

"2020 Current Affairs-ब्रह्मास्त्र" UPPCS Prelims English

UP Special Current Affairs

September 2020

1. Uttar Pradesh government launched U-RISE Portal

- Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has launched ‘U-Rise’ (Unified Re-imagined Innovation For Student Empowerment) portal.
- It will guide students in various aspects like learning, career counselling, and getting employment in the state.
- This portal has been developed by **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University**.
- The portal was launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on September 24, 2020.
- The programme will connect students with practical and technical knowledge.
- It is estimated that around 20 lakh students and other technical (indulged in vocational and technical education) experts will get benefit from this portal.
- With the help of this portal, the students can access e-content, e-library, and online courses even in the remote areas of the state.
- This portal is also helpful for students like it provides information on online exams, digital assessment, digital content, internship, digital examination papers, webinars, e-library, recorded video content as well as employment.

2. Uttar Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy

- This policy is launched to bring in Rs 40,000 crores of investment in five years.
- It will also ensure development in backward regions of Bundelkhand and Purvanchal.
- This policy aims to make Uttar Pradesh a global electronics hub.

Key Features

- Through this policy, the state government will promote MSME units in electronics manufacturing.
- This is to be achieved through rental facilities on the “**Plug and Play**” model.

- The Uttar Pradesh government will establish three Electronics Manufacturing Clusters.
 - These clusters will focus on the manufacturing of medical equipments, consumer durables, mobile phones, defence equipments and IT hardware etc.
- This policy also envisages to create world class infrastructure through Centres of Excellence, innovation and entrepreneurship in Electronic System Design and Manufacturing.
- The investors will be eligible for capital subsidy of 15%. For the investments that are more than Rs 1,000 crores, additional capital subsidy of 10% is to be provided.

3. Stegodon Fossil discovered from Saharanpur district

- It is estimated that the fossil can be 5 to 8 million years old.
- The fossil was embedded in **sedimentary rock-Sandstone**.
- The Stegodon Fossil discovered nine well-developed ridges on its surface.
- The enamel of the molar is very thick while the length of the molar is approx 24 centimeters.
- It is noted that the nature of the sandstone reflects the characteristics of the middle Siwalik Range as the lithology found embedded on the fossil is medium grained.

4. Inauguration of organic food processing unit in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh

- Recently, an Organic Food Processing Unit has been established in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh.
- This unit will benefit around 5000 farmers in the region.
- It is noteworthy that Uttar Pradesh has designated Barabanki as Food Processing Centre under its Ek Janpad, Ek Utpad scheme.
- The state of Uttar Pradesh has the potential in the food processing sector and its diverse basket of agricultural raw material base and agro-climate attributes provide

the required platform for the development

of the food processing industry.

August 2020

- ✓ India's home-grown e-commerce marketplace, Flipkart has signed an MoU with One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme of Uttar Pradesh government.
- Note: The MoU will bring the artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme into the scope of the "Flipkart Samarth" initiative. This will provide artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme a momentum to expand their business online as they face social and economic challenges.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) government has signed a 'plan of cooperation' with Israel to resolve the water crisis in the Bundelkhand region of U.P.
- Note: The partnership between U.P. and Israel seeks to address the water crisis in drought-hit regions of Bundelkhand. It will support regional farmers with the latest farming technologies such as drip irrigation, meant for water-deficient regions like Bundelkhand.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government has launched 'Major Dhyam Chand Vijaypath Yojana' scheme under which 19 International Players will get road connectivity to their homes.
- Note: The initial list includes 19 International Players from the state, and later on more players are expected to be added to the list. The list includes Indian Cricketers Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Piyush Chawla and Mohammad Kaif
- ✓ Jewar Airport, Uttar Pradesh has been included in the world's 100 strategic global infrastructure projects for the year 2020.
- Note: The first phase of Jewar Airport, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been included in the world's 100 strategic global infrastructure projects for the year 2020.
- ✓ UP (India) and Yugoslavia (Europe) have been chosen in the field of aviation category all over the world.
- The success story of Jewar Airport will be presented by the UP government in two sessions at the 13th Global Infrastructure Leadership Forum, to be held in New York City, US (United States) on March 25 to 27, 2020.

July 2020

- ✓ UP government has launched 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020' a mega plantation programme.
- Note: CM Yogi Adityanath planted 3 saplings at the Kukrail Reserve Forest's Harishankari Vatika in Lucknow to inaugurate the Mission Vriksharopan-2020.
- ✓ Startup Policy 2020 was approved by Uttar Pradesh.
- Note: Start policy is valid for 5 years which aims to provide generate self - employment to around 1.5 lakh people and direct employment to more than 50,000 people. Uttar Pradesh was nominated as the "Inspiring Leader" in the national startup ranking in 2018.
- ✓ PM Modi to launch 'high throughput COVID-19 testing' facilities in Kolkata, Mumbai, Noida.
- "These three high-throughput testing facilities have been set up strategically at ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, Noida; ICMR-National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai; and ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric

Diseases, Kolkata, and will be able to test over 10,000 samples in a day,"

- ✓ Power Finance Corporation, a PSU, has signed an agreement for Training, Research, and Entrepreneurship Development in Smart Grid Technology.
- Power Finance Corporation, PFC, a PSU under Ministry of Power has signed an agreement with Indian Institute of Technology- Kanpur for Training,

Research, and Entrepreneurship Development in Smart Grid Technology.

- Under the agreement, PFC will provide financial assistance of worth two crores thirty-eight lakhs and ninety-seven thousand rupees to IIT-Kanpur.
- The aim of the agreement is to provide support to IIT-Kanpur in developing infrastructure for research and development on smart grid technology

June 2020

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government has launched “NavinRojgar Chhatri Yojana” for all-round development of the Scheduled Castes.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) becomes the first state in the country to prepare one lakh beds for COVID-19 patients.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) government has launched ‘Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana’ aims to educate child labourers in the U.P. state.
- Note: Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana has launched, on the occasion of the International Child Labour Prohibition Day.
- This Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana provides **financial assistance** to the selected students of **Rs 1000** per month to boys, **Rs 1200 per month** to girls & if these children pass 8th, 9th and 10th they will get **Rs 6000 per annum** along with a monthly incentive.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) has become the top state in India to provide employment to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA).
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) government has decided to adopt the scheme of Flatted Factory Model, which means the non-polluting industries can operate in multistoried buildings.

- ✓ Cabinet approves declaration of Kushinagar Airport as an International Airport in Uttar Pradesh
- Kushinagar Airport is located in the locality of several Buddhist Cultural Sites like Kapilvastu, Sravasti, Lumbini (Kushinagar itself is a Buddhist cultural site) and declaration as an “International Airport” will offer improved connectivity, a wider choice of competitive costs to the air-travellers.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh cabinet approves draft Cow-Slaughter Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.
- The Cow-Slaughter Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 are aimed to prevent crimes and protect the cow and related to cow slaughter. The proposed law has also inserted a penal provision of Imprisonment of up to 7 years for physical damage to the cow, and fine up to Rs 3 lakh in cases related to cow slaughter.
- Section 5 of the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1955 (as amended) suggests punishment for transportation of bovine animals. It also attracts punishment if there is a danger to their lives through physical damage or mutilation. If someone puts the life of a cow in danger by not providing food and water with the intention of endangering their life, rigorous imprisonment may be awarded for at least 1 year, which may extend to 7 years.

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- ✓ IIT Kanpur Develops Virtual Classroom Aid, 'Mobile Masterjee'
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur has made a virtual classroom aid, 'Mobile Masterjee'. It is a classroom-to-home teaching setup, which enables students to record teachers' lectures/instructions while using smartphones. It is developed by the Imagineering Lab of IIT Kanpur.
- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur make a 'SHUDH', UV Sanitizing Device to make Surroundings COVID free
- SHUDH is operated from a smartphone, Handy UV Disinfection Helper. It helps to remove Coronavirus especially the highly prone places such as hospitals, hotels, malls, offices and schools.

May 2020

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government has launched the AyushKavach app that will provide health-related tips and information about ayurvedic medicines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The mobile app "AyushKavach" was developed by the Ayush Department of Uttar Pradesh in view of the COVID-19 health crisis.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh govt has launched 'PravasiRaahat Mitra' to provide support to the migrant workers.
- Note: The mobile application is developed by the state revenue department in collaboration with the United Nation Development Program (UNDP).
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government announced to develop 800 km herbal road along with the state and national highways throughout the state.
- Note: These herbal roads will have herbal and medicinal trees on both sides of the road.
- ✓ The trees on the herbal roads include Peepal, Neem, Sehjan along with herbal trees like Brahmi, Ashvagandha and Jatropha.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (UP) Govt launches Annapurna, Supply Mitra portals for citizens' food needs.
- The Annapurna Portal will aim to help people to increase their knowledge of food products which they get. Apart from that, Supply Mitra portal will provide free home delivery of etables.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government brings ordinance to suspend most labour laws for 3 years.
- The state government is aimed at increasing industrial investment and increase the employment of migrant workers that have come back to their native villages in the U.P.
- The U.P. government has accordingly passed an ordinance to this effect that will apply to all factories and manufacturing facilities as well as fresh investments coming into the state.
- This ordinance will not apply to certain laws like the Bonded Labour Act, Building and other Construction Workers Act, Section 5 of Payment of Wages Act and Workmen Compensation Act. Labour laws related to children and women will also not be affected.
- The main aim of the ordinance is to encourage industries to freely employ migrant workers that have come back to U.P.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath on Wednesday launched the 'UP Start-up Fund' to be managed by the Small

Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

- The fund has been set up under the UP Information Technology and Start-up Policy 2017.
- Amid the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the UP government and SIDBI, the CM handed over a cheque of the initial contribution of Rs 15 crore towards the Fund.

- “Due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the start-up culture is picking up in India. The PM envisions the youth as job creators,” he said on the occasion. Adityanath further noted that UP had unlimited start-up potential and offered huge opportunities in different sectors, including agriculture, health, education, IT, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) etc, to create large scale job opportunities.

April 2020

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) becomes the first state in India to initiate Pool Testing of COVID-19.
- Note: ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) has given its approval for pool testing to Uttar Pradesh (UP), making latter the first state to do so.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh becomes the first state to geotag its community kitchens and community shelters.
- The state government has also tied up with Google to ‘Geo-map’ the locations of all these establishments on the Google Maps app for ease of beneficiaries
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) becomes the 1st state in India with a software-based in-house facility of virtual courts.
- The Allahabad High Court (U.P.) started new initiatives to facilitate court proceedings through video conferencing and recently software has been installed in the high court and district courts of the state
- ✓ For the First time in India Railways uses New Track Construction machine for track construction:
- The Khurja-Dadri section is the connecting link between the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors on which freight trains run at a speed of 100 kmph ensuring fast logistics movement.

- Khurja-Dadri section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor, which is among the first tracks in India where the New Track Construction (NTC) machine is being used.
- The machine helps in bringing substantial ease and efficiency in track construction with integrated logistic arrangements for mechanized handling, movement and laying of heavy track components.
- ✓ MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs) has approved the renaming of Manduadih railway station in Uttar Pradesh as 'Banaras'.
- While Kashi is the ancient name of the city, Varanasi is the amalgamation of *Varuna* and *Asi*, name of the two rivers in the region. Banaras, on the other hand, means *bana rahe ras*, which actually reflects the original culture of the city as people here know how to enjoy and live their lives to the fullest.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh(U.P.) Government Launches 'Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana' To Build Roads To 19 International Players Houses
- Under this Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana scheme 19, international players from the state will get road connectivity to their houses. Indian pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, former pacer Praveen Kumar, Piyush Chawla and Mohammad Kaif are

Important News: Other States
August 2020

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched a public awareness campaign “**Ek Mask-AnekZindagi**” from August 1-15.
- ✓ **Maharashtra** government approved **MagNet project** worth Around Rs 1,000 crore to Help Farmers.
Note: This will boost the fruit and vegetable production and will improve processing and minimise the losses in the sector of perishables.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state government has signed an MoU with Hindustan Unilever Ltd, P&G and ITC to Support Economic Empowerment of Women.
- ✓ Union territories **Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu** has launched **E-Gyan Mitra** mobile application for online education.
Note: Through the app, the students from primary till the higher secondary can take online classes along with attempting. The app will have lectures and quizzes posted by teachers along with a system of monitoring in which teachers can monitor students’ progress
- ✓ ‘**Thenzawl Golf Resort**’ project has been inaugurated in **Mizoram**.
Note: The project will develop Golf Tourism attracting both national and international tourist in the country. It will have an international standard of 18 holes Golf Course with a total cost of Rs 92.25 crore. Designed by: Canadian based Golf Course Architect Firm Graham Cooke & Associates and 30 Eco Log Huts.
- ✓ ‘**E-Raksha Bandhan**’ awareness programme launched by Andhra Pradesh is related to **Cybercrime**.
Note: It is a month-long online campaign that will create awareness on Cyber crimes across the State with slogan ‘Let us make August a month of e-freedom and e-safety.’
- ✓ **Haryana** state government has launched “**ParivarPehchan Patra**” to enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes.
Note: PPP each family will be considered as a single unit and will be allotted a 8 digit unique identification number. The 8-digit number will enable seamless delivery of state government services.
- ✓ **Uttarakhand** state is set develop **India’s first Snow Leopard Conservation centre**.
Note: The main aim of the centre is to conserve and restore Himalayan ecosystems. It also aims to conserve elusive snow leopards and other endangered Himalayan species. A number of snow leopards has been spotted in the districts of Pithoragarh and Uttarkashi.
- ✓ **Haryana** state government has launched “**Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana**” to provide free sanitary napkins to girls and women of below poverty line (BPL) families.
- ✓ **Haryana** state government has launched “**Mukhya Mantri DoodhUphar Yojana**” to provide fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder to women and children.
- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** government has launched “**Shaheed Mahendra Karma TendupattaSangrahakSamajik Suraksha Yojana**” for tendu leaves collectors.
Note: Used for making bidis (leaf-wrapped cigarettes), these are collected by forest dwellers and from them it is purchased by the state government. Mahendra Karma was popularly known as Bastar tiger for his tough stand against Naxals. He was among 29 people, including senior Congress leaders, who were killed in a Naxal attack in Jhiram valley of Bastar district on May 25, 2013.
- ✓ **Maharashtra** became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom.
- ✓ The Ministry of Railways has inaugurated a dedicated museum for railways in **Hubballi, Karnataka**.
Note: This is the first of its kind museum in Northern Karnataka and second in South Western Railways after the historic railway museum at Mysore, Karnataka. The main objective of the museum is to preserve and portray the glorious heritage of various branches of Railways and displays the gradual

evolution of advanced systems in all spheres of Railway.

- ✓ **Gujarat** state government has launched **Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana**.

Note: The yojana has been announced for the current Kharif season and all farmers of the state will be covered under this scheme. Farmers would not have to pay any premium or registration process for the scheme.

- ✓ **Assam** state government has started “**Orunodoi Scheme**” for women’s empowerment.

Note: Under the “Orunodoi” scheme, Rs 830 per month aid would mean an additional annual income of Rs 10,000 to the poor households to meet their medical, nutritional, and academic needs besides to meet the additional spending during various festivals.”.

- ✓ The Madhya Pradesh state government has announced to name **Gwalior-Chambal Expressway** after **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

Note: The Gwalior Chambal Expressway is a 6 lane expressway connecting Madhya Pradesh with Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, through the ravines of Chambal region. The expressway will go parallel to the Chambal River via Shivpuri, Bhind, Morena to Kota (Rajasthan).

- ✓ **Nagaland** state government has launched “**YellowChain**” centralized e-commerce platform.

Note: Yellow Chain will act as an integrated platform for the people of the state, where any Seller/Service Provider/Individual/Group can register themselves and upload their products, trades, skills, services etc. to enable the citizens/buyers to have access to their Service or Product.

- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched a student centric scheme named as “**PadhaiTuhar Para**”.

Note: The scheme will enable the school students to study with the help of community in their localities and villages, in view of the suspension of classes due to coronavirus outbreak.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** state top in implementing **PM SVANidhi Scheme**.

Note: Madhya Pradesh is the leading state in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma-Nirbhar Scheme (PM SVANidhi). The state has sanctioned interest

free loans of Rs 10000 to more than 58000 street vendors, so far. Identity cards are distributed to the registered vendors.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the ‘**Ek Sankalp – Bujurgoke naam**’ campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

Note: This unique campaign is proving to be a boon for the **Elderly People** living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the ‘**Ek Sankalp – Bujurgoke naam**’ campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

Note: In this campaign, the police are taking care of the elderly people from the food to their health. Renowned social activist Anna Hazare has also praised this initiative of Chhatrapur Police.

- ✓ **Delhi** state government has launched the **Nirman Mazdoor Registration Abhiyan** for construction workers from August 24 to September 11.

Note: Special camps would be set up for construction workers to register themselves and take advantage of nearly 18 different assistance schemes. Delhi government will set up camps at 70 schools—one each in all the 70 assembly constituencies of Delhi—to help workers who are not tech-savvy.

- ✓ **Odisha** government is working on a mobile-based application to enable farmers to upload picture of grievances such as water availability in canals and their redressal in a fixed timeframe.

- ✓ **Kerala** is to host the first-ever **State Dragonfly Festival 2020**.

Note: The festival has been christened as Thumbimahotsavam 2020. ‘Pantalu’ is the official mascot of the festival.

- ✓ The longest river ropeway of India has been inaugurated in **Assam**.

Note: The ropeway will be operated from Kachari Ghat in Guwahati to Dol Govinda temple in North Guwahati. The new ropeway service empowered with state-of-the-art technology will decrease the travel time between Guwahati and North Guwahati.

- ✓ **Odisha** has launched a new scheme for promoting intensive aquaculture through **Biofloc technology in fisheries**.

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- ✓ **Kerala** state will establish the **first international women's trade centre (IWTC)** of India.

Note: The IWTC seeks to accelerate the women entrepreneurship and secure gender

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched "HamaraGhar-Hamara Vidyalaya" campaign to take care of academic regularity of the students during the Lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: The scheme will start on 6th July 2020. Under the scheme, the school bells are going to be heard within the student's house and the teachers will begin the class of the students after the bell. The scheme provides a school-like environment for the children taught at their home through online classes.

- ✓ **Karnataka** government has launched a portal, 'Skill Connect Forum' to connect job seekers and employers on a common platform.
- ✓ The UK India Business Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) with **Maharashtra** for Sustainable Business Relation.

Note: MIDC is the premier industrial infrastructure development agency of the Government of Maharashtra. This business framework between the UKIBC and Government of Maharashtra will help the State to proactively better its business environment and strengthen its collaboration with British business.

- ✓ **Delhi** State government has launched an e-learning portal — LEAD for schoolchildren.

Note: The portals will give students access to textbooks, study material and course content as per the syllabus of the CBSE, NCERT and Delhi government's curriculum online. It will include digital QR coded textbooks, explanatory videos, practice questions and evaluation.

- ✓ World's largest, 10,000 bed Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH) was inaugurated in **Delhi**.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched a social media campaign, 'IntzaarAap Ka' to attract tourists in the state.
- ✓ **Odisha** state government has launched 'Balaram Yojana' to provide crop loans to landless farmers.

parity. It will also offer a safe place away from home to women to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.

July 2020

Note: Under the new scheme, the landless cultivators will get loans through joint liability groups (JLGs).

- ✓ **Haryana** government has decided to bring an ordinance under which 75 percent of the jobs with a salary of less than Rs 50,000 per month will be reserved for the locals of the state..
- ✓ 'Self Scan' mobile application has been launched by **West Bengal** government as an alternative for the much popular Chinese document scanning application- Cam Scanner.
- ✓ **Maharashtra** government has launched 'Maha Jobs' portal that will bridge the gap between the Industrial Units/Employers and the Workers.
- ✓ **Karnataka** government has launched 'Nekar Samman Yojane' for the weaver's community in the state.
- ✓ **Assam's** DehingPatkai Wildlife Sanctuary is being upgraded to a National Park is located in which state of India.

Note: It is located within the larger DehingPatkai Elephant Reserve, spreading across the coal- and oil-rich districts of Upper Assam (Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar). After upgradation, DehingPatkai will be the 6th national park in Assam. The other five are Kaziranga, Nameri, Manas, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

- ✓ **Odisha** becomes the first state in India to use Space Technology & Artificial Intelligence for safeguarding government lands.

Note: The Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System is a geo-tagged repository that would monitor and detect all government lands in Bhubaneswar. This will be done by using high-resolution satellite imagery.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched 'Roko -Toko' campaign for those who do not wear masks.
- Note:** In Madhya Pradesh, the government will now run a Roko -Toko means stop and campaign for those who do not wear masks.
- ✓ India's first e-Lok Adalat to ensure the administration of justice and to solve the financial crisis of the parties and lawyers amid

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COVID-19 pandemic was organized in **Chhattisgarh**.

- ✓ **Jharkhand** government has signed an MoU with HDFC Bank to provide digital payment solutions to the state's transport department.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh state** has topped among the other states in the implementation of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).
Note: The scheme is presently benefiting the beneficiaries of 378 urban bodies of the state. Till now 8,70,330 street vendors have registered under the scheme, out of which 1,76,000 street vendors have been issued the identity cards and vending certificates.
- ✓ **Telangana** Govt. has launched 'CybHER', a month-long virtual awareness campaign to make cyberspace safe for women and children.
- ✓ Poba Reserve Forest would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary in **Assam**.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** government has announced Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020, which permits the sale of power to the other states of India.
- ✓ **Delhi** state government has approved 'Mukhya Mantri GharGhar Ration Yojana', which will be launched in six to seven months.
Note: It will be linked to Centre's 'one nation, one ration card' scheme. The scheme will help the beneficiaries get ration delivered at home.
- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched "GodhanNyayYojna" for cattle ranchers.

Note: Under the 'GodhanNyay Yojana' Chhattisgarh government will purchase cow dung at the rate of Rs 2 per kg.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the ₹3,054-crore "Water Supply Project" in North Eastern state **Manipur**.
Note: The project outlay is Rs 3054.58 crore, with a loan component funded by the New Development Bank.
- ✓ **Mizoram** becomes the first state in the country to implement the Green-Agriculture (Green-Ag) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- ✓ The **UK India Business Council (UKIBC)** signed a **memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with which state government to speed up the business and industrial development in **Gujarat**.
- ✓ **Haryana** government has employed the aerial seeding technique to improve green cover in the Aravalli area of the state.
- ✓ **Kerala** government has announced a new Entrepreneurship Development Programme to address the issues of shortage of working capital.
Note: The programme will be implemented through the Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC), which will provide loans up to 90 percent of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs 50 lakh at 10 percent interest. The government will give 3% interest as subsidy thereby; the net interest rate will be 7%.

June 2020

- ✓ **Kerala** becomes the first state to declare the **internet as a fundamental right of the citizen**.
- ✓ **Rajasthan** state occupied the first rank in the **COVID 19 Management Index analyzed** for 10 states by the Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI.
- ✓ **Jammu & Kashmir** has launched a **salary tracker mobile app 'MeraVetan'** for government employees.
 - **Note:** With the launch of **MeraVetan App (V-1)**, the employees especially posted in remote & rural areas who don't have access to the DDO will easily access their salary and other details anytime.
- This application developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC) – J&K State Centre** on the Android Platform to provide end to end computerization of **JK Payment System (JKPaySys) application**.
- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** has launched a **special campaign "Spandan"** to check mental stress and depression among its police personnel.
- ✓ **Gujarat Govt.** occupied top position in the **'Food Safety Index 2019-20 released by the Food Safety and Standards**

Authority of India (FSSAI) among the larger state.

- **Note:** Gujarat is followed by **Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra**. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released the results of the second 'State Food Safety Index' to celebrate the World Food Safety Day during a webinar.
- ✓ The **colour of water in Lonar lake** has changed to pink due to salinity and presence of algae in the water body. The lake is located in **Maharashtra**.
 - **Note:** The lake was formed after a meteorite hit the Earth some 50,000 years ago. Located around 500 km from Mumbai, the Lonar lake is in Buldhana district of Maharashtra.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** government has launched 'Panchvati Yojana' for the senior citizens of rural areas of the state.
 - **Note:** Under the yojana parks & gardens will be established in every development block with mandatory facilities under Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) 2005, Scheme of Rural Development Department.
- ✓ **Maharashtra government** has decided to rename the state's Environment Ministry as 'Environment and Climate Change Ministry'.
 - Maharashtra is one among a few states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana in India which have a dedicated department to address climate change.
- ✓ Financial assistance **Rs 10,000** will be provided tailors, barbers and dhobis under '**JaganannaChedodu**' scheme launched by Andhra Pradesh state government.
- ✓ **Punjab** government has launched 'GharGharNigrani' app for house-to-house surveillance to contain the spread of COVID-19.
 - With the help of the application, the Punjab Government is to cover all the persons that are below the age of 30 years. The survey will cover persons that have influenza like illness.
- ✓ **Odisha** has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students.
 - **Note:** This feat has been achieved due to 'Mission Suvidya' project which was launched by ST&SC Welfare Department to provide all the tribal hostels of the state uniform standards of infrastructure, amenities and human resources earlier.
- ✓ **Kerala** governments implemented 'Food forest' project in tribal belts of the state.
 - **Note:** As part of the '**Tribal Comprehensive Development Programme in Kerala the "food forest" project**' is being implemented in cooperation with the **MahilaKissanSashaktheekaranPariyojana** of the Central Government.
 - The project aims to provide food security to 192 tribal villages in Attapadi.
- ✓ **West Bengal** government has launched Karmo Bhumi, a job portal to help IT professionals who have lost their jobs after the outbreak of COVID-19 and returned to the state.
- ✓ **Tripura** state government has decided to start 'EktuKhelo, EktuPadho' –meaning 'Play Little, Study Little' scheme.
 - **Note:** The scheme will be implemented via SMS or WhatsApp. For students, those who have access to smartphones of their parents will be able to access the scheme through WhatsApp.
- ✓ **Rajasthan** state government is going to launch Indira Rasoil Yojana for the poor.
 - **Note:** Under this scheme, pure and nutritious food on concessional rates is going to be provided to the needy twice each day.
 - The State government will spend ₹100 crores every year on the scheme.

- ✓ **Jharkhand** state government is to launch a job guarantee scheme to provide 100-day work guarantee to the unskilled workers living in the urban areas of the state.
 - **Note:** The scheme aimed to enhance the livelihood security for the urban poor will be named Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK (Shahri Rozgar Manjuri For Kamgar).
 - Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS) is the 100-day employment guarantee scheme of the Kerala Government for urban poor.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** state's Panchayati Raj Department won the 1st prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020.
- ✓ **Tripura** state government has launched MukhyamantriMatru Pushti Uphaar scheme to provide nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women.
 - **Note:** The scheme is a part of the state's efforts to fight malnutrition and maternal mortality.
- ✓ World's Largest Plasma Therapy Trial under Project 'Platina' was launched in **Maharashtra** state.
- ✓ The forest department of **Uttarakhand** state has developed India's first lichen park.
 - **Note:** Lichens are found in the Himalayas up to 5000 metres are important species as they are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels.
 - Uttarakhand has more than 600 species of lichens followed by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir with 503 and 386 species respectively.

May 2020

- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** topped in providing employment under the MGNREGS
 - **Note:** Chhattisgarh is the **first state** to provide employment to over 18 (18.51) lakh unskilled labourers, followed by **Rajasthan (2nd)** to 10.79 lakh workers & **Uttar Pradesh (3rd)** to around 9.06 lakh workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- ✓ **Manipur's Chak-Hao**, the black rice gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ **Terracotta work of Gorakhpur (UP)** has been granted with the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- ✓ **Kovilpattikadalaimittai of Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu)** has been granted with the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- ✓ **Saffron of Kashmir region** has been granted with the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag-- Kashmir Saffron**.
- ✓ **Maharashtra** government has announced a free and cashless health insurance scheme to all its citizens.
 - **Note:** Under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, people in the state can avail of the benefits of free and cashless health insurance.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state government has launched a mobile application 'CMAPP (Comprehensive Monitoring of Agriculture, Price, and Procurement)' to monitor the agriculture needs of the farmers in the state.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** government announced to launch the "**Nigah**" Scheme to properly sensitize and educate family members of people coming from other states so that social distancing is effectively maintained.
 - **Note:** Under the scheme, a **team of ASHA workers**, health workers, and Anganwadi workers would visit the family members of persons arriving from other states.
- ✓ **West Bengal** government has launched "Exit App" for stranded people of other states.
 - **Note:** "Exit App" will enable these people who are willing to go back to their native states, by applying online on this app.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** government has decided to start the "**Mukhya Mantri ShahariRojgar Guarantee Yojna**".
 - **Note:** In this Yojana, **120 days** assured employment will be provided to people living in urban areas. It is being launched to revive

the coronavirus-hit economy of the state.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has become the 1st state in the country to provide **mid-day meal ration**.
 - **Note:** Distribution of the **mid-day Meal ration with the help of Anganwadi workers**, Panchayat representatives and local teachers was taken in sending ration to the students at their home after the school closing in April.
- ✓ **Tripura** government has launched '**Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana**'.
 - The Scheme **aims to provide grants for the purchase of smartphones** to the students of final year to empower them **digitally** & help them leverage the advantages of an interconnected world.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched country's **first ever 'FIR AapkeDwar Yojana'** to lodge FIR.
 - **Note:** Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to implement such an innovative scheme under which now people would not be required to visit police station to lodge a FIR.
- ✓ **Tamil Nadu** government has constituted a **24-member high-level committee** headed by **C Rangarajan** to assess the **immediate and medium-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** on various sectors of the State's economy.
- ✓ **Uttarakhand** government has launched "**HOPE**" (**Helping Out People Everywhere**) portal to help unemployed youth to get jobs opportunities.
- ✓ **West Bengal** government has launched '**MatirSmristi**' scheme to utilise **50,000 acres of barren land** in 6 districts.
 - **Note:** This scheme helps to generate income activities in horticulture and pisciculture involving the locals.
- ✓ **Rajasthan** government has **levied 2% Krishak Kalyan fees** on agricultural produce brought or bought or sold in mandis.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched **Charan Paduka campaign**, first of its kind initiative for **migrant labourers** passing through the state.
- ✓ **Karnataka** state has launched its **first cyber security-specific accelerator programme 'H.A.C.K'** for start-ups recently.
 - It is housed at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- ✓ **Jammu & Kashmir (UTs)**, the Department of Information and Public Relations has started an initiative "**SUKOON – COVID-19 Beat the Stress**" program.
- ✓ "**Mee Annapurna**" initiative has been launched by an IRDA licensed insurance intermediary Integrated Risk Insurance Brokers Limited (IRIBL) in **Maharashtra**.
 - This initiative is based on three commandments namely: **Expertise, Engagement and Entitlement**.
- ✓ **Chhattisgarh** government has launched "**Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana**" on the occasion of death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** government has set up a '**Start-up Fund**' under its **Information Technology and Start-up Policy 2017**.
 - **Note:** An MoU has been signed between the Uttar Pradesh government and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the fund will be managed by SIDBI.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has started **Didi Vehicle Service** for rural women for the safe delivery and other emergency services, under the women **Rural Livelihood Mission**.
 - **Note:** The mission has been started in tribal-dominated Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh (MP).
- ✓ **Uttarakhand** become the first state to release report on conservation of endemic, threatened floras.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched '**Rozgar Setu Yojana**' for skilled migrant workers who returned to the state.
 - **Note:** The government of Madhya Pradesh launched a portal '**MP Rozgar Setu Portal**' for the unemployed migrants to register and find jobs in the field related to their skills.

- ✓ **Uttarakhand** state government has launched “MukhyamantriSwarozgar Yojana” to retain the migrants who have returned to the state during the lockdown.
 - **Note:** The scheme aims at providing self-employment

opportunities to youth and a boost to reverse migration, specifically entrepreneurs returning to Uttarakhand.

April 2020

- ✓ **Tamil Nadu** state topped in the all-India level for micro-irrigation (MI), under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**.
 - **Note:** Tamil Nadu topped with coverage of 2,06,853.25 ha for the year financial year 2019-20.
 - The state is followed by **Karnataka and Gujarat with 1,41,103.56 Ha and 1,08,322.00 Ha** of coverage respectively.
- ✓ A ‘**Modi Kitchen**’ has been set up in **Tamil Nadu**.
- ✓ **Karnataka** state government has launched a mobile application ‘**Corona Watch**’.
 - **Note:** The mobile application aims to track the movement history of persons tested positive, before their detection in order to take precautions and to contain the coronavirus outbreak.
 - The app will also provide the date and time of visit to spots by the patients. ‘**Corona Watch**’ app also comprises a list of government designated first response hospitals for COVID-19 where citizen with symptoms can visit.
- ✓ **Odisha** state govt has celebrated its **formation day on April 1, 2020**.
 - **Note:** **Utkal Divas (Odisha Day)** is celebrated every year on **1st April all over Odisha**.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state government has started distributing pensions at the doorstep to its 58,44,240 beneficiaries.
 - **Note:** They are using its **2.5 lakh volunteer** eliminating the need for pensioners to step out of their homes.
 - The aim is to **encourage beneficiaries to stay at home and avoid stepping out**.

- ✓ The **Odisha government** has launched an online cultural competition “**Mo Prativa**” in collaboration with the **UNICEF**.
- ✓ **Telangana** state has been installed ‘**V Safe Tunnel**’ to sanitize people.
 - The ‘**V Safe Tunnel**’ aims to minimize the local transmission of Coronavirus in the state by providing maximum protection to people passing through the tunnel in around 20 seconds.
- ✓ As per the report published by **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** for the year ended March 31, 2018 **Rajasthan** state commits highest crime related to the environment in the country.
- ✓ **Kerala** becomes the first state to commence clinical trial plasma therapy treatment.
- ✓ **UT Delhi** has announced a **5T plan** which includes- **Testing, Tracing, Treatment, Teamwork** and **Tracking and monitoring** to control the spread of COVID-19 in the state.
- ✓ **Delhi** government has launched “**Operation SHIELD**” in identified Containment Areas of the state to control the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - **Note:** It deals with sealing, home quarantine, isolation & tracking, essential supply of commodities, local sanitisation and door-to-door health checkups.
 - S– Sealing of the immediate area/surroundings after geographical marking.
 - H– Home quarantine of all the people living in the area.
 - I– Isolation and tracing of people who have been first and second contacts.
 - E– Essential supply of commodities is ensured.

- L– Local sanitization of the area by authorities.
- D– Door-to-door health checks of everyone living in the area.
- ✓ **Manipur** state Government has launched a new initiative “**Food Bank**” based on the theme ‘**Help End Hunger Today**’.
- ✓ **Arunachal Pradesh** state government has launched an app called “**COVIDCARE**”.
 - **Note:** The newly developed “**COVIDCARE**” app is an effort of the Arunachal Pradesh government to combat COVID-19.
 - The “**COVIDCARE**” app has been launched for the people who are quarantined, asymptomatic or COVID-19 patients, facilitating them various facilities through the app.
- ✓ **Goa** becomes the first state to integrate allopathy and Ayurveda to treat COVID-19 patients.
- ✓ **Rajasthan** becomes the first state in the country to carry out Rapid Testing for Covid 19.
 - **Note:** State’s urban primary health centre of TopkhanaDesh (also known as Jaju Dispensary) in Jaipur started rapid tests at 5 p.m where 52 persons were tested and all were found COVID-19 negative.
- ✓ **Border Roads Organisation** has constructed 430 feet long bailey “**Daporijo Bridge**” in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - **Note:** The bridge was inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu over video conferencing.
 - The bridge is built over Subansiri River the largest tributary of Brahmaputra.
 - The new bridge will provide adequate movement of supplies for 451 villages and approximately 3,000 security force personnel deployed along the India-China border.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** state government has rolled out “**e-sanjeevani-opd**” for free online medical consultation to sick people.
 - **Note:** The “**e-sanjeevani-opd**” has been launched to provide free online medical consultation to sick people at their residence throughout the state.
 - Hence, through this new initiative, the Himachal Pradesh government will ensure the facility of health services to the people in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched ‘Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana’ to benefit the Anganwadi workers and Assistants of the state.
 - **Note:** Under the scheme, the state government will provide a special health insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs.
 - The benefit of this scheme will be given to the warriors under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), which was launched by the central Government to cover only the field staff of health, police and other departments working day and night to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- ✓ **Rajasthan** government has partnered with MedCords to provide online consultations and to deliver medicine to the people of the state.
 - **Note:** **MedCord** will provide the requirements of over 68 million people throughout Rajasthan through its integrated solution – **Aayu and SehatSathi app**.
 - MedCord is fully adopted in **7 districts of Rajasthan (Kota, Udaipur, Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner, Ajmer, Pali and Jaipur)**.
- ✓ **Delhi** government has launched “**Assess Koro Na**” app for door-to-door survey in COVID-19 containment zones.
 - With this app, the data collected can be uploaded on the **servers in real-time and immediate analysis**.
- ✓ **Gujarat** government has approved the 3rd edition of his government’s ‘**SujalamSufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan**’ (SSJA).
 - **Note:** The scheme will continue till June 10, 2020 with a focus on deepening of lakes, check dams and rivers by removing silt. It will be done with people’s participation as well as

under **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)**.

- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** state government has started to use **eSanjeevaniOPD** through which **free online medical consultation & general health advice** will be provided to the people at their residence.
- ✓ **Karnataka** state government has launched “Apthamitra” helpline toll free number and an application to empower the people to fight against coronavirus pandemic.
 - The helpline is to reach out to people in the corona hotspot areas and to identify the **Influenza Like illness (ILI), Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)** and the corona like symptoms.
- ✓ **Assam** state government has launched a special **scheme called ‘Dhanwantari’**, under which locally unavailable medicines will be delivered to patients at home.
 - **Note:** This medicine is free up to 200 rupees. If the required medicine is not

available at a distance of 10 km from the house, the government will provide the medicine at home. This facility can be availed by calling 104.

- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** government has launched **zero interest loan scheme for Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
 - **Note:** Each SHG will receive a sum ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 40,000 towards the interest component on their loans.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched **Jeevan Shakti Yojana** to enable women in urban areas to earn by making masks at home.
- ✓ **Gujarat** state government has launched a **unique initiative called ‘UmbareAanganwadi under Integrated Child Development Services programme** to reach out to children during the lockdown.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state government has launched **‘Covid Pharma’ app** to keep a track of people buying medicines over the counter (OTC) for **cough, cold and fever from medical stores across the state**.

March 2020

- ✓ **Punjab** state government has prohibited **Online Food Supply Aggregators (OFSAs)** related to those **Food Business Operators (FBOs)** who are not possessing **hygiene rating**.
- ✓ The **historic City Chowk**, which was a commercial centre in **Old Jammu**, has been renamed as **‘Bharat Mata Chowk’**.
- ✓ **Tripura** state government the **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** equipment hiring centres.
 - **Note:** The project has been taken by the AAI as part of its **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme** and the project will benefit **6000 families**.
 - The **equipment hiring centers consists of equipment related to agriculture, animal husbandry & fisheries** and the equipment will be rented to the needy farmers, **Self Help Groups (SHG)&** to other needy at a minimal cost.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** state cabinet approved to form trust for **‘Ram Van Gaman Path’** project.
 - The project seeks to retrace the route believed to have been taken by **Lord Ram** during his **life in forest** and it is proposed to be constructed from **Chitrakoot to Amarkantak**.
 - State chief secretary will be the member of the trust.
- ✓ **Kerala**. state government will be launched **digital literacy drive** named **“I am also digital”**.
- ✓ **Punjab** government has launched a mobile app to spread awareness and precautions to be taken against coronavirus.
 - **Note:** The **Punjab Government launched “Cova Punjab” mobile application** to spread awareness and precautions to be taken against coronavirus.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh state govt.** has launched **NIGHA** application to curb the use of money and alcohol in the upcoming local body elections.

- ✓ **Maharashtra** government has approved the implementation of “**happy hours**” for auto rickshaws, **reducing 15% of fare prices from 12 pm to 4 pm.**
- ✓ **Karnataka** government has launched ‘Namaste over Handshake’ campaign to prevent from COVID-19.
- ✓ **Phool Dei festival** was celebrated in **Uttarakhand.**
 - **Note:** The festival also showcases the inner bonding between the communities who all are residing in **the hills.**
 - **It is the harvest festival** of Uttarakhand that is celebrated in the month of **Chaitra (March-April)** in the Hindu Calendar.
 - The **term ‘Dei’ refers** to ceremonial pudding which is the key food in the festival that is made from **jaggery, Whiteflour & curd,** are offered to everyone.
- ✓ **Jharkhand** becomes the third state in India to launch its “Star Rating Program”.
 - **Note:** The state government of **Jharkhand will launch its “Star Rating Program” on June 5, 2020,** to rate industries based on the amount of pollutants generated by them.
 - With this, it became the **3rd state in India** to launch this system for industries after **Maharashtra & Odisha.**
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** state government has launched **Police Station Visitor Survey System and e-Night Beat Checking System.**
 - **Note:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Jai Ram Thakur launched Police Station Visitor Survey System and e-Night Beat Checking System for Himachal police in Shimla.
 - These systems help the Police Department to provide an immediate response to the complaints registered in the police stations.
- ✓ **Gujarat** state **Police** becomes first in **India to introduce taser guns.**
- **Note:** The **Gujarat Police** is equipped with taser guns in order to ensure safety and security of the public.
- The Gujarat Police is equipped with taser guns to **ensure safety and security of the public.**
- By introducing the **taser guns as part of police weapons, Gujarat becomes the first state in India.**
- ✓ **Goa** has become the 1st Indian state to launch assessment tool for COVID-19.
 - **Note:** **Goa health minister Vishwajit Rane** launched **Test Yourself Goa,** a self-assessment tool for COVID-19 to help people identify if they are infected by the virus without visiting a doctor or hospital.
- ✓ Amidst Coronavirus outbreak which becomes the **1st state to impose curfew** after lockdown fails -- **Punjab.**
 - **Note:** With this, it **becomes the 1st state** in the country to take drastic measure to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- ✓ **Justice Bhushan P Dharmadhikari** has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court.
- ✓ **Jharkhand** state government has launched a mobile app PRAGYAAM to issue e-passes.
 - The app aims to issue **e-passes to everyone associated** with the delivery of essential services during the nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** government has set up “**Mobile Hand-wash facilities**” for the benefit of Slum Dwellers amidst lockdown in the state.
- ✓ **Nagaland** state government has launched the Self Declaration COVID19 App.
 - **Note:** The app will be mandatory for any person who entered Nagaland after March 6.
- ✓ **Odisha** government has launched ‘**Mo Jeeban programme**’ for the containment of COVID-19 pandemic.

- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** has launched a doorstep pension delivery scheme named ‘**YSR Pension Kanuka**’.
- ✓ Sale of all types of online lottery schemes has been launched by the state of **Punjab**.
- ✓ **34th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela** was held in **Haryana**.
 - The main motto of this mela is to promote handicrafts, rural crafts, arts and the culture of the country and also to bring our country’s heritage among new generations.
- ✓ The **Amarkantak Narmada Mahotsa 2020** was conducted by **Madhya Pradesh**.
- ✓ The **Janasevaka** scheme is launched by **Karnataka** state.
 - to provide home delivery of various government services like ration cards, senior citizen identity and health cards, etc.
- ✓ The first of its kind in the country, glass floor suspension bridge is being built in **Uttarakhand**.
- ✓ For the first time **Madhya Pradesh** government has decided to use drones for mapping villages.
- ✓ The **highest number (33,964)** of women who go missing in India are from **Maharashtra**.
 - **Note:** This is as per the report titled ‘missing women and children in India’ released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ✓ The **MukyamantriParivarSamridhi Yojana** scheme has been launched by **Haryana Government**.
 - The scheme is about providing financial assistance of Rs.6000 to the families below the poverty line and the amount will be transferred through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) to Bank accounts.
- ✓ **Kerala** state unveiled an initiative of setting up **1,000 ‘Kudumbashree’ hotels** to provide subsidised meals at Rs 25.
- ✓ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy has launched the **1st Disha Police Station** in the State at **Rajamahendravaram**.
 - **Note:** The Disha Police station has been established to provide speedy justice to female victims of sexual assaults and other heinous crimes under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**.
- ✓ **First Helicopter Services under UDAN Scheme** has been launched by **Uttarakhand**.
- ✓ To inculcate reading habits among students ‘**Reading Mission**’ has been launched by **Haryana**.
- ✓ Name the region Tamil Nadu to be declared as **Protected Agricultural Zone-- Cauvery Delta Region**.
 - Only Agro-based Industries are allowed in the Protected Zone.
- ✓ With an aim to promote the practice of planting trees in the state ‘**Pyar ka Paudha**’ drive under the **Jal Jeevan Hariyali campaign** has been launched by **Bihar**.
 - **Note:** The state Government of Bihar’s Department of Environment and Forest in Patna has launched ‘**Pyar ka Paudha**’ campaign.
- ✓ **Manipur** government has launched “**AnganphouHunba**” (Sowing of First Crop Paddy) programme.
- ✓ Haryana government has renamed Ambala city bus stand after **Sushma Swaraj**.
- ✓ To modernise all government hospitals **Nadu-Nedu** scheme has been launched by **Andhra Pradesh**.
- ✓ **Atal Kisan – Majdoor canteens** has been launched by **Haryana**.
 - **Note:** These canteens provide affordable and cheap meals to farmers and labourers at a concessional rate of 10 rupees per plate in all mandis and sugar mills. 25 such canteens will be established this year.
- ✓ **Tea Board of India** has organized “**Run for India Tea**” in collaboration with **Tripura Tea Development Corporation (TTDC)**.
 - **Note:** The event has been organized to further promote and popularise Tripura tea alongside India tea and to boost the tea industry in the state.
- ✓ “**Yodhav**” (**Warrior**) mobile app has been launched by **Kerala**.

- Through this app, the public can inform police about drug abuse and its distribution.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched a scheme **JaganannaVasthiDeevana**.
 - **Note:** The 'JaganannaVasathiDeevana' scheme will aid students pursuing various post-intermediate courses and are from low-income households with hostel and mess fees and ensure that they get Rs 20,000 per year.
- ✓ **Losar festival** is being celebrated in **Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh**.
 - **Note:** Losar festival is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar and is also called **Tibetan New Year**.
- It is a festival related to **Tibetan Buddhism** and marks the **Ladakhi New Year**.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** state became the **1st state** to introduce the unified registration card.
- ✓ **'Vasantosav' Cultural festival** is organised by **Gujarat Government**.
 - The theme of **"Vasantotsav" 2020** was **"EkBhaartShreshth Bharat"**.
- ✓ Indian city **Mumbai** has launched world's largest airport-based temperature-controlled facility.
 - Facility known as the **'Export Cold Zone'** for processing and storage of agro and pharma products.

January 2020

- ✓ The **Andhra Pradesh government** is planning to introduce **door-delivery** of sand from **2nd January 2020**.
 - The AP government will deliver sand at doorsteps and collect transportation charges from the customers.
- ✓ **'Cyber Safe Women' initiative** launched by the **Maharashtra Government**.
 - **Note:** Maharashtra Government has launched a 'Cyber Safe Women' initiative to ensure that women and children do not fall prey to these cyber-criminal activities.
- ✓ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Kiren Rijju** flag off **'Fit India Cyclothon'** in **Panaji, Goa**.
 - This event is organized with the aim to get the people involved in outdoor activities and starting a cycling culture in the state.
- ✓ **Women with Wheels' cab** service has been started at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), **New Delhi** by **'Sakha cabs'** for the safety of women.
 - **Note:** The taxis are operated by women drivers and the services are provided only to women or men with family.
- The cab had been installed with GPS (Global Positioning System) and panic button to help the women drivers & women passengers.
- ✓ **Indian Railways** launches integrated helpline number for passengers -- **139**.
 - **Note:** The Indian Railways has integrated its **helpline numbers into a single number 139** for quick grievance redressal and enquiries by passengers during their train journeys.
- ✓ ISRO to set up Human Space Flight Centre in **Challakere, Karnataka**.
- ✓ The **Gujarat govt.** has announced to set up Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center (VSCIC) in **Gandhinagar**.
 - It will identify, nurture and promote children's innovation in the state.
- ✓ The fourth **'Buxa Bird Festival'** has begun in **Buxa National Park** in **Alipurduar, West Bengal**.
- ✓ The famous chariot festival of the **SuchindramThanumalayan Temple** is being held in **Tamil Nadu**.
- ✓ **ChapcharKut**, the biggest and most important festival of the state will be celebrated in **Mizoram**.

- ChapcharKut is a spring festival celebrated usually in March after completion of the Jhum cultivation.
 - Jhum cultivation, also known as the slash and burn agriculture, is the process of growing crops by first clearing the land of trees and vegetation and burning them thereafter.
 - **Zo Kutpui Festival** celebrated in **Mizoram**.
- ✓ A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with **International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN)** to red listing of orchids by **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Arunachal Pradesh has become the 1st state in the country to initiate the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 'red listing' at the state level.
- ✓ The famous **Parshuram Kund Mela** was organized in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- ✓ **Magh Bihu**, an auspicious harvest festival is being celebrated in **Assam**.
- **Note:** Magh Bihu, an auspicious harvest festival is being celebrated in Assam. Magh Bihu falls in the local month of 'Magh' during mid-january.
 - It is also called 'Bhogali Bihu' or 'Maghor Bihu' as it is celebrated with community feasts after the annual harvest takes place.
- ✓ The 1st edition of the **Krishi Manthan 2020** which is a Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia was held in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
- ✓ **NagobaJatara tribal festival** was celebrated in the state of **Telangana**.
- ✓ Five-day-long festival of '**Lai Haraoba**' held in **Agartala, Tripura**.
- Lai Haraoba is celebrated through oral literature, music, dance, and rituals.
- ✓ 1st virtual police station has been launched in **Odisha** state.
- This will facilitate online registration of FIR (first information report) in unknown motor vehicle theft cases.
- ✓ **Maharashtra government** has made reading **Preamble of the Constitution** mandatory in schools.
- The above decision will be implemented from 26 January 2020 through a programme "**Sovereignty of Constitution, the public interest of all**".
- ✓ **City** will host the **14th Global Healthcare Summit 2021 -- Visakhapatnam**.
- The focus of the **Global Health Summit** is an Indian-centric approach, with special events such as global impact and India's contribution in providing cost-effective medicines and addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals.
- ✓ HRD Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** has inaugurated the **28th edition of annual New Delhi World Book Fair** at Pragati Maidan in **New Delhi**.
- **Note:** As part of Mahatma Gandhiji's 150 birth anniversary celebrations, the theme of this year is **Gandhi:The Writers' Writer**. **Eminent Gandhian scholar Girishwar Mishra** is the chief guest on the occasion.
- ✓ The book fair organised by **National Book Trust (NBT)**.
- ✓ **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **National Traders Convention** in **New Delhi**.
- **Note:** The convention has been organized by the Confederation of All India Traders and will deliberate upon various issues concerning traders.
- ✓ Third **international symposium** on marine ecosystems – **challenges and opportunities** (MECOS-3) is to be held in **Kochi**
- **Note:** Eminent marine scientists, oceanographers, fisheries researchers, and marine biotechnologists from

across the globe are expected to participate in it.

- ✓ **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has inaugurated the first silk processing plant at **Surendranagar in Gujarat.**

- **Note:** This would help cut down the cost of production of silk yarn drastically and increase the sale and availability of raw material for **Gujarati 'Patola' sarees** locally.

- ✓ Indian Navy has launched an expedition, to promote the maritime heritage of India in the Naval Dockyard – **Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

- **Note:** The expedition extends from Arnala fort, Northernmost fort of Maharashtra to Sindhudurg fort, the southernmost fort of Maharashtra, covering more than 555 km.

- ✓ Union **Home Minister Amit Shah** has released a book on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- **Karmayoddha Granth.**

- ✓ **Global Investors Meet 'ASCEND 2020'** will be held in -- **Kochi, Kerala.**

- ✓ The **31st International Kite Festival** was inaugurated at **Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad.**

- ✓ **Note:** As a part of the official celebration of 'Uttarayan' or 'Makar Sankranti', **Ahmedabad** has been hosting the International Kite Festival since 1989.

- ✓ The **fifth edition of the Pulses Conclave** will be held in Lonavala, Maharashtra from -- **12-14 February 2020.**

- ✓ Union Steel Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched a mission to accelerated development of eastern India through integrated steel hub -- **Mission Purvodaya.**

- **Note:** Under the mission, the government will enhance capacity through easing the setup of greenfield steel plants, develop steel clusters near integrated steel plants as well as demand centers.

- ✓ Narendra Modi has announced to rename the Kolkata Port Trust after -- **Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.**

- ✓ **'Wings India 2020'** to be held at **Begumpet Airport Hyderabad in March 2020**

- The theme of the exhibition is "Flying for all".

- ✓ **India's first indigenous aircraft carrier "Vikrant"** likely to be commissioned by **2021.**

- ✓ The **27th edition of South Asian Trade and Travel Exchange Expo (SATTE) 2020** was held at India Expo Mart **Greater Noida – Delhi NCR.**

- ✓ **12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme** was held in **Puducherry.**

- ✓ **Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel** launched an exhibition titled "Indian Heritage in Digital Space" in **New Delhi.**

- ✓ The **2nd edition of NIC Tech Conclave-2020** held in New Delhi.

- This conclave will contribute immensely to the capacity building of Government officers across the country and help in delivering high-quality citizen-centric services. This year conclave **theme is "Technologies for Next-Gen Governance".**

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi and Nepalese PM Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the 2nd Integrated Check Post at **Jogbani (Bihar, India) – Biratnagar (Nepal)**

- Jogbani – Biratnagar acts as an important trade point between the two nations and is equipped with modern facilities.

- ✓ **'One Nation, One Ration Card'** scheme will be implemented across the country by **June 1, 2020.**

- ✓ Panel to create tougher law against sexual harassment at work will be headed by **Amit Shah.**

- ✓ **Union Minister of Law and Justice (MoL&J)** Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad

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inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology in **Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

✓ **1st Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment** held in **New Delhi.**

✓ **World's largest meditation centre** was inaugurated in **Hyderabad, Telangana.**

✓ **Indian Railways** has commissioned **India's 1st governmental waste-to-energy plant** in **Bhubaneswar.**

✓ A festival to celebrate the spirit of India "**Bharat Parv 2020**" was celebrated in **Red Fort, New Delhi.**

- The objective of Bharat Parv is to encourage people to visit different tourist places of the country and to inculcate the spirit of 'Dekho Apna Desh'.

✓ India's first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre opens in **Niger.**

✓ The **Central Government** has aimed to achieve **objective of Housing for all by 2022.**

- **Note:** The Central Government has aimed to achieve objective of Housing for all by 2022 (which coincides with 75 years of Indian independence) under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G) scheme.**

✓ **Committee on Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)** headed by **Yudhvir Singh Malik.**

- The report stresses to improve the present training infrastructure, content, training methodology & to create linkages with world-famous

international institutes and undertake applied research & related works.

✓ The **Assam Rifles (military unit)** has constructed a **war memorial "Veer Samriti"** in **Nagaland.**

✓ 1st ever Innovation festival was organized at **Arunachal Pradesh.**

✓ India's **1st Super Fab Lab facility** was inaugurated in **Kerala.**

✓ The **1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020** was held in **New Delhi.**

- **Note:** The 1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020 based on the theme "Connectivity", between India & Russia was held in New Delhi.

✓ **France** will be the guest of honour at **New Delhi World Book Fair** for the year 2022.

✓ The **Department of Biotechnology** has organized a **2-day long International Summit on Women in STEM—"Visualizing the Future: New Skylines"** in **New Delhi.**

- The aim of the summit is to increase the participation of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field for development of scientific career.

✓ **India's first e-waste clinic** was opened in **Bhopal.**

✓ **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has decided to observe 2020 as the "**Year of Mobility**" for the welfare of the troops.

✓ **India's flagship global conference on geopolitics and geo-economics Raisina Dialogue** held in **New Delhi.**

- **Raisina Dialogue (fifth edition)** jointly organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and the Observer Research Foundation.

collaboration with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation.**

✓ 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting was held under the presidency of **Russia.**

Note: Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) participated in the meeting. The BRICS nations called the initiative to improve

Important News: India

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✓ Recently, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched an incubator capabilities enhancement program 'AIM-iCREST' in

the environment and promote the circular economy in national plans for economic recovery after COVID-19

- ✓ Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge in **Bihar**.

Note: Over 5.5 km, this four lane bridge at NH-19 between Patna and Hajipur is being renovated to replace its existing concrete superstructure by new steel deck superstructure, consisting of about 6600 metric steel.

- ✓ **Narendra Singh Tomar** released a booklet on ‘Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

Note: The booklet is prepared by Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development. It is based on the presentations made by states during regional and national workshops since inception of the programme.

- ✓ **CREDAI Awaas App** has been launched by Housing minister Hardeep Puri to market residential properties.

- ✓ As per the recommendation by the Parliamentary Committee on Labour, the minimum eligibility period for gratuity payable to an employee on termination of his employment-- **One year**.

- ✓ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has launched “**Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21**”, a national level programme for popularizing science among school students of class sixth to Eleventh.

Note: It is India’s largest Science talent search examination for New India using Digital Devices.

- ✓ Union Minister of Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sirmour at Dhaula Kuan in **Himachal Pradesh**.

- ✓ A New initiative by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) the Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel has been launched by **Narendra Singh Tomar**.

Note:The channel is a new initiative by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).During the launch event, the minister also rolled out guidance videos made by NCDC on ‘Formation and Registration of A Cooperative’ for 18-

different states in Hindi and regional languages.

- ✓ **Pradip Shah** is the head of the 7-member committee formed by International Financial Services Centre Authority for developing plans on international retail business.

- ✓ **DD Assam** has been launched by Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar recently.

- ✓ India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or Kisan Rail was from flagged off between two stations **Devlali to Danapur**.

- ✓ The Government of India has extended Line of Credit of worth 18 million USD to **Maldives** to expand fishing facilities.

- ✓ The Ministry of Education organized the “Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy(NEP)” in association with **University Grants Commission(UGC)**.

- ✓ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) joined hands with Global digital skills training provider to support the continuity of digital skilling of the Indian workforce – **Simplilearn**.

- ✓ A new Platform, “Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste” to support the global reduction of food loss and waste has been launched by **FAO**.

Note:The official launch of the platform will be on the first International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLOW) which will be observed on 29th September 2020.

- ✓ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has signed an agreement with **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** for collaborative research and information dissemination in the area of food and nutrition.

Note: The collaboration between these two premier institutions of India will contribute in fulfilling the vision of New Food System 2050.

- ✓ The global conference on “Reimagining and Transforming the University: Confluence of Ideas during and Beyond the COVID-19 Disruption” was hosted by Indian university **O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)**.

Note: The conference provided a platform to discuss to reimagine and transform the idea of university that will impact the lives of the

- students, academics and nations all across the globe.
- ✓ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will open the Silk Training cum Production Center in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - ✓ Website portal **My Handloom** has been launched by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, for the individual weavers and organization.
Note: The Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani launched a website portal, 'My Handloom' for the individual weavers and organization on the occasion of the 6th National Handloom Day on 7th August, 2020, virtually.
 - ✓ **Delhi International Airport Limited** has developed AIR SUVIDHA, a first-of-its-kind portal allowing international arriving passengers to fill a mandatory self-declaration form and eligible passengers to apply for exemption from compulsory institutional quarantine for coronavirus.
Note: It will make passengers' journey more convenient and comfortable in a contactless way as they won't have to fill the physical copies of the forms on arrival. The online forms have been developed in collaboration with various state governments, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
 - ✓ In a push for 'Make-in-India', **Rajnath Singh** has launched 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Saptah' to focus more on the vision of the government to shift to local manufacturing.
Note: The main idea behind this is to emphasize the importance of domestic defence production in the country. The ministry is pushing for domestic manufacturing of defence items very aggressively.
 - ✓ National portal **SURAKHSYA** is being launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forest on Human-Elephant conflict to collect real-time information and will also manage conflicts on a real-time basis.
Note: He will also launch portal on Human Elephant Conflict on the eve of World Elephant Day, 2020. The World Elephant Day is observed every year on 12th August to spread awareness about the animal.
 - ✓ **Mumbai** become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.
 - ✓ **121** Police personnel have been awarded the "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2020.
 - ✓ **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)** has organized the "India@75 Summit – Mission 2022".
Note: The summit was focused on 'reinventing technology in India'. The MSME Ministry and Industries should be made import substitutes, cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous.
 - ✓ Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has rolled out second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with **Dell Technologies**.
 - ✓ Festive sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy Harmal Chilli and Myndoli Banana (Moirra Banana) of **Goa** has obtained Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry.
Note: The Bicholim based All-Goa Khaje Producers Association (AGKPA) applied for the GI tag of Khaje through the department of science and technology in 2019. Myndoli Banana Growers Association, Ibrampur, Pernem applied for the GI tag of Moira bananas.
 - ✓ Krishi Megh is the data recovery centre of **ICAR** organization.
Note: Krishi Megh is the data recovery centre of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research). The data recovery centre has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad.
 - ✓ Tribal freedom fighter museums are under development by ministry of tribal affairs -- **9**.
Note: The nine museums are being developed in Gujarat (Rajpipla), Jharkhand (Ranchi), Andhra Pradesh (Lambasingi), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Kerala (Kozhikode), Madhya Pradesh (Chhindwara), Telangana (Hyderabad), Manipur (Senapati) and Mizoram (Kelsi).
 - ✓ **Swachh Bharat Mission Academy** is an IVR based mobile online learning course launched by Union Jal Shakti Ministry.
 - ✓ Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge across river Lajai in **Manipur**.

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- ✓ **NASSCOM** Association with organization 'Atal Innovation Mission' has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Step-up module for school students.
- ✓ As per the draft plan prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the "**One Sun, One World, One Grid**" (OSOWOG) initiative will **140 countries** through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power.
Note: "The vision behind the OSOWOG mantra is "the Sun never sets" and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
- ✓ **IIT Bombay** has secured top position in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,' (ARIIA) 2020 for being the best centrally funded institution in India.
Note: The top five centrally funded institutions in the list are 1. IIT Madras; 2. IIT Bombay; 3. IIT Delhi; 4. IISc Bengaluru; 5. IIT Kharagpur. The ARIIA ranking was launched in 2019 by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The objective of ARIIA is to rank higher education institutions and universities in India as per Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Startup, and Development amongst faculty and students.
- ✓ Quality Control Lab has been set up by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in **Porbandar, Gujarat**.
- ✓ The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India has launched the flood forecasting initiatives across India in association with tech giant **Google**.
- ✓ With the vision of going one step further towards self-reliance or "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has launched 'Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge'.
- ✓ **Delhi Police** has signed an MoU with All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) for extending ayurvedic mode of preventive and promotive health services in the residential colonies of the force.
- ✓ The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla attended the virtual mode of Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) organized jointly by International Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of **Austria**.
- ✓ Central government departments has launched its new official logo displaying three goals of

- the department, Accuracy, Validity, and Reliability-- **Labour Bureau**.
- ✓ To improve the production and productivity of raw Jute in the country Jute Corporation of India (JCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Seeds Corporation (NSC)**.
- ✓ The Bureau of India Standards (BIS) signed with an MoU with **IIT Roorkee** for collaboration in areas of Standardization and Conformity Assessment based on equality and reciprocity.
- ✓ India's rank in the 2nd edition of global research "**Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2020**" released by online privacy solutions provider SurfShark-- **57th**.
- ✓ **TL Alamelu** will head the ten-member committee set up by IRDAI to recommend setting up loss prevention entities for non-life insurers.
- ✓ **Tata Steel** has launched the FerroHaat App, a first-of-its-kind mobile application (App) in the world to source steel scrap from the traders.
- ✓ **Nitin Gadkari** has launched the mobile app named 'Harit Path' to monitor plantation along national highways.
The minister launched 'Harit Path', a mobile app to monitor the plantations through geo-tagging and web-based GIS-enabled monitoring tools.
- ✓ **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons, a requirement under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- ✓ The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda has e-inaugurated "Tribes India Showroom" in **Mumbai**.
- ✓ Ministry of Tourism has signed an MoU with **Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)** and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with primary objective of women empowerment.
- ✓ APEDA functions under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has signed two MoUs with AFC India Limited and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) for working together in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors.
- ✓ **Ramesh Chand** will head the task force constituted by the NITI Aayog that

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- recommended linking of Sugarcane prices to sugar rate.
- ✓ IT majors **Tech Mahindra** joined hands with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to support Indian women entrepreneurs.
- ✓ ReNew Power signed a partnership agreement with **UNEP** to promote increased access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.
- ✓ **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has developed the '**Vendor Performance Evaluation System**' to establish a transparent and comprehensive performance rating system for its consultants, contractors and concessionaires.
- ✓ **Rajnath Singh** has launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile Training App.
Note: The Mobile Training App will support in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets as it has been affected adversely due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. The DGNCC Mobile Training App seeks to offer entire training material to the NCC cadets on one platform.
- ✓ National e-Governance Division (NeGD) is working under **MeitY** that signed an MoU with Common Service Center e-Governance Services India Limited to facilitate delivery of UMANG app services to citizens.
- ✓ Two Maharatna PSUs the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has signed an MoU for setting up of a Waste to Energy Plant Okhla New Delhi -- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. & NTPC Ltd.**
- ✓ The report titled "Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post-Covid-19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sectors" released jointly by NITI Aayog and **Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)**.
- ✓ **SheshNaag** has been given to the longest 2.8 km long freight train operated Indian Railways.
Note: Indian Railways created another record by operating the longest freight train. Indian Railways named it as 'SeshNaag'. The rake had a total of 251 wagons which were pulled by four electric locomotives which were fitted in between.

- ✓ **Piyush Goyal** has launched the National GIS (Geographic Information System)-enabled Land Bank system.
- ✓ **Mahindra & Mahindra** has partnered with Israel's REE Automotive to develop commercial EVs.
- ✓ **Valipe Ramagopal Rao** will chair the 5-member committee constituted by DRDO to review charter of duties of 57 DRDO labs on the basis of current and futuristic defence and battlefield needs.
- ✓ Three-member committee headed by **DB Shekatkar** has been to review the effective utilisation of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHQ CS) cadre.
- ✓ In partnership with **UNDP**, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has launched the Sustainable Finance Collaborative (SFC) to Promote Sustainable Finance in India.
- ✓ Next-generation startup Challenge contest has been launched by the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ravi Shankar Prasad-- **Chunauti**.
- ✓ **Piyush Goyal** represented India in the virtual 8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) chaired by Vietnam.
- ✓ The Union Government is planning to come up with Mega Bamboo Industrial Park in **Ghati**.

July 2020

- ✓ According to the report "Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019" by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) **Tamil Nadu** state grabbed the top in annual fish production.
- ✓ An inter-ministerial scheme called "Accelerate Vigyan" was launched by SERB which is a statutory body functioning under **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- ✓ Under chairmanship **Ranbir Singh**, the Central Committee for reforms in Criminal Law has been constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ✓ The CBSE has partnered with social media platform **Facebook** to launch a free and comprehensive training program for teachers and students of its affiliated schools in the first phase.
- ✓ 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' was announced by PM Narendra

Modi is an initiative of **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.

The prize money for apps is between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 2 lakh depending on the category. The app will be evaluated on the basis of ease of use, robustness, security features and scalability.

- ✓ For the formation of a **Joint Venture Company (JVC)** to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW on pan-India basis the Coal India Ltd signed an agreement with **NLC India Ltd**.
- ✓ **DRDO** has developed 1000 bed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital in New Delhi in partnership with Tata Sons Private Limited.
- ✓ Indian Railways has setup 1.7 MWp Solar Power plant project at **Bina** to directly power the Railway Overhead Line.
Note: This project is unique because, for the first time in the world, the power generated by the solar power plant will be directly fed to the overhead power lines of the national transporter to power the traction system of the electric locomotives to run trains.
- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is going to establish a research cell at **II T-Hyderabad** to meet the future defence technological requirements of the country.
- ✓ India's rank has released "Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2020", including the SDG Index and Dashboards by Cambridge University Press -- **117th**.
Note: The index has been topped by Sweden.
- ✓ India's rank in the "INFORM Report 2020: Shared evidence for managing crises and disasters" released by research centre INFORM- **31st**.
- ✓ Under chairmanship of **K S Reddy**, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has set up an 11-member expert committee to study impact of Covid-19 on human rights of individuals.
- ✓ **Ministry of Home Affairs** has set up an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate investigations related to three Nehru-Gandhi family linked trusts, including the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF).
Note: The committee would be headed by special director of the Enforcement Directorate. Congress president Sonia Gandhi

is the chairperson of RGF and its board has among others former PM Manmohan Singh, Rahul Gandhi, P Chidambaram and Priyanka Gandhi.

- ✓ Asia's Largest and World's Second Largest Uptime Tier IV Designed Data Centre was inaugurated in **Navi Mumbai**.
Note: The Data Centre is named 'Yotta NM1 or NM1' is located inside the 600-Acre Hiranandani Fortune City at Navi Mumbai's Panvel region. Inside the Hiranandani Fortune City, a Data Centre Park named Panvel Data Centre Park or Integrated Yotta Data Centre Park has been developed, NM1 is located inside the Panvel Data Centre Park.
- ✓ India's rank in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2020 released by the US-based Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL) - **34th**.
- ✓ What is the budget outlay of the Central Sector Scheme "Agriculture Infrastructure Fund" which was approved by the Union Cabinet -- **Rs 1 lakh crore**.
Note: The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. Loans will be disbursed in four years starting with sanction of Rs. 10,000 crore in the current year and Rs. 30,000 crore each in next three financial years.
- ✓ The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has joined hands with **Microsoft India Private Limited** Company to enhance the digital skills of the country's youth.
- ✓ Under chairmanship of **Suresh Mathur**, the IRDAI has formed a 9- member working group to look into the possibility of setting up 'Pandemic Risk Pool'.
Note: Suresh Mathur, Executive Director, Irdai, will be the Chairman for the 9-member working group with industry representatives as members. Apart from studying the need for such as pool; the group will also recommend the structure and operating model.
- ✓ **IIT Hyderabad** has tie-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India's 1st 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC).

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✓ **Ministry of Culture** released first five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur Manuscript recently.

Note: In the Mongolian language ‘Kanjur’ means ‘Concise Orders’- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.

✓ **T-Hub** company has partnered with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Digital India to lead the scale up program of Digital India and Information Technology start-ups.

✓ **Kris Gopalakrishnan** was the head of the 9-member committee to study various issues related to non-personal data that called for a new legislation to regulate such information.

✓ India’s second VNR 2020 report titled “Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local” was presented by **NITI Aayog** to the UN High-level Political Forum.

✓ BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding with **IIT Alumni Council** to encourage listing of start-ups and develop ‘high investor depth’ in its start-up’s platform.

✓ The Ministry of Railways is on a mission mode with the goal of transforming Indian Railways into Green Railways by **2030**.

✓ India’s first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely “Anji Khad Bridge” is being built by **Konkan Railway Corporation Limited**. to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

✓ India along with **Chile** and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has co-hosted the official launch of 2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

✓ The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with public sector undertaking **Bharat Electronics Ltd.** to collaborate and support the emerging global opportunities in the airport business.

✓ **GMR International Airport, Hyderabad** introduced India’s first ever fully contactless airport car parking.

✓ The length of the Anji Khad Bridge’ being built by Konkan Railway Corporation which will connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) -- **473.25 metres**.

✓ According to the special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18, released by the Office of the Registrar General’s Sample Registration System (SRS) the Maternal

Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India has declined to **113**.

Note: MMR is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 1, 00,000 live births.

✓ India’s largest commercial **shipbuilder Cochin Shipyard Ltd** (CSL) has signed a contract to build the world’s first fully automatic electric vessel for **Norway**.

✓ India is developing country’s first and Asia’s leading trans-shipment port Vallarpadam Terminal as part of **Kochi** port of India.

✓ Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) has been accredited by NABL for Testing and Certification of PPE Kit. CIPET works under **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.

Note: The PPE kit includes Gloves, Coverall, Face Shield, Goggles and Triple Layer Medical masks in line with International Standards.

✓ As per the Railway Ministry private trains are slated to run from **2023**.

✓ Union Environment and Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar hailed the KURMA mobile application related with **Indian Turtles**.

✓ An e-Portal named “Automobile Solutions Portal for Industry, Research & Education (ASPIRE)” has been launched by **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**.

Note: The portal has been launched to improve the technological capability of Indian automotive sector with the help of exchange of knowledge & expertise, to make them self-reliant and to enable the growth of automobile sector including overall socio-economic progress of the country.

✓ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII was developed in collaboration with tech giant **IBM**.

✓ India’s rank in the **Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020– 3rd**.

Note: The annual Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report was released by the US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield.

✓ The biopharmaceutical company that announced a global collaboration agreement with Voluntas to develop and distribute digital

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- therapeutics supporting people with diabetes on biologics therapy -- **Biocon Biologics.**
- ✓ **RK Singh** inaugurated India's first public Electric Vehicle charging plaza in New Delhi.
- ✓ **Manodarpan** initiative has been launched by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health.
- ✓ The acquisition wing of **Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract with **Bharat Earth Movers Limited, BEML** for procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough for Tank T-90 S/SK.
- ✓ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have partnered with **UNICEF** to strengthen the youth volunteers in the country to achieve AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- ✓ India began its trial trans-shipment of goods from India to the North East through **Chittagong, Bangladesh** port.
- ✓ US based Zoom Video Communications announced to open a new technology center in **Bengaluru.**
- ✓ Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant-3 has reached its criticality; the plant is located in **Gujarat.**
Note: This indigenously designed 700 MWe KAPP-3 reactor is a shining example of Make in India. The Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant began its commercial nuclear power production in 1993.
- ✓ Actor **SonuSood.** has launched an application "PravasiRojgar" for migrant worker to find right job opportunities.
- ✓ **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)** published the **Global Rights Index 2020** according to which India became the new entrant in the 10 worst countries for working people in the world.
- ✓ **AIIMS Nagpur** has designed and developed a 'smart wristband' for effective tracking and monitoring of Covid-19 positive and suspect patients.
Note: The new device, a wristband is designed in collaboration with IIT Jodhpur and IIT Nagpur looks to overcome the limitations of existing online mobile apps used for tracking and monitoring coronavirus patients.

June 2020

- ✓ The Indian Navy's largest solar power plant has been commissioned at **Ezhimala, Kerala.**
Note: It is a 3 MW Solar Power Plant which has been set-up in line with the Indian Government's initiative of 'National Solar Mission' which aims to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022.
- ✓ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has entered into a partnership with **IIT, Delhi** for the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).
Note: Tribal entrepreneurs under TRIFED's Van Dhan Programme will now be able to get access to the expertise of the entire network of over 2,600 academic and research institutions under UBA.w
- ✓ Indian Institute of Management (IIM) **Kozhikode** has developed a wearable hand band Known as the "Veli Band" that helps in maintaining social distancing.
- ✓ Indian city **Hyderabad** ranked 16th among the list of top 20 cities with maximum number of CCTV surveillance cameras installed in a survey done on most surveilled cities in the world by the UK-based Comparitech.
- ✓ The **Cotton Corporation of India** decided to setup set up its own warehouse in **Vietnam** to boost cotton exports.
- ✓ Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App "BIS-Care" has been launched using which the authenticity of ISI-marked and hallmarked products can be checked, BIS is working under **Ministry of Consumer Affairs.**
- ✓ On the occasion of "World Hepatitis Day" the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) has organised "2nd Empathy e-Conclave" in collaboration with **Airport Authority of India (AAI).**
- ✓ As per the update report on India's Tiger Survey from 2018, released by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest number of tigers.
- ✓ **Ministry of Earth Sciences** has launched a Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet)" under the Digital India initiative of Government of India.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a video blogging competition my 'My Life, My Yoga' which is a joint by the Indian

Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and **Ministry of AYUSH.**

- **Note:** The 'My Life, My Yoga' contest (also called 'Jeevan Yoga') is a joint effort by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- ✓ **Union Ministry of Labour and Employment** in partnership with TCS iON offers free online career skills training through the National Career Service (NCS) project.
 - **Note:** The Ministry of Labours announced that around 1 crore job seekers and 54000 employers have registered with this portal and the NCS portal has mobilized more than 73 lakh vacancies In the period of lockdown due to COVID-19 the NCS has conducted around 76 online Job fairs to reduce the gap between the employers and job seekers.
 - NCS in partnership with HireMee, online assessment and hiring service provider, offers creation of video profiles for job-seekers.
- ✓ India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) comes under the purview of **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.
 - **Note:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Arun Singhal as chief executive officer of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
 - Singhal is special secretary, department of health and family welfare.
- ✓ The Union Govt has announced Minimum Support Price List in which how many Minor Forest produce have been included **23**.
 - **Note:** Tribal Affairs has notified an Inclusion of 23 additional Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items and stipulation of their Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- ✓ **CHAMPIONS** platform has been launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help the smaller MSMEs by solving their grievances, encouraging and supporting them to march into the big league as national and global companies.
 - **Note:** The portal aims to make smaller units big by supporting them, encouraging, solving their grievances, helping and handholding. It will act as one-stop shop solution of all entities of the MSME sector.
- ✓ **PM-SAVNidhi** has been launched by the union government for to provide affordable loans to street vendors.
 - **Note:** The PM SVANidhi or PM Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi is a credit facility scheme that will help more than 50 lakh urban and rural street vendors. The scheme will help the street vendors restart their livelihoods.
 - Under the scheme, Rs 10,000 of credit is to be provided to street vendors. The street vendors shall return the amount as monthly installments within a year.
- ✓ **DRDO** has developed a disinfection unit called **Ultra Swachh**.
 - **Note:** The Ultra Swachh Unit houses a catalytic converter that makes it environment friendly. It also holds several safety features such as door interlocks, emergency shut down, delay cycle, dual doors, leak monitors, etc.
 - The system complies to International Standards of Industrial, Personal, Occupations and Environmental Safety.
- ✓ **Indian Energy Exchange** has launched Real Time Electricity Market (RTM) to help discoms plan their power requirements.
 - **Note:** The market will conduct 48 auction sessions during the day and the power will be delivered within one hour of closure of the bid session.
- ✓ The Government has announced that it is to provide Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to 1.5 crore **Dairy Farmers**.

- **Note:** The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the Department of Financial Services has issued KCC application format to all State Milk Federation and Milk Unions for implementing the same on a mission mode. The campaign aims to provide KCC to 1.5 crore dairy farmers.
- The campaign is a part of the PM's AtmaNirbhar Bharat package for Farmers.
- ✓ “Responsible AI for Youth” which will be run jointly by National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and **NASSCOM**.
 - **Note:** Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology(IT), Law and Justice and Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad launched India’s National Artificial Intelligence(AI) Portal called www.ai.gov.in. He also launched a National Program for the youth, “Responsible AI for Youth” during the occasion of the first anniversary of the second tenure of the government.
- ✓ The Expert Committee on Rationalization of Film Media has submitted its report recently, the committee is operating under **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
 - **Note:** The committee has suggested for an umbrella configuration with four broad verticals under which the institutes should work.
 - This includes festival, production, heritage and knowledge.
 - The verticals are to be headed by the professionals. The committee was headed by Bimal Julka.
- ✓ **Nisarga** name has been given to the fast-moving depression in the Arabian Sea which intensified into a severe cyclone.
- ✓ The expert panel constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under Ishaat Hussain has recommended to allow **Non-profit Organizations**.
 - **Note:** Allowing non-profit organisations to directly list through issuance of bonds in the form of zero coupon or zero principal bonds.
 - Zero-coupon bond is a debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, drawing a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value.
- ✓ **25%** percent of incentive has been announced on capital expenditure in the recently launched “Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)” scheme.
 - **Note:** The schemes were approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2020. The Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) will provide incentive of 25% on the capital expenditure.
 - This is extended to certain identified lists such as semiconductor devices, electronic goods, display fabrication units, etc.
- ✓ To foster the inclusion of LGBTQAI+ employees of **Mahindra Logistics Ltd.** has launched a five-year plan which aims at hiring queer people and extending benefits to same-sex partners.
- ✓ The union cabinet has approved to re-establish the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy as Subordinate Office under **Ministry of AYUSH**.
 - **Note:** The commission has been set up by merging Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine and Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory.
 - The two central laboratories were established at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh in 1975.
 - The commission is an autonomous body that operates under Ministry

of AYUSH. It is in operation since 2010

- ✓ **TULIP** programme has been launched by the union government to provide internship opportunities to thousands of fresh graduates and engineers of the country under the 'Smart City' projects.
- ✓ **SWADESH** initiative has been launched by the Government of India to map the skills of workers returning to India from overseas under the 'Vande Bharat Mission'.
 - **Note:** The full form of SWADESH is "Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support".
 - The exercise, kick-started under the Vande Bharat Mission, aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience, which can be tapped into to fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies.
- ✓ **Nagar Van** scheme has been launched by the government to develop urban forests across the country.
 - **Note:** Stressing on the substance theme of "Biodiversity" by the United Nation's Environment Programme (UNEP), The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change celebrated the day by announcing the initiative of urban forests in India. Urban forest are seemingly the best way to bridge the gap of climate change.
- ✓ **ARCI, Hyderabad** institution developed a rare-earth-based magnetocaloric material that can be effectively used for cancer treatment.
 - **Note:** A magnetocaloric materials is a substance in which application and removal of a magnetic field causes the materials to become warmer or cooler.
- ✓ India's rank in the recently released 12th edition of the biennial **Environment Performance Index (EPI Index 2020) released by the Yale University-- 168th**.
- ✓ **Jaya Jaitly** will chair the task force constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI to work on the issues of women and child development.
 - **Note:** The task force will examine the matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues.
- ✓ **Adani Green Energy Limited** has won one of world's largest solar contract from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop 8 GW of solar projects.
- ✓ Digital learning platform **TCS iON** has partnered with the NSDC to provide its training partners access to the Digital Class Room.
 - **Note:** The partnership will strengthen NSDC's online content aggregation platform-- eSkill India--through which it enables e-learning amongst skill seekers and will contribute towards strengthening the Skill India mission.
- ✓ **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)** has developed Nano-Technology based disinfectant spray **ANANYA** to fight against COVID-19.
 - **Note:** The spray has been prepared based on Nano-Technology assisted formulation. It will not only stop COVID-19 from entering the body but will also kill the virus that comes in direct contact.
- ✓ **IIT Bombay** maintains its position as the top institution in India in the QS World University rankings 2021 released recently.
 - **Note:** IIT-Bombay still maintains its position as the top institution in India in the QS rankings, but has slipped 20 places from 152 to 172 in the global list.
 - IISc overtook IIT Delhi to make it to the second place, but still dropped a rank to 185.
- ✓ A Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex was inaugurated in **Vishakhapatnam**.
- ✓ **IIT-BHU** has developed an anti-microbial five-layered face mask that annihilate pathogenic microorganisms.

- ✓ The National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) Nangal**.
 - **Note:** Under the MoU, ITI's 12 trades will be taught in the NFL & the theory will be studied at ITI Nangal.
 - The MoU was exchanged between Ms Renu R P Singh DGM (HR) I/c, NFL Nangal unit and Sh Lalit Mohan, Principal of ITI, Nangal.
- ✓ **Infosys** has announced to launch of 'Summer of Ideas' initiative for university students worldwide, an online learning programme.
 - **Note:** The global eight-week ideathon, powered by Infosys' digital learning platform Wingspan, will help the global student and academic community overcome the loss of learning opportunities as a result of the disruption caused by COVID-19. The initiative will allow students access to Infosys mentorship and specially curated learning materials virtually.
- ✓ India's rank in the recently compiled by Nature Research, a division of the international scientific publishing company 'Springer Nature' -- **12th**.
 - **Note:** The top five positions have gone to the United States of America, China, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan.
 - The Nature Index is a database of author affiliation information collated from research articles published in an independently selected group of 82 high-quality science journals.
- ✓ As per the "26th Annual Cost of Living Survey 2020" released by Mercer Indian city **Mumbai** is the most expensive city in India.
 - **Note:** Mercer released its 26th Annual Cost of Living Survey 2020. From India, Mumbai city has been ranked 60th most expensive city globally and also 19th in Asia.
- ✓ **IIT Bombay** has emerged as the top institutions in the list of 'overall ranking' category in the 5th NIRF Ranking 2020.
 - **Note:** The rankings are being announced for India's best universities and institutions in 10 categories namely- Overall, Universities, Engineering, Colleges, Management, Pharmacy, Medical, Dental Architecture, and Law.
- ✓ Name the AI enabled robot launched by Indian Railway to intensify the screening and surveillance of railway passengers and railway staff -- **ARJUN**.
 - **Note:** The full form of ARJUN is 'Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice'. This innovation will help Indian Railways to modernise its security measures at the time of covid-19.
- ✓ Name the National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies -- **Aarogyapath**.
 - **Note:** This national healthcare supply chain portal will remove supply chain bottlenecks during the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - The vision of this initiative is to set up an information management and forecasting database platform at national level.
- ✓ **DRDO** has developed a sanitizing chamber named 'GermiKlean' to sanitise uniforms of security forces.
 - **Note:** DRDO's move came after Delhi Police gave their requirement for sanitizing their uniforms, canes, cane shields, helmets.
 - This chamber is designed to sanitise 25 pairs of uniforms within 15 minutes. The sanitizing chamber has been set up at Parliament Street Police Station.
- ✓ Construction company **NHAI** has become the first of its kind in the construction sector to go fully digital.
 - **Note:** With the launch of cloud-based and artificial intelligence-

powered big data analytics platform Data Lake and Project Management Software, the entire project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to the online portal based.

