body established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. The Commission works under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Commission began operational on 5th March 2007.

2. 'Doodh Duronto Specials' transported three crore litres of milk from Andhra Pradesh to Delhi

- Doodh Duronto Special introduced during lockdown period from Renigunta to Hazrat Nizamuddin to supply milk to the people of the national capital is being operated on regular basis and the total milk transportation crossed three crore litres mark today.

3. Home Ministry sanctions three new NIA branches at Imphal, Chennai, Ranchi

- The opening of new branches will help in ensuring a quick response to any emergent situation in the concerned states by the premier anti-terror investigation agency. The decision will also strengthen the NIA's capability in the investigation of terrorism-related cases and other national security-related matters.
- Note: The National Investigation Agency is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India. Agency acts as the Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency. The agency deals with terror-related crimes across states without special permission from the states.

4. First RRTS train for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor unveiled

- High-speed commuter trains Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) are entirely being manufactured under the government's Make in India policy. These trains are the environment friendly, energy-efficient and accelerating economic growth



and creating economic opportunities. It will also reduce air pollution, carbon footprint, congestion and accidents.

- The 82-km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor is the first RRTS corridor being implemented in India, will be operational in 2023 and the entire corridor will be operational in 2025.
- Note: RRTS (Regional Rapid Transit System) trains: The air-conditioned aerodynamic RRTS trains will be lightweight with radiating stainless steel outer body. Each coach will have 6 plug-in type sliding doors, 3 on each side for ease of access and exit.

5. More than 15 lakh loan applications received so far under PM SVANidhi scheme

- Note: PM SVANidhi scheme was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, on June 01, 2020. It aims to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been affected due to the coronavirus lockdown.

6. Parliament passes three labour code Bills

- These historic bills will have far-reaching effects on the interests of the workers by creating a time-bound grievance resolution mechanism and for the welfare and protection of the workers. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020 seeks to amend the laws regulating the occupational safety, health and working conditions of the persons employed in an establishment.
- The Industrial Relations Code 2020 aims at amending the laws relating to Trade Unions, conditions of employment in industrial establishment or undertaking, investigation and settlement of industrial disputes.
- The Code on Social Security 2020 seeks to amend the laws relating to the social security of the employees in the country.

7. Parliament passes Jammu & Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020

- The bill makes Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi, English and Urdu as the official language of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

8. A global multi-stakeholder platform, YuWaah, Generation Unlimited (GenU) in India.

- Launched by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF). The main objectives of this project are to support young people by providing entrepreneurial skills, upskilling of young people on 21st-century skills, life skills, digital skills, self-learning for their productive lives and the future of work, create linkages with aspirational economic opportunities, employment opportunities.



9. Interim Extension of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan

- Interim extension of this scheme beyond 31st March 2020 till 31st March 2021 or till the date the recommendations of 15th Finance Commission come into effect, whichever is earlier.
- Note: Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a holistic scheme of development for higher education in India initiated in 2013 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The centrally sponsored scheme aims at providing strategic funding to higher education institutions throughout the country.

10. Nrityanjali – an online film festival on Indian Classical Dance and Maestros by Films Division

- Films Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has come up with yet another fiesta, 'Nrityanjali', an online film festival on Indian Classical Dance and Maestros from 23rd to 25th September 2020. The first part of 'Nrityanjali' will showcase 10 films on the life and works of India's leading classical dancers.

11. Lok Sabha passes National Forensic Science University Bill 2020

- Note: The Bill establishes National Forensic Science University as an institute of national importance. The proposed university would facilitate and promote studies and research and help achieve excellence in the field of forensic science in conjunction with applied behavioural science studies, law, criminology and other allied areas.

12. Direct cargo ferry service between India & Maldives jointly e- launched

- During its maiden voyage, a vessel with a capacity of 200 TEU and 3000 MT of breakbulk cargo will sail from Tuticorin to Kochi, from where it will proceed to Kulhudhuffushi port in North Maldives and then to Male port.
- Note: It is a merchant vessel used to carry passengers, and sometimes cargo and vehicles, across a body of water.

13. Union Minister Jitendra Singh unveils the Logo and song for festival "Destination North East-2020"

- "Destination North East 2020" is also an effort to make everyone explore the Local Destinations rather than going anywhere abroad. The Minister said that people should take a pledge to Visit Local, Travel Local and Explore Local thus giving a boost to the local Tourism and Hospitality industry.

14. Udit Singhal named in UN's 2020 list of Young Leaders:



- Indian teenager Udit Singhal has been named in the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 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. This initiative has prevented empty glass bottles of getting dumped into landfills and turned it into sands, making it commercially viable.

15. Union civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's first general aviation terminal for private jets at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport:

- India's first general aviation terminal for private jets which promises faster turnaround of business jets and chartered planes, shielding them from the clutter of general passenger terminals where they now compete for taxiing slots with commercial flights.

16. Sewa Saptah being organized to mark PM Modi's birthday across the country:

- Different welfare events were organized across the country to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, who turned 70 today. Bharatiya Janata Party has organized a 1 week long Seva Saptah to celebrate PM's mark the occasion. Various programmes related to social service, cleanliness, distribution of sanitary pads and wheelchairs are being organized from 14th to 20th of this month.

17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to dedicate the historic Kosi Rail Mahasetu to the Nation:

- The Kosi Mega Bridge line project was sanctioned by the Central government during 2003-04. The construction cost is Rs. 516 Crore and the Kosi Rail Mahasetu is 1.9 KM long and This Bridge is of strategic importance along the India-Nepal border.

18. Government sets up a committee under cybersecurity head to probe China Watching:

- The expert committee, led by Lt. Gen. Rajesh Pant, India's chief coordinator on cybersecurity will evaluate the "implications" of the digital surveillance by Data Information Technology Co. Limited and "assess any violations of law and submit its recommendations within 30 days."

19. Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonipat via Sohna-Manesar-Kharkhauda:

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved, This Rail Line will start from Palwal and end at the existing Harsana Kalan station on Delhi-Ambala



section. This will also give connectivity en route to existing Sultanpur station on Garhi Harsaru-Farukhnagar Line, Patli Station on Delhi-Rewari line, and Asaudha Station on Delhi Rohtak Line.

- The time duration of the project is likely to be completed in 5 years with estimated completion cost 5,617 crore rupees.

20. Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020:

- Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill aims to replace the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance which was promulgated on 5th June 2020.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and empowers the central government in terms of distribution, trade, the commerce of certain commodities and its production and supply. The bill aims to liberalise the regulatory system while protecting the interests of consumers.

21. Aircraft (Amendment) Bill 2020:

- Rajya Sabha has passed the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020. Lok Sabha passed this bill already. It seeks to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934.
- Bill aims to convert 3 existing bodies under the Ministry of Civil Aviation into statutory bodies.
- These three authorities are the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau. Under the bill, each of these three bodies will be headed by a Director-General who will be appointed by the centre.

22. Banning the Export of all Varieties of Onion:

- Government of India has released a notification banning the export of all varieties of onions. The ban has been imposed three months after the central government made changes in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- Note: The Essential Commodities Act is an act, 1955, Parliament of India which was established to ensure the delivery of certain commodities or products, the supply of which if obstructed owing to hoarding or black-marketing would affect the normal life of the people.

23. Five Star Villages Scheme:

- Five Star Villages scheme was launched by the Department of Posts to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in all rural areas of the country.
- Five Star scheme include:
 1. Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts.
 2. SB accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates.



3. Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy.
 4. Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts.
 5. PM Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.
- The scheme is being launched in Maharashtra on a pilot basis.

24. Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampada Yojana, e-Gopala mobile app

- Prime Minister digitally launched the Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampada Yojana (PMMSY) and inaugurated the e-Gopala app that will provide farmers marketplace for livestock.
- Other initiatives in the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors in Bihar.

Advantage of PMMSY:

- Address critical gaps in the fisheries sector.
- Infuse the sector with the latest technology, focus on value addition.
- Upgradation of critical infrastructure. Boost the welfare of those associated with fishing.
- About PMMSY: It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of ₹20,050 crore for its implementation during 2020-21 to 2024-25 as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat package.
- e-Gopala app: The e-Gopala app is a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.

25. Kisan Rail

- Union Minister of Agriculture and CM of Andhra Pradesh inaugurated Kisan Rail second in the country.
- It is South India's first Kisan Rail flags off from Anantapur.
- India's first Kisan rail runs between Devlali (near Nakis) to Danapur near Patna.
- Why Anantapur?
- Anantapur is fast becoming the fruit bowl of Andhra Pradesh. More than 80% of the 58 lakh tonne of fruits and vegetables in the district is marketed out of the state, particularly to the north Indian states including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. Earlier this was being transported by road transport.

26. PM Modi to digitally launch Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampada Yojana & e-Gopala App

- The PMMSY is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development in the fisheries sector with an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores. This investment under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector. The



PMMSY aims to enhance fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne by 2024-25, thereby increasing fisheries export earnings to one lakh crore rupees by 2024-25, in turn, doubling of incomes of fishermen and fish farmers.

- The project envisages investment of Rs. 1,390 crore in Bihar.
- A fish brood bank at Sitamarhi and an aquatic disease referral laboratory at Kishanganj will also be established.
- The Prime Minister will also inaugurate one-unit fish feed mill at Madhepura and two units of 'Fish on Wheels' at Patna under 'blue revolution'.
- A comprehensive fish production technology centre at Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University in Pusa, Bihar will also be inaugurated.

27. E-Gopala App is an information portal to be directly used by farmers.

Note: The app is a detailed breed improvement e-market. The e-Gopala App will send alerts on the due date for vaccination, pregnancy diagnosis and inform the farmers about various government schemes and campaigns in their nearby areas.