- All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through the portal only.
- ✓ **IIT Kharagpur** has developed an Artificial Intelligence-based cyber-physical system to monitor social distancing in public places.
- ✓ An Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS) has been launched for **Mumbai**.
 - **Note:** Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods.
 - The system was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).
- ✓ According to "Poonam Avlokkan" survey the population of the Asiatic lion at the Gir sanctuary grew by approximately **29 per cent**.
 - **Note:** The Gujarat Forest Department has recently announced that the number of Asiatic lions in the state has gone up till 674 from 523 that were reported in a Lion Census done five years ago, which shows almost 29 per cent increase in the population.
- ✓ The 40th GST council meet was held recently virtually, who is the chairperson of the GST council -- **Union Finance Minister**.
 - **Note:** Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the virtual 40th GST Council Meeting.
 - The key outcome of this meet was further relief on late fee and interest payable on late payments as a part of compliance burden of

businesses. This was the first meeting after COVID-19 breakout in India.

- ✓ **Uday Kotak** will chair the advisory committee formed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation process.
 - **Note:** The new 14-member committee, formed in August 2017, will be chaired by Uday Kotak, the Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
 - It will suggest and provide professional support on a request from the IBBI or on its own volition on any matter with respect to the Corporate Insolvency resolution and liquidation dealt with by the Board under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
- ✓ Construction company **NHAI** has become the first of its kind in the construction sector to go fully digital.
- ✓ **GermiBAN** device launched by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy that kills viruses & other germs by sterilising, sanitising & disinfecting in large areas.
- ✓ India's rank in the annual World Competitiveness Index 2020 compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD) -- **43rd**.
- ✓ According to the SIPRI Yearbook 2020, India's position as nuclear weapons holder in the world -- **6th**.
- ✓ Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS) has been launched for **Mumbai City**.
 - **Note:** Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods.
 - The system was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The device will be very useful, especially if

people need to be evacuated from low-lying areas.

- ✓ **Mumbai** Municipal Corporation has launched a mobile application “Air-Venti” to provide information on ICU beds, ventilators.
- ✓ Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)” has been inaugurated in **Ranchi**.
 - This is the 21st Composite Regional Centre (CRC) which will serve to fulfil the needs of Persons with Disabilities in Jharkhand.
- ✓ **Amitabh Kant** will lead the high-powered committee of top executives of technology companies formed by NITI Aayog to develop a job platform for migrant labours who lost their job during lock down.
- ✓ India’s first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform, “Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)” has been launched with headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- ✓ Two Indian Startups **Stellapps** and **Zestmoney** were featured in the List of Technology Pioneers of 2020, released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ✓ Indian Railways’ Central Railway zone has installed 1st of its kind an Automated Ticket Checking & Managing Access (ATMA) machine at **Nagpur station**.
- ✓ Chartered accountancy firm has been appointed to audit PM Cares Fund -- **SARC & Associates**.
 - **Note:** The appointment is significant because critics have questioned the rationale for a fund other than the Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for relief work and have also sought more transparency about the usage of monies from the Fund.
- ✓ Researchers at **IIT Bombay** has created a chip named ‘Dhruva’ that can be mounted in smartphones and navigation devices to find places and routes within the country.
 - **Note:** The radio frequency receiver chip was designed in 18 months by students and researchers at IIT Bombay.
- ✓ For reducing the carbon dioxide emission caused due to transportation in the country, NITI Aayog will launch the project ‘Decarbonising Transport in India’ in collaboration with **International Transport Forum (ITF)**.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched ‘Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA)’ via video conference from **Khagaria** district of Bihar.
- ✓ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) India has partnered with **IIT Delhi** to support state and national governments in achieving food and nutrition security.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the declaration of the Kushinagar Airport as an international airport, it is located in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved additional investment of USD 121.27 million by ONGC Videsh Ltd. in Shwe oil and gas project located in **Myanmar**.
- ✓ **Nitin Gadkari** launched the scheme ‘Distressed Assets Fund- Sub- Ordinate Debt for MSMEs’ announced as part of AtmaNirbhar Bharat Package by GoI.
 - **Note:** The scheme is also called as Distressed Assets Fund- Sub- Ordinate Debt for MSMEs.
- ✓ As per the data released by the United States (US) Treasury Department what is India’s position as a holder of US government securities -- **12th**.
 - The country with maximum exposure to US government securities is Japan at US\$1.266 trillion followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK) at the second and third positions, respectively at the end of April 2020.
- ✓ A behaviour change campaign named ‘Navigating the New Normal’ has been launched by NITI Aayog in partnership with **Melinda Gates Foundation**.
- ✓ As per the Annual Tuberculosis Report 2020 released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare what is the percentage rise in TB patient in 2019 – **14%**.

- **Note:** It should be noted that the sustainable goal of eradicating TB globally is 2030, but the Indian government is committed to achieve this target in the country by 2025.
- ✓ **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru** has become the 1st airport in India to get an indigenously developed Aviation Weather Monitoring System (AWMS) at both ends of the runway.
 - **Note:** The technology is developed by **Bengaluru-based CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)**.
- ✓ Two Indian Institutes **IIT Ropar and IIT Indore** secured their ranks in the top 100 in the “THE Young University Rankings 2020” released by the Times Higher Education.
 - **Note:** The Times Higher Education (THE) released THE Young University Rankings 2020 for the universities which are 50 years old or younger.
 - The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (Pune) and Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar ranked 101-150.
- ✓ **Ministry of Culture** is celebrating the “Sankalp Parva” from 28th June to 12 July 2020.
 - **Note:** This initiative has been launched following the call of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to plant at least five trees either in Office campus or wherever it is possible in order to ensure clean and healthy environment of the country.
- ✓ Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan virtually inaugurated Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service (QIS) in **Chandigarh**.
 - **Note:** The battery swapping technology provides the best alternative to slow charging and enables drivers to optimize the use of the operational hours.
 - The model was initiated to target the commercial segment like electric autos, rickshaws, electric 2W and the electric vehicle, which is factory fitted or retrofitted.

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- ✓ The central government has brought the **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)** under **Jal Shakti Ministry**.
 - **Note:** Earlier it was under the **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**.
- ✓ **India** secured **53rd rank** in the **7th edition of ‘Open Budget Survey 2019’** conducted by **International Budget Partnership (IBP)**.
 - **Note:** In the survey time New Zealand has been topped the list with a score of 87.
- ✓ **National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC)** has initiated a programme on health and risk communication focusing on COVID-19 titled “**Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)**”.
- ✓ **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** has permitted the use of **98.59 hectares of land** for opencast coal mining project in **DehingPatkai Elephant Reserve in Assam**.
- ✓ **India’s rank** in the in **scientific publication in 2018** among the countries -- **Third**.
 - **Note:** The National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), Department of Science and Technology (DST), has conducted a survey on Research and Development (R&D) Statistics and Indicators 2019-20.
 - The survey included more than 6800 S&T Institutions spread across varied sectors like central government, state governments, higher education, public sector industry, and private sector industry in the country.
- ✓ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated in the virtual summit of the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** for the first time since 2014, **Azerbaijan** presented the group.

- ✓ **NITI Aayog** has launched virtual ‘**Surakshit Dada-Dadi& Nana-Nani Abhiyan**’ to ensure wellbeing of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic in association with Piramal Foundation.
- ✓ **Operation Samudra Setu** has been launched by the Indian Navy as a part of a national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.
 - **Note:** The operation aims to evacuate personnel who repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.
- ✓ According to the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)** the country’s unemployment rate rose to **27.11%**.
- ✓ The **Defence Ministry** has signed a contract with **Tata Power** for **Phase-II of Modernisation of Airfield Infrastructure of 37 airfields for Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.**
- ✓ **Mission Sagar** conducted by the Government of India to **provide assistance to Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations** amid the coronavirus crisis.
 - **Note:** Under the mission, **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari** deployed, carrying on board two medical assistance teams, essential Food Items and COVID related Medicines and Special Ayurvedic Medicines five to Island countries in the Indian Ocean.
 - The five countries are **Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.**
- ✓ Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has launched “**Bharosa**” helpline for **Central University of Odisha.**
 - **Note:** This helpline has been launched with an objective of relieving the student community from the distress caused during the troubled time of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated **80km strategically crucial road link connecting Lipulekh pass (China Border) with Dharchula in Uttarakhand** through video conferencing.
 - **Note:** The **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** has constructed the road that originates from **Ghatiabagarh and it ends at Lipulekh Pass** which is a gateway to **Kailash-Mansarovar.**
- It will help pilgrims visiting **Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet** as it is around **90 kms from the Lipulekh pass.**
- This road, which has an altitude ranging from **6000 to 17060 feet**, constructed along the **banks of river Kali between India and Nepal.**
- ✓ India initiated “**Mission Sagar**” to send **medical aid to five Island nations** in the Indian Ocean amid COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **Note:** In this regard, **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari** departed for **Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros**, to provide Food items, COVID related Medicines.
- ✓ **Two scientific papers on child survival** published by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative stated that the **under-5 Mortality Rate in India** has dropped by - **49 percent** since 2000.
 - **Note:** The **India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative** has recently published **two scientific papers.**
 - The initiative has given its report on **district-level trends of child growth and child mortality.**
 - The findings show there were **1.04 million under-5 deaths in 2017**, down from **2.24 million deaths in 2000.**
 - The child mortality rate has dropped by **49% between 2000 and 2017.**
- ✓ **India’s rank** in the recently released **Global Energy Transition Index (GET Index) 2020** by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**-- **74th.**
 - Sweden has topped the ranking for the **third consecutive year.**
 - It was followed by **Switzerland and Finland.**

- ✓ As per the **new definition of MSMEs** what the maximum investment limit for a micro unit is: **1 crore**.
 - **Note:** The GoI has changed the definition of MSMEs. The new definition has **increased the investment limit** upwards.
 - Previously, an **enterprise with investment up to Rs 25 lakh** was called a micro unit.
 - Under the new definition, a firm upto investment of **Rs 1 crore is to be called Micro unit, of Rs 10 crore** is to be called as small unit and investment greater than **Rs 20 crore** will be called as medium unit.
- ✓ **Central Government** has set up a new body **Rice Export Promotion Forum** to give impetus to rice exports under the aegis of **APEDA**.
 - **Note:** Centre set up a new body Rice Export Promotion Forum to give impetus to rice exports under the aegis of Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Promotion Development Authority (APEDA).
- ✓ **‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** announced by the **Prime Minister** with an economic stimulus package worth **Rs 20 lakh crores** which is almost **10%** percent of GDP.
- ✓ Flagship social security scheme of the Government of India **‘Atal Pension Yojna’** has **completed five years** of its implementation in May 2020.
 - **Note:** The scheme is being administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority through **National Pension System (NPS)**.
 - Any citizen of India can join the **APY scheme**.
 - The age of the subscriber should be **between 18-40 years**.
 - The **contribution levels** would vary and would be low if a subscriber joins early and increases if she joins late.
- ✓ **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme** approved by the **Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh** and allotted **Rs 400 crores**.
 - **Note:** The establishment of defence testing infrastructure will provide easy access and thus meet the testing needs of the domestic defence industry.
 - The scheme will run for a period of 5 years & envisages to set up 6 to 8 new test facilities in partnership with private industry.
- ✓ For multi-mode access to digital/online education Government of India has decided to launch **PM-eVIDYA programme**.
 - **Note:** Under the programme the DIKSHA programme will provide **“one nation, one digital platform”** for school education in states/UTs.
 - It will also include the launch of **Energized Textbooks** for all grades.
 - One earmarked **TV channel** will be launched for per **class from 1 to 12** following the concept of **“one class, one channel”**.
- ✓ **National Disaster Management Authority** has developed **“National Migrant Information System (NMIS)”** to secure information regarding the movement of migrant workers.
 - **Note:** An online dashboard “National Migrant Information System (NMIS)” has been developed by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
 - The dashboard has been developed by NDMA to secure information regarding the movement of migrants and to facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across States.
- ✓ **Landing Craft Utility Ship ‘INLCU L57’** commissioned into Indian Navy in **Port Blair**.
 - **Note:** The **“INLCU L57”** is the **seventh LCU Mark IV class warship**.
 - The **primary role of the warship**, being transportation and deployment of main battle tanks,

- armored vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore.
- The first ship of the **Mark IV LCU Vessels INLCU L51** was commissioned into **Indian Navy in March 2017**.
- ✓ Mobile application **National Test Abhyas** developed by the National Testing Agency will help the candidates to take mock tests for exams such as JEE Mains, NEET, etc.
 - ✓ **Six cities** rated **5 stars in Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities**, for the assessment year 2019-2020.
 - **Note:** In rating Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysuru, Indore and Navi Mumbai were rated 5 Star (6 cities).
 - **65 other Cities** rated **3 Star** and **70 Cities** rated **1 Star** out of 141 cities.
 - He also launched the revised protocol for the **Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities**.
 - ✓ The Union Cabinet has extended **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)** till year **2023**.
 - **Note:** It is a **social security scheme for senior citizens** for those who are above 60.
 - The government has **fixed its annual rate of return at 7.4% for financial year 2020-21**.
 - Now, **Senior citizens** will have time till **March 31, 2023** to invest in **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana** which provides **higher return** than any bank.
 - ✓ The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has launched a scheme for **100% solarization of Konark** city of India
 - **Note:** The scheme has been launched to develop the **historic Sun Temple in the town of Konark**.
 - Also, the scheme will develop the town into **Surya Nagri**.
 - The scheme mainly aims at **promoting solar energy**.
 - ✓ **India's position** in manufacturing **personal protective equipment (PPE)** body coveralls - **- Second**.
 - **Note:** PPE body coveralls are crucial to safeguard against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
 - China is the world's leading producer of PPE body coveralls, crucial to safeguard against the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ **National Health Authority** is the nodal agency for the implementation of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**.
 - The National Health Authority (NHA) is responsible for implementing the scheme.
 - ✓ **Indian Navy** has formed **PPE kit with innovative breathable fabric material**.
 - **Note:** This PPE kit provides comfort to healthcare workers working against COVID-19 pandemic wearing multi-layered coverall PPE treating patients within the hot and humid condition for quite 12 hours.
 - The ability of the material to permit water vapour to undergo and stop the water from entering is understood as **Breathability**.
 - ✓ The length of the tunnel built by **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** on **Rishikesh-Dharasu Highway (NH 94)** in **Uttarakhand -- 440 Km**.
 - ✓ **Tejas Mk-1 FOC aircraft** has been inducted by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** into the recently **resurrected No 18 Squadron** the **"Flying Bullets"** at Air Force Station **Sulur**.
 - **Note:** Tejas Mk-1 FOC is a single engine, light weight, highly agile and all weather multi role fighter aircraft.
 - The aircraft is capable of air-to-air refueling and hence makes the Squadron the first in the IAF to induct this platform.
 - ✓ Missile Park **Agneeprastha** being established in Eastern Naval Command (ENS) at **INS Kalinga, Visakhapatnam**.

- **Note:** Agneeprastha aims to **capture glimpses of Missile History of INS Kalinga**.
- Agneeprastha is to provide a **one-stop arena for motivation and stimulation** of people regarding the missiles and related technologies, from school children to **Naval personnel and their families**.

- ✓ **Swath Sagar** has been given to the plan to modernize the fisheries sector which is part of **Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.

- **Note:** Also, Government will register “Sagar Mitra” and encourage formation of Fish Farmers Producer Organizations (FFPOs) to help achieve the PMMSY goals by enhancing domestic fish consumption with corresponding health benefits.

April 2020

- ✓ As per revised norms of the central government the limit for a person reside in J&K to become permanent resident of the UT -- **15 Years**.

- **Note:** A new definition for domicile for Jammu and Kashmir was introduced. As per the new definition a person residing in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir for at least 15 years or has studied for a period of seven years in Jammu and Kashmir and appeared in Class 10 or 12 examinations will now be eligible to be a permanent resident of the UT.
- This new rule was issued under the Section 3A of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Adaptation of State Laws Order 2020, under the Jammu and Kashmir civil services decentralisation and recruitment Act.

- ✓ **Indian Council for Cultural Relations** has launched a competition titled “**United Against Corona- Express through Art**”.

- ✓ Donations for PM-CARES Fund granted tax exemption of **100%**.

- **Note:** the donations made under newly-formed Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES FUND) to provide assistance to the persons affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, are made eligible for 100% deduction under section 80G of the Income Tax (IT) Act, 1961.

- For this, the provisions of the IT Act are amended through the Taxation and other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance, 2020.

- ✓ National Cadet Corps (NCC) has offered its volunteer cadets to assist the civilian authorities to fight COVID-19 under ‘**Exercise NCC Yogdan**’.

- **Note:** It has issued guidelines for the temporary employment of its cadets to enhance the operations of various organizations involved in relief efforts & fighting the pandemic.

- ✓ To build a portable and lightweight emergency ventilator system Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) has partnered with ‘**Wipro 3D**’.

- This ventilator system is essentially a hand held device also called as AMBU bag or bag-valve-mask (BVM) to provide positive pressure ventilation to a corona patients with breathing difficulties with a controlled rate of expiration, inspiratory to expiratory ratio, Tidal volume etc.

- ✓ To fight COVID-19 Civil services associations form an initiative called ‘**Caruna**’.

- **Note:** Associations representing officers of Central Civil Services, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), have created an initiative called ‘CARUNA

- The CARUNA stands for Civil Services Associations Reach to Support in Natural Disasters.
- ✓ **‘Operation Sanjeevani’** launched by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to air-lifted 6.2 tonnes of essential medical supplies to Maldives via transport aircraft C-130J as assistance in the fight against the virus.
- ✓ To deal with Covid-19 epidemic the central government has constituted a 10-member group under the chairmanship of **Amitabh Kant**.
- ✓ To help India fight against COVID-19 the Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the initiative called **“Lifeline UDAN”**.
 - **Note:** Under Lifeline UDAN initiative of Ministry of Civil Aviation, 132 cargo flights have been operated so far across the country to transport medical cargo including to remote and hilly areas.
- ✓ Department of Science & Technology, Government of India has approved to set up a rapid response centre -- **“CAWACH”**.
 - **Note:** CAWACH stands for Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis. Rapid response centre “CAWACH” has been set up at a total cost of Rs 56 Crore at Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay.
- ✓ **Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam** has designed ‘Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)’.
 - **Note:** This oxygen manifold is designed to supply oxygen to multiple patients at a time, which could prove helpful in a contingency created by COVID-19 spread. The preliminary trials were conducted at MI Room at NDV, followed by rapid trials at the Naval Hospital INHS Kalyani, where it was successfully installed within 30 minutes.
- ✓ Name the official COVID-19 tracking app that has been launched by the Government of India -- **AarogyaSetu**.
 - **Note:** The “AarogyaSetu” app has been developed by the National e-Governance Division of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in association with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ To help foreign tourists who are stuck in various parts of the country the **Ministry of Tourism** has launched a portal **‘Stranded in India’**.
- ✓ Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved an ordinance to cut in the salaries of all Members of Parliament by **30%**.
 - **Note:** It also provisioned a two-year suspension (2020-21 and 2021-22) of the MP Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme so that the amount saved can go to the Consolidated Fund of India to fight COVID-19.
 - This announcement was made by Prakash Javadar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting.
- ✓ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has achieved the highest ever highway construction feat with an accomplishment of **3,979 km**.
- ✓ The name that has been given to mega ONLINE innovation challenge launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) -- **SAMADHAN**.
 - **Note:** The innovation cell of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has launched a mega ONLINE challenge called “SAMADHAN” to fight against covid19.
 - Under the **“Samadhan” challenge**, the students and faculty will be motivated for doing new experiments and new discoveries and provide them with a strong base leading to a spirit of experimentation and discovery.
- ✓ **iGOT e-learning platform** has been launched by the government of India for all front-line workers to equip them with

the training and updates in coping with Pandemic.

- ✓ **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has removed export restrictions on 24 pharma ingredients including 12 active pharmaceutical ingredients, it operates under **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- ✓ Name the mobile doctor booth created by the West Central Railway's Coach Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS) -- **CHARAK**.
 - A viral barrier chamber has been built in the railway compartment itself, through which doctors will be able to examine patients without direct physical contact.
- ✓ The government of India has approved for the 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package -- **Rs.15000 crores**.
 - **Note:** The package is to build health infrastructure in states and UTs till March 2024. Of the 15,000 crores, Centre would release Rs.7,774 crore for immediate COVID-19 Emergency Response use till June 2020 and the rest will be set for medium-term support of 1-4 years.
- ✓ The Supreme Court (SC) of India has extended the tenure of chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) **Justice Shiva Kirti Singh**.
 - The bench also expressed concern over the delay in appointment of administrative and technical members of TDSAT and asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to answer on behalf of Centre.
- ✓ To improve the online education ecosystem of India Union Human Resource Development Ministry has launched the campaign -- '**Bharat Padhe Online**'
 - **Note:** The campaign aims to invite all the best brains in India to share suggestions or solutions directly with the HRD Ministry, to overcome the obstacles of online

education while promoting the available digital education platforms.

- ✓ **Ahmedabad** railway station becomes first station of IR to install sanitizing tunnel.
 - **Note:** The Ahmedabad railway station at Kalupur, Gujarat of Western Railway became the first station of Indian Railways (IR) to install a Walk Through Mass Sanitizing Tunnel to ensure the safety of staff and passengers in the view of the COVID-19.
- ✓ Exit from the Lockdown report has been prepared by CII.
 - **Note:** The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in its report titled "**Exit from the Lockdown: A CII Strategy**" has recommended phase-wise lifting of the lockdown based on the incidence of COVID cases.
- ✓ Fit India in collaboration with **CBSE** for first-of-a-kind live fitness session under its Fit India Active Day programme for school children across the country.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced a training program on COVID-19 for intergovernmental organization **SAARC**.
 - **Note:** It will be carried out by the Central Government's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.
 - It is to take forward the Prime Minister's (PM) '**Prepare Not Panic**' for '**SAARC fights Corona**'.
 - PM Narendra Modi has suggested that the health professionals of the member nations come together to fight the coronavirus pandemic at the India-initiated video conference of SAARC leaders on March 15.
- ✓ **Jim Corbett National Park** becomes the India's 1st quarantine centre for animals.
 - **Note:** Jim Corbett National Park has become the India's 1st quarantine centre for animals with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

- ✓ **M S Sahoo Committee** submitted its report on “valuation professionals” and proposed an institutional framework for valuers by setting up National Institute of Valuers (NIV).
- ✓ **Nirmala Sitharaman** attended the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) through video conferencing.
 - **Note:** The discussion in the meeting is based on IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva global policy agenda titled, “Exceptional Times – Exceptional Action”.
- ✓ **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad** is training community leaders online to combat COVID-19 in collaboration with UNICEF.
- ✓ The ministry of finance has increased the coverage of lender’s loss in case of loan default under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) scheme to **75%**.
 - The lender’s burden under the scheme has reduced from the first 5% of the amount in default to 3%.
- ✓ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** attended G20 Health Ministers Meeting held via video conference to control COVID-19.
 - **Note:** An international forum of Health Ministers of G20 countries was held on April 19, 2020, via Video Conference. Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB) estimated that, over \$8 billion is required to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Vinod Paul and Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan** will head the high-level task force for vaccine and drug testing for coronavirus disease.
 - **Note:** The objective of the task force is to catalyse national and international efforts towards vaccine development to treat Covid-19.
- ✓ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)** has been appointed as the implementing agency to handle the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
 - **Note:** MNRE will timely review the maximum permissible VGF amount &
 - The CPSU Scheme Phase II aims to set up 12,000 MW grid-connected solar PV power projects under the government producers with the VGF support for self-use or by government entities either directly or through discoms
- ✓ **Dharmendra Pradhan** chaired the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) meeting approved & allowed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to convert the available surplus rice to ethanol.
- ✓ **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Institute of Medical Science and Research** becomes the 1st authorized study centre in the country to carry out the plasma research under trial in view of COVID 19.
- ✓ **Ravindra H Dholakia** chaired the committee formed by the central government that suggested a complete revamp of how states collect and compile data for state-level gross domestic product (GDP) and other estimates.
- ✓ To invite e-learning content contributions Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has launched programme **VidyaDaan 2.0**.
 - **Note:** The contribution can be made by individuals, teachers, educationists, subject experts, schools, government and non-government organisations etc after registering & nominating themselves.
 - The program will soon be inviting contributions for Teacher Training material.
- ✓ Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated **Mobile Virology Research and Diagnostics Laboratory (MVRDL)** which is developed by **DRDO**.

✓ **Swamitva Scheme** has been launched by the PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th of April 2020.

- **Note:** On the occasion an integrated e-Gram swaraj Portal & Mobile app for accelerating the pace of development in India's villages was also launched.
- The Unified Portal is a new initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj which will provide the Gram Panchayats with a single interface to prepare and implement their Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). The scheme provides an integrated property validation solution for rural India.

✓ **Malini Shankar** will head the reconstituted **16-member National Shipping Board (NSB)**.

- **Note:** The **Ministry of Shipping** has given its consent for the reconstitution of the 16-member National Shipping Board (NSB), the highest advisory body on matters related to Indian shipping and its development or other matters arising out of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

✓ The premier multilateral air combat training Exercise Pitch Black 2020 has been cancelled which was to be conducted by the **Royal Australian Air Force**.

- **Note:** Exercise Pitch Black 2020 scheduled to be held from July 27 to August 14 2020. The next edition is scheduled in 2022.
- It is a biennial three-week multinational large force employment exercise conducted primarily from RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF Base Tindal.

✓ On the occasion of the World Book Day the Union Minister of Human Resource and Development (HRD), Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched **#MyBookMyFriend** campaign.

- **Note:** The World Book Day is celebrated in the lockdown and he asked the students to read books of

their interest and share about the book they are reading with him in the social media using #MyBookMyFriend.

✓ 1st government (govt) hospital in India to successfully launch the Convalescent Plasma Therapy (CPT) treatment for the COVID-19 patients -- **The King George Medical University (KGMU)**

March 2020

✓ **Indian Air Force** signed MoU with **Savitribai Phule Pune University** to establish a 'Chair of Excellence' named "Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence".

- In order to pay **tribute to the legend and commemorate** the centenary birth year of the **MIAF (Marshal of the Indian Air Force)**, IAF has named it as "Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence".

✓ **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** launched 'Suposhit Maa Abhiyan' in **Kota, Rajasthan**.

- **Note:** **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** has launched 'Suposhit Maa Abhiyan' in his constituency **Kota, Rajasthan**, to provide nutritional support to pregnant women and adolescent girls.
- The aim of the campaign is to **preserve & maintain the health of our future generations**.

✓ **108th Indian Science Congress 2021** will be held in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

- **Note:** The Indian Science Congress association (ISCA) announced that Pune will host the annual session of 108th Indian Science Congress on January 3-7, 2021 at Symbiosis International University's Lavale campus with the theme, "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment".
- Dr Vijay Laxmi Saxena elected as general president of the Indian Science Congress, 2020-21

✓ **National Chambal Sanctuary** has received eco-sensitive zone tag.

- ✓ **11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference -2020** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - The conference, organized by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**, focused on technology-led farming and youth entrepreneurship through agriculture.
- ✓ Under the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)**, a financial assistance of Rs 1.51 crore has been sanctioned to **Kaziranga National Park**.
- ✓ **35th edition of the International food and hospitality fair ‘AAHAR 2020’** commences in **New Delhi**.
- ✓ An **International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Water India Smart Utility Week 2020 (ISUW)** for Smarter Cities was held in **New Delhi**.
- ✓ **Maharashtra Government** renamed **Aurangabad Airport** as **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Airport**.
- ✓ **International Conference on Nano Science and Technology 2020 (ICONSAT)** was held in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
 - The conference provides a **platform for the young researchers & students** from within the country and abroad, with the **latest development in the emerging areas of Nano Science and Technology**.
- ✓ **5th edition of India Pharma & India Medical Device 2020 Conference** held at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
 - The conference was organized by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- ✓ The **National Water Mission** organized the inaugural session of the workshop on “Increasing Water Use Efficiency in Industries” in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** The National Water Mission organized the inaugural session of the workshop on “Increasing Water Use Efficiency in Industries”.
 - The workshop on “**Increasing Water Use Efficiency in Industries**” was held in **New Delhi**.
- The National Water Mission organized the workshop under the initiative “**HarKaamDeshkeNaam**”.
- ✓ Name the **mobile app** which has been launched by the government for delivery of diesel at doorsteps of Housing societies, hotels and hospitals in the national capital region -- ‘**Fuel Humsafar**’.
- ✓ “**EKAM Fest**” has been organised in **New Delhi** to promote **Craftsmanship & Products of Divyang Artisans and Entrepreneurs**.
- ✓ **Indian Coast Guard** conducts 9th edition of rescue exercise ‘**SAREX-2020**’ in **Goa**.
- ✓ Two cities are approved by the Government of India as authorised land immigration check posts to enter or exit India -- **Agartala** and **Ghojadanga**.
 - **Agartala and Ghojadanga** are located along the Indo-Bangladesh border.
- ✓ The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) & the World Bank** organized a discussion programme on the topic “The Future of Work: Women in India’s Workforce” in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) & the World Bank organized a discussion programme on the topic “**The Future of Work: Women in India’s Workforce**” at **New Delhi**.
- ✓ **Odisha** becomes the 1st state to own a separate department for Self Help Groups named as “**Department of Mission Shakti**”.
- ✓ The **6th edition of Economic Times Global business summit** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - The **theme of the Global Business Summit** is ‘**Collaborate to Create: Sustainable Growth in a Fractured World**’.
- ✓ **National Conference on Women in Police and CAPFs** held in **New Delhi**.
 - The Conference was organized by the **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR & D)**.
 - **Smriti Irani** also released a hand-out- ‘**BPR & D Mirror- Gender Bender**’ and also the book titled “**To Greater Heights**”.
 - Themes of the Conference 2020: ‘**Cyber Stalking and Bullying of Women: Steps for Protection**’ and

‘Challenges faced by CAPF Women in Operational Areas’.

- ✓ United Nations Global Compact Network India has organized the 3rd edition of its Gender Equality Summit 2020 in **New Delhi**.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
 - **Note: Andhra Pradesh (AP)** ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN (Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan as per September 2019 progress report of NITI Aayog, “Transforming Nutrition in India: POSHAN Abhiyaan”.
 - The 2nd anniversary of POSHAN Abhiyaan is recognized by celebrating Poshan Pakhwada from 8th-22nd March 2020.
- ✓ **Gujarat** state ranks first in the list for domestic solar rooftop installations, throughout the country with 64 percent of domestic solar installations.
- ✓ A weeklong Exhibition-cum-Fair, the first “EKAM Fest” organized by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) in **New Delhi**.
 - EKAM, an acronym for **Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, Awareness, Marketing**, was aimed to showcase products made with extra ordinary determination by the **divyang (differently abled) crafts persons and entrepreneurs**.
- ✓ **India** post launches **India’s 1st digital parcel locker service in Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- ✓ **New Delhi Railway Station** to be converted as **World Class Station**.
 - **Note:** The committee chaired by Bibek Debroy has recommended concession of commercial operation of train service like Rajdhani/Shatabdi to private parties.
- ✓ First regional edition of “**Divya Kala Shakti Event**” was held in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.
 - The event was organised by the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), in association with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The Divya Kala Shakti event aims to provide a platform for the disabled to exhibit their talents.
- ✓ The **Mumbai Central Station** to be renamed after **Nana Shankarsheth**.
 - The **Bombay Central** is designed by **British architect Claude Batley**.
 - The **first railway in India** ran over **21 miles from Bombay to Thane**.
- ✓ **WINGS INDIA 2020** an international exhibition and conference was held in **Hyderabad**.
 - **Note:** The conference was held between **March 12-15 is a biennial event**.
 - The event was themed as ‘**Flying for All**’ is an International Exhibition & Conference.
 - The exhibition was organized by **Ministry of Civil Aviation & Airports Authority of India (AAI) & Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**.
- ✓ The **government proposed masks & hand sanitizers under Essential Commodities Act 1955**.
 - **Note:** The government amended Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 to declare 2 ply & 3 ply surgical masks, N95 masks & hand sanitizers as Essential Commodities up to 30th June 2020.
 - It also issued a consultation under the Legal Metrology (LM) Act, 2009 that under EC law, after consultations with manufacturers, states can ask them to increase the production capacity of these products & streamline the supply chain, while states can ensure the sale of both products under MRP under the LM Act.
- ✓ **US \$10 million** amount has been offered by India in the proposed COVID-19 Emergency Fund for SAARC Nation by PM Narendra Modi.

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- ✓ As per the Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari the number of deaths caused due to road accidents have been reduced by **10%**.
 - **Note: Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari** revealed that the number of deaths caused due to road accidents has been reduced by 10% in India after the Motor Vehicles (Amended) Act 2019.
 - **From 12 states and union territories, Tamil Nadu** made notable progress in reducing road accidents by 24% which is the maximum anywhere in the country.
- ✓ Government targeted to achieve sales **around 70 lakh hybrid & electric vehicles** by the end of **2020**.
 - **Note: The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Minister of Information & Broadcasting & Minister of Heavy industries and Public Enterprises Prakash Javadekar** informed that the government has set an ambitious target to achieve sales of **around 70 lakh hybrid & electric vehicles by the end of 2020**.
 - In 2015 as part of the **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020**, Department of **Heavy Industry** formulated the **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India)** scheme.
- ✓ As per the **New & Renewable Energy, (MNRE) Ministry** till March 13, 2020, Rooftop solar power plants in India installed at **1,922 MW**.
 - **Note: Minister of State Independent Charge (IC) of, New & Renewable Energy, (MNRE) and Power, Minister of State of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Raj Kumar(RK) Singh** stated till March 13, 2020, the rooftop solar plants contain an aggregate capacity of 1,922 MW are installed in the country.
 - Out of the **total capacity, 346 MW** is installed in the residential sector.
- ✓ **Banihal to Katra railway link** to be completed by **2022**.
 - This completion will pave the way for the creation of Indian rail from Kanyakumari to Baramulla.
 - The **Katra-Banihal railway track** is a **111-km long stretch** which will link **Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country by train**.
- ✓ The central government has included which two sites in the **Iconic Tourist Sites list -- Konark Sun Temple & Statue of Unity**.
 - A total of **17 iconic tourist sites** were identified by the government of India in 2019. It includes- Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh), Ajanta and Ellora (Maharashtra), Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort and Qutub Minar (Delhi), Colva (Goa), Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Somnath and Dholavira (Gujarat), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Kaziranga (Assam), Kumarakom (Kerala) and Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar).
- ✓ **Indian Railways** to electrify all broad-gauge routes by **December 2023**.
 - As a target to **electrify 4,310 km of BG route** in the year **2023-2024** (till December 2023), it is planned to electrify a total of 28,810 km of BG route.
 - As part of its solar mission, it plans to source approximately 1000 megawatt (MW) of solar power & to source around 200 MV of wind power, based on the techno-commercial assessment.
- ✓ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed an MoU with **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**.
 - **Note:** This MoU aims for better synergy with this organization for the development of agriculture, allied sectors and its exports for bringing better value to the stakeholders.
 - This collaboration focuses to reach large farmers for improving the production base of agri products quantitatively and qualitatively.

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- ✓ **Finance Commission** sets up committee to review the fiscal consolidation road map under the chairmanship of **Nand Kishore Singh**.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared the formulation of COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force led by **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- ✓ The proposed new “**Draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020**” will come into effect from **1st April 2020**.
 - **Note:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has proposed a new “Draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020”.
 - It will replace DPP 2016 and would remain in force till 31 March 2025. Its draft has been finalized by a high-level committee headed by Apurva Chandra, Director General (DG) Acquisition, Ministry of Defence that was set up in August 2019.
- ✓ TRIFED launches ‘**Tech for Tribals**’ program to bring technology to **tribal entrepreneurs**.
 - **Note:** A 30- days long capacity-building program called “Tech for Tribal” has been launched by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
 - It was launched in association with IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Roorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and SRIJAN, Jaipur (Rajasthan) to provide entrepreneurship skills to the tribal people.
- ✓ Amidst Coronavirus outbreak India’s 1st AI summit ‘**RAISE 2020**’ postponed to **October 2020**.
 - **Note:** The Indian government announced the postponement of the country’s 1st summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), ‘**RAISE 2020– Responsible Artificial intelligence (AI) for Social Empowerment**’ to **October 5-6, 2020**.
 - It was to be conducted **between April 11 & 12, 2020** in **New Delhi** by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- The summit is a drive to **India’s vision & roadmap for social empowerment, inclusion & transformation through AI**.
- ✓ The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** opened a **360 feet long bailey suspension bridge** for traffic over -- **Teesta River**.
 - **Note:** The bridge constructed will be useful for the people residing in **Lahen town, North Sikkim**.
 - The bridge constructed will facilitate the movement of logistics for the Armed forces deployed in forward areas and also acts as tourist spots.
- ✓ **IIT Madras** is to organize India’s 1st Global Hyperloop Pod Competition.
 - **Note:** The Competition has been named as ‘**Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition**’.
 - This is to increase the awareness & enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India. The final round to take place in the IIT-Madras campus in July 2020.
- ✓ **Indore** becomes the first city in India to use drones to sanitize the city.
- ✓ Which Initiative has been launched the **National Book Trust** to encourage people to read books while at home -- **#StayHomeIndiaWithBooks?**
 - **Note:** As part of this initiative, it provides select and best-selling titles for FREE Download of 100+ books, in PDF format, from the NBT’s its website.
 - The PDFs are read-only, and no unauthorized or commercial use is permitted.
- ✓ **1.70 lakh crores rupees** has been provided by the union government under **PMGaribKalyanYojana** for the poor to tackle Corona Virus.
 - **Note:** The motive behind this is to aid and support the Poverty-stricken people to fight a battle against Corona Virus.
 - Insurance Cover of Rs 50 Lakh per healthcare worker workers fighting COVID-19 in Govt Hospitals & health centres.
 - PM Garib Kalyan Ann (अन्न) (Yojana; foodgrain entitlement doubled. Farmers to get the first instalment of

Rs 2000 under PM KISAN in April 2020

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in an extraordinary “Virtual Group of 20 (G20) Leaders’ Summit” which was hosted by **Saudi Arabia**.

- **Note:** It was held to discuss the challenges created by the COVID-19 and to develop an action plan for globally coordinated response against it.
- G20 leaders agreed to inject over USD 5 trillion into the global economy to counter the social and economic impact of COVID-19.
- Leaders also agreed to contribute to the WHO led COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund on a voluntary basis.

✓ Amid the growing coronavirus pandemic, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) categorizes which medicine as schedule H1 drug -- **Hydroxychloroquine**.

- **Note:** It means it can’t be sold without the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.
- Now the sale of the drug will be based on the conditions specified in Schedule H1 to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.
- The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) recently suggested that hydroxychloroquine be used in high risk cases of coronavirus (COVID-19).

✓ **Operation Namaste**, has been given to the initiative launched by Indian Army to protect 1.3 million strong forces from coronavirus.

- **Note: Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane** launched ‘Operation Namaste’ initiative to protect 1.3 million strong forces from coronavirus and provide all possible assistance to the government to control the pandemic.
- Under ‘**Operation Namaste**’, the army has issued a series of directives to all its bases to protect the force from the coronavirus & the army headquarters issued a number of suggestions to deal with the situation over the past few weeks.

✓ **Japanese government funding agency (JICA)** has signs an agreement worth Rs 15,295 crore with India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) for 3 rail infrastructure projects.

- The project aims to cope up the increasing demand for freight transport in India by setting up a new dedicated freight railway line between Delhi and Mumbai.

✓ **IIT Madras** is organizing India’s first Global Hyperloop Pod Competition named as ‘Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition’.

✓ **DRDO** has designed a casualty evacuation bag to transport or isolate persons infected with COVID-19.

- **Note:** The bag is water and air-proof and treated to deal with biological agents. DRDO will be procuring an initial lot of 500 such bags.

✓ The Government of India has launched a coronavirus risk-tracking app called ‘**Corona Kavach**.’

✓ To engage students in creative projects during the COVID-19 lockdown ‘Project Isaac’ has been launched by **IIT Gandhinagar**.

- **Note:** The project aims to enhance the student’s skills while they are confined in their homes.
- The project is inspired by Sir Isaac Newton, who was similarly sent home by Trinity College, Cambridge, because of the Great Plague of London in 1665.

✓ India’s national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency, the Invest India has launched ‘**The Invest India Business Immunity Platform**’.

- **Note:** The Invest India Business Immunity Platform has been launched to assist businesses and investors in getting real-time updates on India’s active response to COVID-19.
- This platform tracks the regular developments with respect to the Coronavirus.

February 2020

✓ India’s first of its kind fruit train was launched by **Andhra Pradesh**.

- **Note:** The fruit train was launched from Tadipatri Railway Station in Anantapur district & from Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The first meeting of the **Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) in New Delhi.**
- ✓ Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, ‘Matla Abhiyaan’ in **Kolkata, West Bengal.**
 - Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, ‘**Matla Abhiyaan’ at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal** with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the **Sunderban delta waters.**
- ✓ **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020** was held in **New Delhi.**
 - **Note:** The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) was inaugurated a 3-day long World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 based on the theme “**Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count**” at **India Habitat Centre in New Delhi** from 29-31 January, 2020.
 - The summit was organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a research institute specializes in the fields of energy.
- ✓ The Department of Science and Technology has launched a special scheme for Science and Technology infrastructure in India is called **Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)**.
 - **Note:** The aim of the scheme is to create shared, professionally managed and strong Science and Technology infrastructure in India. The SATHI scheme will enable academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs to offer high-end analytical testing.
 - This will help to avoid duplication, reduce the dependency on foreign sources & also foster a strong culture of collaboration between institutions.
- ✓ India’s biggest rural technical festival ‘Antahpragnya 2020’ was held in **Telangana.**
 - The festival was held for 3 days from 31st January to February 1,2020. The theme for the year 2020 was “**Spot and encourage rural tech innovators**”.
- ✓ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implemented a new scheme named “**Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries**” (SFURTI).
 - **Note:** Under this scheme, financial support will be given to set up traditional industries clusters viz. Khadi, Coir & Village industries clusters.
- ✓ According to the recent report published by German cybersecurity firm Greenbone Sustainable Resilience **Maharashtra** state topped hit by global medical data leak.
- ✓ 15-member trust named ‘Sri Ram Janma Bhoomi Tirtha Kshetra trust’ for the construction of Ram Mandir led by **Kesava Iyengar Parasaran.**
- ✓ 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS), 2020 was held in **Kochi, Kerala.**
 - **Note:** The show was organized jointly by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry & the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).
 - The theme of this year’s show is “**Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition**”.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for setting up a new Major Port at **Vadhavan.**
- ✓ The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2019 to assess quality of life of citizens in **100 Smart Cities.**
- ✓ **Hyderabad Metro Rail Network** becomes **India’s 2nd largest Metro Rail Network** of total operational distance of 69.2kms.
 - It becomes India’s 2nd largest Metro Rail Network of total operational distance of 69.2kms, only next to Delhi Metro Rail Network having an operational distance of 231kms.

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- ✓ The 4th edition of East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation 2020 was held in **Chennai Tamil Nadu**.
- ✓ For the first time the **Hornbill festival** was celebrated in **Tripura**.
- ✓ 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals, was hosted by India at **Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.
 - The theme for the CMS COP 13 in India is, “Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them Home”.
- ✓ The 11th edition of the Biennial Mega Defence Exhibition “**DefExpo 2020**” held in **Lucknow**.
 - **Note:** The 11th edition of DefExpo-2020, organized by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence with a support of Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the first time from 5th to 9th Feb 2020.
 - The main theme was “**India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub**” with focus on “Digital Transformation of Defence”. This expo is also termed as “Mahakumbh of defence manufacturing companies”. The last two days of the expo was opened for public.
- ✓ The “**2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2020)**” was held at **Bhubaneswar/Puri, Odisha**.
 - **Note:** The themes of the exercise was “A cultural heritage site that suffers severe damage in the Earthquake” & “Flooding or Storm”.
 - Organized by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), on behalf of the Government of India, BIMSTEC DMEx-2020 was inaugurated by Chief Minister Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik.
- ✓ The theme of the 20th ‘Hunar Haat’, an initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry is “**Kaushal Ko Kaam**”.
 - **Note:** The 20th ‘Hunar Haat’, an initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry, showcases handmade indigenous products of master artisans and craftsmen are made available to the people, will be held from February 13-23, 2020 based on the theme of “Kaushal Ko Kaam” at India Gate Lawns, Rajpath, New Delhi.
- ✓ The Government of India decided to rename the **National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad**, after **Arun Jaitley**.
- ✓ The “CLIMISHCON” is a Four-day International Conference on changes in Hydrological cycle, Ocean ecosystem, Fisheries and Food security will be held in **Kochi, Kerala**.
 - The theme of the conference is ‘Climate Change-Effective Adaptation for a Secure Future’.
- ✓ India’s largest air quality monitoring network will be established at **Mumbai**.
 - **Note:** The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will develop an air quality monitoring network across 90 locations in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It will be the largest network in India.
 - The project will be completed within next 5 years, funded by BMC and private organisations.
- ✓ The National Water Conference was held at **Bhopal**.
 - The conference is being held to finalize the guidelines of “**Right to Water Act**” or “**Water Rights Act**” and also discussed the water crisis in the state and also making the state a water-rich state.
- ✓ The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) ‘Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking’ was held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** The Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day long BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) ‘Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking’, in New Delhi.
 - It was organized by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - This conference was held on the lines of the commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 4th

- BIMSTEC summit in Nepal's Kathmandu in 2018.
- ✓ The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted at **Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh.**
 - ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs announced that two Institutions, the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and the Foreign Service Institute have been named after **Sushma Swaraj.**
 - ✓ To give passengers the experience of world class facilities the Indian Railways has planned to prepare 5- Star Hotel on the tracks in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
 - ✓ Name the Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam who visited India -- **Mrs. Dang Thai Ngoc Thinh.**
 - ✓ 'Arth Ganga' project to channelize economic activity along Ganga riverbank.
 - ✓ **South Central Railways (SCR) zone** becomes the first in India to have 13 energy-neutral stations.
 - ✓ Union minister for Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Nitin Gadkari flagged off KVIC's 'Apiary on Wheels' in **New Delhi.**
 - **Note:** Apiary on Wheels is a unique concept for easy maintenance of BeeBox and migration of live colonies, designed by KVIC. In accordance with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's vision, KVIC's honey mission was launched in 2017 and involves training of beekeepers, distribution of bee-keeping boxes and rural-educated.
 - Apiary on Wheels is a holistic approach to meet the challenges faced by beekeepers & also help reduce the labor cost of maintenance of bee box and living bee colonies across India.
 - ✓ To investigate the need for separate arrangements for funding defense and internal security the 15th Finance Commission has set up a five-member group led by **Nand Kishore Singh.**
 - ✓ Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the first inter-city electric bus service in **Maharashtra.**
 - ✓ The **National Organic Food festival** was hosted by The Government of India (GOI) in **New Delhi.**
 - The theme of the festival was 'Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential'.
 - ✓ 3-day long 17th edition of Bio Asia 2020 was held in **Hyderabad, Telangana.**
 - **Note:** It is Asia's largest Biotechnology and Life Sciences Forum with the theme of 'Today for Tomorrow'.
 - ✓ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has targeted to establish the 1st integrated tri-service command called "Air Defence Command (ADC)" by **June 2020.**
 - The ADC will unify the air defence and assets of the Army, Air Force and Navy and jointly provide air defence cover to the nation.
 - ✓ The 4th National Conference on Review of Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) held in **Udaipur.**
 - The first three editions were held in Lucknow, Bangalore, and Guwahati respectively.
 - ✓ According to the GMR Group which airport becomes the the 1st airport in India to be completely free of single-use plastic usage **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA).**
 - It is in line with India's target to abolish all single-use plastic from India by 2022.
 - ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** state becomes the first in India to enforce Performance regulation act 2019 for Power department.
 - **Note:** In order to provide timely and hassle-free service to electricity consumers, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) state Government has implemented the Performance Regulation Act 2019 for the power department.
 - ✓ The Central Government has renamed Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) after **Manohar Parrikar.**
 - ✓ India to switch to World's Cleanest petrol and diesel from **April 1,2020.**
 - **Note:** India to switch to World's cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1,2020, when it proceeds to Bharat Stage (BS-VI) from BS-IV grades at present.

- India will join the select league of nations using petrol & diesel which contains 10ppm (parts per millions) of Sulphur which cuts down vehicular discharge that is stated to be one of the reasons for pollution.
- ✓ BioAsia 2020 was held at the life science capital of India i.e. in **Hyderabad**.
 - It was the 17th edition of the flagship international convention – BioAsia, whose CEO is Shakthi Nagappan.
- ✓ The northeast frontier railway construction has constructed India's tallest railway pier bridge in **Manipur**.
 - **Note:** The northeast frontier railway construction has constructed India's tallest railway pier bridge.
 - It is built across the **Makru river in the Tamenglong district**, near Noney of Manipur
- ✓ 8th edition of the "**Ganga Kayak festival**" was inaugurated in **Devprayag, Uttarakhand**.
 - In male sprint category, **India's Ayodhya Prasad** stood first followed by Nepal's Man Bahadur Kandel, Rishi Rana of India coming 3rd place.
 - In the women's category, Elizabeth Health of Australia came in first followed by Ekaterina of Russia and Anna of Russia in the 3rd position.
- ✓ **India and Myanmar** signed an MoU for regular passenger bus service between Imphal and **Mandalay**.
 - Bus service from Mandalay will end at the border of Tamu from there Indian bus operators will take passengers to Moreh town in Manipur.
- ✓ **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research** ranked first in the Nature Ranking Index 2020 (**CSIR**).
 - Numbers in research output are designated by total citations in numbers and shares which indicates the sharing percentage per article.
- ✓ Union Minister of State for shipping Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the India's first floating jetty in **Goa**.
- ✓ The National Organic Food Festival for women entrepreneurs was inaugurated at **New Delhi**.
 - It is jointly organized by both the ministries with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the industry partner.
 - The theme of the festival is 'Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential'.
- ✓ Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) has installed a India's 1st squat machine at **Anand Vihar Railway Station in Delhi**.
 - **Note:** It was installed to promote the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi-led "**Fit India**" initiative.
- ✓ The first-ever 2 days long Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav 2020 was held in **Agartala, Tripura**.
- ✓ The International Judicial Conference – "**Judiciary and The Changing World**" was held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** The theme of the conference was "Gender Just World".
 - The aim of the conference was to facilitate cross fertilisation of ideas between judges of India and those from abroad.
 - The Conference discussed the changes being introduced by the Government of India to bring Gender Equality in recruiting women.
- ✓ **Shyama Prasad Mukherji National Rurban Mission (SPMRM)** has completed **four years**.
 - Under this, rural clusters are identified in rural areas across India, where increasing signs of urbanization such as increasing urban density, high levels of non-agricultural employment, increasing economic activity and other socio-economic scale are being received.
- ✓ World's largest 'Export Cold Zone' to Store Agro, Pharma Products has been unveiled in **Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL)**.
- ✓ 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) was held in **Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat**.

- **Note:** The theme of the conference was “Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home”.
- It was inspired by “Kolam”, a traditional art form from southern India.

January 2020

✓ **NITI Aayog has released SDG India Index and Dashboard 2019.**

- The Index comprehensively documents the progress made by India’s States and Union Territories towards achieving the 2030 SDG targets.
- Kerala achieved the first rank in the composite SDG Index with a score of 70, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 69.
- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu ranked at the third position with the score of 67. While Bihar is at the bottom of Niti Aayog’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index.

✓ **India's second spaceport for launching small satellites will be established in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district.**

- **Note:** The country's first spaceport is at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, about 90 km northeast of Chennai.
- Thoothukudi is about 600 km southeast of Chennai. The new location is ideal for launching smaller satellites of less than 500 kg in the sun-synchronous orbit.

✓ **The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will conduct the Asiatic Lion Census in May 2020.**

✓ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 107th edition of Indian Science Congress in Bengaluru.**

- **Note:** The theme of ISC 2020 is “Science and Technology: Rural Development”. The event brings together science fraternity across the world to discuss scientific innovation and research.

✓ **Labour Ministry to launch a portal for the speedy resolution of grievances -- Santusht.**

- **Note:** The labour ministry has announced to launch a new portal

'Santusht' for the speedy redressal of workers as well as employer grievances and ensuring effective implementation of labour laws at the grassroots level.

✓ **City will host the 14th Global Healthcare Summit 2021 -- Visakhapatnam.**

- The focus of the **Global Health Summit** is an Indian-centric approach, with special events such as global impact and India’s contribution in providing cost-effective medicines and addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals.

✓ **HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has inaugurated the 28th edition of annual New Delhi World Book Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.**

- **Note:** As part of Mahatma Gandhiji's 150 birth anniversary celebrations, the theme of this year is **Gandhi:The Writers' Writer. Eminent Gandhian scholar Girishwar Mishra** is the chief guest on the occasion.

✓ **Indian Railways launches integrated helpline number for passengers -- 139.**

- **Note:** The Indian Railways has integrated its **helpline numbers into a single number 139** for quick grievance redressal and enquiries by passengers during their train journeys.

✓ **Twenty-two tableau proposals (16-states and 6- Central Ministries) have been short-listed for participation in this year's Republic Day parade.**

- The tableaux proposals received are evaluated in a series of meetings of the Expert Committee comprising of eminent persons in the field of art, culture, painting, sculpture, music, and architecture.
- Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2020.

✓ **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the National Traders Convention in New Delhi.**

✓ **Third international symposium on marine ecosystems – challenges and opportunities (MECOS-3) is to be held in Kochi**

- **Note:** Eminent marine scientists, oceanographers, fisheries researchers, and marine biotechnologists from across the globe are expected to participate in it.
- ✓ **5th Global Drosophila Conference** held at **Pune**.
 - **Note:** The fifth edition of the Asia Pacific Drosophila Research Conference (APDRC5) was held in Pune.
 - The conference was organized in the country for the first time by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER).
- ✓ **India** extends USD 75 mn **line of credit** for **solar parks in Cuba**.
- ✓ **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has inaugurated the first silk processing plant at **Surendranagar** in **Gujarat**.
 - **Note:** This would help cut down the cost of production of silk yarn drastically and increase the sale and availability of raw material for **Gujarati 'Patola' sarees** locally.
- ✓ Indian Navy has launched an expedition, to promote the maritime heritage of India in the Naval Dockyard – **Mumbai**, Maharashtra.
- ✓ Union **Home Minister Amit Shah** has released a book on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- **Karmayoddha Granth**.
- ✓ **Global Investors Meet 'ASCEND 2020'** will be held in -- **Kochi, Kerala**.
- ✓ The **31st International Kite Festival** was inaugurated at **Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad**.
 - **Note:** As a part of the official celebration of '**Uttarayan' or 'Makar Sankranti'**', **Ahmedabad** has been hosting the International Kite Festival since 1989. The festival will continue till January 13 at Sabarmati Riverfront.
- ✓ '**Census India-2021**' will begin on **1st of April 2020**.
 - **Note:** It will be conducted through a mobile phone application, moving away from the traditional pen and paper.
- ✓ Amit Shah has inaugurated the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** and dedicated National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal – '**www.cybercrime.gov.in**'.
 - **Note:** National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal is a citizen-centric initiative that will enable citizens to report cyber-crimes online through the portal.
- ✓ Power Minister **R K Singh** has released the **State Energy Efficiency Index 2019**.
 - **Note:** They track the progress of **Energy Efficiency Initiatives in 36 States and Union Territories**.
 - The index this year incorporates qualitative, quantitative and outcome-based indicators to assess energy efficiency initiatives, programs and outcomes in five distinct sectors.
 - The index is developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency in association with Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy.
- ✓ The **fifth edition of the Pulses Conclave** will be held in Lonavala, Maharashtra from -- **12-14 February 2020**.
- ✓ **Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray** inaugurated '**Advantage Maharashtra Expo 2020**' in **Aurangabad**.
- ✓ **India's first indigenous aircraft carrier "Vikrant"** likely to be commissioned by **2021**.
- ✓ Union Steel Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched a mission to accelerated development of eastern India through integrated steel hub -- **Mission Purvodaya**.
 - **Note:** Under the mission, the government will enhance capacity through easing the setup of greenfield steel plants, develop steel clusters near integrated steel plants as well as demand centers.
- ✓ Narendra Modi has announced to rename the Kolkata Port Trust after -- **Shyama Prasad Mukherjee**.
- ✓ '**Wings India 2020**' to be held at **Begumpet Airport Hyderabad** in **March 2020**
 - **Note:** Biennial International Exhibition and Conference on Civil Aviation Sector, 'Wings India 2020' will be held at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, Telangana from March 12-15, 2020. The theme of the exhibition is "Flying for all".

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- ✓ The **World Future Energy Summit 2020** held in **Abu Dhabi**.
 - The theme for this year's summit is "**Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment.**"
 - **World Future Energy Summit** is the **Middle East's largest future energy and sustainability event.**
- ✓ **The Statue of Unity** has been included in 8 wonders of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.
 - **Note:** The Statue of Unity is the statue of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, the **first Home Minister of independent India.**
 - The **182-meter tall statue** is the **world's tallest statue** that was inaugurated by PM Modi on the **143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in October 2018.**
 - The statue was inaugurated on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in 2018.
- ✓ The **Henley Passport Index 2020** was released by **Henley & Partners**.
 - **Note:** The report is being published every year based on the data obtained from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.
 - According to the index, Indian passport ranked at the 84th spot among the world's most powerful passports list, which is a drop by 2 places as it ranked 82nd in 2019.
- ✓ **Vishakhapatnam** will host the International naval exercise 'MILAN' in March 2020.
 - India has invited 41 navies of different countries of which 30 navies have confirmed their participation in MILAN 2020.
- ✓ The **27th edition of South Asian Trade and Travel Exchange Expo (SATTE) 2020** was held at India Expo Mart **Greater Noida – Delhi NCR.**
- ✓ **12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme** was held in **Puducherry.**
- ✓ Union Minister for Heavy Industries Prakash Javadekar was inaugurating **ELECRAMA 2020 in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.**
 - **Note:** Union Minister for Heavy Industries Prakash Javadekar was inaugurating **ELECRAMA 2020** in **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.**
- **ELECRAMA** is the flagship showcase of the Indian electrical industry and a platform to connect the world with the Indian industry in respect of technology, new trends and innovation for the future energy transition.
- ✓ **Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel** launched an exhibition titled "Indian Heritage in Digital Space" in **New Delhi.**
- ✓ The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region was held in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.**
 - **Note:** The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region will start in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the Conference.
 - The main theme of the conference is the **ROLE OF LEGISLATORS.** In the Conference, delegates will discuss the **Capacity Building of Legislators for Scrutinizing Budgetary Proposals and Enhancing Focus of Legislators on Legislative Business.**
- ✓ The **2nd edition of NIC Tech Conclave-2020** held. The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad will inaugurate this conclave in **New Delhi.**
 - This year conclave theme is "Technologies for Next-Gen Governance".
- ✓ A **Conference of the Chief Secretaries and Administrator State and Union Territories on Census 2021** was held in **New Delhi.**
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi and Nepalese PM Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the 2nd Integrated Check Post at **Jogbani (Bihar, India) – Biratnagar (Nepal)**
- ✓ '**One Nation, One Ration Card**' scheme will be implemented across the country by **June 1, 2020.**
 - **Note:** 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme will be implemented by June 1, 2020 across the country.

- ✓ Panel to create tougher law against sexual harassment at work will be headed by **Amit Shah**.
- ✓ The committee set up by Supreme Court to firm up draft legislation to give legal sanctity to disputes settled through mediation is headed by **Niranjan Bhat**.
- ✓ Seismic Hazard Microzonation project in major cities of India was launched by **The Ministry of Earth Science (MoES)**.
 - **Note:** The **Ministry of Earth Science (MoES)** has launched **Seismic Hazard Microzonation project** in major cities of India.
 - The project aims to reduce the hazards of Seismic activities by taking proper measures in major Indian cities and areas falling under high-seismic Zones IV and V.
- ✓ **Union Minister of Law and Justice (MoL&J)** Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
 - **Note:** The Union Minister of Law and Justice (MoL&J) Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology set up by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - The CoE has been set up with the aim of providing blockchain as a service and help all stakeholders to benefit from shared learning, experiences and resources.
- ✓ NITI Aayog signed MoU for Development of Infrastructure Projects in **Ladakh**.
- ✓ South Central Zone of the Indian Railways has signed an MoU to provide doorstep banking with **State Bank of India**.
- ✓ **1st Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment** held in **New Delhi**.
- ✓ **World's largest meditation centre** was inaugurated in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
 - **Note:** World's largest meditation centre was inaugurated at **Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad, Telangana**.
 - This centre is built to mark the **75th anniversary of the formation of Shri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM)** and Heartfulness Institute.
- ✓ **Indian Railways** has commissioned **India's 1st governmental waste-to-energy plant in Bhubaneswar**.
- ✓ A festival to celebrate the spirit of India "**Bharat Parv 2020**" was celebrated in **Red Fort, New Delhi**.
 - The objective of Bharat Parv is to encourage people to visit different tourist places of the country and to inculcate the spirit of 'Dekho Apna Desh'.
- ✓ India's first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre opens in **Niger**.
- ✓ **Telangana will emerge as Number 1 state in the 'Decent work and economic growth' category Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India index in 2019**.
- ✓ **Swachh Survekshan League 2020:**
 - Among 10 Lakh plus population category, Indore secured first place in both the quarters. Madhya Pradesh Capital Bhopal got the second and Surat in Gujarat third spot in first Quarter.
 - Rajkot in Gujarat was at the 2nd spot while Navi Mumbai at third. In one Lakh to 10 Lakh population category, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand got the 1st spot in both quarters.
 - New Delhi Municipal Council and Khargone in Madhya Pradesh got the second and third spots in the first quarter in this category. Chandrapur in Maharashtra and Khargone got the second and third spots in Quarter 2 in one to ten lakh population categories.
- ✓ The **Central Government** has aimed to achieve **objective of Housing for all by 2022**.
 - **Note:** The Central Government has aimed to achieve objective of Housing for all by 2022 (which coincides with 75 years of Indian independence) under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G)** scheme.
- ✓ **12th edition of the South Asia Conference** held in **New Delhi**.
 - The conference deals with issues related to economic cooperation for

development, changing political context in India's neighbourhood etc. The theme of the conference was India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy: Regional Perceptions.

- ✓ The **Indian Railways** has decided to provide 'Content on Demand Service' on trains and railway stations from **2022**.
- ✓ The final report submitted by the **Committee on Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)** headed by **Yudhvir Singh Malik**.
- ✓ The **Assam Rifles (military unit)** has constructed a war memorial "Veer Samriti" in **Nagaland**.
- ✓ 1st ever Innovation festival was organized at **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - The two days festival aims to encourage the cultural innovation among the people and students of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ India's **1st Super Fab Lab facility** was inaugurated in **Kerala**.
- ✓ The **1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Note:** The 1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020 based on the theme "Connectivity", between India & Russia was held in New Delhi.

- ✓ **France** will be the guest of honour at New Delhi World Book Fair for the year 2022.
- ✓ The **Department of Biotechnology** has organized a **2-day long International Summit on Women in STEM**—"Visualizing the Future: New Skylines" in **New Delhi**.
 - The aim of the summit is to increase the participation of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field for development of scientific career.
- ✓ **India's first e-waste clinic** was opened in **Bhopal**.
- ✓ **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has decided to observe 2020 as the "Year of Mobility" for the welfare of the troops.
- ✓ **India's flagship global conference on geopolitics and geo-economics Raisina Dialogue** held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Raisina Dialogue (fifth edition)** jointly organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and the Observer Research Foundation.

Important News-World

August 2020

- **Great Britain** is considering minting a coin to remember Mahatma Gandhi.
- Former king of **Spain** Juan Carlos decided to leave his country to protect the monarchy after a barrage of corruption allegations surfaced against him.
- Barakah Nuclear Plant of **UAE** has achieved first criticality and successfully started up is located in which country.
- **Russia** becomes the first country to officially register a coronavirus vaccine and declare it ready for use.

Note: The Russian vaccine will be called "Sputnik V" in homage to the world's first satellite launched by the Soviet Union. The vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Institute in Moscow uses a different virus -- adenovirus -- that's been modified to carry genes for the "spike" protein that coats the coronavirus, as a

way to prime the body to recognise when a real COVID-19 infection comes along.

- Indian origin senator **Kamala Harris** named as US Vice Presidential candidate for Democratic party.

Note: In the United States, Democratic **Presidential nominee Joe Biden** has named Indian-origin senator Kamala Harris as his Vice-Presidential running mate. Joe Biden made history by selecting the first black woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket. Kamala Harris is currently the US Senator from California. Former US President Barack Obama has often described her as a trailblazer.
- **Reliance Foundation** has launched the "W-GDP Women Connect Challenge" across India in association with US Agency for International Development (USAID).

- Note:** The “W-GDP Women Connect Challenge” has been launched to bridge the gender divide as well as the digital divide in India. The Women’s Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) challenge supports private sector-led approaches that close the gender digital divide, expand business opportunities and empower women.
- India announced a \$500 million package to fund a project in **Maldives**.
Note: An **air connectivity “bubble”** for travel, a direct ferry service, a submarine cable for telecom connectivity; and assistance for the Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) to connect Male to three neighboring islands. India has sought to regain diplomatic influence in the islands after a new administration led by President Ibrahim Solih took power following the defeat of the pro-China strongman Abdulla Yameen in elections in 2018.
 - The **Dragon Endeavour** is the spacecraft of space company **SpaceX**.
Note: NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley are aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon Endeavour spacecraft as it is lifted onto the SpaceX GO Navigator recovery ship shortly after landing in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Pensacola, Florida, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020.
 - **Israel** has successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, “**Arrow-2**” ballistic missile interceptor.
Note: The Missile test was conducted in the test site in Central Israel over the Mediterranean Sea. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) of the United States of America along with Israeli Air Force and Israel Aerospace Industries conducted the testing.
 - Intergovernmental organization **European Union** has launched project ‘**Nirmanshree**’ for enhancing the women skill towards housing construction sector.
Note: This is the first-of-its-kind sustainable housing on a large scale in India with 1-million-euro. The project will be implemented in Beed and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra and the Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts of Odisha.
 - **United Kingdom** has launched £3 million “**Innovation Challenge Fund**” in India to support scientists in academic arena and industry to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.
Note: The fund invites tech innovators with connections to the AI-Data cluster in Karnataka and the future mobility cluster in Maharashtra to submit research and development proposals for tackling COVID-19 or which promote a greener planet.
 - Recently, India has signed a cultural agreement with **Israel** that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations.
Note: India and Israel signed a cultural agreement that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations today. It aims to promote greater people-to-people exchanges.
 - **UAE** became the first Gulf Arab country to have active **diplomatic ties to Israel**.
Note: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates, have agreed for the Israel–United Arab Emirates peace agreement, or the Abraham Accord to establish full diplomatic ties. It is expected that the peace accord will be signed in the White House, US in early September, 2020.
 - The first meeting of the National Coordination Committees for monitoring implementation of mutually agreed projects between India and **Uzbekistan**.
Note: Both nations reexamined the activities of bilateral economic and trade cooperation which are in operation or planned for the future. The Committee was set up under the supervision of the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan ShavkatMirziyoyev.
 - Tech giant **Google** has launched ‘**The Anywhere School**’ initiative in more than 250 countries around the world.
Note: Under the initiative, Google will roll out over 50 new features across products like Google Meet, Classroom, G Suite and other products. Google will launch custom and

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- blurred backgrounds in Google Meet to provide 'extra privacy' to the users.
- **China** has launched its New Optical Remote-Sensing Satellite "Gaofen-9 05" along with 2 Smaller Payloads.
Note: The satellite, Gaofen-9 05, was sent into orbit by a Long March-2D carrier rocket. A multifunctional test satellite and another satellite named Tiantuo-5 was also launched via the rocket.
- Indian Institute of Technology's (IIT) Alumni Council has signed an agreement with **Russia** to build the world's largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India.
Note: The most promising areas for Indo-Russian joint projects are Information and Communications Technology, space exploration, climate change, quantum technology and data security.

- Global telecom company **Ericsson** has partnered with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to help map school internet connectivity in 35 countries by the end of 2023.
Note: This joint initiative is a part of the Giga initiative launched by UNICEF and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in September 2019 to provide internet connection to every school and their surrounding communities.
- **Singapore** will offer free coronavirus tests to community groups such as taxi drivers, food delivery workers and hawkers as part of efforts to expand the COVID-19 testing regime.
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July 2020

- ✓ According to the US-based news agency Associated Press, **China** has been running a number of in-human campaigns to slash the birth rates among the minority Muslim population called 'Demographic Genocide'.
- ✓ **India and Japan** have conducted Naval Exercise 'PASSEX' to promote mutual understanding and for tactical and communications training.
Note: This was the 15th exercise undertaken by the navies of these two nations in the last three years. The overall content of this PASSEX was goodwill training and to promote understanding.
- ✓ **New Zealand** has cancelled the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is opting to lead a virtual summit.
- ✓ **Uganda** became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ✓ **Israel** has successfully launched a new spy satellite "Ofek 16".
Note: Ofek 16 is a small electro-optical imaging satellite, which will capture high-resolution images of the Earth for Israel's Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ **Fourth** edition of "Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)" was held virtually for the first time in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Sri Lanka and Maldives** became the first two countries from the South East Asia Region of WHO to have **successfully eliminated both the Measles and Rubella Virus**.
- ✓ **Germany** become the first industrialized country to phase out of both coal and nuclear energy.
- ✓ India's rank among 10 Asia-Pacific countries in the "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control" prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)-- **eighth**.
- ✓ **Nepal** has imposed a ban on all private Indian news channel.
- ✓ The rise in mean average global temperature in next 5 years as per the report "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-24" released by the WMO - **1.5°C**.
- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) has formulated an independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 - **Helen Elizabeth Clark & Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**.
Note: The Panel will be co-chaired by former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen

- Elizabeth Clark and former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
- ✓ The ADB has entered into a 5-year agreement with Qatar-based Education Above All Foundation to work jointly for project worth of **\$100 million**.
Note: It will put at least 3.2 lakh out-of-school children, including refugees and internally displaced children into quality primary education. Initially, 10 nations have been selected for projects namely- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.
 - ✓ Recently **UAE** has expressed interest to have an Open Sky Agreement with India.
Note: Open Sky Agreements are bilateral agreements that the two countries negotiate to provide rights for airlines to offer international passenger and cargo services. It expands international passenger and cargo flights.
 - ✓ **Kuwait** has approved an Expat Quota Bill.
Note: According to the bill, Indians should not exceed 15% of the population and if it is enacted into law, over 8 lakh Indians could be forced out of Kuwait.
 - ✓ World's first gold-plated hotel was unveiled in **Vietnam**.
 - ✓ **Russian** Gamalei Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology's COVID-19 vaccine becomes the first in the world to successfully completed the Human Clinical Trials.
 - ✓ According to the data released by the United Kingdom, **India** has become the second largest Foreign Direct Investor in the United Kingdom (UK) after the United States in 2019.
 - ✓ **Iran** has dropped India from Chabahar rail project, citing funding delay.
Note: Four years after India and Iran signed an agreement to construct a rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, the Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction on its own, citing delays from the Indian side in funding and starting the project.
 - ✓ **China** has successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite via a Long March 3B carrier rocket.
 - ✓ Elyes Fakhfakh resigned from the post of prime minister of **Tunisia**.
 - ✓ **UNICEF** has partnered with SAP India to improve the employability skills of young people in a COVID-19 as well as post COVID-19 era.
 - ✓ Pakistan and China signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project being built on **Jhelum** river of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).
 - ✓ **Jordan** apex court dissolved the country's branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, a transnational Islamist movement.
 - ✓ The first Arab space mission dubbed as 'HOPE Probe' was launched by United Arab Amirate (UAE) from **Japan**.
 - ✓ **India** and Maldives signed an agreement to establish "Emergency Medical Services" in Male.
Note: The Emergency Medical Service is financed by India under grant assistance of 20 million USD for neighbouring countries. This will help to increase the collaboration between the countries, especially in the areas of health care facilities, disaster responses during critical times, etc.
 - ✓ **Saudi Arabia** hosted the G20 Digital Ministers' Meet 2020.
 - ✓ **75th** session of United Nations General Assembly is to be conducted virtually in 2020 for the first time in its history.
 - ✓ **Nicaragua** has become the 87th country to join the **International Solar Alliance** Framework Agreement, an initiative led by India to promote sustainable energy.
 - ✓ World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council has granted the "Observer" status to Asian country **Turkmenistan**.
 - ✓ **China** has successfully launched "Tianwen-1" its first independent mission to Mars.
Note: China had launched an orbiter destined for Mars on a Russian rocket in 2011, but the mission failed because the rocket malfunctioned. Tianwen-1, whose name means "Questions to Heaven," is a combined orbiter, lander and rover that aims to explore the Martian environment and search for hints of life.
 - ✓ India handed over 10 Railway Locomotives to **Bangladesh** to bolster its Neighborhood First Policy.
 - ✓ The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** is published by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** organization that says that

India and Thailand are the main source of (82%) of illegal shipment of tiger body parts.

- ✓ Kali temple (300 years-old) is being reconstructed in **Bangladesh** with the support of India.
- ✓ **Delhi** government has launched a free website 'Rozgaar Bazaar 2020', that will connect the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform.
Note: The portal connects the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform. The aim of the portal is to boost the economy and

June 2020

- ✓ **SpaceX** become the first private rocket company to send astronauts to space.
 - **Note:** SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft with two NASA astronauts successfully docked with the International Space Station last night after a historic launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- ✓ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has extended the individual sanctions, travel ban and an arms embargo on **South Sudan** country till May 2021.
 - **Note:** An arms embargo is a restriction or a set of sanctions that applies solely to weaponry.
- ✓ In association with **Costa Rica** country the World Health Organization has launched COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).
 - **Note:** More than 30 countries have signed up to support this initiative. C-TAP was first proposed by Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado in March 2020.
- ✓ India's rank in the "**Countries Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem 2020**" report prepared by Zurich based global innovation mapping and research company **StartupBlink -- 23rd**.
- ✓ **South African National Space Agency (SANS)** has partnered with NASA to host a deep-space ground station, which will support human spaceflight missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond.
- ✓ **United Kingdom** has hosted Virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020.
- ✓ **Australia** signed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) with India to

employment in Delhi. In this website, the employers and companies can post their jobs and vacancies.

- ✓ Under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA) NTPC Ltd planned to establish solar power plants in **Sri Lanka**.
- ✓ The polycarbonate facility of SABIC in **Spain** is set to become the world's first large scale chemical production plant which will run entirely on renewable energy.

increase military inter-operability through defence exercises between the two countries.

- ✓ The theme of the 51st WEF annual summit to be held in January 2021 --- **The Great Reset**.
- ✓ An Unmanned submersible of **China** to dived deep down to 10,907 metres to the world's deepest point Mariana Trench,
- ✓ **Kathy Sullivan** has become the first woman and the fifth person in history to descend to the deepest known spot in the world's oceans called the 'Challenger Deep' in the Mariana Trench.
 - Challenger Deep is the deepest point in the Earth's seabed. It is at a depth of 10,902 metres.
- ✓ **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** institute/university maintains its position as the top institution in world in the QS World University Rankings 2021 released recently.
 - Only three educational institutes from India IIT Bombay (172), IISc Bengaluru (185), and IIT Delhi (193) featured in the top 200 list.
- ✓ **New Zealand** has declared that the nation has become free from "Coronavirus".
- ✓ **Bangladesh** has launched an initiative named 'Shohojodha', an online network to facilitate plasma exchange between recovered patients of COVID-19.
- ✓ **United Kingdom** has announced 'Jet Zero' plan to drive down aviation emissions and to make carbon-free transatlantic flights possible.
- ✓ **Western Railway** has created a new world benchmark by successfully running first Double-Stack Container Train in high-rise

- in Over Head Equipment electrified territory on.
- **Note:** This achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of Green India.
 - The Operations successfully commenced on 10th June from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat.
- ✓ **India** has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term.
 - **Note:** Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the Security Council elections held last night.
 - ✓ India will send 75-member Tri-Service contingent to participate in the military parade to **Russia** on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.
 - **Note:** The parade will honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other friendly people.
 - Defence Minister of Russia had invited an Indian contingent to take part in the Victory Day Parade scheduled to be held on 24th of this month.
 - ✓ Accordance to the annual report on displacement titled “Global Trends- Forced Displacement in 2019” released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with **approx 1.0 per cent** of world population faced forced displacement.
- ✓ **China** has decided to join the multilateral Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).
 - ✓ **China** has successfully launched the last Satellite of its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).
 - ✓ Mt. Merapi an active volcano erupted twice in June, 2020 is in **Indonesia**.
 - ✓ As a commemorations of the 6th International Yoga Day, world’s first Yoga University outside India was launched in **Los Angeles** United State.
 - **Note:** The university will be known by the name- Vivekananda Yoga University. The University was launched as a part of the commemorations for the 6th International Yoga Day.
 - ✓ African country **Mali** granted the Project Management Consultancy (PMC) contract for the development of a 500 MW solar park to NTPC Limited.
 - ✓ A Tripartite Power Purchase Agreement was signed for the construction of the 1124 MW Kohala Hydro Power Project between Pakistan, China, and Azad Kashmir. The Project is built on **Jhelum** river.
 - ✓ **India** become the first country to control locusts through drones.
 - ✓ According to latest study by **OECD’s ‘Global Forum on transparency’** and exchange of information for tax purposes, which are top three countries as Exchange of Information partners of Switzerland -- **India, France and Germany**.
 - ✓ The theme of the ‘36th ASEAN Summit held via video conference under chairmanship of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc -- **Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN**.

May 2020

- ✓ The **geological survey of USA** has released the **first ever digital, unified, global, geological map** of the moon namely “**Unified Geologic Map of the Moon**”.
 - **Note:** The scientists from **United States Geological Survey (USGS) Astrogeology Science Center**, in collaboration with **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)** and the Lunar Planetary Institute have virtually released the first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon namely “**Unified Geologic Map of the Moon**”.
- ✓ **Russia** to launch its **first Arktika-M satellite** for monitoring the **Arctic climate and environment** at the end of the year.
- ✓ **Iran** has decided to change its currency from **Rial to Toman** by slashing four zeros from the rial.

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- ✓ **China** country has successfully launched a new rocket named “Long March 5B” into space which will pave the way of its Moon landing plans.
 - **Tiangong** is the space station programme of China.
- ✓ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **United Nation (UN) postal agency** released a commemorative postage stamp on the **40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox**.
- ✓ As per the **World Health Organization’s Global Nutrition Report, 2020** India is one among the 88 countries that are to miss global nutrition targets set for the year **2025**.
- ✓ **World Health Organization (WHO)** has released the first “**The State of the World’s Nursing 2020**” report amid COVID19 pandemic in partnership with Nursing and **International Council of Nurses (ICN)**.
- ✓ **Russia** hosted the **SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting** via video conferencing on COVID-19 which was attended by the **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar**.
- **India and Pakistan** became the members of the **SCO in 2017**.
- ✓ **Slovenia** becomes the first country in Europe to declare an end to its COVID-19 epidemic.
- ✓ **India** hands over war **game center** named as “**INDIA**” to **Uganda**.
 - **Note:** The state-of-the-art military training facility was handover by the Indian Association Uganda (IAU), in association with the Indian Military Advisory and Training Team to the UPDF.
- ✓ **NASA** has renamed its next-generation space telescope “**Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST)**”, which is set to launch in 2025 in honour of **Nancy Grace Roman**.
- ✓ **India** hold the chair of the **World Health Organization** in May 2020 after Japan completes its tenure.
 - **Note:** India is to hold the chair of the World Health Organization in May 2020 after Japan completes its tenure. India will continue to hold the chair for the next three years.

April 2020

- ✓ As per the **UNCTAD report** titled the World will witness recession except **India and China**.
- ✓ The **World Bank** in its Economic Update for East Asia and Pacific (EAP) titled “East Asia and Pacific in the Time of COVID-19” stated that poverty is estimated to increase **11 Million**.
- ✓ **United Nation’s COP 26** climate change summit postponed till **2021**.
 - **Note:** The conference was planned to take place from 9-19 November 2020, in Glasgow, Scotland in the United Kingdom (UK).
- ✓ **USD 2.9 million** amounts has been announced by the aid agency **USAID** to **India** to fight against Coronavirus.
- ✓ **China** has become the world leader in international patent filings via WIPO’s Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).
 - **Note:** China has filled a total of 58,990 applications surpassing the United States (US), which was at top spot since the PCT began operations in 1978.
- ✓ **United States** has **stopped its funding towards World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- ✓ **South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu** affected by **Harold cyclone** for which UN releases \$ **2.5 million**.
- ✓ **Special ASEAN Summit and special ASEAN plus 3 summits** held via video conferencing was chaired by **Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Vietnam**.
- ✓ In accordance with the **Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey**, **India** becomes the world’s most **digitally dexterous (skilful) country** in the world.
- ✓ **South Korea** becomes the **first country to hold national election** amidst COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Annual Global Report on Food Crises** titled “**2020 Global Report on Food Crises-Joint Analysis for better decisions**” by **United Nation’s World Food Programme (WFP)**.

- The **10 countries** faced worst food crisis in 2019 by number of people in Crisis are **Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Nigeria and Haiti.**
- ✓ **Lebanon** becomes the **1st Arab nation** to **legalise cannabis** (also known as marijuana) farming for medicinal & industrial use.
 - As per the United Nations (UN), **Lebanon is the 3rd largest supplier** of cannabis resin in the world after Morocco and Afghanistan.
- ✓ **Pakistan** hosted the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) health ministers** virtual conference.
 - India was represented by Rajiv Garg, the Director General of Health Services

March 2020

- ✓ To restore peace in **Afghanistan the United States and Taliban militants** have signed historic peace agreement in **Doha, Qatar.**
 - **Note:** The agreement, signed by the US special envoy for **Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar** in the presence of Michael Richard Pompeo, United States Secretary of State, would end the 18 years-long American war in Afghanistan. India's Ambassador to Qatar, P. Kumaran attend the US-Taliban peace deal in Doha on behalf of India.
 - This is the **first time India** has officially joined any Taliban related case.
- ✓ **Luxembourg** has become the world's 1st nation to make all public transport free.
 - It became the first country in the world to do so. However, this free public transport system does not include 1st - class travel tickets on trains and certain night bus services.
- ✓ **India's rank in the 'Freedom in the World 2020' report** released by the **Freedom House, a U.S (United States)** -based watchdog that conducts research and advocacy on democracy -- **83rd.**
 - **Note:** According to the 'Freedom in the World 2020' report, released by the Freedom House, a U.S (United States) -based watchdog that conducts research and advocacy on democracy, India has ranked 83rd in the report along with Timor-Leste and Senegal in 'Free' category.
 - While, Finland topped the list as the free democratic country.
- ✓ The **European Commission** has launched a new **global coalition for biodiversity called 'United for Biodiversity'** in **Monaco.**
 - **Note:** On the occasion of the **World Wildlife Day on March 3, 2020**, the European Commission has launched a new global coalition for biodiversity called **'United for Biodiversity' in Monaco.**
 - The coalition consists of national parks, aquariums, botanical gardens, zoos, science and natural history museums from around the world to boost public awareness about the nature crisis
- ✓ **India joined the Indian Ocean Commission** as the **fifth observer.**
 - **Note:** The other four observers in the grouping are Malta, China, European Union and OIF (International Organization of La Francophonie).
 - It is important for India to join as an observer at the Commission because, it will help India in expanding its plans in Western Indian Ocean.
 - The Western Indian Ocean strategically connects South Eastern Coast of Africa.
- ✓ To contain COVID-19, the Corona Virus what amount will be provided by the Asian Development Bank is to its members countries **4 million USD.**
 - **Note:** The fund is being allocated for buying emergency supplies, assessing health systems, improve resilience and

- respond to animal human disease outbreaks.
- The main objective of fund allocation is to strengthen immediate response in China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- ✓ According to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) India study female labour-force participation has declined from 34% in 2006 to **24.8% in 2020**.
- **Note:** In accordance with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) India study, India is the only country among the 153 surveyed countries where the economic gender gap is larger than the political gap.
 - If women participation raised in the labour force same as men, then it can boost India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 27%. Globally, 38.7% of employed women are working in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, but only 13.8% of landholders are women.
- ✓ The 5th edition of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit 2020 to be held in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**.
- **Note:** This was informed by BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) Mohammad Shahidul Islam during his meeting with Sri Lankan Prime Minister (PM) Mahinda Rajapaksa.
 - The summit will be preceded by the 17th Ministerial Meeting and 21st Senior Officials Meeting by the end of 2020.
- ✓ India has joined Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as its **5th observer state**.
- **Note:** India has joined **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** as its 5th observer state to strengthen its Indo-Pacific vision and also to boost strategic partnership with France, and Vanilla Islands.
 - The decision has been taken during the meeting of the Commission's council of ministers in **Seychell**.
- ✓ India's rank in the Inclusive Internet Index 2020, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) -- **46th**.
- **Note:** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the 4th iteration of the Inclusive Internet Index 2020 for 100 countries where India is overall ranked in 46th place & Sweden in 1st place.
 - The index aims to measure the extent to which the Internet is not only accessible & affordable, but also relevant to all, allowing usage that enables positive social & economic outcomes at the individual & group level.
- ✓ **Pakistan** ranks first according to the **1st edition of 'Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2020'**.
- **Note:** According to the 1st edition of 'Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2020', released by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), about 90 % or 9 in 10 of the world's population has some bias against women.
 - This index studied 75 countries covering over 80 % of the world's population & measures social beliefs that obstruct gender equality in areas like politics, work, and education.
- ✓ India's rank in the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) annual report titled "Trends in international arms transfers, 2019" -- **Second**.
- **Note:** India is the world's second largest arms importer during 2015-19 with its global share of 9.2% after Saudi Arabia, who has topped the ranking with global share of 12%.
 - On the other hand, India ranked 23rd in terms of world's largest arms exporters with global share of 0.2% and its main clients being Myanmar (46%), Sri Lanka (25%), and Mauritius (14%). United States (US) topped the list in this section with a share of 36%.
- ✓ In the 2nd edition of global Animal Protection Index (API) 2020 released by the World Animal Protection India gained --- **Grade C**.
- **Note:** World Animal Protection released the 2nd edition of global Animal Protection Index (API) 2020, where India gained C grade with other 8 countries which indicates India is one

- of the better-performing countries. Tragically no country gained A grade.
- ✓ **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has initiated the creation of the COVID Action Platform with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), and Wellcome Trust.
 - **Note:** The World Economic Forum (WEF) has initiated the creation of the COVID Action Platform with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), and Wellcome Trust.
 - This first of its kind platform, operating globally, is open to all businesses and industry groups, as well as other stakeholders, for integrated and collective business action to mitigate the risk and impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The Forum has established a special team to support the platform's work.
 - ✓ 3rd edition of WION Global Summit 2020 held in **Dubai, UAE**.
 - **Note:** WION (World Is One News), the India's first International News Channel, has organized its 3rd edition of Global summit 2020 based on the theme "Navigating and negotiating global imperatives" at The Oberoi, in Dubai.
 - It saw the participation of global leaders to engage in dialogue on a common global agenda to underscore the critical challenges of climate change, global governance, economic slowdown, and global crisis that threatens to become the new normal.
 - ✓ First country to close its financial markets due to the COVID 19 (Coronavirus) outbreak -- **Philippines**.
 - **Note:** It resumed its trading on March 19, 2020. This measure was taken to ensure the safety of their employees and the people they interact with. Now the speculations are if other countries may take similar measures then there is a fear of a global recession.
 - ✓ The 7th World Cities Summit (WCS) is to be held from July 5 to 9, 2020 in **Singapore**.
 - **Note:** It is organized by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.
 - The theme for WCS 2020 is "Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Adapting to a Disrupted World". The WCS 2020 is held in conjunction with the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) and the Clean Enviro Summit Singapore (CESG).
 - Singapore Government invited Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to the WCS-2020.
 - ✓ **USD 1 million dollars**. has been donated by the WhatsApp to Poynter Institute's International Fast-Checking Network (IFCN) in order to avoid fake information about the disease.
 - ✓ India's rank in the 8th World Happiness Report 2020 released by the United Nations (UN) -- **144th**.
 - **Note:** The survey ranks the countries using Gallup World Poll, GDP levels, life expectancy, generosity, social support, and freedom & corruption income.
 - This year's report mainly focuses on happiness in the environment especially in social, urban, rural & natural areas and also links happiness & sustainable development.
 - Finland tops the report for the 3rd time.
 - ✓ India's rank in the 26th annual edition of Economic Freedom Index 2020 -- **120th**.
 - **Note:** The Heritage Foundation published its 26th annual edition of Economic Freedom Index 2020 to measure the level of economic freedom in 186 countries. Singapore (89.4) tops the index for the 1st time.
 - Hong Kong (89.1) for the 1st time secured 2nd rank since the 1st publication in 1995
 - ✓ Singapore has rescheduled the 7th World Cities Summit (WCS) 2020 to **20 – 24 June 2021**.
 - **Note:** The summit is organized by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

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- The theme of WCS is Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Adapting to a Disrupted World, it was earlier scheduled from July 5 to 9, 2020.
- ✓ **Canada** has become the first country in the world to withdraw from Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
 - **Note:** The decision has been taken in view of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The Canadian Olympic Committee announced that holding the Tokyo

February 2020

- ✓ **Maldives** has once again become a member of the Commonwealth family.
 - **Note:** The Maldives became the 54th family member of the Commonwealth family.
- ✓ **Bhutan** ends free entry for Indian tourists.
 - **Note:** The Government of Bhutan, Thimphu decided to implement a daily fee of Rs.1200 (\$17) for “**regional tourists**” from India, the Maldives, Bangladesh from July 2020.
 - The fee is called SDF “**Sustainable Development Fees**” in order to regulate a new tourism policy
- ✓ In the **8th International Intellectual Property (IP) Index** for 2020 India slips to **40th rank**.
 - **Note:** The US Chamber of Commerce’s Global Innovation Policy Center has released the 8th edition of International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020.
 - The index has been topped by the United States (US) followed by **UK (United Kingdom), Sweden, France and Germany**.
- ✓ **27-nation International Religious Freedom Alliance** is being launched by **the United States**.
 - **Note:** The Alliance will try to adopt a collective approach in protecting and preserving religious freedom across the world.
- ✓ According to the **Global Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Business School Rankings 2020**, the rank of Indian Institute of Management Bengaluru (IIMB) is **third**.