28. Bamboo Clusters announced in 9 states

- Introducing a cluster-based approach, 22 new bamboo clusters have been announced by the government in 9 states namely Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka. Each of them will manufacture separate bamboo products to cater to the need of domestic as well as international markets.
- Note: Indian Forest Act 1927 was amended by the government in 1927 to remove bamboo from the category of trees to facilitate the cultivation and push the commercialisation of bamboo products.

29. SvanidhiSamvaad

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold 'SvanidhiSamvaad' with street vendors from Madhya Pradesh.
- As many as 5 lakh street vendors were registered under the scheme in Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh stands first in the number of total applications accepted under the scheme
- The PM SVANidhi Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs under the ambit of 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.
- It aims at facilitating collateral-free working capital loans up to Rs 10,000 of 1-year tenure, to about 50 lakh street vendors in the urban areas, including those from the surrounding peri-urban/ rural areas, to resume their businesses post COVID-19 lockdown.

30. National Statistical Office



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- According to a study by the National Statistical Office conducted between July 2017 and June 2018, the literacy rate of males (84.7%) is higher than that of females (70.3%) in India.
- Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country with 96.2% literacy.
- Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 per cent.
- Kerala, Delhi has the best literacy rate at 88.7%, followed by Uttarkhand's 87.6%, Himachal Pradesh's 86.6%, and Assam's at 85.9%.
- On the other hand, Rajasthan is the second-worst performer with a literacy rate at 69.7%, followed by Bihar at 70.9%, Telangana at 72.8%, Uttar Pradesh at 73%, and Madhya Pradesh at 73.7%.

31. Mental rehabilitation helpline KIRAN

- A 24x7 toll-free mental health rehabilitation helpline "KIRAN" was launched by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister.
- The helpline was launched in view of the growing incidence of Mental Illness, particularly in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.
- The helpline is being coordinated by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai and National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR).

32. Patrika Gate

- Prime minister inaugurates the Patrika Gate in Jaipur.
- The iconic gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur.

33. Water Heroes' contest

- Jal Shakti Ministry has launched the Water Heroes - Share Your Stories Contest with an aim to reach out to people on the important subject of water conservation and management. Every month from September, this year entries will be invited for consideration of awards.
- Every month a maximum of 10 entries can be considered for the awards. All selected entries will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 10,000 each and a certificate.
- To take part in the contest, the participants will have to post their success stories on water conservation through a specially made video of one to five minutes. They have to also send a write-up of up to 300 words and some photographs depicting the efforts and significant contributions to conserve and manage water resources.
- The participants can share their videos on the MyGov portal.

34. 118 Chinese apps banned in India



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- The Ministry of Information and Technology bans more Chinese apps including popular PUBG Mobile in the country.

Reason

- The IT Ministry stated in an official press release that the Chinese apps have been “banned under the section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology Rules 2009 and in view of the emergent nature of threats has decided to block 118 mobile apps since in view of the information available they are engaged in activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, the security of the state and public order.
- Many complaints from various sources about the misuse of some mobile apps available on Android and iOS platforms for stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users’ data in an unauthorized manner to servers that have locations outside India.
- This is the second time the government of India has banned Chinese apps in the country. The first set of apps banned in India included 59 of them followed by more 47 China-based applications.

35. The Union Cabinet today approved Mission Karmayogi

- It aims at building future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills & knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India.
- Karmayogi mission is Officially called - "National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building" which aims at transforming human resource management in the country.
- This scheme for bringing post-recruitment reforms in civil services.
- The move will help officers and government employees get an opportunity to improve their performance.
- NPCSCB has been carefully designed to lay the foundations for capacity building for Civil Servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian Culture and sensibilities and remain connected, with their roots, while they learn from the best institutions and practices across the world.

36. Ladakh, Lakshadweep join existing national portability cluster of One Nation One Ration Card.

Ladakh and Lakshadweep have been integrated in the existing national portability cluster of One Nation One Ration Card.

- With this, a total of 26 States and UTs are now seamlessly connected with each other under the One Nation One Ration Card plan.
- migratory PDS beneficiaries in these 26 States and UTs can access their subsidised foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop of their choice.



- A total of more than 65 Crore beneficiaries are now enabled with an option to lift their subsidised foodgrains through One Nation One Ration Card system.
- The remaining States and UTs are targeted to be integrated in national portability by March next year.
- The One Nation One Ration Card plan is an ambitious endeavour of the Government to ensure the delivery of food security entitlements to all beneficiaries irrespective of their physical location anywhere in the country. Through this system, the migratory beneficiaries who frequently change their place of dwelling in search of employment are now enabled with an option to lift their entitled quota of foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop in the country using their same ration card.

37. India Post

- India Post is in all praises for its efforts to deliver goods and monetary relief to people during the coronavirus-induced lockdowns. India Post can become the supply chain partner of the toy manufacturing sector.
- The post has played an important role in doorstep delivery through Aadhaar enabled payments system during the lockdown.
 - Now on, the postal service to play a part in delivering indigenous and popular products like Madhubani paintings across the country.
 - Madhubani painting is a popular art form in Bihar while people are also engaged in the button making business.
 - Note: The MPs, MLAs, and MLCs to provide the list of popular products of their respective regions.
 - Small artists, entrepreneurs and small manufacturing units would get a boost as the postal department would provide them with a platform to promote and transport their products across the country.

Highlights

- India has 260 all-women post offices, including one in Patna and even one in Srinagar.
- In 2020, new all-women post offices opened in several cities like Trichy, Kalaburgi, and Mumbai which opened its second all-women post office in Mahim Bazaar.
- India's first-ever all-women post office was opened in Delhi on International Women's Day, March 8, 2013.
- The first all-women post office in Patna christened 'Mahila Dak Ghar' was also inaugurated by the Patna born minister Ravi Shankar Prasad in September 2019.



Important News: World

1. Nagorno-Karabakh region (Territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan)

- Nagorno-Karabakh region is mostly mountainous and forested. It is a landlocked region in the South Caucasus, within the mountainous range of Karabakh, lying between Lower Karabakh and Zangezur, and covering the southeastern range of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains.
- Reason for Dispute: Nagorno-Karabakh: the border region claimed by both Armenia and Azerbaijan
- Nagorno-Karabakh is recognized as part of Azerbaijan but mostly governed by the Republic of Artsakh (formerly named the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic), a de facto independent state with an Armenian ethnic majority established because of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. Azerbaijan has no political authority over the region since the advent of the Karabakh movement in 1988. Since the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh War in 1994, representatives of the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan have been holding peace talks mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group (an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) on the region's disputed status.
- Economic Impact: This could also disrupt oil and gas exports from the region, since Azerbaijan, are a significant oil and gas exporter to Europe and Central Asia. This may even lead to higher oil prices globally.

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses at the 75th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session 2020

- Narendra Modi said that reforms in the United Nations are the need of the hour. People of India have been waiting for a long time for the UN reform process to get completed. There were several stellar achievements of the UN over the last 75 years, but there were also several instances that point to the need for a serious introspection of the work of the United Nations.
- Note: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established in 1945, as policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, comprised of all 193 members, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion on international issues.

3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi features: Time Magazine's '100 most influential people of 2020'

- Other Indians are on the list Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Actor Ayushmann Khurrana, HIV research researcher Ravinder Gupta and 82-year-old Bilkis, also known as Dadi, Shaheen Bagh.



- PM Modi has appeared four times on the list since coming to power in 2014. His name has appeared on the list in 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2020.
 - Note: Time magazine is an American weekly news magazine and news website published and based in New York City.
4. **17-year-old Surat girl Khushi Chindaliya appointed as UNEP's Indian Green Ambassador**
- A Green Ambassador as a volunteer leader and commits to motivating others to become more energy-efficient, adopt environmentally-friendly lifestyles, and use renewable energy.
 - Note: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is responsible for coordinating the UN's environmental activities and assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.
5. **UAE, Israel and Bahrain sign Abraham Accord; Trump says "dawn of new the Middle East":**
- According to the agreements, the UAE and Bahrain will establish embassies, exchange ambassadors, cooperate and work together with Israel.
6. **India joins the Djibouti Code of Conduct as Observer:**
- Note: DCOC/JA is a grouping on maritime matters comprising 18 member states adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the East coast of Africa and Island countries in the IOR. India joins Japan, Norway, the UK and the US as Observers to the DCOC/JA.
 - The DCOC, established in January 2009, is aimed at the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.
7. **Yoshihide Suga elected to the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan:**
- He was elected to the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
 - He served as Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications during Shinzo Abe's first tenure as Prime Minister from 2006 to 2007, and as Chief Cabinet Secretary during Abe's second tenure from 2012 to 2020.
8. **Bahrain: the latest Arab nation to recognize Israel:**
- Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation to agree to establish a relationship with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Israel, Jewish State into the Middle East.



9. India becomes a member of the UN's women panel; China fails to secure a seat:

- TS Tirumurti, permanent representative of India to the United Nations, said India secured its place as a member of the United Nations Commission on Status of Women, a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- India elected a member of Commission on Status of Women (CSW). It's an endorsement for the commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all our endeavours. India, China and Afghanistan contested for the elections to reserve a seat in the Commission on Status of Women.
- India will be a member of the United Nations Commission on Status of Women for four years—2021 to 2025.

Appointments

1. Shekhar Kapur appointed as the president of FTII society and chairman of FTII governing council

- Note: FTII (Film and Television Institute of India) is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India in Pune. The institute was established in 1960.

2. PD Vaghela appointed as TRAI Chairman

- Note: TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) is a statutory body set up by the Government of India under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It regulates the telecommunications sector in India.

3. Simanchala Dash appointed as Advisor to IMF Executive Director

- Note: IMF (International Monetary Fund) is an organization of 189 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.

4. Shri Manish Chauhan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Portugal:

- IFS: 1994, Shri Manish Chauhan, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Portugal.