- 2020 Olympics as per schedule would threaten the health of its athletes.
- ✓ **IMF** has organization has launched a “Tracker of Policies Governments are Taking in Response to COVID-19”.
 - **Note:** The policy tracker outlines the key economic responses taken by the government of various countries in order to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy tracker has the updated data till March 24, 2020

- ✓ Fifth Edition of Joint **Military Exercise Ajeya Warrior -2020** is conducted between India and **United Kingdom (UK)**.
- ✓ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has officially renamed Coronavirus as ‘**COVID-19**’.
 - **Note:** “co” stands for “corona”, “vi” for “virus” and “d” for “disease”, while “19” was for the year, as the outbreak was first originated in China’s Wuhan area in December 2019.
- ✓ The **43rd session of the annual Governing Council** meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) 2020 was held in **Rome, Italy**.
 - **Note:** The theme of this year is “Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030”.
- ✓ Astronaut **Christina Koch** returned to Earth after record stay in space.
 - **Note:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)’s astronaut Christina Koch has returned to Earth after her record stay in space.
 - With her 328 days stay in space, she has surpassed Peggy Whitson’s record for an American woman on a single spaceflight at 289 days.
- ✓ The **Mobile World Congress** was cancelled due to coronavirus fears which was scheduled to be held in **Barcelona**.
- ✓ The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC is scheduled to be held in **Glasgow UK**.
- ✓ **UAE** becomes the 1st Arab Nation to issue license to operate a reactor at its Nuclear power plant.

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- ✓ **Hindi** becomes the 3rd most spoken language in the world after English & Mandarin.
- ✓ The Worldwide Education for The Future Index (WEFFI) 2019 ranked India in **35th position**.
 - The WEFFI report is created by The Economist Intelligence unit and commissioned by Yidan Prize foundation.
 - The index is topped by Finland, followed by Sweden in second place and New Zealand in third place.
- ✓ Air-launched cruise missile Ra'ad-II has been launched by **Pakistan**.
- ✓ To combat Climate Change, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has announced the launch of "Bezos Earth Fund" worth **\$10 billion**.
 - **Note:**The Bezos Earth Fund will fund the scientists, activists, NGOs to save Earth to tackle the issue of climate change.
- ✓ **Ashraf Ghani** has won the Presidential elections of Afghanistan and will become the President of Afghanistan for the 2nd time.
- ✓ The Paris based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) continue to keep Pakistan in **Grey List**.
 - **Note:** Islamabad (Pakistan) continues to remain on grey list & If it does not curb the financing of terrorism by June 2020, it will be put on the blacklist.
- ✓ The 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety was held in **Stockholm, Sweden**.
 - The aim of the meet was to chart future strategic directions for global road safety and to share successes and lessons from implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020.
 - It should be noted that United Nations (UN) has set a goal under the UN Decade of Action of reducing road crashes by 2030.
- ✓ 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group meeting of SCO held in **Islamabad, Pakistan**.

January 2020

- ✓ **Piyush Jaiswal** has been awarded the Global Bihar Excellence Award 2019.
 - **Note:** The award was given for contribution towards social welfare, women empowerment and introducing new talent in the field of arts and culture.
- ✓ **Indian Army to sign MoU for AK-203** assault rifles with **Russia**.
- ✓ **Naval Exercise 'Naseem-Al-Bahr'** will be conducted in **Goa**.
 - **Note:** 12th edition of the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise "Naseem-Al-Bahr" will be conducted in Goa.
- ✓ **50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF)** was held in **Davos, Switzerland**.
 - This year 50th Annual Meeting of the **World Economic Forum** theme will be "Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World".
- ✓ **Microsoft** company has announced that it would become "carbon negative" by year 2030.
- ✓ **Robert Abela** elected as **14th prime minister of Malta**
- ✓ The 10th edition of World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2020 was held at **Abu Dhabi, UAE**.
 - The theme for the year 2020 was "Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment".
- ✓ **World Health Organisation (WHO)** released the Global challenges for 2020 and identified health challenges in this decade.
- ✓ As per the **9th edition of Tomtom Traffic Index 2019** which city is emerged as the worst traffic congested cities in the world -- **Bengaluru**.
- ✓ **Britain** has launched a **£4 Mn (about Rs 37 crore)** 'Innovation Challenge Fund' in India.

- The fund is focused on 2 main tech platforms including artificial intelligence (AI) and big data in Karnataka and future mobility in Maharashtra.

- ✓ **The Pacific nation of Palau** has become the first country in the world to ban sunscreen that is harmful to corals and sea life.

Important News: Economy

August 2020

- ✓ **SIDBI** in association with **TransUnion CIBIL Limited** launched a comprehensive financial education and one-stop knowledge platform for micro, small and medium enterprises “**MSMESaksham**” for MSMEs.

Note: The portal is focused on two key pillars of financial knowledge and access to credit. The portal will have a consolidated list of all the schemes launched by the Centre and state governments for MSMEs. It will be a knowledge hub with informative articles, business insights to help entrepreneurs and business owners start or grow businesses.

- ✓ The National Digital Conference on “**Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat**” organised by **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.

- ✓ Payment system **MobiKwik**. has launched **mpay.me**, a UPI payment link service that allows users to send and receive money from any UPI payment app.

Note: Through mpay.me, users and merchants can set up a personalized link using their mobile number. The link can be created through the MobiKwik app or the MobiKwik website and can be shared anywhere with anyone over chat, SMS, email etc.

- ✓ Indian Power Company **Reliance Power** and Japanese energy major **JERA** have inked a pact with a group of banks for financing their new gas-fired thermal power generation project in Bangladesh.

Note: Both partners will develop a new 745 MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat in Bangladesh. In September, 2019 Reliance Power inducted JERA as a partner for the 750 mw-gas based combined cycle power project in Bangladesh as a part of its understanding with the country in 2015 to set up a total of 3,000 mw.

- ✓ As per the revised Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, list entities will get

3 years to meet criteria of minimum public shareholding of 25 per cent.

Note: listed entities get one more year to comply with the rules of MPS, benefitting more than three dozen PSUs (public sector undertakings) who have been unable to meet this requirement amid COVID-19.

- ✓ Country’s national bank **Bahrain, National Bank of Bahrain (NBB)** has decided to adopt the Finacle Cash Management Suite of Infosys Finacle to digitally transform its transaction banking business.

- ✓ AI-powered multilingual voice bot **AXAA** has been launched by Axis Bank to resolve customer queries.

Note: The BOT has been launched in collaboration with Bengaluru startup Vernacular.ai, an AI-based SaaS voice automation platform. AXAA will optimise voice AI solutions and help automate customer interactions through intelligent human-like dialogue.

- ✓ **Mozambique**, Export-Import (EXIM) Bank has to improve the power supply quality of the country.

- ✓ **International Financial Corporation (IFC)** entities committed to invest Rs 75 crore in Endiya Partners Fund II.

Note: In addition to this, IFC has also committed an additional USD 10 million for direct co-investments. The partnership will provide financial and strategic support to Endiya portfolio companies, resulting in increased access to growth opportunities and sustainable scalability.

- ✓ **National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched ‘**nth Rewards**’, a business intelligence and analytics enabled omni-channel multi-branded loyalty platform.

Note: This platform enables users to earn ‘nth’ (denoting infinite possibilities) points through various bank transactions and redeem them

instantly on various products, such as e-vouchers, donations, hotel and flight bookings. The platform aims to become a one stop shop for the bank which will enable them to retain and grow their customer base.

- ✓ **Paytm** has launched **India's 1st Pocket Android POS** (Point of Sale) Device for contactless ordering and payments in India.

Note: It is an effort to digitise and empower a large number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The company aims to issue over 2 lakh devices within the next few months which will generate over 20 million transactions per month.

- ✓ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the platform “**Honoring the Honest**” for **Transparent Taxation**.

Note: In a major reform the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has carried out several major tax reforms in direct taxes in recent years. Last year, the Corporate Tax rates were reduced from 30 per cent to 22 per cent and for new manufacturing units, the rates were reduced to 15 per cent. Dividend distribution tax was also abolished.

- ✓ The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has announced to introduce a mechanism of ‘**Positive Pay**’ feature for all cheques of value of **Rs 50,000 and above**.

Note: This feature helps to avert cheque frauds. The limit of Rs 50,000 will cover approximately 20 per cent of transactions by volume and 80 per cent by value. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced to introduce a mechanism of ‘Positive Pay’ feature for all cheques of value Rs 50,000 and above.

- ✓ The National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) was funded by Government of India and **World Bank (WB)**.

Note: The Government of India-World Bank-funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project is designed for strengthening the national agricultural education system in the country. The overall objective to provide more relevant and high-quality education to the agricultural university students that are in tune with the New Education Policy – 2020.

- ✓ **Punjab National Bank** has launched ‘**DIGITAL APNAYEN**’ campaign to

encourage customers to use digital banking channels.

Note: The campaign launched by the bank’s Managing Director S Smallikarjuna Rao on the occasion of Independence Day is till March 31, 2021. PNB encourage customers to use digital channels and participate in the noble cause of donating to the PM CARES Fund for COVID-19.

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has decided to transfer as dividend **Rs 57,128 crore**. to the central government accounting year 2019-20.

Note: It has decided to maintain a contingency risk buffer of 5.5 percent at the minimum threshold recommended by the Jalan committee to review RBI's capital framework. The central board approved the dividend at its 584th meeting through video conferencing to discuss the financial operations and the balance sheet for the financial year 2019-20.

- ✓ **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)** exchanges is going to launch India’s first bullion index named “**Bulldex**”.

Note: Bullions, viz. gold and silver are already being traded as individual commodities on the country’s premier commodity exchange. With gold and silver as underlying, Bulldex will have a market lot size of 50 and be cash-settled futures contract. MCX had tested bullion index futures trade in mock trading exercises in July.

- ✓ Indian company **Biological E** announced the acquisition of Akorn India, a subsidiary of U.S. firm Akorn Inc.

Note: The acquisition, for an undisclosed sum, comes days after BE entered into an agreement with Johnson & Johnson firm Janssen Pharmaceutica, whose COVID-19 vaccine candidate (Ad26.COV2.S) is undergoing clinical trials.

- ✓ **Fino Payments Bank** has launched an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account Jan BachatKhata (JBK).

Note: Under the JBK, customers can transact at a Fino branch or merchant point with fingerprint and OTP combination, while at non-Fino points they need Aadhaar authentication. Earlier, Fino Payments Bank had introduced Shubh and Bhavishya, subscription-based savings accounts targeted at specific customer segments.

- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** has approved a total of 1 billion USD loan to provide assistance for the construction of modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System.

Note: ADB'S finance will include the construction of railway tracks, station buildings, maintenance facilities, and traction, and power supply. The project aims at smoothening regional connectivity by establishing transit options across the densely populated sectors of the National Capital Region connecting Delhi to Meerut in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

- ✓ **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** has launched 'DigiGo', a digital initiative to enable the opening of savings account instantly.

Note: LVB's new initiative will help people to avail the most required banking services instantly through the website. As a Lakshmi DigiGo customer, one can visit the nearest LVB Branch and convert his/her "Lakshmi DigiGo", account to a fully-featured regular account of choice and avail cheque book, debit card and a host of other facilities.

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank has approved **USD 1 billion** package to support the construction of the modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system, a first of its kind in India.

Note: The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through densely populated sections of the NCR connecting Delhi to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.

- ✓ **Axis Bank** has launched a new initiative named '**Gig-a-Opportunities**' to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely.

Note: The initiative aims to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country. This hiring model comprises two working patterns.

- ✓ **Tata Group** has launched "super app", an e-commerce app with an aim to take on Amazon and Reliance Industries in the country's booming e-commerce sector.

Note: The app will offer food and grocery ordering, fashion and lifestyle, consumer electronics and consumer durables, insurance and financial services, education, healthcare

and bill payments. The app will put the conglomerate in competition with giants of the region like Reliance Industries and global titans like Amazon.

- ✓ **ICICI Bank** becomes the first bank in India to use satellite data to assess the creditworthiness of farmers.

Note: The satellite data with demographic and financial details provides strong information on the land asset of the farmers. Usage of this technology will help farmers with existing credit to expand their eligibility and help new-to-credit farmers to get better access to formal credit.

- ✓ **NABARD** has introduced, '**Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC)-Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)**.

Note: It is a dedicated debt and credit guarantee product to ensure uninterrupted flow of credit to the last mile in rural areas hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ✓ **Axis Bank** has '**Liberty Savings Account**' for the Indian Youth, to address the ever-changing lifestyle needs of young and digitally interested Indians.

Note: It offers a complimentary hospital cash insurance cover of up to Rs 20,000 per year, which covers hospital expenses incurred under COVID -19, which makes this a 1st of its kind savings account to cover the pandemic.

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Annual Report for 2019-20 projected India's growth at what percent for 2020-21-- **minus 4.5%**.

Note: It is the Report of the Central Board of Directors on the working of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the year ended June 30, 2020 submitted to the Central Government in terms of Section 53(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. In the report, RBI projected that India's growth at minus 4.5% for 2020-21.

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Annual Report for 2019-20 has decided to dissolve **Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI)**.

Note: It was set up in February 2006 as an independent and autonomous body for formulating codes of conduct to be adopted by banks voluntarily for ensuring fair treatment of customers. BCSBI, in collaboration with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), has evolved

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two codes – Code of Bank’s Commitment to Customers and the Code of Bank’s Commitment to Micro and Small Enterprises.

- ✓ The Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd. has partnered with **Visa** to develop an instalment platform, which will enable the issuers to extend credit to their cardholders at face-to-face Point of Sale (PoS) in India.

Note: The installments platform with the suite of platform capabilities leveraging **Innoviti’s suniPAYNEXT** platform and Visa’s APIs, provides shoppers the ability to choose how they pay during the purchase.

- ✓ **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited** has launched ‘**Smart Assist**’, a 1st of its kind technology service in the insurance industry.

Note: It helps the customers to know about product details while enjoying virtual assistance and maintaining social distance protocol. It is the latest in the series of initiatives by Bajaj Allianz Life to enhance the customer experience by digitizing its operations, making them easy-to-use and completely secure

July 2020

- ✓ **World Bank** has approved a USD 750 million Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Emergency Response Program to support severely impacted MSMEs in India due to COVID-19 crisis.

- ✓ **SAP India** has launched the Global Bharat program, designed to enable Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) become globally competitive by equipping them with digital technologies.

- ✓ **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** has released USD 50 million in the first tranche of assistance to L&T Infrastructure Finance Ltd (LTIF), to fund renewable Energy Projects in India.

- ✓ As per the Reserve Bank of India data Indian state **Tamil Nadu** is at the top in market borrowings in the fiscal 2020-21(FY 21).

- ✓ As per the data from the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, **USA** remains as the top trading partner of India during the Financial Year 2019-20.

Note: This is the second consecutive Financial Year that the United States has become the top trading partner of India.

- ✓ Technology giant google announced to invest **Rs 75,000 crore** in India over the next five to seven years with a focus on digitizing the economy and building India-first products and services.

- ✓ **In Andaman and Nicobar Islands** NABARD has launched development projects of Rs 44 lakhs to strengthen the Atmanirbhar Bharat through rural entrepreneurship.

- ✓ In the new World Bank country classifications by income level 2020-2021, India remains in

the classification of **Lower Middle-income economy**.

- ✓ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) would lend \$250 million to **Pakistan** to help the country deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ✓ Amount of rescue package has been announced by the European Union (EU) to rebuild the bloc’s economies ravaged by COVID-19 -- **€750 billion**.

- ✓ **Airtel Payments Bank** partnered with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to train and skill young people in rural areas on financial services.

- ✓ As per the Financial Stability Report, July 2020 released the Reserve Bank of India what will be the Gross Nonperforming Assets (GNPA) ratio of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) by March 2021 -- **12.5 per cent**.

- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** has agreed to partner with Green Climate Fund (GCF) toward a 'green recovery' for members confronting the harsh economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: This collaboration focuses on enhancing the steps to reduce the carbon emission and for climate-resilient development in Asia-Pacific. ABD has offered a support package of USD 20 billion for COVID-19. Under the Strategy 2030, ADB will ensure that 75% of its committed projects will support climate change mitigation and adaptation by 2030.

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed an agreement with **Sri Lanka** for extending a \$400-million currency swap facility till November 2020.

Note: This currency swap is used to boost the foreign reserves and ensure the financial stability of the country, which is badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The currency swap arrangement will remain available till November 2022.

- ✓ What per cent of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been decided by the union government in defence sector -- **74 per cent.**

Note: The second draft of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020, now renamed as the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, was put out in public domain for comments from stakeholders and public.

- ✓ The Central Government in collaboration with **World Bank** has decided to convert the area of ravines in the region of Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh into cultivable land.

Note: Around 3 lakh hectares land of this region are non-cultivable, this conversion will

improve and support the integrated development of the Bihad area in the region of Gwalior-Chambal. In addition to the agricultural and environmental development this project will also create employment opportunities and will support the substantive development of this region.

- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** has approved USD 3 million (Rs 22 crore) grant to India from the **Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund** to support India's battle against COVID-19.

Note: The grant is financed by the Japanese government. It will be used to seek thermal scanners, enhancement of disease surveillance and early detection, contact tracing, and treatment. COVID-19 pandemic response option (CPRO) was established to provide assistance to the member countries' pandemic response.

June 2020

- ✓ Worker population ratio is **(35.3%)** as per the **'Annual Report of Periodic Labour Force Survey launched by National Statistical Office (NSO).**

- ✓ **14** kharif crops the central government has announced minimum support price (MSP) on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

- **Note:** The Minimum Support Price of Paddy has been increased by Rs 53 per quintal. The MSP of paddy has been fixed at Rs 1,868 per quintal for the year 2020-21.

- The rates of pulses, oil seeds and cereals have also been increased. The MSP of cotton has been increased from Rs 5,255 per quintal to Rs 5,515 per quintal.

- ✓ Grade **Baa3** has been given by ratings agency Moody's Investors Service towards India's sovereign rating.

- **Note:** Baa3 is the lowest investment grade in Moody's rating ladder. This means, India is just one notch above the non-investment grade or junk grade.

- ✓ **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** is the technical partner for implementation of PM Svanidhi, or

Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi scheme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

- ✓ **GAIL India Limited** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) for development of "trigeneration" projects in India.

- **Note:** An equal (50:50) joint venture between the two companies will be incorporated for undertaking trigeneration projects if the studies made by 2 companies are viable.

- ✓ As per the 64th survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF) on Macroeconomic Indicators released by RBI in FY 2021 India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth may contract by **1.5 per cent.**

- ✓ The World Bank (WB) has granted loan worth of Rs. 1,950 crores to **West Bengal govt.** for tackling COVID-19 situation and developmental work.

- ✓ **Harsh Vardhan** chaired the Committee on Development of Housing Finance Securitization Market in India on the recommendation of which RBI draft

Framework for Securitization of Standard Assets.

- ✓ Growth of India in FY2020-21 as per World Bank's Global Economic Prospect (GEP) June 2020 - **3.2 per cent**.
- ✓ According to World bank's report, global economy will contract by in 2020 - **5.2 per cent**.
- ✓ **PK Mohanty** will chair the committee formed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review the guidelines related to ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks.
- ✓ **Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)** has provided a line of credit (LOC) of \$215.68 million to **Malawi** country for Drinking Water Supply Scheme.
- ✓ As per the new framework of the **RBI**, the **National Payment Corporation of India** and **National Electronic Fund Transfer** will be treated as **Financial Market Infrastructure (FMI)**.
- ✓ In accordance with the weekly statistical data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign reserves crossed the **\$500 billion mark**.
- ✓ According to **UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2020**, the **Global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** flows are forecast to decrease by up to **40%** in 2020.
- ✓ According to **UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2020** what is the position of India as recipient of the foreign direct investment in 2019-- **9th largest**.
- ✓ According to the payroll data of EPFO witnessed **28.6 %** increase in formal employment in 2019-20.
- ✓ According to **Asian Development Outlook by the Asian Development Bank**, in FY 2020-21 Indian economy is projected to contract by **4 per cent**.
- ✓ As per the new Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) released by the World Bank, India's global position as an economy in terms of PPPs - **3rd**.
- ✓ World Bank approved **USD 500 million** to improve the learning outcome and governance of government schools in six Indian states under STARS Programme.
 - **Note:** The project, Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS), will be implemented through the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, the flagship central scheme, in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- ✓ Minimum amount can be invested in the newly launched Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable) Scheme -- **Rs 1000**.
 - **Note:** The Floating Rate Savings Bonds 2020 (FRSB Bonds) will have a tenure of 7 years and the interest rate will keep varying during the tenure of the scheme.
- ✓ The tenure of the **Floating Rate Savings Bonds 2020 (FRSB Bonds)** launched by the Government of India in of 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 -- **7 years**.
- ✓ **World Bank** has **approved \$500 million** to build road connectivity along the **Jashore-Jhenaidah corridor** directly connecting Dhaka in Bangladesh with India and Bhutan.
 - **Note:** It will also support the Bangladesh government's plan of developing a 260 km economic corridor in the western part and benefitting over 20 million masses.
 - The Western Economic Corridor and the Regional Enhancement (WeCARE) Phase I project is the first of a multi-phased \$1.4 billion World Bank program to upgrade the existing 110 km two-lane highway, **Bhomra-Satkhira-Navaron and Jashore-Jhenaidah**, to a safer and climate-resilient four-lane highway in western Bangladesh.

May 2020

- ✓ According to Mercom India Research's '**India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020**' report **7.3**

- ✓ **Giga Watt (GW)** solar energy generation capacity India has added during calendar year 2019.
- ✓ **Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) India Private Limited** has started the production of Coal for the first time.
- ✓ Under chairmanship the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a **committee to frame standard professional indemnity policy** for insurance intermediaries that can be issued by all the insurers-- **Yegnapriya Bharat**.
- ✓ **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has organized the digital conference, RE-START – ‘Reboot the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations is association with Technology Development Board (TDB)
- ✓ **World Bank** has approved 1 billion USD to increase India’s COVID-19 Social Protection response Program.

April 2020

- ✓ **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a loan agreement worth of \$60 million with affordable housing loan provider **Aavas Financiers Ltd.**
- ✓ Standard & Poor Global Ratings has slashed down India’s growth forecast for financial year 2020-21 to **3.5%**.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in consultation with the Government of India (GoI), has hiked the limit of **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the first half of the financial year 2020-21 for the centre to **Rs 1.2 lakh crore.**
- ✓ The **United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) World Economic Forecasting Model** estimates that the global economy could shrink by **1%**.
- ✓ According to the Fitch Solutions India’s fiscal deficit is expected to go up to what per cent of GDP -- **6.2 %.**
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2020** has forecasted a slowdown in Indian economic growth to **4%**.
- ✓ The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has announced to provide emergency working capital to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) up to **one crore.**
 - **Note:** The SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against coronavirus (SAFE) loan limit has been increased to 2 crores from Rs 50 lakhs. It is a financial assistance program launched by SIDBI for (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) MSMEs that engage in the manufacturing of products (hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, head gear, bodysuits, shoe covers, ventilators, goggles, among others) or offer services to combat the novel coronavirus.
- ✓ According to the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) report** India’s GDP growth for FY 20-21 is likely to be declined to **4.8%**.
- ✓ The **rate of interest** in the “**Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21**” to be launched by the RBI on behalf of GoI-- **2.50 per annum.**
- ✓ **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** in its “**World Economic Outlook, April 2020**” has decreased **India’s GDP growth rate to 1.9%.**
- ✓ The **Reserve Bank of India** has increased the limit for **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for Central Government to **Rs 2,00,000 crores.**
 - **Note:** RBI has increased the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) by 66% for Central Government to Rs 2,00,000 crore from Rs 1,20,000 crore for the remaining part of first half of

the financial year 2020-21 to tackle the financial crisis arisen due to COVID-19 pandemic.

- ✓ **World Bank** has approved **Rs 585 cr for Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project.**
- ✓ **SIDBI** has launched special liquidity schemes to support MSMEs due to lockdown.
 - **Note:** The schemes will cover all eligible entities with investment-grade ratings irrespective of the entity's size & the quantum of the loans is 90 days.
 - Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has received Rs 15,000

crore from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to provide financial aid to MSMEs.

- The central bank provided the capital through a Special Liquidity Facility (SLF). SIDBI will provide the financing to MSMEs through banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and micro-finance institutions (MFIs).
- ✓ **Transcorp International Ltd (TIL)** becomes the **1st non-bank company** to receive Reserve Bank of India (RBI) nod to enter into co-branding arrangements for prepaid Instruments.

March 2020

✓ The **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has cuts interest rate to **8.5%.**

- **Note:** The EPFO has declined interest rate on EPF deposits for 2019-20 to seven years low by 0.15% or 15 basis points from 8.65% to 8.5%.
- The decision has been taken during the meeting of EPFO's apex decision making body, Central Board of Trustees (CBT) chaired by Minister of State (MoS) for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar in New Delhi.

✓ Name the world's first Digital Solutions Exchange Cloud launched in India -- **GOKADDAL.**

- **Note:** GOKADDAL, the World's first Digital Solutions Exchange in Cloud, was launched in India on March 11, 2020. www.gokaddal.com, a cloud-based solution exchange platform mainly focuses on 4A's – Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Analytics and Augmentative Technologies.
- It is a Business to Business (B2B), Business to Government (B2G), Business to Consumer (B2C) solution

platform which connects solution providers to solution seekers and an innovative platform for Startups and SME companies.

✓ 39th GST Council meet on '**Know your Supplier**' was held in **New Delhi.**

- **Note:** It was headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. During the summit several decisions have been taken regarding the GST mechanism on particular sections.
- One of the decisions includes calculation of delayed GST payment on the net tax liability w.e.f. 1st July 2017, the day the GST came into force.
- Net cash tax liability is arrived at after deducting the input tax credits available from gross tax liability.

✓ An '**Innovate for accessible India campaign**' has been launched by Microsoft India and **NASSCOM Foundation.**

- **Note:** It is a nation-wide innovation challenge aimed at empowering people with disabilities with the new technologies required for better integration into society and access to equal opportunities.
- The campaign was launched in partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,

Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology and National Research and Education Network (NREN).

- ✓ For Research in Cybersecurity Programs L&T Technology Services has signed with **IIT-Kanpur**.

- **Note:** L&T Technology Services (LTTS) signed a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) to collaborate on research industrial and infrastructure cybersecurity.
- The MoU is signed between Dr Keshab Panda, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of LTTS and Professor Manindra Agarwal, Padma Shri Awardee, Deputy Director at IIT-Kanpur.

- ✓ RBI has injected **30,000 crores rupees** through open market operations (OMOs) in the economy.

- **Note:** The RBI will purchase government securities under OMOs in two tranches of Rs 15,000 crore each.
- OMO is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by the central bank of the country.
- Already, RBI infused Rs 10,000 crore through open market operations, last week.
- RBI will purchase securities with a coupon rate of 6.84 per cent (maturity December 19, 2022); 7.72 per cent (May 25, 2025); 8.33 per cent (July 9, 2026) and 7.26 per cent (January 14, 2029).

February 2020

- ✓ Union Cabinet Approves Amendments to Banking Regulation Act to regulate **Urban Co-Operative banks**.

- These amendments will apply to the urban co-operative banks and multi-state cooperative banks.

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conducted the “Financial Literacy Week

- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** will invest 100 million US Dollars in India’s infrastructure sector through the government-promoted National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

- **Note:** With this, the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund has now received a total of \$700 million in commitments.
- The investment comes at a time when India’s economy is expected to suffer huge losses due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic.
- This will help in increasing the capital of domestic private equity funds in India. It will also contribute a great deal in providing long term growth financing for private sector companies, social infrastructure development and economic development.

- ✓ Fitch Ratings Inc has lowered India’s GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast to - **4.6%**.

- **Note:** It cuts the rate due to weak domestic demand and private consumption, which put pressure on the investment amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- Earlier on March 2, 2020, Fitch has lowered India’s GDP growth forecast to 4.9% for the fiscal year –FY20 (2019-2020) ending March 31, 2020 from 5.1% due to coronavirus and supply disruptions.

2020” from **February 10 to February 14, 2020**.

- **Note:** The theme of the Financial Literacy Week 2020 is “Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)”.

- ✓ As per the notified ‘**Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2020**, the currency

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notes of **rupees one** to have **pink green** colour.

- The pink green colour note will have a design of grains, which depicts the “agricultural dominance of the country”.
- ✓ “We Think Digital” Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women launched by **Facebook**.
- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has signed a \$ 450 million (mn) loan agreement to support

Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) with the World Bank.

- The main aim of this agreement is to stop the decreasing level of ground water in India and strengthen the institutions related to ground water.
- ✓ To promote UPI as Easy, Safe, and Instant mode of payment a campaign named “**UPI Chalega**” has been launched by **NPCI**.
- The “UPI Chalega” campaign is aimed to guide users towards the right usage of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and help create a habitual change, use of UPI in their daily life.

January 2020

✓ India may **overtake Germany** to become the **fourth-largest** economy by **2026**.

- **Note:** The report titled '**World Economic League Table 2020**' was released by the UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).

According to the “**Global Investment Trend Monitor report 2020**” released by **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** what is **India’s rank in attracting FDI in 2019 -- 8th**

✓ The Reserve Bank of India has been ranked at **6th** position in buying gold abroad among the central banks of the world.

- **Note:** According to World Gold Council(WGC) report titled “Outlook 2020: Global economic trends and their impact on gold”, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) became the sixth largest buyer when it purchased 25.2 tonnes in first 10 months of 2019 to hedge government’s sovereign gold bond issue.

✓ The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched a platform to make payments fast & secure -- “**Vajra Platform**”.

Awards and Honours

August 2020

✓ **Sunil Ydv SS** has been conferred with the Karmaveer Chakra Award instituted by the United Nations and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO).

Note: He received the award for his relentless contribution to society through his Telegram channel “SS Motivation.” He addresses social issues and motivates people every day through his channel. The awards he won last year include RastraPrerna, Iconic Personality of India, Incredible Indian Icon and Humanitarian Excellence.

✓ **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)** has won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020, a national-level digital product building competition.

Note: It was jointly organized by MHRD and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) at Noida Institute of Engineering & Technology (NIET), Uttar Pradesh. The team of DIAT named as ‘Age of Ultron’ had six members under Dr. Sunita Dhavale . Prize Money: Rs 1 Lakh

✓ **Moothonfilm** has won the Best Film Award in the 20th edition of New York Indian Film

Festival (NYIFF) of Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC).

Note: It was conducted as a virtual event with the celebrities of the film industries and award winners participating from all across India and the United States. Nivin Pauly starring film Mothoon was directed by Geetu Mohandas. The movies portray the story of a 14-year-old who travel in search of Moothon (elder brother) Akbar who left Lakshadweep for Mumbai”.

- ✓ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recognized Venkatraipur and Noliyasi, villages of **Odisha** as ‘Tsunami Ready’ for their overall preparedness to face the tsunami.

Note: With this recognition, Odisha became the first state in the India and India became the 1st Country in the Indian Ocean region to achieve the honour from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

- ✓ The researchers from **IIT Kharagpur** institutions has won the Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Awards 2020 for developing a mechanism for generating electricity from wet clothes left under sunlight to dry.

Note: The work has been published in Nano Letters, a high-impact journal in the field, and the innovation has been patented by them. The same award was presented separately to another team of the IIT Kharagpur for addressing the problem of energy conservation and thermal management in wearable and flexible electronic devices.

- ✓ **Nitin Sethi** has won the Asian College of Journalism’s award 2019 for investigative journalism.

Note: The awards ceremony was conducted online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Sethi won in the investigative journalism category for his six-part series titled "Paisa Politics" published by The Huffington Post India.

- ✓ **Shiv Sahay Singh** has won the Asian College of Journalism’s award 2019 the K P Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for social impact journalism.

Note: He won the inaugural social impact journalism award for his story titled "Death by digital exclusion: On faculty public

distribution system in Jharkhand" published in The Hindu.

- ✓ **Akshay Kumar** is the only Indian actor to be listed among the top 10 world’s highest-paid actors of 2020.

Note: Akshay is placed at sixth place in the list. Most of his income came from product endorsements. The list takes into account the earnings between June 1, 2019, and June 1, 2020. The list has been topped by Wrestler-turned-movie star Dwayne Johnson, for a second straight year, with the total earning of \$87.5 million. Johnson is also known by his ring name The Rock.

- ✓ Indian origin physician **Ravi Solanki** is among 19 winners of the UK’s Royal Academy of Engineering President’s Special Awards for Pandemic Service.

Note: Ravi Solanki, a physician working on neurodegenerative diseases, along with Raymond Siems, an engineer working in machine learning, were awarded for their volunteer work to help build a secure and fully functioning website for a new National Health Service (NHS) charity HEROES.

- ✓ Rohit Sharma, Vinesh Phogat, Manika Batra and M Thangavelu were recommended for **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020** award by the National Sports Awards selection committee.

Note: Rohit Sharma will be the fourth cricketer after legendary Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli to be conferred the award. Tendulkar was awarded the Khel Ratna in 1998, Dhoni got it in 2007 and Kohli received in 2018. In a first, this year’s National Sports Awards ceremony is likely to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ✓ St Christopher School of **Nagaland** has won the Gold Award along with cash prize of Rs.1 Lakh from the first ever Pallikkutam National Award for Innovation in Education instituted by Rajagiri Media.

Note: The St Christopher School won the award for ensuring a seamless class for the students with the limited infrastructure and resources in the rural area. The Prize money for Gold Award is Rs.1,00,000. The rural school provided a balanced online and offline activities for the students over the whatsapp. The award was sponsored under the CSR initiative of the Federal Bank Ltd.

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- ✓ **Indore** city became India's cleanest city for the fourth year in a row in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards.

Note: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the Swachh Survekshan 2020 result at the Award Ceremony 'Swachh Mahotsav' in the national capital being organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA). This is the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of the country. A total of 129 awards will be handed out to the top-performing cities and states.

- ✓ Water technology company **VA Tech Wabag Ltd.** has won the prestigious Global Water Award for its 45 million liters a day Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis Plant.

Note: The plant has won the distinction award under the category of 'wastewater project of the year'. The plant is one of the largest and technologically advanced water treatment plants in India.

- ✓ **NLCI** has bagged the "Swachhta Hi Seva award" for transforming Neyveli Township into a plastic-free, green campus.

Note: The award was conferred to three units of the PSU - Township administration office (First rank), Thermal Power Station -I (second rank) and Mines Sub-stores (third rank). NLCIL implemented the Swachhta Hi Seva programme in two phases -- the first phase from September 11 to November 2, 2019 and the second phase from October 3 to 27, 2019.

- ✓ **Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash** has won the first ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations World Cup (MCWC).

Note: Bhanu Prakash had secured the gold medal with a score of 167, Lebanese

contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal with a score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.

- ✓ **Tenzin Priyadarshi and Zara Houshmand** has authored the book titled 'Running toward Mystery: The Adventure of an Unconventional Life'.

Note: The book provides an account of how the Dalai Lama traced his Spiritual Teacher Khunu Lama in India. Tenzin Priyadarshi is the President and CEO of The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Zara Houshmand is an Iranian American author and literary translator.

- ✓ **Marieke Lucas Rijneveld** has been adjudged as the winner of the International Booker Prize 2020.

Note: The book was first published in Dutch in 2018 and eventually translated into English by Michele Hutchison. The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator to give equal recognition to both.

- ✓ "Nayi Disha" is the HR initiative of **SBI** bank has been awarded with **Brandon Human Capital Management** (HCM) Excellence Award 2020.

Note: The award is also known as the Academy Awards of Learning & Development 2020. The SBI has been awarded with the global recognition for its HR initiative, "Nayi Disha". The award winners will be honored at Brandon Hall Group's annual HCM Excellence Conference, January 26-28, 2021 at the Hilton West Palm Beach, Florida.

July 2020

- **Raghuram Rajan** has been conferred with the first Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award in Official Statistics for lifetime achievements.
- **Ravindra Jadeja** has been named as the India's 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) of the 21st century by Wisden.
- Name the Indian-American who were listed among the 38 immigrants to be honoured as the '2020 Great Immigrants' by the Carnegie Corporation -- **Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee and Prof Raj Chetty**.

- Government announced to release commemorative stamp to honour **PV Narasimha Rao**.
- Mon District of **Nagaland** state received 2020 SKOCH awards under three categories in the 65th SKOCH summit 2020.
- A new category of awards titled 'PrerakDaur Samman' has been announced as a part of **Swachh Survekshan 2021**.

Note: The PrerakDaur Samman has a total of five additional subcategories namely, Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver),

Udit (Bronze) and Aarohi (Aspiring). In Swachh Survekshan 2020, cities are evaluated on the criteria of ‘population category’ but for 2021, they will be categorised on the basis of six select indicator wise performance criteria

- **Freya Thakral** has received the 2020 Diana Award for her “Recycler App”.
- **Chhattisgarh** state’s Darpan Portal and Mobile app, which contains the details of the schemes of the government received the Elites Excellence Awards 2020 by the IT institution Elites Technomedia under the Digital India Initiative.
- **Sachin Awasthi** has been honoured with the “Top Publicist” award in the Global Humanitarian Awards 2020 held as a webinar over a virtual platform in London.
- **NTPC Limited** has won the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019, under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category.
- **Kezang D Thongdok** has won the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2020.
Note: Kezang D Thongdok won the 2020 Dada Saheb Phalke Award for his documentary “Chi Lupo”.
- **Edappadi K Palaniswami** has been honored with Paul Harris Fellow recognition.
Note: The recognition is in the honor of Rotary founder, Paul Harris who contributed

to The Rotary Foundation. The Paul Harris Fellow recognition is conferred to honour the efficient service of people who provide drinking water, sanitation, prevention of diseases, environment, world peace etc. to its people.

- **Ashok Kumar** has been honoured with the Lifetime achievement award by the football club – Mohun Bagan Athletic Club.
- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index as the world’s richest man - - 6th
- **Parkash Dudeja** has been awarded with coveted ‘Infra Business Leader of the Year’ award for 2020.
Note: He is the vice chairman of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA).
- **N Chandrasekaran** has been awarded the 2020 USIBC Global Leadership Award along with Lockheed Martin CEO Jim Taiclet.
- **Amal Clooney** has been awarded with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award 2020.
- **Greta Thunberg** has been awarded with the ‘Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2020’.
- **Arnab Chaudhuri** has been conferred with ‘Legend of Animation’ award instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG) as part of the Animation Masters Summit (AMS) 2020.

June 2020

- ✓ **Virat Kohli** has become the only cricketer and the only Indian to feature in the Forbes’ Top 100 highest paid athletes of 2020.
- ✓ **Kritika Pandey** is the author of the book ‘The Great Indian Tee and Snakes’ for which she bestowed with Commonwealth short story prize 2020 for Asia region.
- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has accorded the “World No Tobacco Day Award 2020” to **SEEDS** NGO.
- ✓ **Akshay Kumar** is the only Indian celebrities to find a place in the Forbes 100 list of world's highest paid celebrities during June 2019 to May 2020.
- ✓ **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** has been named as EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2020.
- ✓ Indian Airport received Platinum Recognition in ACI Asia-Pacific Green Airports recognition 2020 -- **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad.**
- ✓ **Javed Akhtar** becomes the first Indian to receive the prestigious Richard Dawkins Award for 2020 for critical thinking.
- ✓ India’s first solar-powered ferry which has been shortlisted for the Gustave Troupe Award -- **Aditya.**
- ✓ Australian player **Michal Clarke** has been appointed an officer in the Order of Australia, an honour for achievement or meritorious service.
- ✓ The Ramon Magsaysay awards, regarded as Asia’s version of the Nobel Prize, have been cancelled this year due to the

coronavirus pandemic, the award foundation is located at **Manila, Philippines.**

- ✓ **Renjith Kumar** has been honoured with “NASA Distinguished Service Medal” for his administration to NASA.
- ✓ **Rattan Lal** has been conferred with prestigious World Food Prize 2020.
- ✓ **Shobha Sekhar** has been chosen for the ‘Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).
- ✓ **Angad Singh Rana** has been adjudged as the winner of New Zealand’s first ‘Virtual’ Chef competition – the ‘Quality NZ Culinary Cup’ held in India.
- ✓ **Deccan Development Society (DDS)** has won the Biodiversity award 2020 of Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.
- ✓ **Jammu and Kashmir** has been conferred with three prestigious DeenDayal Upadhyay SashaktikaranPuraskar for its outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development of the Gram Panchayats across the state/UTs.

- ✓ **Amartya Kumar Sen** has been selected for the 2020 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade.
- ✓ **Priyanka Chopra and Anurag Kashyap** named among the 50 ambassadors at 45th edition Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020.
- ✓ **Beyonce** has received the Humanitarian Award at 20th edition of annual BET Awards 2020, for her long-standing philanthropic work, including her recent COVID-19 relief efforts.
- ✓ **GulabbaiSangamnerkar** has been conferred with VithabaiNarayangaokar lifetime achievement award by Maharashtra Government.
- ✓ **Madhuvanti Dandekar** has been conferred with Annasaheb Kirloskar award by Maharashtra government.
- ✓ **KK Shailaja** has been honoured with United Nations Awards for her efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic in her state.

May 2020

- ✓ **Shobhana Narasimhan** has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science.
- ✓ **Sania Mirza** has become the **first Indian to be nominated for the Fed Cup Heart Award** from the **Asia/Oceania zone.**
- ✓ **Kim Jong Un** has been honoured with a **commemorative World War II medal** to mark the 75th anniversary of victory over **Nazi Germany** by **Russian President Vladimir Putin.**
- ✓ Indian journalist **Siddharth Varadarajan** has been named for **Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award 2020.**
- ✓ Indian airport **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru** has won this year’s SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia.
- ✓ **Akshay Kumar** has been conferred with the Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy for the year 2020.

- ✓ **Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar** has been awarded the Alexander Dalrymple Award 2019.
- ✓ **Naomi Osaka** becomes the highest paid female athlete in the world.
- ✓ Indian American inventor **Rajiv Joshi** has bagged the prestigious “Inventor of the Year award” in recognition of his pioneering work in advancing the electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence capabilities.
- ✓ **Suman Gawani** has been selected for the prestigious **United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019)** along with **Brazilian Naval Officer Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo.**
- ✓ **Quarraisha Abdool Karim** has been awarded Christophe Merieux Prize 2020 for finding a topical gel could stop many women catching the HIV.

April 2020

- ✓ Manufacturing unit of Indian Railway **Chittaranjan Locomotive Works** has set the **Limca Book of Records** for producing

record **431 locomotives in the financial year 2019-2020.**

- ✓ NGO ‘**ARMMAN**’ has been awarded the **Skoll Award for Social**

Entrepreneurship 2020 in recognition of its exceptional work in the maternal and child health space in India.

- ✓ **Naveen Patnaik** has been conferred with 'Hero to Animals Award' by animal rights body PETA India.
- ✓ **Ben Stokes** has been named as the leading cricketer of the world in 2020 by Wisden.
- ✓ Female cricketer **Ellyse Perry** has been named the Wisden's Leading Female Cricketer in the World 2020.

- ✓ Power company **Tata Power** has won the Edison Award for social innovation.
- ✓ Algerian Novelist **Abdelouahab Aissaoui** has won the 13th International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) 2020 for his novel 'The Spartan Court'.
- ✓ **Adam Higginbotham** has won the William E. Colby Award 2020 for his book "Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster".

March 2020

- **Sarbananda Sonowal** has been honoured with the Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee award for politics.
 - **Note:** Assam's Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal was honoured with Swarajya Awards 2020 under the category, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee Award for Politics at the 6th India Ideas Conclave at Tent City Narmada in Gujarat.
 - The award is instituted by India Foundation & Indic Academy & presented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Speaker of People's Majlis of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed.
- **'There Is No Evil'** film won the Golden Bear prize 2020 for the best picture at the Berlin International Film Festival 2020.
 - **Note:** The 70th edition of Berlin International Film Festival 2020 was held in Berlin, Germany from 20 February–1 March 2020.
 - It was the first under the leadership of new Berlin Film Festival heads, business administration director Mariette Rissenbeek and artistic director Carlo Chatrion.
 - The Opening film of the festival was 'My Salinger Year' & the Closing film was 'There Is No Evil'.
- **Jadav Payeng** has been named as the 128th Commonwealth Points of Light Award winner.
 - **Note:** Jadav Payeng, an environmental activist of Assam also known as the "Forest man of India" named as 128th winner of Commonwealth Points of Light Award.
- He had spent 30 years of his life for planting trees. He was honored by the Head of Commonwealth the Queen Elizabeth II for his exceptional volunteer service in environmental conservation.
- In the Time Magazine's '100 women of the year' to recognize selected women or groups to represent each year from 1920 to 2019 former prime minister Indira Gandhi will be honored as 'Women of the Year' for **1976**.
 - **Note:** TIME Magazine created 100 New Covers for the Project '100 women of the year' to recognize selected women or groups to represent each year from 1920 to 2019.
 - India's freedom fighter Amrit Kaur will be honored as 'Women of the Year' for 1947 & Former prime minister Indira Gandhi for 1976.
- **PV Sindhu** has been adjudged as the Sportsman of the year in the 4th edition of Times of India Sports Awards 2019.
 - **Note:** The 4th edition of TOISA (Times of India Sports Awards) awards honoured the best Indian in 2019 sports in New Delhi, India.
 - The event was powered by BHIM-UPI (Bharat Interface for Money- Unified Payments Interface).
 - Rohit Sharma was named as the Cricketer of the year and PV Sindhu was named as the Sportsman of the year as she won gold at the World Championships in Basel, Switzerland.

- **Nupur Kulshrestha** becomes the 1st woman to be promoted as **Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Indian Coast Guard**.
 - **Note:** She joined **Indian Coast Guard in 1999**.
 - On August 18, 1978 ICG was established by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India as an independent armed force of India and is operated under the Ministry of defence.
 - It is an armed forces and multi-mission organisation, which conducts real life operations at sea round the year.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** honoured ‘**Nari Shakti Puraskar**’ for 2019 to 15 women.
 - **Note:** The award is conferred annually to eminent women and institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of women empowerment & social welfare.
 - This award is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development(MWCD) to acknowledge the achievements of women for the nation & recognize their contributions towards society.
- The theme of the 4th Edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards 2019 -- **Women and Entrepreneurship**.
 - **Note:** On the occasion of International Women’s Day (March 8, 2020), NITI Aayog in collaboration with United Nations (UN) in India has organized the 4th Edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards 2019 in New Delhi.
 - The theme for WTI awards 2019 was “Women and Entrepreneurship”.
 - The awards were conferred by Defence Minister of India (or Raksha Mantri), Rajnath Singh who was the chief guest of an event.
- **Manpreet Singh Pawar and Rani Rampal** have won the Hockey India Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award 2019 for Men and Women respectively.
 - **Note:** The captain of India men’s national field hockey team, Manpreet Singh Pawar (27) & Captain of Indian Women Hockey Team, Rani Rampal (25) have won the Hockey India Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award 2019 for Men and Women respectively.
- Apart from the trophy, they also collected a prize money of Rs 25 lakh each. Harbinder Singh, who was a member of the Tokyo Olympics 1964 gold medal winning team, was honored with Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award 2019, which carries prize money of Rs 30 lakh and a trophy.
- **V Praveen Rao**. Has won the 7th edition of Dr MS Swaminathan Award for the period 2017- 2019.
 - **Note:** V Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Professor JayaShankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), won the 7th edition of Dr MS Swaminathan Award for the period 2017- 2019.
 - The award will be conferred on him in June 2020. The award was constituted by Retired Indian Council of Agricultural Research Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL).
- **PV Sindu has been** named as BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year 2019.
 - **Note:** Indian Badminton player Pusarla Venkata Sindhu, 24 years old, won BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) Indian Sportswoman of the year award 2019 and former sprinter PilavullakandiThekkeparambil Usha was awarded with Lifetime Achievement award.
 - The BBC award ceremony was held in New Delhi. Union Sports Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju was the guest of honour and Tony Hall, BBC Director General hosted the awards ceremony event.
- **Kempegowda International Airport** has been adjudged as best Airport in Airport Service Quality awards 2019.
 - **Note:** Annual Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards recognize and reward the best airports in the world according to ACI’s ‘ASQ Departure Survey’ and the ‘ASQ Arrivals Survey’.

- 34 key performance indicators under eight major categories were assessed during the survey & Indian Airports under the Airport Authority of India (AAI) have won many awards under Asia-Pacific region in “2019 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) awards”.
- The award is given by the Airports Council International (ACI).
- **Dr Jaimanti Bakshi** has won Best Citizens of India Gold medal Award.
 - **Note:** Dr Jaimanti Bakshi, Professor & Unit Head II, Department of Otolaryngology and Head Neck surgery at PGIMER (Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research), Chandigarh was awarded with “Best Citizens of India”.
 - The award was given by “GEPRA” (Global Economic Progress and Research Association) during the National Unity conference held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- Indian woman has been included in ‘Influential Women in Sport’ list for 2020 -- **Nita Ambani**.
 - **Note:** Sports business network, iSportconnect released the ‘Influential Women in Sport’ list for 2020, which named Nita Ambani, Serena Williams & Simone Biles along with 7 other women.
 - Nita Ambani led her Mumbai Indians franchise to become the most successful in IPL history & is in many sports projects across different sports in the country.
 - Tennis player, Serena Williams’s overall impact both on the court, (the greatest female player of all time), & as a businesswoman.
- Indian journalist **Arfa Khanum Sherwani and Rohini Mohan** have won the “Chameli Devi Jain Award 2019” for outstanding Women media persons.
 - **Note:** Arfa Khanum Sherwani is a senior editor of the news website ‘The Wire’. While Rohini Mohan is freelance journalist.
 - The annual award recognises social concern, dedication, courage and compassion all over India from the print, broadcast and online media category.
- Arfa Khanum Sherwani was selected for her reporting from conflict situations in Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh (UP). Rohini Mohan has been chosen for her reportage on NRC (National Register for Citizens) exercise in Assam & set a new benchmark for investigative journalism.
- **Prachi Salve and Pradeep Dwivedi** has won the won the Road Safety (RS) Media Fellowship 2019.
 - **Note:** Centre for Media Studies (CMS) announced that Prachi Salve of IndiaSpend and Pradeep Dwivedi of DainikJagran as the first winner of Road Safety (RS) Media Fellowship 2019, for their work in contribution towards reporting on road safety.
 - Centre for Media Studies (CMS) supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), conducted a three-month program for journalists to work on road safety issues in 2019.
 - This program is conducted to Strengthen the capacities of the journalists.
- **Hillel Furstenberg and Gregory Margulis** has been awarded with Abel Prize 2020.
 - **Note:** The award is given by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. They are awarded for their “pioneering use of methods from probability & dynamics in group theory, number theory and combinatorics”.
 - They used probabilistic methods & random walks techniques to solve deep problems in diverse areas of mathematics.
- **Ruchika Tomar** has won the 2020 PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel, for “A Prayer for Travelers”.
 - **Note:** The novel was published on July 9, 2019. The Novel states about the friendship of 2 women which grows complicated until the relationship

breaks apart and one of the friends disappear.

- Ruchika Tomar hails from California & is currently working as a lecturer at Stanford University.
- **Zoya Akhtar** has been honored with IIFTC Tourism Impact Award 2020.

- **Note:** She has promoted tourism through her films like 2011 'Zindagi Na MilegiDobara' which was shot in Spain, and 2015 comedy-drama 'DilDhadakne Do' shot in Turkey.
- **Asia's largest film tourism event, 8th India International Film Tourism Conclave (IIFTC)** was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

February 2020

- The **Most Promising Brand of the Year Award 2019** was won by **Amulya Mica**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** state has won the **1st position for its implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**.
 - Indore (Madhya Pradesh) has also won 1st place for better performance in PMMVY.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das** was awarded the 'Central Banker of the Year 2020', Asia-Pacific by **The Banker magazine**.
- 1st Mathrubhumi book of the year 2020 award won by **Vinod Shukla**.
 - **Note:** He was awarded for his translated book 'Blue Is Like Blue'.
- National Kishore Kumar Samman of the Madhya Pradesh (MP) government for the year 2018 was awarded to **Waheeda Rehman**.
- Transport Minister's Road Safety Award 2018-19 was awarded to **Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC)**.
 - The award was given for its lowest accident rate.
- Film '1917' won the Best Film award, in the 73rd British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2020 ceremony.
- President of India Shri. Ram Nath Kovind presented the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy to **Dr. N.S. Dharmashaktu**.
- 1st Indian to receive International Olympic Committee's Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award -- **Pullela Gopichand**.
- **Kaamya Karthikeyan** becomes the youngest Girl in the World to climb South America's Highest Peak Mt. Aconcagua.
- **Parasite** film has been bestowed with best original screenplay award at the 92nd Academy Awards ceremony 2020.
- **Dr. Vasant Narsimhan** has been conferred with the Genome Valley Excellence Award of BioAsia 2020.
- The President of India Ram Nath Kovind awarded President's Colour to **INS Shivaji**.
 - The award ranks high among the honour bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of the exceptional service rendered to the nation, in peace or war.
- **Rajendra Indraman Singh** has been bestowed with Indian Achievers Award (IAA).
- **Manpreet Singh Pawar** has been selected as the FIH Men's Player of the Year 2019.
 - **Note:** The captain of India men's national field hockey team selected for the award by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- Film 'Gully Boy' has won the best film award at the 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020.
- The 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- **Ranveer Singh for Gully Boy** won the best Actor award at the 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020.
- 20th edition of Laureus World Sports Awards 2020 was held in **Berlin, Germany**.
- Laureus World Sports Awards is known as 'Oscars of Sport'.
- **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** won Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the year 2019.
- **PV Sindhu** received the 'sportsperson of the year 2019 female' at the ESPN Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019.
- **Saurabh Chaudhary** received the 'sportsperson of the year 2019 male' at the ESPN Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019.

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- Winner of the 2019 Kate Webb Prize by the Agence France-Presse -- **Ahmer Khan**.
- Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker/ Ideal Legislative Council Chairman Award 2019 to **P Ramakrishnan**.
- Winner of Miss Diva Universe 2020 -- **AdlineCastelino**.
- Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020 announced in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **HRithik Roshan** bagged the Best Actor award for film “Super 30”.
- Film editor has entered Limca Book of Records -- **Sreekar Prasad**
 - **Note:** Sreekar Prasad, a veteran film editor has entered Limca Book of Records for 'films edited in the greatest number of languages'.
- **Jadav Payeng** will be awarded with Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award 2020.

January 2020

- ✓ **Sanjay Gupta** has been honoured with **Lokmanya Tilak** journalism award.
 - The award is given to recognize the work of an individual, which he or she has carried out for the larger good of the journalistic field.
- ✓ **Ministry of Science and Technology** has awarded **Swarna Jayanti Fellowships to 14 scientists** to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology.
 - A research grant of five lakh rupees for five years is also being provided in addition to their salary.
- ✓ **India-born author** has bagged a coveted **United Kingdom’s Costa Children’s Award 2019’** -- **JasbinderBilan**.
 - **Note:** She won the award for her debut novel ‘**Asha and the Spirit Bird**’.
 - "Asha and the Spirit Bird", aimed at readers aged nine years and above, beat competition from three other shortlisted books to be named the winner of the 2019 Costa Children's Award this week.
- ✓ Indian pacer **JaspritBumrah** will receive the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)’s Polly Umrigar Award.
 - Leg-spinner Poonam Yadav will be given the best international cricketer (women) award.
- ✓ The **29th** ‘**Saraswati Samman 2019**’ conferred to **_VasdevMohi**.
 - The literary award is given for his short stories collection- ‘Chequebook’. The short story talks about the sufferings of the marginalized sections in society.
- ✓ **17th edition of Crossword Books Awards** held in **Mumbai the Popular Best Fiction Award** was won by -- **Twinkle Khanna**.
 - **Twinkle Khanna** won the **Popular Best Fiction Award** for her novel ‘**Pyjamas Are Forgiving**’.
 - **Krishna Trilok** won the Popular award in the Biography category for Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of AR Rahman.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh government 2018 National Lata Mangeshkar Award** was conferred to -- **Kuldeep Singh**.
 - They have been chosen for this award for their contribution in the field of music and will be awarded in February 2020 at an event in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ **e-Governance Award of Excellence 2019** was won by -- ‘**cVIGIL**’ and ‘**Voter Helpline app**’.
- ✓ **Australia** has conferred its **highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia honour** to **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**.
 - The award is given to foreign nationals who have extraordinarily contributed to Australia or for humanity.

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- ✓ **Priya Praksah** has won the **Global citizen prize: Cisco Youth Leadership award** for 2019.
 - The award was given for her school health program that **provides healthcare support to children.**
- ✓ **Prestigious French honour of ‘Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) has been conferred to **Sanjana Kapoor.**
 - for her outstanding contribution to the field of theatre.
- ✓ **Nobel laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee** conferred with **honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.)** by **Calcutta University.**
 - Banerjee, who was awarded the **Nobel Prize in 2019** along with two others for **“their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.**
- ✓ **Assam state Tableaux** has won the 1st prize at the Republic Day Parade, 2020 among the States/Union Territories.
 - The theme of **Assam’s tableau was “Land of unique craftsmanship and culture”**, displaying bamboo and cane work and **Bhortal Nritya** performed by **Xattriya dancers.**
- ✓ **Dr N Kumar** has been conferred with the **‘HaritRatna’ Award 2019.**
 - **Note:** This award is organised by the All India Agricultural Students Association.
- ✓ **N Ram** has been selected for Kerala National Media Award.
 - **s**The award was instituted for fearless and brilliant journalistic work at a national level. The award carrying a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, citation and sculpture were announced as part of the academy’s 40th-anniversary celebration.
- ✓ **Priya Prakash** has won the **Global Citizen Prize: Cisco Youth Leadership Award** for **2019.**
 - The award was given for her school health program that provides healthcare support to children. The prestigious award honours an individual aged 18 – 30 who is bringing about a positive change in the world by solving some of its biggest global challenges. The award includes a US \$250,000 prize.
- ✓ **Yusuf Jameel** has won the **2019-20 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism** for his outstanding contribution in journalism.
- ✓ **Rani Rampal** becomes the **1st ever hockey player** to win the **2019 ‘World Games Athlete of the Year’ award.**
- ✓ **Dubai-based Indian girl** who can sing in 120 languages wins **Global Child Prodigy Award -- Sucheta Satish.**
- ✓ **Best Motion Picture (Drama) in ‘Golden Globe Awards 2020’**
 - **Highlights:**The 77th Golden Globe Awards, which honor the movies and American Television were distributed on 6th January 2020 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California.
 - Best film – drama: 1917
 - Best actress in a film – drama: Renee Zellweger, Judy
 - Best actor in a film – drama: Joaquin Phoenix, Joker
 - Best film – musical or comedy: Once Upon a Time in Hollywood
 - Best score – film: Joker
 - Best director – film: Sam Mendes, 1917
 - Best song – film: I’m Gonna Love Me Again, Rocketman

Important Events: Sports

August 2020

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- ✓ **German** Famous footballer Benedikt Howedes retired recently.
Note: He was one of the 3 players who had played every minute for the team in the tournament. Benedikt Howedes has played 44 times for German National Team from 2011-17. In September 2007, German Football Association honored him with the Fritz Walter Medal, under-19 Gold Medal which is given to the best youth players.
- ✓ The **Indian Government** has provisionally granted permission for the 13th edition of **Indian Premier League's (IPL's) 2020** to be rescheduled in **UAE**.
Note: BCCI has also decided to host a Women's T20 Challenge to be held from November 1 to 10 in UAE. Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah will be the three venues of the tournament. No spectators to be allowed in the initial phase of the tournament
- ✓ India has withdrawn from the women's world team **Squash championship** scheduled to be held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
Note: India has withdrawn from the **women's world team Squash championship** scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15th to 20th December, due to lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of its players. Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has decided to withdraw from the championship.
- ✓ **Lewis Hamilton** won the **British Grand Prix (GP) 2020**.
Note: It is officially known as the Formula 1 Pirelli British Grand Prix 2020. The tournament was held at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom (UK). This is his 7th time to win this title. He is the only racer to win most in British GP.
- ✓ **Sports Authority of India** with CISCE and CBSE, will host an online program for training of Physical Education (PE) Teachers on "Khelo India Fitness Assessment of School Going Children".
Note: The program will target 7500 participants across 2615 CISCE schools. It will assess the fitness levels of the school children and identify potential future champions. Khelo India Fitness Assessment through Khelo India Mobile App (KIMA) will be done. The session is titled 'Whole School Approach to Fitness'.
- ✓ Indian umpire **KN Ananthapadmanabhan** has been included in ICC's international panel of umpires.
Note: Ananthapadmanabhan played 105 First-Class and 54 List A games for Kerala, taking 344 and 87 wickets respectively. Ananthapadmanabhan has officiated in all major domestic events including the IPL.
- ✓ **INOX** company will be the official sponsor Indian team for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympic.
Note: The Tokyo Olympics was rescheduled to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be held from July 23 to August 8 in 2021. As part of the partnership the Group will also support team's promotions through its entertainment company -- INOX Leisure Limited, which owns a chain of multiplexes in the country.
- ✓ "Fit India Freedom Run" would be organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from **15th August to 02nd October 2020**.
Note: The ministry is organising "Fit India Freedom Run" to mark the 74th Independence Day of India on August 15 to 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2. This would be the largest country-wide run, targeted to encourage fitness among the masses while following the COVID-19 protocols.
- ✓ **Max Verstappen** has won the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix.
Note: His victory ended Mercedes dominant Formula 1 season. 70th Anniversary Grand Prix 2020 was the 5th race of 2020 Formula 1 season and was held at Silverstone, United Kingdom
- ✓ **India** will host the ICC Men's T20 World cup 2021.
Note: While the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will be held in Australia in 2022. Cricket's governing body has also decided to postpone the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 in New Zealand till February – March 2022 because of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on cricket globally.
- ✓ Suresh Raina announced his retirement from **Cricket** sport.
Note: He made his international debut against Sri Lanka in 2005 and represented India in 226 ODIs, 78 T20Is and 18 Tests in his cricketering

career that spanned over 13 years. He scored 7,787 runs across all the formats in international cricket. He also claimed 167 catches in his international career, setting the bar high with his athleticism on field. Suresh Raina is the first Indian batsman who has scored a century in all three formats of the game.

- ✓ **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain.

Note: Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain. This was his 4th win of the season and the 88th win of his career. Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Netherlands) came second followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) at third.

- ✓ The Asian Boxing Championship has been postponed to next year owing to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the tournament was scheduled to be held in **India**.

Note: India last hosted the men's Asian meet back in 1980 in Mumbai before conducting the women's event in 2003 in Hisar. The tournament became a combined event for men and women last year. The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown sporting calendars haywire the world over with several big events, including the Olympics and the T20 World Cup of cricket, postponed.

- ✓ **Dream 11** has bagged the title sponsorship rights of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020.

Note: Dream 11 has bagged the rights as Expression of Interest (EOI) was invited by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for IPL 2020's title sponsorship after the Chinese mobile phone brand, Vivo, pulled out of it. The title rights bagged by the fantasy gaming start-up "Dream 11" are valid till December 31, 2020.

- ✓ Famous cricketer Laura Marsh of **England** has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket.

Note: In her international career, Marsh played 9 Tests, 103 ODIs and 67 T20Is. She managed to score 1,588 runs across all formats and also registered 217 wickets. The 33-year-old announced her retirement from international cricket in December and has now

decided to call time on her domestic career as well.

- ✓ **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Professional Scouting Organization (IPSO) to conduct online Scouting Workshops throughout India.

Note: Under the agreement, IPSO will conduct online workshops which will provide a number of courses and webinars with regards to scouting in India. The workshop will be a starting point to become a scout or an analyst and will also help anyone to understand the foundations and protocols in talent identification, scouting & analysis.

- ✓ Football team **Sevilla** has won the Europa League for a sixth time.

Note: Italy's wait for a first European trophy in a decade, and Inter's nine-year trophy drought, goes on after Lukaku could not stop Carlos's spectacular strike. It is Europe's secondary club football tournament organised by UEFA, and the 12th season since it was renamed from the UEFA Cup to the UEFA Europa League.

- ✓ **Table tennis player** Manika Batra has been selected for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020.

Note: The government has announced the National Sports Awards 2020. Rohit Sharma (Cricketer), Mariyappan Thangavelu (Para-Athlete), Manika Batra (TT player), Vinesh Phogat (Wrestler) and Rani Rampal (Hockey) will receive the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

- ✓ Former cricketer Lisa Sthalekar has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame, she held from **Australia**.

Note: Former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame in a virtual ceremony along with Legendary South African all-rounder Jaques Kallis and Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas. Pune born Sthalekar represented Australia in eight Tests, 125 ODIs and 54 T20s. Sthalekar is the 27th from Australia and the ninth woman player in the list, which includes five from her country.

- ✓ **Sophia Popov** has won the Women's British Open 2020 title in Golf.

Note: German Golfer Sophia Popov won the Women's British Open 2020 title (rebranded

as 2020 AIG Women's Open) by defeating Thailand's Jasmine Suwannapura by two strokes at Royal Troon in Scotland. Sophia has now become the first female golfer from Germany to win the LPGA Tour's major title.

- ✓ Football club **Bayern Munich** has won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20 title.

Note: Bayern Munich has become the first European Cup winners who won all their matches during the tournament. This is the sixth European Champions League title for Bayern Munich.

- ✓ Famous all-rounder Cameron White was playing for **Australia** announced his retirement from all forms of professional cricket.

Note: He represented Australia in 4 Test matches, 91 ODIs and 47 T20Is. He also led the Australian limited-overs team in 7 international games. He amassed 146 runs in tests, 2072 runs in ODIs and 984 runs in T20Is.

- ✓ **Table Tennis** player Poulomi Ghatak announced her retirement.

Note: Poulomi Ghatak belongs to the state of West Bengal. She won three junior national championships as well as seven senior national championships between 1996 and 2016.

- ✓ **James Anderson** became the first-ever fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test Match Cricket.

Note: Overall, he is the 4th bowler to take 600 test wickets after 3 spinners Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, and Anil Kumble. Anderson, who made his Test debut in 2003 against Zimbabwe, had become the highest wicket-taker among seamers in 2018 when he dismissed Mohammed Shami against India at The Oval to go past Glenn McGrath's tally of 563 Test wickets.

- ✓ **India** will host BRICS Games 2021.

Note: This announcement came after Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju attended a meeting of Sports Ministers of the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). India will get the chairmanship of the five-nation independent international group in 2021.

- ✓ Brothers pair, Mike Bryan and Bob Bryan have announced their retirement from the sport. They are associated with **Tennis** sport.

Note: They are the most successful men's doubles pair in tennis history. The brother's pair captured an Open Era record with 119 trophies in 26 seasons which comprises all four Grand Slams, all nine ATP Masters 1000s as well as the Olympic gold medal.

July 2020

- ✓ **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App".

- ✓ **G. Akash** has become the country's 66th Grandmaster.

- ✓ **Quinton de Kock** was named the men's 'cricketer of the year' at Cricket South Africa's (CSA) annual awards ceremony.

- ✓ **Valtteri Bottas** has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2020.

- ✓ **China's** two-times Olympic badminton champion Lin Dan announced his retirement.

- ✓ **Valtteri Bottas** has won the Formula One's season opening Austrian Grand Prix 2020.

- ✓ Egyptian Raneem El Welily is associated with **Squash** announced her retirement recently.

- ✓ Joshna Chinappa is associated with **Squash** sports who secured 10th position in World Women's Ranking 2020.

- ✓ **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Styrian Grand Prix 2020 at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria.

- ✓ Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has announced to postpone the Asia Cup cricket tournament until **June 2021**.

- ✓ Mile Jedinak is associated with **soccer** sports who has announced his retirement.

- ✓ Australian sportsperson Mile Jedinak is associated with **Soccer** sports who has announced his retirement.

- ✓ The International Olympic Committee has postponed the Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games to year **2026** due to COVID 19 Pandemic.

- ✓ Sports person **Marcus Rashford** becomes the youngest ever recipient of an honorary degree from The University of Manchester is associated with **Football**.

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- ✓ **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary.
- ✓ World cup winner famous footballer **Andre Schurrle** has announced retirement from the sport held from **Germany**.
- ✓ **Fabio Quartararo** has won the Moto Grand Prix 2020.
- ✓ Football Club **Real Madrid** has been crowned with the La Liga Champions for the 34th time after defeating Villarreal 2–1 at Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano.
- ✓ Due to COVID-19 the ICC Men's T20 World Cup has formally been postponed to **2022**.
- ✓ India's 2018 Asian Games mixed relay medal upgraded to gold after disqualification of **Bahrain**.
- ✓ **Haryana** state will host 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ **Jamie Vardy** has won the Premier Leagues Golden Boot award after netting 23 goals across the 2019/20 season.
- ✓ Bangladesh bowler **KaziAnik Islam** has been banned for two years by the national cricket board for failing a dope test in 2018.
- ✓ **Mohun Bagan** became the country's first-ever football club to feature on NASDAQ billboards in New York's Times Square.
Note: The billboard announcing "131 years of unmatched legacy" of the club also reminded fans about the, "time to start believing, again," in an obvious reference to Mohun Bagan's recent amalgamation with the ISL champion ATK.
- ✓ Rajat Bhatia associated with **Cricket** sports has announced his retirement.

June 2020

- ✓ Cricketer **Rohit Sharma** has been nominated by the BCCI for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards 2020.
- ✓ Indian long-distance player **Kiranjeet Kaur** has been slapped with four year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- ✓ In association with **National Sports Federations (NSF)** the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has launched India's 1st - ever national-level open online coaching and education programme called "Khelo India e-Pathshala".
- ✓ **India** will host Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup 2022.
- ✓ The Athletes Integrity Unit (AIU) of the World Athletics has imposed a four-year ban on which Indian player who won the gold medal in 2019 Asian Athletics Championships -- **GomathiMarimuthu**.
- ✓ The doping charge against Indian sportsperson has been dropped due to "non-conformities" in the handling of her sample -- **K SanjitaChanu**.
- ✓ Spain's sports council has accepted the change in status for the competitions, which will also be valid for men's and women's futsal.
- ✓ Former European high jump champion, Alexander Shustov banned for four years by Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), he held from **Russia**.
- ✓ Lightweight boxing champion Oleksandr Gvozdyk also known as "The Nail" announced his retirement held from **Ukraine**.
- ✓ The 4th edition of Asian Youth Para Games to be held in **Bahrain** in December 2021.
- ✓ **ShakhriyarMamedyarov** has won the World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020.
- ✓ Indian tennis player **Niki Poonacha** has been elected as a player member to ITF World Tennis Tour Player Men's panels.
- ✓ Football club **Liverpool** has won the English Premier League 2019-20.
- ✓ Wicketkeeper-batswoman Rachel Priest of **New Zealand** has announced her retirement from International Cricket.
- ✓ Indian umpire **Nitin Menon** has been inducted into International Cricket Council's Elite Panel of Umpires.
- ✓ **Germany** footballer Mario Gomez has announced his retirement from the sport.
- ✓ **Australia and New Zealand** will host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.

- ✓ **Rahul Dravid** has been declared as the greatest Indian Test batsman of all time, according to a poll conducted by Wisden India.

- ✓ **Kiren Rijju** has launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App".

May 2020

- ✓ Sports organization **FIFA** has launched the campaign "**#WeWillWin**" to pay a special tribute to health workers and other professionals.
- ✓ The governing body of swimming the **Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA)** has postponed the 2021 aquatics world championships to 2022. The tournament is scheduled to be held in **Japan**.
- ✓ **Sandeep Kumari** has been given a 4-year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) after failing a drug test, she is associated with **Discus throw** sport.
- ✓ Tennis player **Youssef Hossam** awarded lifetime ban by the Tennis Integrity Unit following his conviction on multiple match fixing and associated corruption charges.
- ✓ **Remy Di Gregorio** has been banned for 4 years for using a form of banned blood-boosting hormone EPO (Erythropoietin) is associated with **Cycling**.
- ✓ **China** has won the 1st edition of FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup.
- ✓ **India** will host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2021 which was postponed due COVID 19 pandemics.
- ✓ **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** awardee **Deepa Malik** announced her retirement, she is associated with **Shot-put**.

- ✓ The Bundesliga of **Germany** becomes the world's first major sports event to resume after COVID-19 lock down.
- ✓ The **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** provisionally suspended Savita Kumari and Ankit Shisodia for violating anti-doping rules. They are associated with **Powerlifting** sports.
- ✓ Tennis player Jamie Hampton announced her retirement from the professional tennis belong to **UAS**.
- ✓ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has partnered with **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** to work together to promote health through sport and physical activity.
- ✓ Sri Lankan cricketer **Shehan Madushanka** has been suspended from all forms of cricket with immediate effect for alleged possession of heroin.
- ✓ Indian sprinter **Kiranjeet Kaur** has been banned for four years by the World Athletics' anti-doping body for testing positive for a banned substance.
- ✓ Spanish Famous footballer Aritz Aduriz has announced his retirement citing medical reasons.

April 2020

- ✓ Grand Slam tournament **Wimbledon 2020** has been cancelled for the first time since World War II due to coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ **World Athletics championship** shifted to **the year 2022**.
- ✓ '**The Smart Triplets**' will be the mascot 19th Asian Games.
 - **Note:** The Olympic Council of Asia has announced the official mascots of the 19th Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou in 2022.
 - The three robots namely Congcong, Lianlian and Chenchen

which are collectively known as "The Smart Triplets" will be the official mascots of the 19th Asian Games.

- ✓ **Kobe Bryant** has been inducted into Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
- ✓ The **International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)** has banned two countries **Malaysia & Thailand** from participating in weightlifting events at the Tokyo Olympics due to multiple doping offences.

- ✓ India's rank in the latest FIFA Ranking -- **108th**.
 - While Belgium ranked first and world champion France is in 2nd place and Brazil is at 3rd spot.
- ✓ **India** will host Asian Boxing Championships 2020 in November 2020.
- ✓ **'Fei Fei' will be** the official mascot for 4th Asian Para Games 2022.
 - The design inspiration of "Feifei" comes from the motif of the 'Divine Bird' in the Liangzhu Culture and represent both Hangzhou city's heritage and its innovation in technology.
- ✓ According to the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Ranking

- 2020 of senior Indian male players **Achanta Sharath Kamal** got top rank.
- ✓ The 11th edition of World Games which has unveiled an updated logo and title after being delayed a year because of the Coronavirus pandemic scheduled to be held in **Birmingham, USA**.
- ✓ Mirabai Chanu and Jeremy Lalrinnunga have been qualified to participate in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, they are associated with **Weightlifting** sports.
- ✓ Sana Mir announced her retirement from international cricket held, she held from **Pakistan**.
- ✓ India lost the hosting rights of 2021 Men's World Boxing Championships to **Serbia**.
 Quadrennial 50-over Women Cricket World Cup 2021 to be held in **New Zealand**.

March 2020

- ✓ **Rafael Nadal** has won the **Mexico Open Men's single title 2020**.
 - **Note:** It was the 27th edition of men's Mexican Open and 20th for the women with a prize money of ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) \$1,789,445 (USD) & WTA (Women's Tennis Association) \$ 250,000 (USD).
 - The tournament was consisted of two categories ATP 500 & WTA International. Rafael Nadal (33) clinched the 85th ATP Tour title defeating Taylor Fritz in the final, 6–3, 6–2. He won the ATP 500 title for the third time and first since the event changed from clay to hard-court in 2014.
- ✓ 1st Khelo India University Games 2020 was held in **Bhubaneswar**.
 - **Note:** The 1st edition of the 2020 Khelo India University Games (KIUG) was held from February 22 – March 1, 2020 at KIIT University (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology University) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
 - The tournament, inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, held with the official mascots of 'Jay and Bijay'.

- Punjab University (PB) emerged as the winner of Khelo India University Games 2020 with 45 medals
- ✓ International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Rankings 2020 ranks Indian Hockey men's team in **4th place**.
 - **Note:** Fédération Internationale de Hockey or International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Rankings 2020, ranks Indian Hockey men's team at 4th position with 2064.
 - 14 points for the 1st time & Women's team is ranked at 9th with 1543 points. The men's list is topped by Belgium for the first time with 2481.34 & women's list is topped by Netherlands with 2626.03 points.
- ✓ Name the player who won the bronze medal in the Yonex Dutch Junior International 2020 competition -- **Tasnim Mir & Mansi Singh**.
 - **Note:** Young Indian badminton players Tasnim Mir (14) & Mansi Singh (14) have won historic bronze medal each in the girls' singles section of the Yonex Dutch Junior International 2020 competition held at B.C. Duinwijck, in Haarlem, Netherlands from 26 February 2020 – March 1, 2020.
 - This is the first time India has won two bronze medals in this BWF Junior International Grand Prix tournament.

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- ✓ Badminton Asia Championships 2020 has been shifted to **Manila, Philippines**.
 - **Note:** Badminton Asia confirmed that Badminton world federation (BWF) has shifted the Badminton Asia Championships 2020 to Manila, Philippines from Wuhan, China.
 - It will be conducted in Manila from April 21 to 26, 2020. The Badminton Asia Championship 2020 event is shifted due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and this championship falls within the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Qualification window.
 - The Philippine Badminton Association (PBA) successfully hosted the Asia Team Championships from Feb 11-16 2020, in Manila.
- ✓ **Mumbai** city will host the **International Olympic Committee (IOC) session 2023** as recommended by **IOC Executive Board**.
 - **Note:** Mumbai will host the **International Olympic Committee (IOC) session 2023** as recommended by **IOC Executive Board** and the decision will be approved at the **136th IOC session in Tokyo in July 2020**.
 - The IOC session was held in 1983 in New Delhi and the session is going to be held in India after 40 years.
 - The Evaluation Commission had visited Mumbai in October 2019 to study the feasibility of hosting the session & the board selected Mumbai due to the quality of the facilities at the Jio World Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ **All India Police Athletic Championship 2019** was held in **Panchkula Haryana**.
 - **Note:** All India Police Athletic Championship 2019 has commenced in the Panchkula District of Haryana. This is the 68th edition of All India Police Athletic Championship.
 - The championship aims to enhance India's performance in the Olympics scheduled to be held in 2028. To achieve this feat, the Government of India has identified more than 15,000 children and has also commenced their training.
 - These selected children are receiving their training in 284 Sports Authority of India (SAI) training centres across the country.
- ✓ Indian runner who has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) failing doping test -- **Prachi Choudhary**.
 - **Note:** Indian 400-meter runner Prachi Choudhary from Uttar Pradesh was tested out of competition and was provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) on March 6, 2020, for the presence of anabolic steroid, Oxandrolone.
 - The provisional suspension starts to apply from February 20, 2020.
- ✓ Former Indian opening batsman and a domestic cricket giant has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket -- **Wasim Jaffer**.
 - **Note:** Wasim Jaffer (42) a former Indian opening batsman and a domestic cricket giant has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He hails from Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - He is the fifth-highest run-scorer in Indian first-class cricket with 10 Ranji trophy titles.
 - Wasim Jaffer is the highest run-scorer in the Ranji and Irani Trophy, who became the first player to play 150 Ranji trophy matches and the first batsman to score more than 12,000 runs in Ranji Trophy with 40 centuries and 89 half-centuries.
- ✓ **Australia** has won the 7th ICC Women's T20 World Cup tournament.
 - **Note:** Australia women's cricket team defeated the Indian women's cricket team by 85 runs and won the title for the 5th time.
- ✓ Footballer of Malta **Andre Schembri** has announced his retirement from professional football.
 - **Note:** Currently Andre Schembri (33 years old) playing for Chennaiyin FC's

- (Football Club) announced that he will retire from professional football after the Hero Indian Super League (ISL) final against ATK FC in Goa on March 14, 2020.
- He announced retirement from international football in November 2018 after 94 appearances for his nation.
- ✓ The **Asian/Oceanian Boxing Olympic Qualifiers event 2020** was held in **Amman, Jordan**.
 - **Note:** A total of 9 Indian boxers qualified in this event for Tokyo 2020 Olympics, which is to be held at New National Stadium in Tokyo, Japan from 24 July 2020 – 9 August 2020.
 - ✓ **Saurashtra** team has won the **Ranji Trophy title 2019-20**.
 - **Note:** JaydevDipakbhai Unadkat led Saurashtra team and won the maiden Ranji Trophy title defeating Bengal team at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot, Gujarat.
 - The final of the Ranji trophy is headed towards a draw, then the winner Saurashtra is decided on the basis of a first-innings lead.
 - ✓ **ATK FC** has won the **Indian Super League trophy** for the 3rd time.
 - **Note:** ATK Football Club won the Indian Super League (ISL) trophy for the 3rd time following a 3-1 win against Chennaiyin FC in the final match held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Margao, Goa.
 - ✓ New Zealand (NZ) all-rounder **Andrew Malcolm Ellis** has announced his retirement from Canterbury cricket.
 - **Note:** After Ross Taylor he became the 2nd player in NZ to play over 100 games in each format.
 - He is the only player to be named as Men's Domestic Player of the Year twice by NZ National Cricket Team, in the 2014-15 & 2016-17 seasons.
 - The highlight of his career was the 2016-17 season, as he raised the Plunket Shield & The Ford Trophy in his first year as captain.
 - ✓ **Achanta Sharath Kamal** has won the ITTF Challenger Plus Oman Open men's singles title.
 - **Note:** He beat top-seeded Marcos Freitas of Portugal 4-2 in the final played in Muscat.
 - It was in 2010, Sharath bagged a title last time when he won the Egypt Open. Since then he made two semi-final appearances (Morocco Open in 2011 and India Open in 2017) but couldn't manage to get through it.
 - ✓ **Viktor Axelsen and Tai Tzu Ying** have won the men's and women's singles title respectively at All England Championship.
 - **Note:** All England Championship was held in Birmingham, England. This was the last badminton event before the Badminton World Federation's suspension of all tournaments due to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Viktor Axelsen of Denmark defeated Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien-chen by 21-13, 21-14 to win the men's singles title of All England Championship.
 - Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei defeated Chinese Chen Yu Fei by 21-19, 21-15 to win the women's singles title of All England Championship.
 - ✓ Two Indian **Vrinda Rathi and Janani Narayanan** have been named in the International Panel of ICC Development Umpires.
 - **Note:** 100% Cricket is a 12-month campaign which has been launched to build on the momentum of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020.
 - ✓ The **International Olympic Committee and Tokyo Olympic** organizers agreed to move the Tokyo Games to **2021**.
 - **Note:** Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the head of the International Olympic Committee agreed to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Games by a year in an extraordinary move, unprecedented in peacetime, as the world battles the coronavirus pandemic.
 - It will mark the first time in history that the start of an Olympics will be delayed to another year.