5. Retd Col Mungali named in AFC task-force:

- Colonel Dr Girija Shanker Mungali has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Asian Football Confederation's task force for regulating football clubs in Asia and Australia.



- Note: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is the governing body of association football in Asia and Australia and is one of the six continental confederations within FIFA.

6. Anil Dhasmana appointed as the new chief of NTRO:

- Note: National Technical Research Organization (NTRO) is a technical intelligence agency under the National Security Advisor. The agency deals in technology capabilities in remote sensing and aviation, data gathering and processing, cryptology systems, cybersecurity, strategic hardware and software development and strategic monitoring.

7. ADB appoints Takeo Konishi as Country Director for India:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Takeo Konishi as its new Country Director for India.
- Note: The ADB, headquartered in the Philippines, is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966. It maintains thirty-one field offices around the world to promote social and economic development in Asia with 68 countries.

8. Harivansh Narayan Singh re-elected as RS Deputy Chairman:

- NDA candidate Harivansh has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. BJP President JP Nadda had moved the proposal to elect Harivansh as the deputy chairman and his motion was adopted.

9. Punjab & Sind Bank

- The government is likely to appoint S. Krishnan as managing director and chief executive officer of Punjab & Sind Bank.
- Currently, Krishnan is executive director of Canara Bank.
- The resignation of the current Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer S. Harisankar has been accepted by the government and a decision on Krishnan's appointment has been taken.
- Punjab and Sind bank posted a net loss of 1.17 billion rupees for the quarter ending in June, its sixth consecutive quarterly loss, due to higher provisions for stressed assets. For Jan-Mar, it had recorded a loss of 2.36 bn rupees.

10. ACC approves appointment of VK Yadav as Railway Board's first-ever Chairman and CEO

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of the current chairman of the Railway Board VK Yadav as the CEO, making him the first to hold such a post in the railway's history.



- 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.

About VK Yadav

- Sri Vinod Kumar Yadav also is known as V.K. Yadav is 1980 batch IRSEE officer.
- He is an engineer holding BE in electrical engineering from University of Allahabad's Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College (now Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad) (1980) who later did an MBA from Australia's La Trobe University (2004)

Awards and Honours

1. Sonu Sood receives Special Humanitarian Action Award by UNDP

- Actor Sonu Sood receives this prestigious award for selflessly extending a helping hand and sending home lakhs of migrants, helping thousands of stranded students across geographies abroad, providing free education and medical facilities to young children and creating free employment opportunities to the needy in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Note: This award is given by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). UNDP is the United Nations' global development network to work to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities through the sustainable development of nations.

2. Usha Mangeshkar honoured with Lata Mangeshkar award 2020-21

- Government of Maharashtra has announced the Gan Samragini Lata Mangeshkar award for the year 2020-21 to veteran female playback singer Usha Mangeshkar. The veteran singer has sung songs in Hindi, Marathi and several other Indian language films. The award consists of a cash prize of five lakh rupees, a certificate and a memento.
- Note: Lata Mangeshkar Award is a national-level award in the field of music. Various state governments present this award. The State Government of Maharashtra started this award in 1992.

3. Jnanpith Award Presented To Renowned Malayalam Poet Akkitham

- The prestigious Jnanpith award was conferred on poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri. Akkitham had been announced the winner of the Jnanpith award in November last year but the presentation was delayed due to the coronavirus lockdown.



- Note: Jnanpith Award is a literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature". The award is only for Indian writers writing in Indian languages.

4. 'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar' Prize, 2020

- 14 scientists awarded: Dr. Bushra Ateeq, Dr Ritesh Agarwal, Dr. Jyotirmayee Dash, Dr. Subi Jacob George, Dr. Subhadeep Chatterjee, Dr. Vatsala Thirumalai, Dr. Rajat Subhra Hazra, Dr. U K Anandavardhanan, Dr. Surajit Dhara, Dr. Rajesh Ganapathy, Dr. Kinshuk Dasgupta, Dr. Amol Arvindrao Kulkarni, Dr. Suryendu Dutta and Dr. Abhijit Mukherjee.
- Note: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology is a science award given annually by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for notable and outstanding research, applied or fundamental, in biology, chemistry, environmental science, engineering, mathematics, medicine and physics. Any citizen of India engaged in research in any field of science and technology up to the age of 45 years is eligible for the prize.

5. President Ram Nath Kovind to confer NSS Awards for 2018-19 on 24 September 2020

- The NSS Award will be given to 42 awardees in three different categories like University, NSS Units and their Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers.
- Note: NSS (The National Service Scheme) is an Indian government-sponsored public service program conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India launched in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service.

6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Becomes Second Indian PM to Win Ig Nobel Prize

- Narendra Modi has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize for 2020 for his contributions to medical education, alongside the heads of the governments of Brazil, the UK, Mexico, Belarus, the US, Turkey, Russia and Turkmenistan.
- Note: The Ig Nobel Prizes are satirical prizes awarded every year by a magazine named *Annals of Improbable Research*, specialising in humorous coverage and discussions of scientific developments.
- The first Indian to win the prize was Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

7. Margaret Atwood awarded 2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize:

- Margaret Atwood is a prolific writer of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, essays and comic books. In the recent years, she has drawn a new round of acclaim for "The



Handmaid's Tale”, her bestselling 1985 novel of a dystopian future in which women are subjugated after a theocratic group overthrow the US government.

8. Chef Vikas Khanna honoured with Asia Game Changer Award 2020:

- This award is given to him for feeding millions of people across India in the COVID-19 pandemic through a massive food distribution drive ‘FeedIndia’.
- Note: Asia Game Changer Award, a US-based non-profit organization, in 2014 was launched by the Asia Society, to identify and honour true leaders who make a positive contribution to the future of Asia.

9. Chaitanya Tamhane wins 'International Critics Award'

- Tamhane won the award at the Venice film festival for the film 'The Disciple' that portrays three decades of an Indian classical music practitioners' journey rooted in Guru-Shishya parampara.

10. Indira Gandhi peace prize

- This year Indira Gandhi peace prize has been awarded to Sir David Attenborough to recognise his work in improving awareness to protect biodiversity and his push towards living a sustainable and harmonious life.
- Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development was instituted in 1986 in the memory of the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by a trust in her name. The award consists of a monetary award of Rs.25 lakh along with a citation.

11. CII-GBC 'National Energy Leader' award

- The Hyderabad International Airport has won the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) - Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC)'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' award.
- The GMR led Hyderabad International Airport was awarded at the 21st National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management" organized by CII and GBC, during the 19th edition of 'Energy Efficiency Summit".
- According to a release by the GHIAL, it has achieved a substantial energy saving of around 4.55 MU in its operations owing to its consistent and sustainable approach towards energy efficiency measures over the last three years. These have also resulted in a significant dip in the emission of greenhouse gases.
- The airport is also a Carbon Neutral Airport having Level 3 + "Neutrality" Accreditation from Airports Council International (ACI) under its Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme.



Defense

1. Ministry of Defence launches Defence India Startup Challenge-4

- Ministry launches the Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC 4) during the iDEX event, featuring the initiatives aimed at expanding the horizons of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) ecosystem. Ministry also launches the iDEX4Fauji initiative and Product Management Approach (PMA) guidelines.
- iDEX4Fauji is a first initiative, launched to support innovations identified by members of the Indian Armed Forces and will bolster frugal innovation ideas from soldiers and field formations.
- The purpose of DISC-4 challenge is to promote development and innovation in the country.
- Note: *iDEX* (Innovation for Defence Excellence) initiative was launched in April 2018. *iDEX* purpose is to achieve self - reliance and foster *innovation* and technology development in *Defence* and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.

2. Rajnath Singh Unveils New Defence Acquisition Procedure to Boost Indigenous Military Production

- The new DAP features steps to turn India into a global manufacturing hub of military platforms, reduce timelines for procurement of defence equipment and allow the purchase of essential items by the three services through capital budget under a simplified mechanism.
- DAP has also included provisions to encourage foreign direct investment to establish manufacturing hubs both for import substitution and exports while protecting the interests of the Indian domestic industry.
- DAP-2020 will empower Indian domestic industry through Make in India initiative Finance Minister had approved the constitution of Main Review Committee under Chairmanship of Shri Apurva Chandra.

3. India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) in the North Arabian Sea

- The fourth edition of exercise is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) from 26 to 28 September 2020.
- Note: JIMEX, it focuses on maritime security cooperation, High degree of interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a multitude of advanced exercises, across the spectrum of maritime operations. Multi-faceted tactical exercises involving weapon firings, cross deck helicopter operations and



complex surface, anti-submarine and air warfare drills will consolidate coordination developed by the two navies.

4. India conducts night test of indigenously-developed Prithvi short-range ballistic

- DRDO conducted a night test-fire of the nuclear-capable surface-to-surface missile, has a strike range of 350 km, and was carried out from a mobile launcher from complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range at Odisha.

5. Varanasi's Shivangi Singh to be Rafale Squadron of the Indian Air Force (IAF)'s First Woman Fighter Pilot

- Shivangi Singh from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, who is one of IAF's 10 women fighter pilots, joined the air force in 2017.
- Note: The Rafale is a twin-jet fighter aircraft able to operate from both an aircraft carrier and a shore base. The fully versatile Rafale is able to carry out all combat aviation missions: air superiority and air defence, close air support, in-depth strikes, reconnaissance, anti-ship strikes and nuclear deterrence.

6. Indian Navy to Conduct Two-day Passage Exercise with Royal Australian Navy

- The Indian Navy is scheduled to begin its Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in the East Indian Ocean Region (IOR) from Sept 23 to 24. The exercise would include Australia's HMAS Hobart and India's Naval Ships Sahyadri and Karmuk along with Indian MPA and helicopters from both the nations.