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- ✓ **Shilpa Shetty** has partnered with the Government of India's flagship fitness movement "Fit India".
 - **Note:** The tie-up will provide free access of the Shilpa Shetty Kundra's premium 21-Day Weight Loss Programme during the 21-day lockdown owing to Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Fit India Movement was launched by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra

February 2020

- ✓ **Goa 2020 National Games** unveils official Mascot as **Rubigula**.
 - **Note:** 'Rubigula', Flame-Throated Bulbul, has been unveiled as the official mascot for the Goa 2020 National Games in Panaji, Goa.
 - The Flame-Throated Bulbul is the state bird of Goa. Goa will be hosting the 36th edition of the National Games from 20th October to 4th November 2020.
- ✓ **Novak Djokovic** has won the Men's single title at Australian Open 2020.
- ✓ **Sofia Kenin** won the Women's single title at Australian Open 2020.
- ✓ 13th edition of 2020 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup won by **Bangladesh**.
- ✓ ICC Women's Championship trophy 2020 won by **Australia**.
 - The ICC Women's Championship has given hosts New Zealand and four top teams a direct place in the World Cup 2021.
- ✓ **Aditya Mehta** has won the men's title in the Indian National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2020.
- ✓ **Vidya Viswanathan** has won the women's title in the Indian National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2020.
- ✓ **Virat Kohli** retained his top position in the International Cricket Council Men's test ranking 2020 released on 11th February 2020.
- ✓ The 54th All India Bombay Gold Cup Hockey Tournament title was won by **Indian Navy**.
- ✓ The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games revealed the official motto, -- "**United by Emotion**".

Modi on the occasion of National Sports Day.

- ✓ Indian shot-putter who has been suspended for four years by World athletics body's -- **Navin Chikara**.
 - **Note:** He has been banned for use of a prohibited substance and his four-year suspension starts from July 27, 2018.
- Chikara won the silver medal in the 2018 Federation Cup. At the same year, he was runner up in the Inter-State Championship.

- **Note:** The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games revealed the official motto, "United By Emotion", which reflects the "universal values" and "unifying power of sport", for the upcoming 2020 Olympics to be held in Tokyo, Japan from July 24, 2020 to August 9, 2020.
- The official Olympic motto is "Citius, Altius, Fortius" or "Faster, Higher, Stronger", but each host city chooses its own motto to accompany that edition of the Games.
- ✓ Badminton Asia championships 2020 was held in **Manila, Philippines**.
- ✓ Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2021 is scheduled to be held in **India**.
- ✓ AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in **India**.
- ✓ FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2020 will be held in **India**.
- ✓ **India** will host Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championship.
 - **Note:** India will host the Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championships in January 2022.
- ✓ Five-time Grand Slam winner Tennis player **Maria Sharapova** has announced retirement.
- ✓ Kiren Rijiju inaugurated 1st Khelo India Winter Games in **Union Territory of Ladakh**.
 - Open Ice Hockey Championship, Figure Skating, Speed Skating will be the three winter sports held during the winter games.

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✓ **Ross Taylor** has become the first player in the cricketing world to play 100 matches in all the three formats of the game.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 1st Khelo India University Games at **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium**
- ✓ India's Grandmaster D Gukesh has won the **34th Cannes Open in France**.

January 2020

✓ The 5th Ice **Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship - 2020** held in **Leh, Ladakh**.

✓ **Magesh Chandran** has won the Hastings International chess title.

✓ **Bhubaneswar** will host the first Edition of Khelo India University Games.

- **Note:** The first edition of Khelo India University Games is scheduled to be held at the KIIT University in Bhubaneswar from February 22 to March 1, 2020.

✓ **Saurabh Chaudhary** has won gold medal in men's 10 m air pistol at 63rd National Shooting C'ship.

✓ **Cristiano Ronaldo** has won best Men's Player of the Year at Dubai Globe Soccer Awards 2019.

✓ Weightlifter **Sarbjee Kaur** has been slapped with a four-year ban for doping by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

✓ Japanese badminton player **Kento Momota** has won the Malaysia Masters 2020.

✓ **Serbia** has won the **inaugural 2020 ATP Cup tennis tournament** in **Sydney**.

- **Note:** Djokovic (World No. 2) claimed a straight-sets victory over Rafael Nadal (World No. 1) 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) in singles.

✓ 3rd Khelo India Youth Games started in **Guwahati**.

- Khelo India Youth Games event is a National level multidisciplinary games conducted every year.

✓ **Ladakh** has won the **7th National Ice Hockey Championship Women trophy**.

✓ The **Diplomat Cup Cricket Championship of 2020** held in **Sharjah** was won by **India**.

✓ Indian wrestler who won her first gold medal of the 2020 season at the Rome Ranking Series in Rome is **Vinesh Phogat**.

✓ The **Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title** held in Jakarta, Indonesia was won by **Ratchanok Intanon**.

✓ **Sania Mirza (India) and Nadiia Kichenok (Ukraine)** have won the women's doubles title of the WTA International trophy at Hobart, Australia.

✓ **ICC Under-19 World Cup Cricket 2020** has begun in **South Africa**.

- Indian team played under the captaincy of Priyam Garg.
- India is the most successful team in the tournament, having won four titles till date. India is the defending champions in U19 World Cup 2018.
- Total 16 teams are participating in the tournament, split into four groups of four.

✓ **1st Indian woman** to sign up for foreign football club, 'Rangers FC' of Scotland -- **Bala Devi**.

✓ **Christine Margaret Sinclair** becomes the all-time top scorer with 185 goals in international soccer.

✓ The 71st edition of International Boxing Tournament "Strandja" 2020 was held in **Sofia, Bulgaria**.

- The list was topped by Ukraine with 10 medals (4 Gold, 1 silver, 5 Bronze).

✓ **Esow Alben** won the gold medal in the men's Keirin individual cycling event of the Six-Day Berlin Tournament.

- **Note:** Indian cyclist **Esow Alben** has bagged a gold in the men's Keirin

individual event of the Six-Day Berlin Tournament.

✓ **Maharashtra** state top in the medal tally of the 3rd season of the **Khelo India Youth Games 2020**.

- **Note:** The 3rd season of the **Khelo India Youth Games** concluded.
- Maharashtra retained its reign in the **Khelo India Youth Games** held in

Guwahati with 256 medals including 78 gold.

- Haryana stood second with a total of 200 medals. Delhi finished third with 122 medals **Shivangi Sharma of Assam** won five gold and two silver in swimming.
- ✓ In the **16th edition of International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards** who named ODI cricket of the year -- **Rohit Sharma**.

New Appointments

August 2020

✓ **Hamed Bakayoko** has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast.

✓ Indian economist **Ujjit Patel** has been appointed as the additional and independent director of Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd.

✓ **Perseverance** launched by NASA to seek signs of ancient life and collect first Martian rock.

✓ Mohamed Irfaan Ali became the President of **Guyana**.

✓ Mark Anthony Phillips has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of **Guyana**.

✓ **Manoj Sinha** has been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir.

Note: He will succeed Girish Chandra Murmu, who resigned recently. Manoj Sinha has represented the parliamentary constituency of Ghazipur in eastern Uttar Pradesh thrice in the Lok Sabha. He also served as Communication Minister as well as Minister of state for Railways.

✓ **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Government of India (GoI), has approved another extension of Ajay Tyagi's term as Chairman of **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.

✓ Indian cricketers **Suresh Raina & Harmanpreet Kaur** were appointed as Global brand ambassadors of Win Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports.

✓ **Pradeep Kumar Joshi** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Note: His tenure as the chairman of the UPSC will be till April 4, 2022. He succeeds Arvind Saxena who retires as the UPSC chairman on 6th August 2020.

✓ **Mahinda Rajapaksa** took oath as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

Note: The 74-year-old Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) leader has been appointed as the PM of Sri Lanka. Prior to this, Mahinda Rajapaksa was first elected prime minister in 2004 and again appointed for brief periods in 2018 and 2019.

✓ Alexander Lukashenko has won the presidential election in **Belarus**.

✓ Walter Roger Martos Ruiz becomes new Prime Minister of **Peru**.

✓ **Mohamed Ould Bilal** has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Mauritania.

✓ **Pramod Bhasin** has been appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

✓ **Rakesh Asthana** has been appointed as the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).

✓ Goa Governor Satya Pal Malik has been appointed as the new Governor of **Meghalaya**.

✓ Recently, Ashok Lavasa has stepped down from constitutional post of **Election Commissioner of India**.

Note: Lavasa is set to join the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank as the vice-president from September 2020. He will

succeed the incumbent vice-president Diwakar Gupta, who is in charge of private sector operations, and public-private partnerships.

- ✓ **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Sports eyewear “Oakley”.
- ✓ Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona has been sworn in as the 54th President of **Dominican Republic**.
- ✓ **Keith Rowley** has been appointed as the **Prime Minister** of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term.

July 2020

- ✓ **Shyam Srinivasan** has been appointed as the managing Director and Chief Executive officer of Federal Bank Limited.
- ✓ Gudni Johannesson was re-elected as president of **Iceland**.
- ✓ **Indra Mani Pandey** has been appointed as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ **Ravinder Bhakar** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC).
- ✓ **Sanjay Dwivedi** has been appointed as the as the Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC).
- ✓ **Srikant Madhav Vaidya** has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation.
- ✓ **V Suryanarayanan** has been appointed as the New **Managing Director** (MD) of Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company.
- ✓ Jean Castex has been appointed as prime minister of **France**.
- ✓ **Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the 1st chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for a period of three years.
- ✓ **G. Srinivasan** has been appointed as the chairman of the nine-member working Group (WG) set up by IRDAI to study the suitability of insurers offering surety bonds for contractors.
- ✓ **Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the first chairman of the International

- ✓ **Ritesh Shukla** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of the newly launched NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NPCI.
- ✓ **Luis Rodolfo Abinader** has been sworn in as the President of Dominican Republic.
- ✓ **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the **Election Commissioner of India**.
- ✓ **Akinwumi Adesina** has been re-elected as the **President of African Development Bank**.

Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) for a 3 years term.

- ✓ **Jayant Krishna** has been appointed as the first India based Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UKIBC.
- ✓ **Sukhbir Singh** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Luxury Ride the multi-brand luxury car showrooms.
- ✓ The term of Rajkiran Rai as Managing Director and **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of **Union Bank of India** has been extended for two years.
- ✓ **Priyanka Chopra** has been appointed as the ambassador for Toronto IFF.
- ✓ The Incumbent President of **Poland**, Andrzej Duda has secured a victory in the 2020 Presidential Election.
- ✓ **Gyanendro Ningombam** has been appointed as the new President of Hockey India.
- ✓ **Hemang Amin** has been appointed as the interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ✓ **Ashok Lavasa** has been appointed as the vice president of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ✓ **Brett Lee** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of SportsAdda, the news and information website for Cricket, Football and Kabaddi.
- ✓ **Chandrikapersad “Chan” Santokhi** has been elected as the President of Suriname.
- ✓ Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda has been appointed as the first woman prime minister of **Gabon**.
- ✓ **Ashwini Kumar Tewari** has been appointed as the new Managing Director

and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Card.

- ✓ **Aditya Puri** has become the highest-paid banker for FY20 with Rs.18.92 cr in remuneration.
- ✓ **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** has been appointed as the new Chairman of IT company, HCL Technologies.
- ✓ **Sahil Seth** has been appointed as the honorary adviser of steering committee for BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI).
- ✓ **Arun Kumar** has been nominated as the Vice-Chairman of the International Union of Railways (UIC).
- ✓ **Prakash Chandra Kandpal** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Non-life insurer SBI General Insurance.
- ✓ **Sumit Deb** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).
- ✓ **R Narayanaswamy** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).
- ✓ **Ramesh Babu Boddu** has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Karur Vysya Bank (KVB).
- ✓ **Kulmeet Bawa** has been appointed as the President and Managing Director of Systems, Applications & Products in Data Processing (SAP) for Indian Subcontinent.
- ✓ **Alok Misra** has been appointed as the Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN).
- ✓ **Riva Ganguly** has been appointed as the secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI.
- ✓ **Partha Pratim Sengupta** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank.
- ✓ **Thierry Bollore** has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR).
- ✓ **N. Sivaraman** has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICRA Limited.
- ✓ **Archana Soreng** has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders.
- ✓ **Hardik Satishchandra Shah** has been appointed as the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on co-terminus basis.

June 2020

- ✓ **Anita Kotwani** has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Media Agency, Carat India.
- ✓ **PR Jaishankar** has been appointed as the as the Managing Director (MD) of the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) for 3 years.
- ✓ **Arun Singhal** has been appointed as the chief executive officer of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ✓ **TV Mohandas Pai** has been appointed as the chairman of the advisory committee on service providers by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- ✓ **Rajnath Singh** will chair the committee constituted by the PM Narendra Modi to solve the difficulties faced in the implementation of Rs.3 Lakh crore collateral-free loan for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- ✓ **Subramanian Sundar** has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB).
- ✓ **Uday Kotak** has assumed office as the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21.
- ✓ **Krishnendu Majumdar** has been named as the new chairman of British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
- ✓ **Virendra Nath Datt** has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL).
- ✓ **Rajeev Topno** has been appointed as the senior advisor to the World Bank Executive Director.

- ✓ **Brajendra Navnit** has been appointed as the ambassador to the Permanent Mission for India (PMI) at the WTO in Geneva.
- ✓ **Manushi Chhillar** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Adidas to join Indian star Batsman Rohit Sharma and sprinter Hima Das.
- ✓ **Ashok Dalwani** has been appointed as the chairman of the rearranged Commodity derivatives advisory committee of SEBI.
- ✓ **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the first ever brand ambassador of the IIFL Finance.
- ✓ **Nethra** has been appointed as 'Goodwill Ambassador to the Poor' of the United Nations Association for Development And Peace (UNADAP).
- ✓ **G Kishan Reddy** has been appointed as the chairman of the committee for the welfare of the freedom fighters reconstituted by the union ministry of home affairs.
- ✓ **Pankaj Tripathi** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Patna's Khadi Mall by the Government of Bihar.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Executive Director of **HDFC Bank** for a period of three years.
- ✓ **Imtaiyazur Rahman** has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of UTI Asset Management Company (AMC).
- ✓ **Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta** has taken charges as the Chief of Staff of Eastern Naval Command (ENC).
- ✓ Kubatbek Boronov has been appointed as the Prime Minister of **Kyrgyzstan**.
- ✓ **Pralay Mondal** has been appointed as the President of CSB Bank Limited.
- ✓ **Volkan Bozkir** has been elected president of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.
- ✓ Indian **Sethuraman Panchanathan** has been appointed as the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) by the US senate.
- ✓ **Gaurav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of JSW cement.
- ✓ **Urjit Patel** has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).
- ✓ **Nirakar Pradhan** has appointed as new as the Chief Executive Officer of the Professional Risk Managers' International Association (PRMIA) of its new India office.
- ✓ **Natarajan Chandrasekaran** has been re-nominated as a Part-Time Non-Official Director on RBI Central board for 2 years.
- ✓ **Wasim Jaffer** has been appointed as head coach of the Uttarakhand Ranji team for the upcoming season.
- ✓ **T Rabi Sankar** has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS).
- ✓ **Clare Connor** has been named as the first female president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in its 233 year-old history.
- ✓ IAS Vini Mahajan becomes 1st woman chief secretary of **Punjab** state.
- ✓ Micheal Martin has been elected as new Prime Minister of **Ireland**.
- ✓ UP Governor, Anandiben Patel has taken additional charges as the governor of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- ✓ Lazarus Chakwera was elected as the new President of **Mali** after the annulment of the results of the 2019 Presidential Elections following evidence of irregularities.

May 2020

- ✓ **Atanu Chakraborty** chaired the task force on **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** which submitted its Final Report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ✓ **Ravi Shankar Prasad** attended the **Extraordinary Virtual G20 Digital Economy Ministers** meeting was held to discuss the challenges posed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Raj Kumar Singh** unveiled e-book titled "**A Report on Impact of Energy Efficiency Measures**" for the year 2018-19.
- ✓ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has launched the mobile application '**AYUSH Sanjivani**' App and two

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- AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation.
- ✓ **Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh** recently approved the abolition of 9,304 posts in the military engineering services on the recommendation of **Shekatkar Committee**.
 - ✓ **Shikha Sharma** has been named advisor to Google Pay India.
 - ✓ **Giridhar Aramane** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
 - ✓ **Arvind Kumar Sharma** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
 - ✓ **Krishnan Ramachandran** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Max Bupa Health Insurance.
 - ✓ **Ashok Michael Pinto** has been appointed as the US representative to World Bank's lending arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
 - ✓ **Tarun Bajaj** has been appointed as the new director on Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - ✓ **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** has been appointed as the **chairperson of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC)**.
 - ✓ **Dia Mirza** has been appointed as the as the Goodwill Ambassador of India by UNEP.
 - ✓ **Manisha Singh** has been nominated as an envoy to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with an Ambassador rank by US President Donald Trump.
 - ✓ **Mustafa al-Kadhimi** sworn in as the Iraq's 6th Prime Minister.
 - ✓ **Neeraj Dhawan** has been appointed as the Chief Risk Officer of Yes Bank for a period of three years.
 - ✓ **Ajinkya Madhukar Rahane** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Edu-tech firm ELSA Corp for India, Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and SAARC.
 - ✓ **Narinder Batra's** term has been extended as President of FIH until May 2021 by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
 - ✓ **Kumar Sangakkara** has been appointed as the president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) for a second term.
 - ✓ Indian sportsperson **Akhil Kumar** has been re-inducted into the Disciplinary Panel of National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA).
 - ✓ **V. Vidyavathi** has been appointed as the Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
 - ✓ **Manoj Ahuja** has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
 - ✓ Roberto Azevedo decides to resign a year before his term expires as head of international organization **WTO**.
 - ✓ **Zubair Iqbal** has been appointed as new Managing Director (MD) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.
 - ✓ Benjamin Netanyahu has sworn in as the prime minister of **Israel** for the 5th time.
 - ✓ **Rajesh Goel** has been appointed as the director-general (DG) of the Realtors body National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO).
 - ✓ **Kevin Mayer** has been appointed as the chief executive officer of TikTok, the popular video app owned by China's ByteDance Technology Co .
 - ✓ **Govinda Rajulu Chintala** has been appointed as the chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
 - ✓ **Carmen Reinhart** has been appointed as Chief Economist and Vice President of the World Bank.
 - ✓ **Dilip Oommen** has been appointed as the President of Indian Steel Association (ISA).
 - ✓ **Rajesh Bhushan** has been appointed as the chairman of the 11-member committee constituted by the Ministry of Health to "simplify and expedite" the drug approval process in India.
 - ✓ **Carmen Reinhart** has been appointed as the new Vice President (VP) and chief economist of World Bank.
 - ✓ **Jahnabi Phookan** has been appointed as the 37th National President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organization (FLO).
 - ✓ **Abhas Jha** has been appointed as World Bank's Practice Manager for Climate Change

and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia.

- ✓ **Marcos Prado Troyjo** has been appointed as the President of the New Development Bank.
- ✓ **Anil Kishora** has been appointed as the vice president of the New Development Bank (NDB).
- ✓ **Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra** has been appointed as the member of the Olympic Channel Commission by International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- ✓ **Leo Puri** has been appointed as the chairman of JP Morgan South and Southeast Asia after Kalpana Morparia retirement in 2021.

April 2020

- ✓ **D. Lakshminarayanan** has been appointed as the **Managing Director of the Sundaram Home Finance**.
- ✓ The government extended the tenure of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) acting President **BSV Prakash Kumar**.
- ✓ The Government has extended the appointment of MadhabiPuri Buch as a whole time member (WTM) of the **SEBI**.
- ✓ **UB Pravin Rao** has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).
- ✓ **Shafali Verma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of PepsiCo for one year.
- ✓ **Parag Raja** has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company.
- ✓ **Anamika Roy Rashtrawar** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance.
- ✓ **Raj Vikash Verma** has been appointed as part-time Chairman of AU Small Finance Bank for the period of one year.
- ✓ **Sanjay Agarwal** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AU Small Finance Bank.

- ✓ **Thierry Delaporte** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer(CEO) and Managing Director(MD) of Wipro.
- ✓ Sandip Mukund Pradhan has been given two-year extension as Director General (DG) of **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**.
- ✓ **Ravinder Singh Dhillon** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of State-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC).
- ✓ **SN Rajeshwari** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Delhi-based Oriental Insurance Company (OIC).

- ✓ **Mahabaleshwara M S** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Karnataka Bank.
- ✓ **Sara Ali Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the James Bullough Lansing (JBL)'s campaign –“Live it Real, Live it Raw”.
- ✓ **J Packirisamy** has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Union Bank of India.
- ✓ **Mrutyunjay Mahapatra** has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Canara Bank.
- ✓ **MS Dhoni** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of the PokerStars India.
- ✓ **Ajay Mahajan** has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE) Rating.
- ✓ **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of the CricKingdom.
- ✓ **Vineet Arora** has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Paytm General Insurance Limited.
- ✓ **Viswanathan Anand** has been appointed as the ambassador of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India's environment education programme.

- ✓ **N Kamakodi** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of City Union Bank.
- ✓ **Noel Quinn** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the HSBC Bank.
- ✓ **PV Sindhu** has been appointed as the one of its ambassadors for the “**I am badminton**” awareness campaign of BWF.
- ✓ **Rakesh Sharma** has been appointed as the President of Geneva-based International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA).
- ✓ **Shiv Das Meena** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Ltd.
- ✓ **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

March 2020

- ✓ **Muhyiddin bin Haji Muhammad Yassin** has been appointed as the 8th Prime Minister of Malaysia.
- ✓ **PekkaLundmark** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nokia,
- ✓ **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary of India.
 - **Note:** Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new Finance Secretary in Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ **Denys Shmygal** has been appointed as new prime minister of Ukraine,
- ✓ **Daren Tang** has been elected as **Director General of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**.
- ✓ **Janez Jansa** has been elected as the new prime minister of Slovenia.
- ✓ **Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the chairman of the 12 members committee to prepare an investigation manual for the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- ✓ **Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon** has been appointed as the Director General, Defence Intelligence Agency.
- ✓ **Kareena Kapoor Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of PUMA for a period of two years.
- ✓ **PV Sindhu.** has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Andhra Pradesh government’s anti-graft helpline or anti-corruption helpline–14400.
- ✓ **Disha Patani and Sanjeev Kapoor** has been appointed as the brand ambassador in India for the Washington Apple Commission,
- ✓ **Harbhajan Singh** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Indian online leather accessory brand Brune&Bareskin.
- ✓ **Amitabh Bachchan** has been appointed as the first ever brand ambassador of IDFC Bank.
- ✓ **Salman Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Smartphone brand realme.
- ✓ **Akshay Kumar** has been appointed as the brand ambassador PepsiCo’s snack brand Kurkure.
- ✓ **Virat Kohli** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of iQOO (i Quest On and On).
- ✓ **Bansi Lal Bhat** has been appointed as the officiating Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- ✓ **Adnan al-Zurfi** has been appointed as the Prime Minister (PM) of Iraq.
- ✓ Former chief justice of India **Ranjan Gogoi** has been nominated as the member of Upper House of the Parliament, Rajya Sabha.
 - **Note:** He was nominated by President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, under the exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (a) of clause (1) of article 80 of the Constitution of India, read with clause (3) of that article to the Council of States and to fill the vacancy caused due to the retirement

of one of the nominated members. Ranjan Gogoi will be the successor of K.T.S Tulsi.

- Gogoi headed a 5-judge bench, who gave the judgement on the sensitive Ayodhya land dispute on November 9, 2019.
- ✓ Under chairmanship the Insurance Regulation and Development Authority (IRDAI) **Pravin Kutumb** instituted a 16-member committee.
 - **Note:** The committee will further strengthen IRDAI guidelines on corporate governance & will find ways to improve key functions such as risk

February 2020

- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (GoI) has appointed as Next High Commissioner of India to Canada -- **Ajay Bisaria**.
- ✓ **Arvind Krishna** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of International Business Machines (IBM).
- ✓ **M. Ajit Kumar** has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- ✓ **Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi** has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Iraq.
- ✓ **Deepa Malik** has been appointed as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India.
- ✓ **Albin Kurti** has been appointed as the new and 4th Prime Minister (PM) of the Republic of Kosovo.
- ✓ **Philip Barton** has been appointed as the as Britain's New High Commissioner to India.
- ✓ **Robin Singh** has been appointed as the Director of Cricket of the UAE.
- ✓ **Ajay H. Patel** has been elected as the President of All-India Chess Federation (AICF).

January 2020

- ✓ **VK Yadav** has been re-appointed as **Railway Board Chairman** for a period of one year.
- ✓ The **Union government** has set up a **7 members Group of Minister (GoM)** to

management and internal audits independent of each other.

- ✓ **V K Paul** will chair the 21-member high-level technical committee of public health experts to guide the people in preventive & control activities of COVID-19.
- ✓ **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has sworn in as the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh after the resignation of Kamal Nath.
- ✓ **Bibhu Prasad Kanungo** has been reappointed as the Deputy Governor of RBI for a period of one year.

- ✓ **Atul Kumar Gupta** has been appointed as the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI) for the year 2020-21.
- ✓ **Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai** has been elected as the president of Afghanistan.
- ✓ **Supratim Bandyopadhyay** has been appointed as the chairman of the PFRDA
- ✓ **Sanjay Kothari** has been appointed as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).
- ✓ **Bimal Julka** has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.
- ✓ **Vijay Adani** has been appointed as the as a new chairman of the US-India Business Council (USIBC).
 - **Note:** USIBC represents the top global companies across the United States, India and Indo-Pacific.
- ✓ **Rajlaxmi Singh** has been elected as the President of Rowing Federation of India.
- ✓ The world's oldest government leader Mahathir bin Mohamad (94) resigned as Prime Minister of **Malaysia**.
- ✓ **Faure Gnassingbe** has been reelected as the President of the Togo.

review the crop insurance scheme, "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) headed by **Rajnath Singh (Defence Minister)**.

- The **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** was launched on 14th January 2016 to provide financial support to farmers suffering from crop loss or damage due to an unforeseen event.
- ✓ **Harjeet Kaur Joshi** has been appointed as the Chairperson and Managing Director of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI).
- ✓ **Dr. Suresh Chandra Sharma** has been appointed as Chairman of National Medical Commission.
- ✓ **Zoran Milanovic** has won the presidential election of Croatia.
- ✓ **Haitham bin Tariq al-Said** took over as Sultan of Oman.
- ✓ **Tsai Ing-wen** won the Taiwan presidential election.
- ✓ Noted chemist has been elected as a bureau member (2020-23) of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) -- **Bipul Behari Saha**.
- ✓ **Robert Abela** sworn in as the 14th Prime Minister of Malta.
- ✓ **Katerina Sakellariopoulou** has been elected as the first female president of Greece.
- ✓ **M Nagaraj** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the state-owned Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).
- ✓ **Lt Col Yuvraj Malik** has been appointed the **Director of the National Book Trust (NBT)**.
- ✓ **Arjun Munda** has been elected as **President of the suspended Archery Association of India (AAI)**.
- ✓ **Nripendra Misra** has been appointed chairperson of the executive council of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).
- ✓ Indian lawyer **Harish Salve** has been appointed into Queen Elizabeth II's counsel of Senior Advocate.
- ✓ **Bipul Behari Saha** has been elected as a bureau member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) for the period 2020-23.
- ✓ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed as member of the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**-- **Janak Raj**.
 - The Monetary Policy Committee of India is responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rate in India.
- ✓ **Taranjit Singh Sandhu** has been appointed as the new Indian Ambassador to the United States.
- ✓ **Sunil Mehta** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- ✓ **Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India.

Obituaries

August 2020

- Renowned personality **Sonam Tshering Lepcha** passed away recently; he was a veteran **Folk Musician**.
Note: He played a major role in reviving and promoting the Lepcha Culture which is one of the indigenous culture of Sikkim.
- **Lee Teng-hui** dubbed as "Mr. Democracy" passed away recently. He was former president of **Taiwan**.
Note: He was popularly known as "Mr. Democracy" for eradicating the dictatorial rule in favour of unbiased pluralism in Taiwan.
- Famous personality **Anil Murali** passed away recently. He was a veteran **Malayalam Actor**.
- Former **Uttar Pradesh** education minister of **Kamal Rani Varun** passed away due to coronavirus. She served as Minister of Technical Education, is the first minister in

Uttar Pradesh to die after contracting coronavirus.

- **Writer and Singer** VangapanduPrasada Rao passed away recently.
- Nobel Peace Prize winner, John Hume passed away.
Note: He was a founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970 and led the party from 1979 until 2001.
- **Politician** Ram Pradhan passed away recently.
Note: He served as the governor of Arunachal Pradesh during Rajiv Gandhi government. He was an IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre.
- Renowned politician Shyamal Chakraborty passed away due to COVID-19 infection, he was a former governor of **West Bengal**.
- Renowned personality Shirley Ann Grau passed away recently; she was a veteran **Environmental**ist.
- Renowned personality Sadia Dehlvi passed away recently, she was a veteran **Writer and Activist**.
- Renowned personality Mukund Lath passed away recently, he was a veteran **Culture Historian**.
- Renowned personality Nandi Yellaiah passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
- Famous personality Manitombi Singh passed away, he was a veteran **Sportsman**.
- Renowned personality PK Muthusamy passed away recently, he was a veteran **Songwriter**.

- Noted personality RahatIndori passed away recently, he was a veteran **Urdu Poet**.
- Renowned personality GK Menon passed away, recently he was a veteran **Journalist**.
- ChunnakaraRamankutty passed away recently he was a famous poet and film and drama lyricist of **Malayalam** language.
- Famous sportsperson Chetan Chauhan passed away recently, he was associated with **Cricket**.
- Noted Carnatic musician Dr B Siva Kumar passed away recently, he was proficient in **Veenam** musical instrument.
- Renowned personality NishikantKamat passed away, he was a veteran **Film Director**.
Note: Nishikant had directed some popular Bollywood movies like Force, Drishyam and Madaari.
- Renowned personality Pandit Jasraj passed away recently, he was a veteran **Vocalist**.
Note: Pandit Jasraj was a recipient of India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 1975; Sangeet NatakAkademi Award in 1987 and Padma Bhushan in 1999. In the year 2000, the government of India conferred him with Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honour in the country.
- Legendary sportsperson Angela Buxton passed away recently; she was associated with **Tennis** sports.
- Renowned personality Russell A. Kirsch passed away recently, he was a veteran **computer scientist**.

July 2020

- Renowned **Actor** Carl Reiner passed away recently.
Note: Legendary comedian, Carl Reiner passed away. He was a prolific writer, comedian, director and actor. He had a run as a movie director with such films as "Oh, God!" (1977) and "The Jerk" (1979). He won several Emmys awards in writing and producing.
- Renowned personality Saroj Khan passed away recently, she was a veteran **Choreographer**.
Note: In a career spanning over four decades, Khan is credited with choreographing more than 2,000 songs, including Dola Re Dola

from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Devdas, Ek Do Teen from Madhuri Dixit-starrer Tezaab and Ye IshqHaaye from Jab We Met in 2007.

- Famous sportsperson Everton Weekes passed away recently he was associated with **Cricket** sports.
Note: Everton Weekes made his first-class debut at 19-year-old and his Test debut in 1948 at 22. His test career spanned between 1948 to 1958, where he played 48 Tests & scored 4455 runs at an average of 58.62.
- Name the Hollywood screen writer, film maker, actor and voice artist passed away recently -- **Carl Reiner**.

- Note:** Veteran Hollywood and multi-hyphenate personality Carl Reiner, a creator and director of several Steve Martin films, died at 98 of natural causes at his Beverly Hills home. He has won multiple Emmy Awards, among which 5 awards were backed by “The Dick Van Dyke Show” in the 1960s.
- Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri popularly known as Jagdeep passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: Jagdeep appeared in around 400 films but it is his role as SoormaBhopali in 1975 film "Sholay. Better known by his stage name Jagdeep, the actor also directed the movie "SoormaBhopali" with his character as the protagonist.
- Renowned personality Charlie Daniels passed away recently.

Note: He was country music and southern rock icon who entertained fans for decades with songs like “Long-Haired Country Boy,” “In America,” and his signature fiddle tune “The Devil Went Down To Georgia”, who won his only Grammy Award in 1979. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2016.
- Renowned personality Nagindas Sanghvi passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.

Note: He was 100 and suffering from acute asthma. Mr. Sanghvi was conferred Padma Shri award in the year 2019. He was in teaching at Bhavan’s College Andheri from 1951 to 1980. Later he moved to Ruparel College, Mahim and Mithibai College, Vile Parle for teaching political science.
- Famous footballer Wim Suurbier of **The Netherlands** passed away recently.

Note: Suurbier, who won three European championships with the legendary Ajax side of the same decade, had been in hospital since suffering a cerebral haemorrhage in April. Suurbier was an attacking full-back whose role epitomised the "Total Football" style pioneered by the Ajax and Dutch national sides during his heyday.
- English sports person Jack Charlton passed away recently, he was associated with **Football** sports.

Note: A member of the England 1966 World-Cup winning team, Jack Charlton passed

away. He was also an integral part of the great Don Revie-managed Leeds United side that won the 1969 League title and the 1972 FA Cup.

- Renowned personality Avad Bin Hassan Jami passed away recently, he was a veteran **cartoonist**.

Note: His cartoons were published in Gujarati magazine “**Abhiyan**” for last over two decades. He had also worked in Gujarati newspaper **Phulchhab** as a cartoonist. He was a drawing teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jamnagar and became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.
- Amadou Gon Coulibaly who passed away recently was prime minister of **Ivory Coast**.

Note: He recently returned from France after receiving medical treatment. He was also chosen as the ruling party Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (**RHDP**)’s candidate for October’s presidential election.
- First woman election commissioner of Maharashtra **NeelaSatyanarayan** passed away recently.

Note: The 1972 batch officer was admitted at the Seven Hills Hospital, Mumbai after she was diagnosed with COVID-19. NeelaSatyanarayan retired in 2014. She has penned more than 150 songs. Also, she has composed music for several Marathi movies.
- Renowned personality John Lewis passed away recently, he was a veteran **Civil Rights Activist of US**.

Note: He was also the youngest and last survivor of the Big Six civil rights activists, a group led by the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr that had the greatest impact on the movement. He was best known for leading around 600 protesters in the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.
- Renowned personality Professor C. S. Seshadri passed away recently, he was a veteran **Mathematician**.

Note: A leader in the field of algebraic geometry, he made breakthroughs that lie at the base of many branches of this profound discipline. Seshadri began his career at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research as one of the first batches of graduate students. He

moved to Chennai in 1984, to the Institute of Mathematical Sciences. In 1989, he got an opportunity to start the School of Mathematics as part of the SPIC Science Foundation, which has evolved into the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI).

- Renowned personality Lalji Tandon passed away recently, he was governor of **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note: Lal Ji Tandon was the governor of Bihar between August 2018 and July 2019 when he took over as Madhya Pradesh's Governor. In 2009, the senior BJP leader and a protege of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, succeeded him as the Lucknow MP. He began his career from his hometown Lucknow in the 1970s and had also served as a state minister in Uttar Pradesh several times between 1991 and 2003.

- Renowned personality Bijay Mohanty passed away, recently he was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: His performance in his debut film, Chilika Tire, earned him several accolades including the National Film Award. He is most famous for negative roles in films including Samay Bada Balaban, Naga Phasa, SahariBagha, DandaBalunga and Chaka Bhaunri.

- Rajat Mukherjee who passed away recently was a famous **Film Maker**.

Note: Rajat Mukherjee directed Urmila Matondkar, Fardeen Khan, Sonali Kulkarni and Rajpal Yadav in 2001's Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya. He also directed the 2004 film Love In Nepal, which starred singer Sonu Nigam, Rajpal Yadav and Flora Saini.

- Renowned personality **Juan Marse** passed away, he was a veteran **Novelist**.

Note: Spanish novelist, Juan Marse passed away. He was one of Spain's most-respected novelists over the past few decades and the winner of the 2008 Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's top literary award. His most important novel was "Últimas trades on Teresa" ("Last Afternoons with Teresa") published in 1965.

- Renowned personality **John Saxon** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: He was born on 5th August 1936 as Carmine Orrico in Brooklyn, New York, United States of America. He was debuted in

1954 and starred in detective and horror shows like "A Nightmare on Elm Street".

- Renowned personality P Achyuta Rao passed away due to COVID-19, he was a **Child Rights Activist**.

Note: He is known to have helped prevent child marriages, incidents of child sexual abuse, and child labour. Rao recently filed a petition in Telangana High Court demanding that mid-day meal be served to students in government schools since they have not been able to access it due to the pandemic-imposed lockdown.

- Renowned personality Sonam Tshering Lepcha passed away recently, he was veteran **Folk Musician**.

Note: Lepcha was born in Kalimpong in 1928 and started his career as a soldier. He travelled to various parts of Sikkim and compiled a wide range of Indian folk and traditional Lepcha songs and played folk music on All India Radio in 1960.

- Renowned personality **Somendranath Mitra** passed away recently he was a veteran **Politician**.

Note: A veteran Congress leader, Somen Mitra as he was often referred to, took charge of West Bengal Congress in 2018. He played a crucial role in forging an electoral understanding of Left parties and Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

- Renowned personality **Kumkum** passed away recently, she was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: Her real name was Zaibunissa. She has featured in over 100 Hindi films like Mother India, Kohinoor, EkSaperaEkLootera, Naya Daur, Ujala, Raja AurRunk, Lalkar, Aankhen, Geet, among others.

- Renowned personality **Parvej Khan** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Action Director**.

Note: He had been working in the film industry since 1986. Some of his well-known films include Andhadhun, Badlapur, Bullett Raja, Fukrey, Ra-One, Johnny Gaddaar, Vishwaroopam, Vishwaroopam 2, Dev. D, Gangster, Sehar, Ab TakChhappan, The Legend Of Bhagat Singh, Soldier, and Mr. And Mrs Khiladi.

- Renowned personality **Olivia de Havilland** passed away, she was a veteran **Hollywood Actor**.

Note: She was born on 1st July 1916, in Tokyo, Japan. The actress, who starred in blockbusters like Captain Blood (1935), The adventures of Robin Hood (1938), Gone with the Wind (1939), The Snakepit, The Heiress. She unchained the Hollywoods contract system which was later called as “De Havilland Law”.

- Renowned personality Amala Shankar passed away, she was a veteran **Choreographer and danseuse**.

Note: She was honored with the West Bengal government’s Banga Bibhusan award in 2011 for her contributions to art. First performance of Amala Shankar was in Kaliya Daman which was staged in Belgium in 1931. She also acted in the film “Kalpana” which was released in 1948.

- Renowned personality Annie Ross passed away, she was a famous **Jazz Singer**.

Note: he was born Annabelle McCauley Allan Short in Surrey, England, on July 25, 1930. She was a popular jazz singer in the 1950s before crossing over into a successful film career.

June 2020

- ✓ Veteran **Music Director** Wajid Khan passed away recently.

- **Note:** Wajid Khan was the brother of music director Sajid Khan. He was born in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh on July 10, 1977.

- Wajid along with his brother Sajid served as mentors on singing reality shows “Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2012” and “Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Superstar”.

- ✓ Famous sprinter Bobby Morrow passed away recently.

- **Note:** He is one of the four men (Jesse Owens(1936), Carl Lewis(1984), Usain Bolt(2012 & 2016)) to win three events at a single game (100m, 200m and 4x100m relay). He won three gold medals for 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay in the 1956 Olympic in Melbourne.

- ✓ Former Union Minister and three-time Congress MP P Namgyal passed away recently in **Ladakh**.

- **Note:** Former Union Minister and three-time Congress MP from Ladakh, P Namgyal passes away. He has served as the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Surface Transport and Chemicals and Petro chemicals.

- ✓ Famous sportsperson turned coach JayantilalNanoma passed away recently, he was associated with **Archery** sports.

- **Note:** Former International Archer turned coach JayantilalNanoma passed away. He was an Asian Cup and Asian Grand Prix medallist in compound individual and team archery in 2010.

- ✓ Renowned personality Basu Chatterjee passed away recently, he was a veteran **Screenwriter**.

- **Note:** He worked in Hindi & Bengali cinema and was a dialogue writer and produced a few films.

- He received the National Film Award for Best Film on Family Welfare in 1992 for his film Durga. He was born on January 10, 1930, in Ajmer, British India.

- ✓ Renowned personality Anwar Sagar passed away recently; he was a veteran **Song Writer**.

- **Note:** He is best remembered for his hit track WaadaRahaSanam from 1992 Akshay Kumar-starrer Khiladi. The lyricist also has to his credit films like Yaarana, Salaami, Aa Gale Lag Jaa and Vijaypath among more.