7. Laser-Guided ATGM (Anti Tank Guided Missile) Test-fired

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation test-fired its laser-guided anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) from the main battle tank (MBT) Arjun at KK Ranges, Armoured Corps Centre and School (ACC&S), Ahmednagar.
- Note: The ATGM defeated a target located at three kilometres. Laser-guided ATGMs lock and track the targets with the help of laser designation to ensure precision hit accuracy. The missile employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles. It has been developed with multiple-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the gun of MBT Arjun.

8. Flight test of ABHYAS by DRDO from the Interim Test Range, Balasore in Odisha.

- ABHYAS is a high-speed expendable aerial target being built by the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the (DRDO) Defence Research and Development Organisation for the Indian Armed Forces. Abhyas has RCS, Visual and IR augmentation systems required for weapon practice



- DRDO: the Research and Development wing with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

9. Women officers in helicopter stream of Indian Navy

- Two women officers: Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Kumudini Tyagi and (SLt) Riti Singh have been selected to join as “Observers” (Airborne Tacticians) in the helicopter stream. They would in effect, be the first set of women airborne combatants who would be operating from warships at a ceremony held on 21 Sep 20 at INS Garuda, Kochi.

10. 10th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative, DTTI Group Meeting held virtually:

- As part of the Indo-US Bilateral Defence Cooperation, the 10th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative.
- Note: DTTI Group Meetings are normally held twice a year, alternating between India and the United States. The aim of the DTTI Group is to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and co-development of defence equipment and create opportunities for co-production.

11. The government puts national security clause in Defence FDI hike to 74 per cent:

- Under the previous policy, the defence industry can bring FDI up to 49 per cent under the automatic route and above it “under government route, wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded”.
- The new policy raising the cap of foreign direct investment (FDI) through automatic approval in the defence sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent now has a ‘National Security’ clause as a condition.

12. P-7 Heavy Drop System

- Developed by Defence Research and Development Organization, DRDO.
- It is capable of para dropping military stores up to seven-tonne weight class from IL- 76 aircraft.
- It consists of a platform and a specialized parachute system.
- The parachute system is a multi-stage system comprises of five Main canopies, five Brake chutes, two Auxiliary chutes, one Extractor parachute and platform is a metallic structure made up of Aluminium or steel alloys.



Science & Technology

1. IIT Madras develops 'MOUSHIK' Microprocessor

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras developed 'MOUSHIK', an indigenously-made microprocessor for the Internet of things (IoT) devices.
- Note: IoT(Internet of things)is a part of hardware with a sensor that transmits data from one place to another over the Internet.
- The field applications of 'MOUSHIK' include smart cards including ID cards, debit cards, credit cards, travel cards for metros and driving licenses, electronic voting machines (EVMs) and office management systems including surveillance, attendance, cameras and safe locks, personalized health management systems, consumer electronics including but not restricted to washing machines and water pump monitoring systems.

2. Setting up Plastic Parks to consolidate and synergize the plastic processing industry

- The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has approved setting up of 10 Plastic Parks in the country, out of which 6 parks have been given final approval in the States of Assam, Madhya Pradesh (two parks), Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.
- Note: Plastic Park is an industrial zone devoted to plastic enterprises and its allies industries, the whole range of companies required by the plastics processing community from material and machinery suppliers, plastics processing companies, plastic recycling companies including waste management system.

3. 'Kritagya' Hackathon by National Agricultural Higher Education Project of ICAR

- In order to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women-friendly equipment, a hackathon named "KRITAGYA" has been planned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).
- Note: (ICAR) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is an autonomous body responsible for co-ordinating agricultural education and research in India. It reports to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture.
- NAHEP has been formulated by ICAR for five years starting from 2017-18. The project aims to develop resources and mechanism for supporting infrastructure, faculty and student advancement and providing means for better governance and management of agricultural universities.



4. World's largest nuclear icebreaker starts 2-week Arctic journey: Russia

- A nuclear-powered icebreaker is the world's largest and most powerful has embarked on a two-week journey to the Arctic. Known as 'Arktika', it is over 173 metres long and can break ice almost three-metres thick. The nuclear icebreaker left St Petersburg and headed for the Arctic port of Murmansk.
- Note: A nuclear-powered icebreaker is a nuclear-powered ship purpose-built for use in waters covered with ice. The only country constructing nuclear-powered icebreakers is Russia.

5. India's Second Rocket Launching Port to Come Up In Tamil Nadu's Kulasekarapattinam

- The port will be set up by ISRO and will be located in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- Center's policy decision of opening up of the space sector for private players enables them to develop various space-qualified subsystems and systems along with the building of satellites and launch vehicles. They are also permitted to establish facilities and provide launch services and other space-based services.
- Note: The first spaceport is located in Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram.
- A spaceport (Rocket Launching Port) is a site for launching (or receiving) spacecraft.

6. Ocean Services, Modelling, Applications, Resources and Technology (O-SMART) SCHEME

- O-SMART Scheme by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The services will provide economic benefits to a number of user communities in the coastal and ocean sectors, namely, fisheries, offshore industry, coastal states, Defence, Shipping, and Ports etc.
- It also provides the necessary scientific and technological background required for the implementation of various aspects of Blue Economy. (Blue economy means all economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts.)
- The State of Art Early Warning Systems established Scheme will help in effectively dealing with ocean disasters like Tsunami, storm surges.
- A fleet of research vessels viz., Technology Demonstration vessel SagarNidhi, Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Kanya, Fisheries and Oceanographic Research Vessel SagarSampada and Coastal Research Vessel SagarPurvi have been acquired to provide required research support.

7. Government of India sets Hydrogen Energy Development Targets

- The Government of India has fixed a target to generate 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022 targets which include attaining 100 GW of solar power energy,



60 GW of wind energy, 10 GW biofuels energy and 5 GW. However, hydrogen has not been included in the renewable energy future plan.

- Note: Hydrogen energy uses the hydrogen and/or hydrogen-containing compounds in order to generate energy to be supplied to all practical uses. It has high energy efficiency, environmental and social benefits besides the economic competitiveness.
- The Ministry of New and renewable energy has also called hydrogen energy as a Future Energy. Currently, 48% of hydrogen in India is produced from natural gas, 30% is produced from oil, 10% from coal and 4% from the electrolysis of water.

8. World Largest Telescope to have IT controls built in India

- The square kilometre array also called the SKA, an international initiative building the world's largest radio telescope is to have control systems designed and built by Tata Consultancy Services, an IT company based in India. Several other multiple leading Indian scientific Institutions are also contributing to the project under the leadership of TCS.
- Note: Square Kilometre Array (SKA) is a next-generation radio telescope that will ultimately have a square kilometre of collecting area, making it the most sensitive radio telescope in the world. The project to design and build the SKA is an international collaboration, involving 15 countries. Site selection was decided in 2012; with one site in Australia, another in South Africa and headquarters in the United Kingdom.

9. Delhi Metro launches first indigenous signal system:

- The first Made-in-India signalling system. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) developed an indigenously-built communication-based train control with the launch of i-ATS.
- Note: The ATS (Automatic Train Supervision) is a computer-based system, which manages train operations, including basic functioning such as running and halting. By this technology, the i-ATS will reduce the dependence of Indian Metros on foreign vendors dealing with such technologies.

10. Govt launches Postage Stamp commemorating Mission Shakti's success:

- A customized My Stamp on India's First Anti Satellite Missile (A-SAT) was launched on the occasion of Engineers Day.
- Note: *Mission Shakti* is a joint programme of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) & Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).



- It is meant to safeguard our space assets and defend the country's interests in outer space & also to destroy those satellites orbiting around the Earth aimlessly even after outliving its utility.

11. New Indian Brain Templates developed by NIMHANS:

- A neuroscientist's team from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) has developed Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas.
- Brain Template is basically a gross representation to understand the functionality of the brain in diseases conditions.

12. New DRDO research lab in Madhya Pradesh

- In Madhya Pradesh, a Research lab of DRDO at a cost of 2 thousand crore rupees will be opened in Kailaras-Jaura region of Morena district for which around 350 hectares of land has been acquired by the government.

13. DRDO's Air-breathing Scram jet engine

- DRDO in a technology demonstration flew a cruise vehicle at a hypersonic speed of Mach 6 for 20 seconds.
- DRDO has named the vehicle Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) which employs indigenously developed air-breathing scramjet engine for its propulsion
- In an air-breathing scramjet engine, air from the atmosphere is rammed into the engine's combustion chamber at a supersonic speed of more than Mach two.

14. Real Mango software

- The Railway Protection Force has disrupted the use of illegal software 'Real Mango'
- It is used for cornering confirmed train reservation during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The software bypasses captcha, synchronises bank OTP with the help of a mobile app and feeds it to the requisite form to book tickets automatically.
- The software logs in to the IRCTC website through multiple IRCTC Ids.

15. Hypersonic missile tech

- Launched by DRDO
- India conducted a successful test flight of the indigenously developed hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle (HSTDV).
- Joining the elite club of the US, Russia and China who possess such technology.



- HSDTV has a range of uses, including missiles for air defence, surveillance and reconnaissance, besides aiding the development of energy-efficient, low-cost and reusable satellite launch vehicles.

16. World's largest solar tree

- It has been developed and installed at Durgapur, West Bengal by CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI).
- The installed capacity of the Solar Tree is about 11.5 kWp.
- Annually, this solar tree can generate 12000-14000 units of clean electricity.
- The arms holding the solar panels are adjustable to face the sun during the day, unlike rooftop-mounted solar panels which are fixed in place.

17. Robot "Spot":

- A Robot called "Spot" will be used to take vital signs like body temperature and breathing rate of the suspected Covid-19 patients.
- it can take such readings from 2 meters away to reduce infections to health professionals in the pandemic situation.
- The robot looks like a dog and can walk on four legs. it also carries a tablet which can be used by the patients to interact with the doctor without even being in the same room.
- It has been developed by MIT, Boston.

18. 'AstroSat' discovered star galaxy

- India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe in a landmark achievement.
- The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

Highlights

- ASTROSAT is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory.
- This scientific satellite mission endeavours for a more detailed understanding of our universe.
- The scientific objectives of ASTROSAT mission are:
 - To understand high energy processes in binary star systems containing neutron stars and black holes
 - Estimate magnetic fields of neutron stars
 - Study star birth regions and high energy processes in star systems lying beyond our galaxy



- Detect new briefly bright X-ray sources in the sky
- Perform a limited deep field survey of the Universe in the Ultraviolet region

Health

1. COVID-19 vaccine web portal' and the 'National Clinical Registry for COVID-19' launched by Health Ministry

- The National Clinical Registry for COVID-19 will collect systematic data on clinical signs and symptoms, laboratory investigations, management protocols, the clinical course of COVID-19, disease spectrum and outcomes of patients.
- The vaccine web portal is icmr.org.in. This portal provides essential information related to vaccine development, ongoing clinical trials and progress made in this area locally and globally.

2. The report 'Health in India' released by The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

- The main objective was to gather necessary quantitative information on India's health sector. According to the report, Religion-based classification:
- The Zoroastrian community was the most vulnerable to ailments. 31.1 % of Zoroastrians reported that they were suffering from an ailment during the survey.
- The number for other communities is:

Communities	Percentage
Sikhs	11 %
Jains	11.2 %
Christians	10.5 %
Muslims	8.1 %
Hindus	7.2 %
Buddhists	8 %

- 5 % of Indian people reported that they suffer from ailments. In rural only 6.8 % and in Urban 9.1 % were suffering from an ailment.

Sex-based classification:

- In rural, 6.1 % of males and 7.6 % of female said that they were suffering from ailments.
In urban 8.2 % of males and 10 % of females said that they were sick.



- Note: Ailment as any deviation from a person's state of physical and mental well-being. The 'Proportion of Persons who Responded as Ailing', or PPRA, in a 15 days when the surveyors approached them, were registered as those suffering from ailments.

3. Government to Set up First Medical Device Park MedSpark in Kerala

- Note: The medical device park emphasis on the high-risk medical device sector involving medical implants and extracorporeal devices. The Park will provide an enabling support system for Research and Development, testing and evaluation of medical devices, technology innovation, manufacturing support and knowledge dissemination.

4. PM, Narendra Modi launches the Age Appropriate Fitness Protocols on the first anniversary of the Fit India Movement

- He gave the mantra 'Fitness dose, Half an hour every day' for everyone's health. He said the Youth Ministry and Health Ministry together released Fitness protocols. He said that we have envisaged Age Appropriate Fitness Protocols for three age groups: 5 – 18, 18 – 65 and above 65.
- Note: Fit India Movement is a nation-wide movement to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including sports and physical activities launched by PM Narendra Modi at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi on 29 August 2019.

5. New Brucellosis Vaccine by ICAR: Brucella Abortus S19 Delta Per vaccine

- Hester Bioscience Ltd has acquired technology from the government's research body ICAR-IVRI (Indian Council of Agriculture Research - Indian Veterinary Research Institute) to develop a new generation vaccine for controlling brucellosis disease in cattle that causes huge losses to the dairy industry.
- Note: "Brucella is a disease of economic importance worldwide. Not only does it impact cattle, sheep, goat and swine, but it also gets transmitted to human beings. Incidentally, there is no vaccine available to protect humans against Brucella.

6. Health Minister at UN: India targets to end tuberculosis by 2025

- While addressing Ministers of Member Nations of WHO, Heads and Representatives of UN Agencies, Dr Harsh Vardhan has said that India has accorded high priority for ending tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Note: Tuberculosis A potentially serious infectious bacterial disease that mainly affects the lungs. The bacteria that cause TB are spread when an infected person



coughs or sneezes. Most people infected with the bacteria that cause tuberculosis don't have symptoms.

- Patients with active symptoms will require a long course of treatment involving multiple antibiotics.

7. eSanjeevani OPD of Health Ministry completes 3 lakh teleconsultations within six months of launch

- Note: eSanjeevani OPD services have enabled patient-to-doctor telemedicine in midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This helps in containing the spread of COVID by ensuring physical distancing and has simultaneously enabled provisions for non-COVID essential healthcare.
- eSanjeevani platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services viz. Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations.

8. Aarogya Manthan 2.0 on 2nd Anniversary of Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana

- The purpose of the Aarogya Manthan is that all-important stakeholders of PM-JAY meet and discuss the challenges faced in the past year in the implementation of the scheme and to forge new understanding and pathways towards improving implementation.
- Note: AB PM-JAY (Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana) is the world's largest health assurance scheme which aims to provide a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 10.74 crores poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) that form the bottom 40% of the Indian population.

9. COVID-19 test 'FELUDA':

- The Tata Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, CRISPR test, powered by CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) FELUDA has received regulatory approvals from the Drug Controller General of India for commercial launch.
- The test has met high-quality benchmarks with 96 per cent sensitivity and 98 per cent specificity for detecting the Novel Coronavirus.

10. Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed by Rajya Sabha;

- The Bill aims to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include protections for healthcare personnel combating epidemic diseases and expands the powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.



- The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020 makes injury, harm, hurt or danger to the life of healthcare service personnel as a cognizable and non-bailable offence.

11. Parliament passed 'Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020':

- Parliament has passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020.
- The bill seeks to establish an Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda and declare it an Institute of National importance.
- The bill also has the provision to merge three Ayurveda institutes situated in Jamnagar, Gujarat into one. These institutes are the Shree Gulabkunverba Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, the Indian Institute of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical Sciences and Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda. The proposed Institute will be situated in the campus of Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar.

12. SCTIMST develops a low-cost device for prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis

- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, has developed a device for the prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT).
- Deep vein thrombosis is the formation of a blood clot in a deep vein, usually occurring in the legs.
- this device will be priced less than Rs. 1 lakh compared to the currently available imported devices which cost around 2 to 5 lakh rupees.

13. National Nutrition Week 2020:

- National Nutrition Week 2020 is celebrated on September 1st through 7th. During this period, initiatives are taken up by the government. These initiatives centre around nutrition and the effects of good food with a healthy body, mind and lifestyle.
- It was first organized by the Food and Nutrition Board that operates under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Running since 1982, it puts emphasis on educating people in all states across India regarding the importance and necessity of good nutrition in diets.
- The theme for National Nutrition Week 2020 is 'Eat Right, Bite by Bite'.
- Awareness generation camps, workshops and educational programmes inform people on how food helps with immunity, preparing food right to avoid loss of nutritional value and more.



1. . RBI secures cheque payments via 'positive pay' feature

- Reserve Bank of India decides to introduce the 'positive pay system' for cheque, under which re-confirmation of key details may be needed for payments beyond Rs 50,000 from January 1, 2021, in order to check banking fraud. Banks can consider making it compulsory in case of cheques for amounts of Rs 5 lakh and above. Under this system, the issuer will be required to submit electronically, through SMS, mobile app, internet banking or ATM certain minimum details of that cheque like date, name of the beneficiary, payee, and amount to the drawee bank.
- NPCI(The National Payments Corporation of India) will develop the facility of positive pay in CTS (Cheque Truncation System) and make it accessible to participant banks.

2. Parliament passes Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020

- Note: The bill ensures that foreign funds are not utilized to tamper the social fabric or disturb the internal security in the country. The legislation will bring transparency in the transaction of foreign contributions and their usage. The Bill seeks to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 which regulates the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution by individuals, associations, NGOs and companies in the country.

3. Govt increases MSP of six Rabi Crops including Wheat, Chana, Masoor, Mustard, Jowar, Safflower

- The MSP of wheat has been increased by Rs. 50 and now stands at Rs. 1,975 per quintal whereas the MSP for Masoor has been hiked by Rs. 300. Mustard's MSP has been raised by Rs. 225 while the same for Chana has been hiked by Rs. 225. Increase in Jowar's MSP is by Rs. 75 while the same for Safflower has been hiked by Rs. 112 per quintal.
- Note: The (MSP) minimum support price is an agricultural product price set by the government of India to purchase directly from the farmer.

4. IFC to provide two trillion dollars to India:

- The International Finance Corporation has said that two trillion dollars will be provided to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy.
- Note: International Finance Corporation (IFC) provides advisory, asset-management services and investment to encourage private-sector development in developing countries. IFC is a member of the World Bank Group and headquartered in Washington, United States.



5. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar passed two farm sector legislation in the Lok Sabha:

- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020
- Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020
- Note: The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 also permits the electronic trading of farmers' produce and allows setting up of transaction platforms for facilitating their direct online buying and selling through electronic devices and internet. The legislation prohibits state governments from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading platforms for the trade of farmers' produce conducted outside the State Mandis.

6. Food sectoral committees to tap new markets and investment announced by TPCI:

- Three committees are Food & Beverages, Food Processing Technology and Chemical and Allied Products.
- Food & Beverages: Chairman- Laxman Singh Rathore
- Food Processing Technology: Chairman- R Senguttuvan
- Chemical and Allied Products: Chairman- Manish Shah
- Note: TPCI is an organization of trade and investment promotion notified in the Foreign Trade Policy. TPCI is supported and recognized by the Department of Commerce, Govt. of India. The TPCI council focuses on various strategies for intensifying business internationally, by organizing specialized business events and working with the Government by providing policy suggestions which are essentially based on inputs collated from research and industry stakeholders.

7. FCRA registration to Golden temple:

- The Ministry of Home Affairs approved the registration of Sri Harmandir Sahib under the FCRA, 2010, allowing it to receive foreign funding.
- Note: The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 is an act of the Parliament of India, by the 42nd Act of 2010. The FCRA act is to regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by any individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit utilization and acceptance of foreign contribution and foreign hospitality or any activities detrimental to the national interest.

8. Doorstep banking services

- Finance Minister recently inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks.



- The services can be availed by customers of Public Sector Banks at nominal charges.
- EASE 2.0 Index:
- First Rank: Bank of Baroda
- Second Rank: State Bank of India
- Third Rank: Oriental bank of commerce
- Top improvers category
- 1st: Bank of Maharashtra
- 2nd: Central Bank of India
- 3rd: Corporation Bank
- EASE Agenda is aimed at institutionalizing clean and smart banking. It was launched in January 2018. PSBs have shown a healthy trajectory in their performance over four quarters since the launch of EASE 2.0 Reforms Agenda.

9. EPFO decides to pay 8.5% interest during 2019-20

The Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Wednesday chaired the 227th Meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund. In view of the exceptional circumstances arising out of Covid-19, the Central Board has recommended the interest rate of 8.50 per cent to the Central Government.

- It would comprise of 8.15 per cent from debt income and balance 0.35 per cent capital gain from the sale of Exchange Traded Funds, ETFs subject to their redemption by 31st December this year.

10.. Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM)

- Union Minister of State(IC) of Ministry of Power R K Singh on recently launched the Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) for electricity.
- A move that will lead to an increase in the participants in the renewable energy sector. The initiative will also help in achieving the renewable energy(RE) capacity addition targets of the country.
- The introduction of GTAM platform would lessen the burden on RE-rich states and incentivize them to develop RE capacity beyond their own RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation).
- This would promote RE merchant capacity addition and help in achieving RE capacity addition targets of the country.
- GTAM will lead to an increase in the number of participants in the renewable energy sector and benefit buyers of RE through competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement.
- The key features of GTAM include bilateral transaction (of RE) in nature with clear identification of corresponding buyers and sellers. Thus, there will not be any difficulty in accounting for RPO.



- The GTAM contracts will be segregated into Solar RPO and Non-Solar RPO as RPO targets are also segregated.

11. Telecom Companies granted 10 years to pay AGR dues: SC

- Supreme Court has given telecom companies 10 years to clear AGR (adjusted gross revenue) dues of around 1.43 lakh crore rupees to the Centre by March 31, 2031
- The companies must pay the dues without further review as it granted the firms a 10-year window to pay the amount in annual instalments.
- It directed the companies to pay the first instalment of 10% of dues by March 31, 2021.

Background

- AGR is a fee-sharing mechanism between government and the telcos who shifted to 'revenue-sharing fee' model in 1999, from the 'fixed license fee' model.
- The dispute between the telcos and the government has been mainly on the definition of AGR.
- While the government says that AGR includes all revenues from both telecom as well as non-telecom services, the operators suggest that it should include only the revenue from core services.
- The Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) calculation is what the government and telecom majors have had a disagreement over since 2005.
- The two sides were locked in a legal battle over the definition of AGR for more than a decade. On October 24, 2019, the top court widened the definition of AGR to include the government's view.

12. Development Assistance loan sanctioned to India

- Japan has committed an official Development Assistance loan of 3500 crore rupees for the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support.
- The Notes were exchanged between the two countries for a Health sector programme loan to fight the COVID-19 crisis.
- This programme loan aims to support India's efforts in fighting COVID-19 and to prepare the health system to manage future epidemics and to improve the resilience of India's health systems against infectious diseases.
- Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA is a governmental agency that coordinates Official Development Assistance for the Government of Japan.

India-Japan Relations

- India and Japan have had a long and fruitful history of bilateral development cooperation since 1958.



- In the last few years, the economic cooperation between India and Japan has strengthened and grown into a strategic partnership.
- It further consolidates and strengthens the Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan.

Environment & Ecology

1. H-CNG

- The Road Transport Ministry has permitted use of H-CNG (18% mix of hydrogen) in CNG engines. It is an alternative clean fuel for transportation. The BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) has developed specifications (IS 17314:2019) related to Hydrogen enriched Compressed Natural Gas (H-CNG) for automotive purposes, as a fuel.
- Note: H-CNG (hydrogen compressed natural gas) is essentially Compressed Natural Gas which has been blended in with Hydrogen. H-CNG has the ability to reduce carbon monoxide, methane, and hydrocarbon emissions compared to regular CNG being used whether as automotive fuel or in other applications.

2. PM Modi to inaugurate six mega projects under Namami Gange Mission in Uttarakhand

- The projects include the construction of Sewage Treatment Plant, up-gradation of the existing Sewage Treatment Plant at Jagjeetpur and construction of a Sewage Treatment Plant at Sarai, in Haridwar, Sewage Treatment Plant at Lakkadghat in Rishikesh, Plant in Chandreshwar, Sewage Treatment Plant at Chorpani, and two plants at Badrinath.
- “Ganga Avalokan”, the first museum at Chandi Ghat, Haridwar on Ganga dedicated to showcasing the culture, biodiversity and rejuvenation activities done in Ganga River will be inaugurated by Prime Minister.
- The logo of Jal Jeevan Mission and ‘Margdarshika’ will also be unveiled.
- Note: Namami Gange Mission, is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 with a budget outlay of Rs. 20,000 Crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

3. Eight Indian beaches for the globally recognized Blue Flag eco-label for the first time

- The Indian beaches, selected are:
 - 1. Golden Beach(Puri), Odisha
 - Radhanagar Beach, Andaman Island
 - Rushikonda, Andhra Pradesh
 - Kappad, Kerala



- Kasarkod, Karnataka
- Padubidri, Karnataka
- Ghogla, Diu
- Shivrajpur, Gujarat
- Note: The Blue Flag is awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators. For qualifying for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained. There are nearly thirty-three criteria that must be met to qualify for a Blue Flag certification, such as the water meets certain quality standards, having waste disposal facilities, being disabled-friendly, have first aid equipment etc.

4. International Coastal Cleanup Day:

- The 35th International Coastal Cleanup Day was celebrated on Sep 19 consecutively for the ninth year by the Indian Navy today at Visakhapatnam. The event was also aimed to create awareness among the general public to keep beaches clean and to support the noble efforts of GVMC in making ‘The City of Destiny – Vizag’ a clean city.

5. Kaziranga National Park in Assam

- Home to the Asiatic one-horned rhinos, the Kaziranga National Park in Assam has been increased by 3,053 hectares.
- The government issued a notification approving the seventh, eighth, and ninth additions to the World Heritage Site. These include encroachment-evicted areas and wildlife habitat at riverine islands that were vulnerable to encroachment.
- As part of the ecosystem, animals, particularly elephants and deer, stray out of the park during the flood and move to the KarbiAnglong hills. This is the time when the poachers increase their activities. The addition of new areas to the park is expected to ensure the better protection of animals.

This prestigious national park of India is situated in the northeastern part of the country in the district of Golaghat and Nagaon in the state of Assam.

6. Solarization of Indian Railway stations

- Recently as part of the Indian Railways’ plan to become a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has held a meeting with stakeholders in the solar power sector and discussed innovative solutions for setting up solar projects along railway tracks.
- Aimed at becoming self-reliant and self-sustenance for all its power needs, Indian Railways has solarized more than 960 stations till date.



- Indian Railways is committed to utilize solar energy for meeting its traction power requirement and become a complete 'green mode of transportation'.
- Indian Railways has a mega plan for installing solar plants of 20 GW capacity by utilizing its vacant land by 2030 and achieve 100 per cent electrification by the year 2023.

Highlights

- Solar power in India is a fast-developing industry. The country's solar installed capacity was 35,122 MW as of 30 June 2020.
- India has the lowest capital cost per MW globally of installing solar power plants.
- Rooftop solar power accounts for 2.1 GW, of which 70% is industrial or commercial.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA), proposed by India as a founder member, is headquartered in India. India has also put forward the concept of "One Sun One World One Grid" and "World Solar Bank" to harness abundant solar power on a global scale.

Summits & Conference

1. RAISE 2020 – Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence to be held from October 5-9

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog will organize a Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), *RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020.'*
- Note: RAISE 2020 is a first of its kind, a global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence to drive India's vision and roadmap for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility, among other sectors.
- AI (Artificial intelligence) means the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions.

2. Ministerial Meeting of the G4 Countries

- On 23 September 2020, the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries met virtually during the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.
- Note: G4 nations are Brazil, India, Germany and Japan. The G4's primary aim is the permanent member seats on the Security Council.

3. Informal Meeting of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Council of Ministers



- Minister of External Affairs, the Republic of India, Dr S. Jaishankar, participated in the annual Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers on 24th September 2020 chaired by Nepal. Dr. Jaishankar called upon SAARC member states to collectively resolve to defeat the scourge of terrorism, including the forces that nurture, support and encourage an environment of terror and conflict, which impede the objective of SAARC to realize its full potential for collective collaboration and prosperity across South Asia.
- Note: SAARC: It promotes the development of economic and regional integration. The member is Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It founded in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

4. UN, Britain to co-host a global climate summit on Dec 12, 2020

- United Nations and Britain will co-host a global climate summit on December 12, 2020. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will co-host the event to rally much greater climate action and ambition.
- Note: Climate change includes both the global warming driven by human emissions of greenhouse gases and the resulting large-scale shifts in weather patterns.

5. PM Modi to inaugurate VAIBHAV Summit on 2nd October 2020

- Note: The VAIBHAV Summit is a joint initiative of all S&T and Academic Organisations of India (working in Research, Academic and Scientific fields) to enable deliberations on thought processes, practices and R&D culture with a problem-solving approach for well-defined objectives.
- Summit aims to give an impetus to the objectives of Atal Innovation Mission by leveraging the collaborative experience and deep expertise of International and Indian subject experts.
- Vaibhav summit seeks active support and ideation from Indian Diaspora for developing skills of Indian aspirants in alignment with the New Educational Policy.

6. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare attended Joint G20 Finance and Health Ministers Meeting through video conference:

- Saudi Arabia bestowed with the Presidency of G20 grouping hosted the session.
- Note: G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation and brings together the leaders of developing and developed countries.
- The representatives of G20 countries gather to talk about financial and socio-economic issues.



- Members represent around 80% of the world's economic output, three-quarters of international trade and two-thirds of the global population.

7. IBSA Foreign Ministers' Virtual Meeting:

- Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India chaired the customary meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers.
- The Ministers focus on various issues of global significance including peace, climate change, sustainable development, security, countering terrorism, multilateral trading system, disarmament, non-proliferation issues and South-South Cooperation.
- Note: IBSA is a formal association of India, Brazil and South Africa; all three are large democracies and major economies from three different continents, facing similar challenges.

8. 10th virtual meeting of BRICS NSAs chaired by Russia:

- The National Security Advisors of the BRICS nations will deliberate upon the issues related to strengthening political security and cooperation among the five countries
- Note: BRICS is an organization of 5 major Countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The BRICS aims to deepen and intensify cooperation within the grouping and among the individual countries for more equitable, sustainable and mutually beneficial development. The BRICS members are known for their significant present on regional affairs.

9. Environment Ministerial Meeting of G20 countries held through video conferencing:

- The Environment Ministerial Meeting of the G20 countries was held through video conferencing under the Presidency of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Note: The meetings focused on various social and economic issues such as agriculture, anti-corruption, climate, digital economy, education, employment, energy, environment, health, tourism, trade and investment.

10. New ASEAN-India Plan of Action adopted for 5 years at Ministerial Meeting:

- External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar co-chaired the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting along with his Thailand counterpart Don Pramudwinai.
- It reviewed the status of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership in several areas including connectivity, education, maritime cooperation and capacity building and people-to-people contacts.
- The new ASEAN-India Plan of Action works from 2021 to 2025 was adopted at the Meeting.



11. Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar addresses conference on Afghan peace negotiations in Doha, Qatar:

- Addressing the conference virtually, EAM addressed that the peace process must be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, and Afghan-controlled. It has been India's stand for long.
- EAM also said that the process must respect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and promote human rights and democracy. EAM stressed that the Intra Afghan talks must ensure the interest of minorities, women, and the vulnerable section of society.

12. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to attend SCO Foreign Ministers meeting in Moscow

- The Council of Foreign Ministers meeting of SCO in Moscow will review the preparations for the forthcoming SCO Summit and also deliberate on international and regional issues. This will be the third Council of Foreign Ministers meeting that India will be attending in the capacity of a full member of SCO

About SCO:

- The SCO has eight members namely India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and four observer states - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.
- India and Pakistan joined SCO in 2017.

13. World Solar Technology Summit

- The first World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) being organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a joint initiative of France and India, launched during COP21 with the aim of making an unprecedented effort to promote solar energy.
- The ISA is putting in place concrete tools, capacity-building measures and innovative financial instruments.

14. Indo-Pacific Business Forum

- The third annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum is slated to be held in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on October 28 and 29, 2020.
- The forum advances a vision for the Indo-Pacific as a free and open region composed of nations that are independent, strong and prosperous.
- Government and business leaders from the US, Vietnam and across the Indo-Pacific will discuss energy and infrastructure, the digital economy, market



connectivity, health and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and US-Indo-Pacific partnerships and commercial opportunities.

Ranking & Index

1. India ranked 89th on the WRI 2020 among 181 countries

- India was ‘poorly prepared’ to deal with ‘climate reality’, due to which it was more vulnerable to extreme natural disasters, according to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020.
- Note: World Risk Index (WRI) is part of the World Risk Report 2020 released September 15 by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft, in cooperation with the University of Stuttgart in Germany.

2. India ranked 116 in the Human Capital Index:

- In the latest ranking of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index, India has been ranked 116 in the list of 174 countries.
- According to the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank, India's score has increased from 0.44 in 2018 to 0.49 in 2020.
- Note: Human Capital Index is a report prepared by the World Bank. The Index measures which countries are best in mobilizing the economic and professional potential of its citizens. The index identifies how much capital each country loses through lack of health and education.

3. M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated 4th Global Ayurveda Summit virtually on the theme “Emerging Opportunities for Ayurveda during Pandemic”:

- The objective of the summit is to showcase the Ayurveda immunity model to the global level as a solution named ‘Health as One’ and ‘Immunity through Ayurveda’.

4. India slips 26 places to 105th Rank in Global Economic Freedom index

- India slipped 26 places to 105 among 162 countries and territories on the index of global economic freedom, according to the Economic Freedom of the World: 2020 report released by the Fraser Institute in Canada.
- The country ranked 79th in the previous edition of this report, which measures the ‘economic freedom.’

5. Ease of doing business



- It is a joint initiative by the Department for promotion of Industries and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and World Bank.
- The Initiative aims to improve the overall business environment in the States.
- It represents the ease of doing business in the State with increased transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the government regulatory functions vis-a-vis the business enterprises.
- Andhra Pradesh has topped the country in the latest ease of doing business rankings.

6. The State of Young Child in India' report

- Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram are among the top five states for the well-being of children, according to a report brought out by non-governmental organisation Mobile Creches and launched by Vice-President.
- The young child outcomes index measures health, nutrition and cognitive growth with the help of indicators such as infant mortality rate, stunting and net attendance at the primary school level. It identifies eight States that have scores below the country's average: they are Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- The index is part of the 'State of the Young Child' in India report released the 50-year-old NGO, which works in the field of early childhood care.

7. State Business Reform Action Plan 2019

- Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana top the rankings for states in the State Business Reform Action Plan 2019 Ranking.
- The top three ranks under the State Reform Action, 2019:
 - I. Rank 1: Andhra Pradesh
 - II. Rank 2: Uttar Pradesh
 - III. Rank 3: Telangana
- This ranking is based on the implementation of the business reform action plan. Some of the key focus areas are access to information and technology, the setting up of a single-window system, construction permit enablers and land administration.
- "India's steadfast commitment to reforms is evident from the steady climb to 63rd rank in 2019 in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Ranking from 142nd rank in 2014.
 1. India ranked in top 50 nations in the Global Innovation Index 2020
- Switzerland, Sweden, US, UK and Netherlands are in the top spots of this year's ranking.



- The India Innovation Index, which was released last year by the NITI Aayog, has been widely accepted as the major step in the direction of decentralization of innovation across all the states of India.
- Global Innovation Index 2020 was released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- India climbed four spots on the Global Innovation Index 2020 and is now at 48th position in the list of top 50 innovative countries.
- The WIPO had also accepted India as one of the leading innovation achievers of 2019 in the central and southern Asian region.

Important Days

1. The first-ever observance of the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction celebrated on 29 September.

- Reducing food losses and waste is essential where the many people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise since 2014, and tons and tons of edible food are lost and/or wasted daily. Worldwide, around 14 per cent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail and significant quantities are also wasted in retail and at the consumption level. Food loss and waste results in unnecessary pressure on the natural resource base and on the environment, depleting the natural resource base and generating greenhouse gases.
- Note: In 2019, the 74th United Nations General Assembly designated 29 September as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, recognizing the fundamental role that sustainable food production plays in promoting food security and nutrition.

2. World Heart Day on 29 September

- This day informs people around the world that cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, is the world's leading cause of death lives each year. Its objective is to drive action to educate people that by controlling risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity.
- Note: Cardiovascular disease(CVD) is a disease that affects the heart or blood vessels. It's usually linked with a build-up of fatty deposits inside the arteries and an increased risk of blood clots.

3. September 27, World Tourism Day 2020

- The theme is "Tourism and Rural Development" by United Nations World Tourism Day. The day focuses on the celebration of the unique role played by tourism in job creation in small towns and rural areas. It can also advance inclusion and highlight the unique role tourism can play in preserving and promoting natural and cultural heritage and curbing urban migration.



4. 23 September, International Day of Sign Languages

- The International Day of Sign Languages provides an opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all sign language users.
- It is celebrated by World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).
- Note: Sign language is one of the earliest forms of human communication. In the deaf community, Sign language is a form of visual language that uses hand gestures and body language to convey meaning. People commonly use signs when you wave hello or point to something you want.

5. World Rhino Day on 22 September

- Five species of rhinos around the world is celebrated on World Rhino Day. These five species of rhinos include White, Black, Greater One-horned, Javan and Sumatran. The day raises awareness of the plight of these beautiful beasts from a conservation perspective.

6. World Rose Day: A Day to Bring Happiness in the Lives of Cancer Patients

- World Rose Day is observed On September 22 in the memory of 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada who was diagnosed with Askin's Tumour, a rare form of blood cancer.

7. International Day of Peace:

- The International Day of Peace is celebrated on 21 September every year. The main aim of Peace Day is for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.
- 2020 Peace Day Theme: Shaping Peace Together

8. World Alzheimer's Day:

- World Alzheimer's Day is the international campaign on every 21 September to raise awareness and challenge the stigma that surrounds dementia.
- Note: Alzheimer's disease is a progressive disorder that causes brain cells to waste away (degenerate) and dies. The common cause of dementia, a continuous decline in thinking, behavioural and social skills that disrupts a person's ability to function independently. The symptoms of this disease may be forgetting recent events or conversations.

9. World Patient Safety Day, 17 September:

- On 17th September, The World Patient Safety Day is observed globally to focus a global awareness for patient safety and urge people to show their commitment to making healthcare safer.



- The theme for World Patient Safety Day 2020: Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety.

10. The 56th ITEC day was observed online by the High Commission of India in Dhaka:

- Note: Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC): The ITEC, a flagship programme of the Indian government, was instituted in 1964 as part of India's development assistance programme offering developing countries the benefit of India's development experience.

11. Engineer's Day:

- Engineer's Day celebrated on September 15 as National Engineer's Day to appreciate the contributions of Visvesvaraya.
- M Visvesvaraya was a pioneer in his field, credited for inventing the Block System for dams – the automated doors what shut during an overflow.
- Note: Ayyalasomayajula Lalitha becoming the countries first-ever woman engineer.

12. Hindi Diwas

- Hindi Diwas is being celebrated across the country today on 14th On this day in 1949 the constituent assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the country.
- Today, Hindi is one of the widely spoken languages in the world and the first language of more than 520 million people.

13. World Suicide Prevention Day

- World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is observed on 10 September every year.
- The aim is to reinstate our worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world since 2003.
- The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) to host World Suicide Prevention Day.
- Theme: Working together to prevent suicide

14. International Day to protect education from attack

- The first-ever International Day to protect education from the attack was celebrated on 9th September 2020 with the theme “Protect Education, Save a Generation”. The day has been established by a unanimous decision of UN General Assembly. UNESCO and UNICEF will facilitate the observance of the day every year in collaboration with other partners.

15. International Literacy Day 2020



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- September 8 marks the celebration of International Literacy Day.
- This year Theme: ‘Literacy teaching and learning in the Covid-19 crisis and beyond.’
- This year’s celebration is going to shed light on “the role of educators and changing pedagogies.
- In 1966, the first-ever International Literacy Day was declared.
- This day is celebrated in an effort to combat these problems and to provide a quality education for all.
- Introduced by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

16. International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

- The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on September 7, 2020, chair a webinar on the first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.
- During the webinar, the Union Minister will also review the progress of activities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) which was launched in 2019.

The objective of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies:

- The day aims at raising public awareness at all levels that clean air is important for productivity, environment, and economy.
- It will also demonstrate the close link of air quality to other environmental and developmental challenges such as Global Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change.
- Facilitate solutions that will improve the air quality by sharing actionable knowledge best practices, success stories, and innovations.
- The international day will bring together international actors who have been working on this topic to form a strategic alliance to gain momentum for effective air quality management.

On December 19, 2019, the General Assembly of the UN had adopted a resolution to observe the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on September 7 every year, starting from the year 2020.

17. World Coconut Day

- World Coconut Day is observed on the 2nd of September, every year.
- It is observed by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) to emphasize on the importance of the fruit in poverty reduction.
- The aim for this year's World Coconut Day is to encourage investments and promote the development of the coconut industry in the member countries of APCC.



Five uses of coconut for better health

- Coconut helps in boosting immunity
- Coconut for managing blood sugar
- Coconut oil for hair
- Coconut oil for skin healing
- Coconut as an ingredient in food

Obituaries

1. Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh passed away

- One of the founding members of Bhartiya Janta Party served as Minister of Defence, External Affairs and Finance and also Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission.
- He was elected to the Lok Sabha four times and to Rajya Sabha five times and served as Leader of Opposition in the Upper House.

2. Singing Legend SP Balasubrahmanyam passed Away

- He has recorded over 40,000 songs in 16 Indian languages and holds the Guinness World Record in this regard. National Film Awards for Best Male Playback Singer, NTR National Award for his contributions to Indian cinema, the Indian Film Personality of the Year award. He is a recipient of civilian awards such as Padma Shri (2001) and Padma Bhushan (2011) from the Government of India.

3. Nuclear Scientist Sekhar Basu dies of coronavirus

- Dr Sekhar Basu, Former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and veteran atomic scientist, conferred with the Indian Nuclear Society Award in 2002 and the Padma Shri in 2014.

4. Former Australian Cricketer Dean Jones Dies of Heart Attack

- Jones played 52 Tests for Australia and scored 3631 runs at an average of 46.55 with 11 centuries. He famously hit a double-century against India in the tied Test of 1986.
- Jones also played 164 ODIs and scored 6068 runs at 44.61 with seven centuries. He was part of Australia's 1987 World Cup-winning squad.

5. Noted Marathi actress Ashalata Wabgaonkar passes away

- Noted Marathi actress and Bollywood's veteran character artist Ashalata Wabgaonkar passed away.



- The actress had worked in many Bollywood hits including 'Apne Paraye', 'Zanjeer', 'Namak Halal', 'Sharaabi', 'Shaukeen' and Marathi movies like 'Maherchi Sadi', 'Vahinichi Maya', 'Umbartha', 'Sutradhar', 'Navari Mile Navryala'.

6. MP Roza Deshpande passes away:

- Veteran Communist leader and former Lok Sabha Member Roza Deshpande had taken part in the Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement (the movement for the creation of the State of Maharashtra) and also taken the Goa liberation struggle. And she was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1974 from the Bombay South Central constituency.

7. Arts scholar Dr Kapila Vatsyayan passes away:

- She was a leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and history. She was formerly a member of parliament and also served as Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Education, where she was responsible for the establishment of a large number of national institutions of higher education.

8. Pranab Mukherjee

- Former President of India and Bharat Ratna awardee Pranab Mukherjee passed away at the age of 84 after battling a long illness.
- The medical condition of the former President declined yesterday after he went into septic shock due to lung infection.

Highlights

- Pranab Mukherjee served as 13th President of India from 2012 to 2017.
- Prior to his election as President, Mukherjee was Union Finance Minister from 2009 to 2012. He was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in 2019 by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.
- He was regarded as a seasoned Statesman, a scholar par excellence, Pranab Mukherjee was admired across the political spectrum and by all sections of society.
- He is known to make long-lasting contributions in key economic and strategic ministries.
- Note: As a mark of respect to former President Pranab Mukherjee, seven-day state mourning is being observed throughout India till 6th September. During the period of State Mourning, the National Flag will fly at half-mast on all buildings throughout India, where it is flown regularly and there will be no official entertainment.



9. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

- The High Commission of India gifted books on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the liberation war of Bangladesh.
- The books were gifted to 100 universities and colleges in the country in places like Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet among others.
- The High Commission organized the online book gifting session as part of Mujib Barsho- the birth centenary year of Bangladesh's founder president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is regarded as the founder of modern Bangladesh and one of the most influential and courageous leaders of the 20th century.
- He laid the foundation of India-Bangladesh relations.

Sports

1. Gurpreet, Sanju declared winners of AIFF Player of the Year Awards (2019-20)

- Indian football team goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu is the winner in Men's Footballer. Indian football team midfielder Sanju is the winner in Women's Footballer.
- Note: The All India Football Federation is the governing body of association football in India. Formed in 1937, the federation was one of the founding members of the Asian Football confederation, the overseer of football in Asia. The AIFF sanctions and runs all competitive football tournaments and leagues at a national level, namely the Indian Super League, I-League and Super Cup.

2. Foundation Stone of 'Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior'to be Laid on 26 September 2020

- The foundation stone of 'Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh' will be laid at a function organized by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment through video conferencing on 26 September 2020.
- At present no training facilities are available in the country for sports person with disabilities. The proposed Centre will make available the specialized training facilities for Persons with Disabilities.

3. 2020 Italian Open (Tennis)

- Winners List:

Category	Name of the Sportsperson
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Men's Single	Novak Djokovic
Women's Single	Simona Halep
Men's Double	Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos
Women's Double	Hsieh Su-Wei and Barbora Strýcová

- Note: Italian Open is a tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts at the Foro Italico in Rome, Italy.

4. Sports Ministry identified sports facilities in eight states to be upgraded to Khelo India State Centre of Excellence:

- 8 states that have been approved for setting up of KISCES are Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Telangana, Manipur, Karnataka, Kerala and Odisha.
- It aims to upgrade with an effort to identify and groom Olympic level talent.

5. Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister lay foundation stones for various sports facilities in Leh:

- Their existing centres will be upgraded into Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE).

The six centres include:

- Assam – State Sports Academy, Sarjusajai Sports Complex, Guwahati
- Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu - New Sports Complex, Silvassa
- Maharashtra - Sree Shiv Chhatrapati Shivaji Sports Complex, Balewadi, Pune
- Madhya Pradesh - MP Academy, Bhopal
- Meghalaya - JNS Complex Shillong
- Sikkim - Paljor Stadium, Gangtok
- US Open Tennis Tournament 2020:

6. Japan's Naomi Osaka wins US Open title

- Japan's Naomi Osaka defeated Victoria Azarenka of Belarus to clinch the Women's Singles title in the 2020 US Open Tennis tournament.
- 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.

7. Dominic Thiem wins US Open Men's Tennis

- Austria's Dominic Thiem defeated Alexander Zverev to win the men's singles title.



8. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister lays foundation stone online of Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex:

- Paying tributes to the Late Finance Minister of India, Arun Jaitley, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh lays foundation stone of a multipurpose sports complex at Hiranagar, Jammu.

9. World online Chess tournament

India's GM P. Iniyar won the 48th annual world open chess tournament (online) recently.

- Usually held in Philadelphia, the USA, the tournament was conducted online following classical time control.
- Coming after his win over World no. 2 Fabiano Caruana [on Aug. 4] in online blitz, this victory will be a big boost for the 17-year-old from Erode.
- The event was held with three rounds each day for three days. A total of 122 participants from 16 countries — India, USA, UK, Russia, Spain, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Poland, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Israel, Bangladesh, Mexico, Peru and Cuba — participated.

10. Olympic Flame

- The Olympic flame is on display in Tokyo, near the new Japan Olympic Museum, and will be on display for at least the next two months.
- The flame arrived in Japan from Greece in March and has been largely hidden away in Tokyo since the Olympics were postponed until next year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Yoshiro Mori, the president of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee, and Yasuhiro Yamashita, the president of the Japanese Olympic Committee unveiled the flame.



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