- ✓ Renowned personality Chiranjeevi Sarja passed away recently,

- **Note:** He has featured in films such as Samhaara, Aadyaa, Khaki, Sinnga, Amma I Love You, PremaBaraha, DandamDashagunam and Varadhanayaka among others. He

- was last seen in the Kannada action-drama Shivarjuna.
- ✓ Ved Prakash Marwah who passed away recently is a former governor of the **Jharkhand, Manipur and Mizoram states.**
 - **Note:** VedMarwah was an alumnus of St. Stephens college. He was the first Secretary of the High Commission of India, London.
 - ✓ Renowned personality Arjun Charan Sethi passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was Water Resources Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Cabinet from 2000 to 2004. He entered Lok Sabha from Bhadrak on a Congress ticket in 1971 and re-elected in 1980, also on a Congress ticket.
 - ✓ Pierre Nkurunziza passed away recently was President of **Brundi.**
 - **Note:** He was born on 18th December 1964 in Ngozi Province. He was a sports graduate and assistant lecturer at the University of Burundi and after the Civil War he became the leader of Forces for Defence of Democracy (FDD) in 2001.
 - ✓ Famous sport person Tony Dunne, passed away recently, he was associated with **Football** sports.
 - **Note:** He joined Manchester United at the age of 18 in 1960 and debuted on 16th October 1960 against Burnley (A) league. He was a part of the winning side of the European Cup in 1968.
 - ✓ Famous **Cricket** sportsperson Vasant Raiji passed away recently.
 - **Note:** A chartered accountant, he was also a well-known chronicler of cricket, having written books on C.K. Nayudu, Ranjitsinhji, Duleepsinhji, L.P. Jai and Victor Trumper.
 - A Cricket Club of India player, he represented Bombay and Baroda. The cricketer-historian was also a founding member of Jolly Cricket Club in Mumbai.
 - ✓ Former Test cricketer of **New Zealand** Matt Poore passed away recently,
 - **Note:** He is remembered for catching a stray dog during a match in Bengaluru in 1955 and subsequently taking 12 anti-rabies injections.
 - An all-rounder, Poore had a short but colourful 14-Test career between 1953 and 1956 alongside two greats - Bert Sutcliffe and John Reid.
 - ✓ Veteran **Urdu** poet and freedom fighter Anand Mohan Zutshi passed away recently,
 - **Note:** Anand Mohan Zutshi 'Gulzar' Dehli was the editor of the 1st Urdu science magazine, Science kiDuniya, published by the Government of India in 1975.
 - He played a prominent role in opening Urdu schools across India & has been a part of a number of mushairas (Poetic symposium), which includes Jashn-e-Rekhta in 2015 and Jigar Fest in 2018.
 - ✓ Veteran Actor **Sushant Singh Rajput** found dead in his house in **Mumbai was a veteran.**
 - **Note:** 34-year-old actor committed suicide & found dead at his home in Bandra, Mumbai. He was born on 16th January 1986 in Patna, Bihar.
 - He promoted the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog which was launched on 8th March 2018.
 - ✓ Renowned **Military personnel** Raj Mohan Vohra passed away recently due to COVID-19.
 - **Note:** MahaVir Chakra awardee Lt Gen (retd) Raj Mohan Vohra passed away due to COVID-19. He was a 1971 war hero. Lt Gen Vohra had received the coveted award in 1972.
 - The MahaVir Chakra is that the country's second-highest gallantry award. It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry within the

presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.

- ✓ Renowned **Journalist** Dinu Ranadive passed away recently.
 - **Note:** The veteran journalist was born in 1925 at a tribal hamlet at Dahanu near Mumbai, he started his journalistic career in 1956.
- ✓ **Malayalam** Film Director, Scriptwriter, and Producer K.R. Sachidanandan passed away recently, he was associated with which language films.
 - **Note:** Malayalam Film director, scriptwriter, and producer K.R. Sachidanandan passed away. His directorial debut was Anarkali in 2015. He had co-scripted numerous movies with Sethu and later began composing solo contents. Sachy was a rehearsing legal advisor at the Kerala High Court.
- ✓ Renowned **Economist** B.P.R. Vithal passes away recently.
 - **Note:** He also served as the Secretary, Finance and Planning, government of Andhra Pradesh, from 1972 to 1982.
 - B.P.R. Vithal also worked at the International Monetary Fund as the fiscal adviser to the governments of Malawi and Sudan. He also played an instrumental role in the establishment of Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad.
- ✓ Renowned **Army Man** Lachhman Singh Lehl passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Lachhman Singh Lehl took part within the 1948 war in Jhangar area of Jammu and Kashmir as a captain and commanded a division within the 1971 war.
 - He received the Vir Chakra, the third highest gallantry award in India for his role as a forward observer within the 50 Para Brigade.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson Rajinder Goel passed away recently he was associated with **Cricket** sports.
 - **Note:** He made his ranji debut in 1957-58 and began his first class career with Patiala (southern Punjab team). He represented Delhi from 1963 and in 1973 he moved to Haryana
- ✓ Famous **Basketball** K Raghunath passed away recently, he was associated with which sports.
 - **Note:** Raghunath represented Indian All-Star team which toured Sri Lanka in 1962. He played for Karnataka with distinction in 1960s.
 - He was one of the founding members of the still-popular Beagles Basketball Club. Raghunath's tryst with basketball began in 1958.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson PournimaZanane passed away recently, she was associated with **Shooting** sports.
 - **Note:** She started as a shooter in Mumbai and represented India in numerous ISSF World Cups, Asian Championships, Commonwealth Championships. She holds a national record in the 10 m air rifle event.
 - She started coaching shooters in 2012 and she was the coach of the shooters team of Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Renowned **Journalist** Vishwa Bandhu Gupta passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was the chairman and chief editor of the Tej-Bandhu group of publications, The Weekly Sun, The North-East Sun, Treasure monthly and Flash newspaper.
 - He was the President of All India Newspaper Editors Conference(AINEC) and one of the founding members of the Press Club of India(PCI).
- ✓ Noted **Kannada** novelist Geetha Nagabhushan passed away.
 - **Note:** She was the first woman writer to bag Kendra Sahitya Academy and Nadoja awards and serve as the chairperson of Karnataka Sahitya Academy.

- She had presided over 76th Akhil Bharat Kannada Sahitya

Sammelan, a prestigious literary fest, held at Gadag in 2020.

May 2020

- Renowned personality Chuni Goswami, passed away, he was a famous **Sportsperson**.
 - **Note:** Former India football captain Subimal Goswami, commonly known by his nickname Chuni Goswami, passed away at the age of 82 in Kolkata.
- Renowned personality Bijay Mishra passed away, he was a famous **Playwriter**.
 - **Note:** Noted playwright, dramatist, scriptwriter and film director Bijay Mishra of Odisha passed away at the age of 83 due to age-related ailments in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Renowned personality Nissar Ahmed popularly known as K S Nissar Ahmed passed away, he was a popular **Poet and Kannada writer**.
 - **Note:** He was the 73rd president of Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in the year 2007 held at Shivamogga.
 - He received Rajyotsava in 1981, Padma Shri in 2008 and Pampa Award in 2017.
- Famous personality Dalit Ezhilmalai passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
 - **Note:** He participated in the Indo-Pak War of 1971 as an army officer and received SainikSewa Medal for his meritorious service.
- Renowned personality Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away recently, he was a famous **Historian**.
 - **Note:** He served as the Director of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- Famous sportsperson Manmeet Singh Walia, passed away, he was associated with which sports **Table Tennis**.
 - **Note:** He became the national champion in 1989 when he beat S Sriram in the men's singles final in Hyderabad.
- Renowned personality Shafique Ansari passed away recently, he was associated with which field **Acting**.
 - **Note:** TV actor Shafique Ansari passed away. He was best-known for his appearance in TV series 'Crime Patrol'.
- Renowned **Writer** Ratnakar Matkari passed away.
 - **Note:** Last week he was tested positive to coronavirus. He was born on 17th November 1938 in Mumbai, India.
 - He was the director and producer of numerous Marathi films and he was a self-taught artist and writer In the 1970's he wrote many columns for multiple newspapers and magazines.
 - He was known for his acting skills who made his mark in plays like Prem Kahani, VinashakadunVinashakade, Lokakatha 78 and State Lote.
- Former JDS MP **Raja Rangappa Nayak** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He had represented the Raichur constituency, Karnataka and was elected in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1996.
- Veteran Bengali author **Debesh Roy** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Debesh Roy was known as a writer who broke the set patterns in the fictional world of Bengali literature.
 - His famous works includes TistaParerBrittanta, BorisalerJogen Mondal, ManushKhun Kore Keno and SamayAsamayerBrittanta. He won the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'TistaParerBrittanta' in 1990.
- Padma Bhushan recipient Bangladeshi professor **Anisuzzaman** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was born on February 18, 1937, in Calcutta, Bengal Presidency, British India and shifted to Bangladesh soon after the partition in 1947.
 - He made an immense contribution to Bangla language & literature through his research and writings.

- Famous sportsperson of **Tennis** Ashley John Cooper passed away at the age of 83 in Sydney
 - **Note:** Cooper, the former Ranked No.1 player, led Australia's Davis Cup team to victory over the United States to retain the title in 1957.
 - A right-handed serve-and-volley player, Cooper won 8 Grand Slam titles- 4 Grand Slam singles and 4 Grand Slam doubles titles in the amateur era.
- Famous **Hockey** sportsperson Balbir Singh Dosanjh, passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Balbir Singh Sr. made his International debut in May 1947 tour of Sri Lanka.
 - He was appointed as the Captain of Indian hockey team for the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.
 - He wrote his biography "The Golden Hat Trick: My Hockey Days" in 1977.
- Renowned **Football Coach** Gigi Simoni passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was an Italian football official, player & manager.
 - Simoni played as an attacking midfielder for Mantova, Napoli, Torino, Juventus, Brescia and Genoa.
- Noted **Classical Singer** Shyamala G. Bhave passed away.
 - **Note:** Her father, late Govind Vitthal Bhave, trained her in Hindustani music, while she was tutored in the Carnatic stream by noted vocalists A Subbaraya and B Doreswamy.
- Renowned **Author** Mujtaba Hussain passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Hussain was described as the Mark Twain of Urdu. He began his literary career from "Siasat", a leading Urdu daily published from Hyderabad.
- Famous **Football** R. Shanmugam passed away.
 - **Note:** Shanmugam played for Mohun Bagan in 1968, Indian Railways in the 1969 Nowgong senior Nationals, Tamil Nadu in the 1970 Jalandhar & '71 Chennai senior Nationals.
- Famous personality Stanley Ho passed away.
 - **Note:** Stanley Ho is one of the richest men in Asia and the head of Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) holdings and famously known as the Casino kingpin of Gambling.
- First chief minister of **Chhattisgarh** Ajit Pramod Kumar Jogi passed away.
 - **Note:** Jogi studied Mechanical Engineering at the Maulana Azad College of Technology & also won the University Gold Medal.
 - He served as a lecturer at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Raipur and was also a successful IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer.
 - In 1998, Jogi was elected as a Lok Sabha member from Raigarh, Chhattisgarh and became a spokesperson of the Indian National Congress (INC) party.
- Famous personality associated with Indian cinema passed away recently, he was a veteran **lyricist**.
 - **Note:** Famous Indian Lyricist and writer Yogesh Gaur, commonly known as Yogesh in the film industry passed away at the age of 77 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - He wrote the lyrics of hit songs "Kahinduur jab din dhal jaye" and "Zindagikaisihaipaheli" that defined the superhit film Anand (1971).

April 2020

- ✓ Professor **Arjun Dev** passed away recently; he was a veteran **Historian**.
 - **Note:** He served as a historian at the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT).
- ✓ Nobel Prize- winning physicist who expanded the world's understanding of magnetism, superconductivity and the structure of matter, passed away -- **Philip Warren Anderson**.

- ✓ Padma Shri awardee and former “**Hazoori Raagi**” at the Golden Temple, passed away -- **Bhai Nirmal Singh Khalsa**.
- ✓ World renowned virologist **Gita Ramjeep** passed away in Johannesburg, South Africa.
 - Gita was born on April 8, 1956, in Kampala, Uganda. She served as the Clinical Trials Unit Principal Investigator and Unit Director of the HIV Prevention Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) offices in Durban.
- ✓ Libya’s former Prime Minister **Mahmoud Jibril el-Warfally** passed away due to Coronavirus.
 - **Note:** He served as the interim Prime Minister (PM) of Libya for almost a year during the Libyan Civil War in 2011, chairing the executive board of National Transitional Council and later killed Moammar Gaddafi in 2011.
- ✓ **Malayalam Music Composer M.K. Arjunan** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He tuned about 700 songs, many of them among the biggest hits of all time.
 - He was awarded Kerala State award for the best composer in 2017 for Jayaraj’s Bhayanakam.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson Radomir Antic passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Radomir Antic, Serbian football manager and player, the only man to have coached Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atlético Madrid, passed away at the age of 71 in Madrid, Spain.
- ✓ Two-time **Grammy award winner & Grammy lifetime achievement award** winner American folk singer **John Prine** passed away recently.
- ✓ Famous Indian American **Brahm Kanchibotla** passed away due to coronavirus.
 - **Note:** In recent years, he has been writing for two Indian-American publications, the Indian Panorama and the South Asia Times.
 - During his 28-year career in the US, he worked for 11 years as a content editor for Merger Markets, a financial publication, and also worked for News India-Times Weekly.
- ✓ Famous Shanti Hiranand Chawla passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Shanti was trained in thumri, dadra and ghazal singing by Begum Akthar. With the passing of Shanti Hiranand the Begum Akthar era is formally over.
- ✓ Legendary sportsperson Sir Stirling Moss passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Moss was widely regarded as the greatest driver never to win the Formula One drivers’ world championship.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson Peter Bonetti passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was part of England’s 1966 World Cup-winning team but was unused throughout the tournament.
- ✓ Renowned **Politician M V Rajasekharan** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was former Union Minister of State of planning and statistics and veteran Congress leader. He was also agriculture and rural development consultant. He was born on 12th September 1928 in Maralawadi in Ramanagara District, Karnataka.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson Zafar Sarfaraz passed away recently.

- **Note:** Former Pakistani first-class cricketer, Zafar Sarfaraz, 50 years, who tested positive to COVID-19 passed away in a hospital at Peshawar, Pakistan. He was born on 30th October 1969 in Peshawar, North West Frontier Province, Pakistan.
- ✓ Renowned personality **Ranjit Chowdhry** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was well known for his performance in classic comedies like *Baton Baton Mein* as Sabhi Perreira and *Khubsoorat* as Jagan Gupta. His mother Pearl Padamsee, was a Jewish descent and a well-known drama teacher and stage and film actress and his stepfather Alyque Padmsee, was a theatre actor, director and head of an advertising company in Mumbai.
 - He started his film career with “*Khatta Meetha*” as Russi Mistry.
- ✓ **Luis Sepúlveda Calfucura**, the best-selling Chilean writer and journalist passed away due to coronavirus complications.
 - **Note:** He was with Chile’s Communist Youth and socialists working against Pinochet regime and in 1973 he was arrested and imprisoned for treason for 2 and half years and freed after the intervention of Amnesty International.
- ✓ The former prime minister of Fiji, **Laisenia Qarase** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** The founder of the Soqosoqo Duavata Ni Lewenivanua Party & former Fiji Prime Minister (2000-2006) Laisenia Qarase passed away at 79 in Oceania Hospital, Suva due to an illness.
- ✓ Renowned personality Eugene Merrill Deitch passed away recently.
- **Note:** He was one of the directors behind world’s most popular cartoons and directed 13 episodes of *Tom and Jerry*.
- He also won the ‘Academy Award’ for his Best Animated Short Film named “*Munro*” in 1960.
- ✓ Name the Indian theatre director-actor and activist **Usha Ganguly** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Usha Ganguly, was an Indian theatre director-actor and activist, most known for her work in Hindi theatre in the 1970s and 1980s, passed away at the age of 75 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
 - She was born in Jodhpur, Rajasthan in 1945.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson **Michael John** passed away recently, he was associated with **Football**.
 - **Note:** Former Republic of Ireland and Liverpool forward footballer Michael John Robinson passed away at the age of 61 in Marbella, Spain.
 - He was the winner of the 2018 Vazquez Montalban International Journalism Award.
- ✓ Renowned personality Irfan Khan passed away.
 - **Note:** The actor was admitted to Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai after suffering from colon infection.
 - He has acted in several remarkable movies like *Maqbool*, *Paan Singh Tomar*, *The Lunchbox*, *Haider*, *Piku*, *Hindi Medium*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Jurassic World*, *The Amazing Spiderman* and *Life of Pi*.
 - He was honoured with various awards along with Padma Shri

which is the fourth highest civilian award of India.

- ✓ Renowned **Actor Rishi Kapoor** passed away.
 - **Note:** Rishi breathed his last at the Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai. His wife and actor Neetu Kapoor was by his side.

- Born in the first family of Hindi cinema, Rishi Kapoor was the son of the man India call the showman, Raj Kapoor, and grandson of the famous Prithviraj Kapoor.
- Rishi was the second son of Raj and the sibling of Randhir, Ritu Nanda, Rima Jain and Rajeev Kapoor.

March 2020

- Padma Shri awardee Balbir Singh Kullar passed away, he was associated with **Hockey**.
- Dronacharya awardee coach Joginder Singh Saini passed away, he was associated with **Athletics**.
- Former chairman & CEO of General Electric (GE) Company **John Francis Welch Jr** passed away at the age of 84. He was also known as “Neutron Jack”.
- Former UN Chief & Prime Minister of Peru **Javier Perez de Cuellar** passed away recently.
- Name the Buddhist religious leader in Bangladesh passed away -- **SuddhanandaMahathero**.
- Name the famous Swedish Actor **Carl Adolf von Sydow** passed away recently.
- Santu Mukhopadhyay or Santu Mukherjee passed away recently, he was associated with **Cinema**.
- Former Czechoslovak javelin-thrower **Dana Zatopkov** passed away recently.
- Dr Puthussery Ramachandran passed away recently, he was a veteran **Malayalam poet**.
- Former world champion boxer and trainer **Roger Mayweather** passed away.

- Pradip Kumar Banerjee passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata, he was associated with **Football**.
- Meenakshisundaram Ramasamy Viswanathan, popularly known as Visu passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
- Veteran **Actor** Kenneth Ray Rogers passed away recently
- French comic book artist, scriptwriter, the co-creator and illustrator of the “Asterix and Obelix” who passed away -- **Alberto Aleandro Uderzo**.
- Name the former India football player and 1970 Asian games bronze medallist passed away recently -- **Abdul Latif**.
- Nawab Banoo alias Nimmi passed away recently was a famous **Bollywood actress**.
- Nemai Ghosh passed away recently, was a veteran **Photographer**.
- Rajyogini Dadi Janki passed away recently, she was chief of which spiritual organization **Brahmakumaris Sansthan**.
- Paravai Muniyamma who passed away recently, was a famous **Tamil Folk Singer**.

February 2020

- **Noted Social activist**, feminist writer and journalist passed away – **Vidya Bal**.
- Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi Awardee **Jaswant Singh Kanwal** passed away.

- Renowned personality Rabi Singh died recently, he was a veteran **Odia revolutionary poet and freedom fighter**.
- Padma Shri awardee and renowned Punjabi novelist passed away recently is **Dalip Kaur Tiwana**.

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- Daniel Arap Moi passed away recently; he was former President of **Kenya**.
- Famous cricket journalist and film historian **Raju Bharatan** passed away recently.
 - He is also the writer for Thehindu and Sportstar and also a popular radio commentator for India's cricket matches.
- **Hindi Novelist** Giriraj Kishore passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Giriraj Kishore was best known for his novel "Pehla Girmitya" (for which he received Padma Shri in 2007) and "DhaiGhar".
- Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Veteran, Orator and Philosophical Author **P. Parameswaran** passed away.
- **Journalist** Nandu R Kulkarani passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - **Note:** He was the bureau chief of the Kolkata-based newspaper "The Statesman" in 1992 & also reported on

a wide range of subjects including politics & business. Nandu Kulkarni started his career with "The Indian Express" in 1976 & reported on economic offenses.

- Renowned personality **Wendell Rodrick** passed away in Goa, he was a famous **Fashion designer**.
- M.S. Mani who passed away at the age of 79 was a famous **journalist**.
- Former Lok Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) and wife of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's nephew Sisir Kumar Bose, passed away recently – **Krishna Bose**.
- India Footballer who was a part of India's bronze-medal winning teams in the Merdeka Cup in 1965 and 1966, passed away recently – **Ashok Chatterjee**.
- Muhammad Hosni El Sayed Mubarak who passed away recently was former President of **Egypt**.

January 2020

- ✓ Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader **DP Tripathi** passed away in New Delhi,
- ✓ Noted Assamese theatre personality **Ratna Ojha** passed away.
- ✓ Irani Gen **Qassem Soleimani** killed in US airstrike on Baghdad airport.
- ✓ Former Karnataka Governor **T N Chaturvedi** passes away.
- ✓ The King of Oman **Sultan Qaboos bin Said** passed away due to years-long struggle with an illness.
- ✓ Former Indian cricketer **Man Mohan Sood** passed away at 80 years.
- ✓ **Sunanda Patnaik (85)** passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal, she was **Indian Classical Singer**.
 - She was famously known as 'Guruma' in the classical music circle. She is the daughter of renowned Odia poet Baikunthanath Patnaik and had composed

many bhajans (devotional songs) both in Odia and Hindi.

- ✓ On January 17, 2020 **Rameshchandra Gangaram Babu Nadkarni** passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra, he was a renowned **Cricketer**.
- ✓ On January 20, 2020 **Shamsher Singh Surjewala** passed away after in AIIMS, New Delhi, he was a renowned **Politician (Congress Chief of Haryana)**.
- ✓ Senior Journalist and former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) **Ashwini Kumar Chopra** passed away at a private hospital in Gurgaon.
- ✓ Noted Urdu poet **Ajmal Sultanpur** passed away at the age of 97 in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh. was awarded the "**LifeTime Achievement Award**" by Uttar Pradesh (UP) Urdu Academy in March 2016 for his contribution to Urdu poetry.

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- ✓ Famous social worker, environmentalist, educationist & writer passed away at 85 years in Kolkata **Tushar Kanjilal**.
- ✓ **Jameela Malik** passed away recently at 73 years, she was a veteran **Actress**.
- ✓ Veteran player Sunita Chandra passed away in her hometown Bhopal, she was associated with **Hockey**.
- ✓ American legendary player **Kobe Bean Bryant** and his daughter dies in a helicopter crash. He was a veteran player of **Basketball**.

Environment and Ecology News

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

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

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

Note:

- **Aim:** Accelerate affordable and sustainable clean green with next generation technologies in solar power.
 - **Tripartite agreement** between India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, World Bank and ISA inked during the summit
 - The summit observed launching of ISA's technology journal, **Solar Compass 360**.
3. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources with its counterpart of **Finland**.
 4. The first World Solar Technology Summit 2020 held virtually was attended by **149** countries.
Note: The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. The main objective of the summit is to pay attention to state-of-the-art technologies and next-generation technologies.
 5. 'Streets for People' challenge has been launched by **Union Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry**.
Note: The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.

6. **Punjab** government has launched 'I Rakhwali' app for Environment Protection.

Note: With this new initiative, the state govt aims to safeguard the state forest area by making people a stakeholder in this process. The state govt came up with the concept of the app to encourage people to come forward and contribute to the protection of the environment.

August

1. 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting was held under the presidency of **Russia**.

Note: Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) participated in the meeting. The BRICS nations called the initiative to improve the environment and promote the circular economy in national plans for economic recovery after COVID-19

2. National portal **SURAKHSYA** is being launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forest on Human-Elephant conflict to collect real-time information and will also manage conflicts on a real-time basis.

Note: He will also launch portal on Human Elephant Conflict on the eve of World Elephant Day, 2020. The World Elephant Day is observed every year on 12th August to spread awareness about the animal.

3. The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India has launched the flood forecasting initiatives across India in association with tech giant **Google**.

Note: The Central Water Commission is the first governmental partner of Google to measure water levels on an hourly basis using around 1000 stream gauges across India. Under the flood forecasting initiatives, Google has sent out numerous public alerts to people in flood-impacted regions of India.

4. **Greenko Energies Private Limited** entered into an MoU with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) to explore renewable energy power supply solution and energy storage.

Note: This comes under the framework of India's World largest clean energy programme, a part of global climate change commitments, which aims to have 175 GW of clean energy by 2022. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC limited.

5. **Mahindra & Mahindra** has partnered with Israel's REE Automotive to develop commercial EVs .

Note: The corner modular architecture of REE integrated with the design, engineering, sourcing, ecosystem and production capacity of Mahindra will provide zero emission vehicles, including the autonomous vehicles. This will improve the mahindra's capabilities in the Electric Vehicle(EV) sector.

6. **Uttarakhand** state is set develop India's first Snow Leopard Conservation centre.

Note: The main aim of the centre is to conserve and restore Himalayan ecosystems. It also aims to conserve elusive snow leopards and other endangered Himalayan species. A number of snow leopards have been spotted in the districts of Pithoragarh and Uttarkashi. However, the actual figures are unknown. So far, the state government has concluded that there are 86 snow leopards in the state.

July

1. **Sustainable Development Report 2020:**

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

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

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

3. Two Maharatna PSUs the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has signed an MoU for setting

up of a Waste to Energy Plant Okhla New Delhi -- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. & NTPC Ltd.**

Note: In Delhi, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management has been a major issue for the local Municipal Authorities, the Waste to Energy Plant will help in addressing the issue and also will lead us towards a more energy-efficient and greener future. The Plant in Delhi will serve as a demonstrative model, the success of which will further help in establishing such Plants in other cities of the country.

4. The report titled "Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post-Covid-19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sectors" released jointly by NITI Aayog and **Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI).**

Note: The report has recommended specific actions and laid down four principles as a framework by which India can revive two of our economic powerhouses – the transport and power sectors from the COVID-19 effect that has impacted their demand and supply.

5. According to the report "Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019" by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) **Tamil Nadu** state grabbed the top in annual fish production.

6. India's rank in the "INFORM Report 2020: Shared evidence for managing crises and disasters" released by research centre INFORM -- **31st.**

Note: The report ranked the countries based on "INFORM Risk Index" which has been topped by Somalia with an inform risk of 8.9. The report has analyzed 191 countries. Notably, this report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) on behalf of all INFORM Partners.

7. Union Environment and Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar hailed the KURMA mobile application related with **Indian Turtles.**

8. As per the update report on India's Tiger Survey from 2018, released by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest number of tigers.

Note: India has 2,967 tigers, a third more than in 2014, according to results of a census made public on

July 29 last year. The present survey is a more granular estimate of these numbers.

9. **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched a mega plantation programme ‘Mission Vriksharopan-2020’.

10. **Assam**’s DehingPatkai Wildlife Sanctuary is being upgraded to a National Park is located in which state of India.

Note: It is located within the larger DehingPatkai Elephant Reserve, spreading across the coal- and oil-rich districts of Upper Assam (Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar). After upgradation, DehingPatkai will be the 6th national park in Assam. The other five are Kaziranga, Nameri, Manas, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

11. Poba Reserve Forest would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary in **Assam**.

Note: Assam Chief Minister, SarbanandaSonowal has announced, Poba Reserve Forest in Dhemaji district would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary. The announcement was made during a meeting with senior officials of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Majuli districts at Jonai. Poba Reserve Forest declared in 1924 with an area of 10,522 hectares is home to a large number of flora and fauna.

12. **Andhra Pradesh** government has announced Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020, which permits the sale of power to the other states of India.

13. **Mizoram** becomes the first state in the country to implement the Green-Agriculture (Green-Ag) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Note: It was launched by Agriculture minister of Mizoram C Lalrinsanga. Mizoram is first among the 5 states where the project is to be implemented. The other states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

14. **Uganda** became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Note: Uganda became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from

Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which has opened the way for potential results-based payments to Uganda. The submitted documents will help Uganda to claim the funds through the Green Climate Fund’s forest conservation scheme.

15. What will be the rise in mean average global temperature in next 5 years as per the report “Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-24” released by the WMO -- **1.5°C**.

16. **Fourth** edition of “Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)” was held virtually for the first time in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: From India, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar participated in meet. The meet was co-chaired by European Union (EU), China and Canada.

17. **Germany** become the first industrialized country to phase out of both coal and nuclear energy.

Note: This phase out is a part of Germany’s “energy transition” to reduce the use of fossil fuels and to support the use of renewable resources. German closed its last coal mine in 2018 and committed to close its nuclear power plants by 2022.

18. The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** is published by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** organization that says that India and Thailand are the main source of (82%) of illegal shipment of tiger body parts.

19. **Nicaragua** has become the 87th country to join the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, an initiative led by India to promote sustainable energy.

Note: The ISA is an alliance of 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

20. Under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA) NTPC Ltd planned to establish solar power plants in **Sri Lanka**.

21. The polycarbonate facility of SABIC in **Spain** is set to become the world's first large scale chemical production plant which will run entirely on renewable energy.

Note: Once the solar plant is operational, SABIC's customers including the ones from automotive and constructive sectors will have access to polycarbonate solutions produced with 100 per cent renewable power.

June

1. Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2020:

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

2. **Nisarga** has been given to the fast-moving depression in the Arabian Sea which intensified into a severe cyclone.

Note: As per the India Meteorological Department, the impact of the cyclone is likely to be felt in Maharashtra and Gujarat. There is a concern about the impact of the cyclonic storm on the battle against Covid-19, as the rain and flooding may set back social distancing and other necessary measures at evacuation centres, and even at some Covid-19 facilities located in low-lying areas.

3. **Adani Green Energy Limited** has won one of world's largest solar contract from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop 8 GW of solar projects.

Note: Based on the award agreement the 8 GW of solar development projects will be implemented over the next five years. The first 2 GW of generation capacity will come online by 2022 and the subsequent 6 GW capacity will be added in 2 GW annual increments through 2025.

4. An Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS) has been launched for **Mumbai**.

Note: Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods. The system was developed by the Ministry of

Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

5. The colour of water in Lonar lake has changed to pink due to salinity and presence of algae in the water body. The lake is located in **Maharashtra**.

Note: The lake was formed after a meteorite hit the Earth some 50,000 years ago. Located around 500 km from Mumbai, the Lonar lake is in Buldhana district of Maharashtra. The lake, which is a notified national geo-heritage monument, has saline water with pH of 10.5.

6. Maharashtra government has decided to rename the state's Environment Ministry as 'Environment and Climate Change Ministry'.

Note: The decision to change the name comes just weeks after the state was hit by a severe cyclonic storm Nisarga on June 3, 2020. Maharashtra is one among a few states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana in India which have a dedicated department to address climate change.

7. The forest department of **Uttarakhand** state has developed India's first lichen park.

Note: Lichens are found in the Himalayas up to 5000 metres are important species as they are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels. Uttarakhand has more than 600 species of lichens followed by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir with 503 and 386 species respectively.

8. **Western Railway** has created a new world benchmark by successfully running first Double-Stack Container Train in high-rise in Over Head Equipment electrified territory on.

Note: This achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of Green India. The Operations successfully commenced on 10th June from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat.

9. **India** become the first country to control locusts through drones.

Jan-May

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

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

2. World Economic Forum released Global Energy Transition Index:

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

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

Note: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by NTPC Limited, and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) to set up a Joint Venture Company for Renewable Energy business. This partnership will enable both the companies to accelerate their mark in the field of Renewable Energy.

4. The central government has brought the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) under Jal Shakti Ministry.

Note: Earlier it was under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. This decision is a formality of business allotment, which means that the authority must report to the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The move will have no impact on the independent nature of the functioning of the authority. Water management authorities of other rivers have also been brought under the ministry, which was earlier under the same ministry as CWMA.

5. According to Mercom India Research's 'India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020' report 7.3 Giga Watt (GW) solar energy generation capacity India has added during calendar year 2019.

6. Name the webinar organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and National Institute of Urban

Affairs on theme "The future of River Management" - **- IDEAthlon.**

7. As per International Energy Agency (IEA) "Global Energy Review 2020 due to COVID 19 India's energy demand falls by 30%.

Note: It means that with each additional week of lockdown, India's annual energy demand is reduced by 0.6%. The impact on Q1 2020 energy demand in India was modest, with demand increasing by 0.3 relative to Q1 2019. In India, energy demand would decline for the first time, following on from low demand growth in 2019. The report is based on an analysis of around 100 days of real-data of 2020.

8. Public sector oil company Oil India Ltd(OIL) will get the environmental clearance for extension drilling and testing of hydrocarbons at 7 locations inside the Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (NP).

Note: The clearance was given as part of the Centre's target to reduce 10% imports and the Northeast Vision 2030. And the commercial production from this area shall also enable OIL to meet the same centre's target

9. Electric mobility company Ola Electric Mobility has acquired Amsterdam-based electric scooter-maker Etergo.

Note: It would leverage Etergo's design and engineering capabilities to build its smart electric two-wheeler for international and Indian markets. Ola Electric aimed to launch its global electric two-wheeler in India in 2021.

10. Uttarakhand become the first state to release report on conservation of endemic, threatened floras.

Note: The project aims at Germplasm conservation so that species remain conserved with the forest department & also to promote conservation of plant species among the general public so as to end plant blindness. The report is one of the largest repositories of conserved plants & is carried out by the research wing of the state forest department.

11. FAO organization has released Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020.

Note: According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment(FRA) 2020 released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),

the forest loss rate in 2015-2020 has declined to an estimated 10 million hectares (mha), down from 12 mha in 2010-2015. The world has lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya.

1. **Jim Corbett National Park** becomes the India's 1st quarantine centre for animals.

Note: Jim Corbett National Park has become the India's 1st quarantine centre for animals with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). It is India's oldest forested wildlife sanctuary located in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand. At least 10 quarantine centers are being set up within the complex to handle the corona virus prey animals & Cameras will be installed in the park to monitor the cold and cough symptoms of animals.

2. **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)** has been appointed as the implementing agency to handle the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Note: MNRE will timely review the maximum permissible VGF amount & will reduce if the cost difference comes down. In Case of the existing clause, the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) handled the scheme on behalf of the ministry. The CPSU Scheme Phase II aims to set up 12,000 MW grid-connected solar PV power projects under the government producers with the VGF support for self-use or by government entities either directly or through discoms

3. **Dharmendra Pradhan** chaired the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) meeting approved & allowed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to convert the available surplus rice to ethanol.

Note: Recently the government has also allowed sugar companies and distilleries to make hand sanitizers using ethanol. By using the surplus rice for ethanol, it will address about 750 million litres from the total capacity of 2 billion litres of grain-based distillery capacities lying idle

4. **Tamil Nadu** state topped in the all-India level for micro-irrigation (MI), under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
5. **Gujarat** government has approved the 3rd edition of his government's 'SujalamSufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan' (SSJA).

Note: The scheme will continue till June 10, 2020 with a focus on deepening of lakes, check dams and rivers by removing silt. It will be done with people's participation as well as under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). The scheme will create employment opportunities for the rural population amid the lockdown.

1. The World Wildlife Day is celebrated around the world on **3rd March**.

Note: The World Wildlife Day (WWD) has been celebrated based on the theme "Sustaining all life on Earth". The day aims to celebrate the beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora & raises awareness for conservation of wildlife. The main objective of this day is to familiarize the common people with the diverse forms of wildlife and flora. At the same time people have to create awareness about the many benefits for their conservation

2. The International Day of Forests (IDF) is observed annually on **21st March**.

Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests. The theme of the day this year is "Forests and Biodiversity".

3. **National Chambal Sanctuary** has received eco-sensitive zone tag.

Note: Centre notified 870 sq km around the National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh (MP) as eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) to prohibit polluting activities like industries, major hydroelectric project, mining, stone quarrying & big construction within the 'no-go area' for the purpose of conservation of water bodies, unique geographical features (ravines), flora & fauna.

4. Under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), a

financial assistance of Rs 1.51 crore has been sanctioned to **Kaziranga National Park**.

5. Government targeted to achieve sales around 70 lakh hybrid & electric vehicles by the end of **2020**.

Note: The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Minister of Information & Broadcasting & Minister of Heavy industries and Public Enterprises Prakash Javadekar informed that the government has set an ambitious target to achieve sales of around 70 lakh hybrid & electric vehicles by the end of 2020. In 2015 as part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan(NEMMP) 2020, Department of Heavy Industry formulated the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) scheme.

6. **Jharkhand** becomes the third state in India to launch its “Star Rating Program”.

Note: The state government of Jharkhand will launch its “Star Rating Program” on June 5, 2020, to rate industries based on the amount of pollutants generated by them. With this, it became the 3rd state in India to launch this system for industries after Maharashtra & Odisha. The program will be implemented by the Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB) in association with the University of Chicago Trust (UC Trust).

1. The World Wetlands Day was observed on **February 2, 2020**.

Note: World Wetlands Day (WWD) was observed to spread awareness and to conserve the wetlands all over the world. The of this year day is “Wetlands and Biodiversity”. The theme highlights the importance of biodiversity conservation, which conveys nearly 40% of the world’s plant & animal species live or breed on wetlands.

2. The World Pangolin Day was observed across the world on **15th February (3rd Saturday of Feb)**.

Note: The 9th World Pangolin day was observed on February 15, 2020. The Madhya Pradesh forest department & Wildlife Conservation Trust has radio-tagged an Indian Pangolin for the first time in order to

know its ecology and develop an effective conservation plan

3. World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 was held in **New Delhi**.

Note: The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) was inaugurated a 3-day long World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 based on the theme “Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count” at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi from 29-31 January, 2020. The summit was organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a research institute specializes in the fields of energy.

4. 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals, was hosted by India at **Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.

Note: It is an Environment Treaty Supported by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). logo is to Portray Important Migratory Species in India like Amur falcon, Humpback Whale and Marine Turtles, the Great Indian Bustard (Gibi) is chosen as official Mascot. The theme for the CMS COP 13 in India is, “Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them Home”.

5. India to switch to World’s Cleanest petrol and diesel from **April 1,2020**.

Note: India to switch to World’s cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1,2020, when it proceeds to Bharat Stage (BS-VI) from BS-IV grades at present. India will join the select league of nations using petrol & diesel which contains 10ppm (parts per millions) of Sulphur which cuts down vehicular discharge that is stated to be one of the reasons for pollution.

6. In accordance with the “2019 World Air Quality Report-Region & City PM2.5 Ranking” compiled by IQAir AirVisual, India’s rank as most polluted country -- **5th**.

Note: Bangladesh emerged as the most polluted country for PM2.5 exposure.

7. **NTPC** has signed an MoU with Central Pollution Control Board to provide financial support for installation & commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations.

8. To combat Climate Change, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has announced the launch of “Bezos Earth Fund” worth \$10 billion.

Important S&T, Defence, Health News

Science and tech:

September

1. IIT Delhi incubated startup ‘Chakr Innovation’ launches ChakrDeCoV’ to decontaminate N95 masks.

About ChakrDeCoV:

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

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

About HSTDV:

- HSTDV was tested from APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex, Odisha coast

August

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

- Developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)
- It is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft for hypersonic speed flight

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

Note:

- **DVT:** It is a serious condition that occurs when a blood clot forms in a vein of human body resulting in life threatening complications.
- The device is cost effective and will facilitate flow of blood from the veins in the legs preventing and giving relief from DVT

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

Note:

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

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

breathing, anti-microbial, comfort feeling properties.

6. IIT Kanpur develops indigenous seed balls titled ‘BEEG’

About BEEG:

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

July

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

Note:

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

2. Govt launches Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020

Note:

- It is a joint initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and All India Council for Technical Education for developing COVID-19 drug along with students, academicians, researchers, and professionals
- MyGov portal will be used for participation and works.

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

About SHUDH:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

6. HRD Minister launches COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit ‘Corosure’

Note:

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

7. Android malware titled ‘BlackRock’ discovered

About BlacRock:

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

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

About MediCAB:

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

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

About HOPE:

- It will provide complete picture of the Martian atmosphere

- It is an unmanned mission which is launched by H2A rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center for 7-month journey

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

About COPS:

- It has solar Based Intelligent Mask Automated Dispensing Unit cum Thermal Scanner (IntelliMAST) that identifies the body temperature, Face Mask; Touchless Faucet (TouF); 360° Car Flusher

11. Comet NEOWISE approaches closest to the Earth

About NEOWISE:

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

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

About ANASIS-II:

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

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

About Tianwen-1

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

14. DST launches India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment Programme

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

16. IIT Kharagpur develops COVID-19 Rapid Test technology

Note:

- It can be conducted in an ultra-low-cost portable device with test results available in a customized smartphone app within an hour without requiring manual interpretation.
- It deploys a disposable simple paper-strip for chemical analysis and visualization of test results.
- It will cost around Rs 400 per test

June

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

About Dhruva:

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

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

Note:

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

3. DST unveils official logo for Golden Jubilee Commemoration Year

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

About LCHG:

- It is a protective garment made up of biocompatible fabrics that can be used in space, military applications, firefighting, and

personal cooling-heating purposes shielding for long term without skin irritation

- It has a system for circulating temperature controlling fluid into and out of the garments through tubes inside the garment.

6. India witnessed rare Annual Solar Eclipse

Note:

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

7. June 21 marks Summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere

Note:

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

8. Central Indian Railways launches AI enabled Captain Arjun robot

Note:

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

9. Home Affairs launches GermiBAN device

About GermiBAN:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

14. IIT Guwahati develops Flyzy mobile app

Note:

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

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

About ANANYA:

- It is a water-based non-toxic 24 hours spray that can be used on masks, PPEs, hospital linens, and other contaminated surfaces like medical instruments, elevator buttons, doorknobs, corridors, and rooms.
- It has shelf life of more than 6 months.

16. DoNER Minister launches COVID BEEP

About COVID BEEP:

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

17. ISRO signs MoU with ARIES for Space Situational Awareness

Note:

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

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

Note:

- Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is a remote sensing method that works on laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver

generating 3D information about Earth's shape and its surface

- The team has found two Roman roads and around 30 prehistoric large embanked settlement enclosures and can locate around 20 prehistoric burial mounds and remains

19. CSIR-CMERI develops new indigenous ventilator

Note:

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

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

Note:

January- May

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

- It is developed for rapid and chemical free disinfection of high infection prone areas for

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

21. DRDO develops Ultra Swachh for disinfection of materials

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

- It also has catalytic converter for environment friendly exhaust that operates on **15 Ampere, 220 Volts, 50 Hertz power supply.**
- It also has safety features such as emergency shutdown, door interlocks, dual door, delay cycle, and leak monitors, etc.

high tech surfaces like electronic equipment, computers and other gadgets

- The product is also effective for areas with large flow of people such as airports, shopping malls, metros, hotels, factories, offices, etc.
- This sanitizer switches off on accidental opening of room or human intervention.

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

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

Note:

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

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

About DRUVS:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

10. CSIR-CMERI develops mobile indoor disinfection sprayer units

Note:

- Units are named as **Battery Powered Disinfectant Sprayer (BPDS)** and **Pneumatically Operated Mobile Indoor Disinfection (POMID)**.
- It will be used for cleaning and disinfecting pathogenic micro-organism from touched surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, and cardboards.

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

About LISA:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

15. National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) has initiated a programme on health and risk communication focusing on COVID-19 titled “Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)”.

Note: Its aim is to convey authentic best practices to the general public to minimize the risk of transmission of virus at all levels, in the absence of vaccines and cure for COVID-19. This programme will provide scientific awareness and health preparedness to combat the pandemic scenario like COVID-19 outbreak which has posed concerns and challenges around the globe.

16. CISF has launched ‘**e-karyalay**’ an electronic office application to enable the movement of files and documents without physical touch.

Note: It is designed by CISF in-house technical team for the usage of the 1.62 lakhs personnel & it resembles each and every function of traditional file movement. It has digital signature features to handle various securities related concerns and keep pace with existing standards. App’s ‘Dak’ or letters management section handles all sorts of communication between various levels of functional hierarchy & it enables to transfer the dak (snail mail) directly to the file noting.

17. Vehicle manufacture Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. has announced the launch of ‘Own-Online’, an end-to-end online vehicle ownership solution.

Note: Mahindra Own-Online will be a one-stop available 24X7 where customers can finance,

insure, exchange, accessorise and own a Mahindra vehicle in four steps, without having to visit a dealership. This platform has been launched by (M&M) to offer its customers a transparent, seamless and contactless experience from selection to the delivery of the vehicle. Through this platform, a customer can own a Mahindra vehicle in four simple steps, from their homes, in few clicks.

18. (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ announced various modifications in the **Prime Minister’s Research Fellowship (PMRF) Scheme.**

Note: The modification will be done to boost research in the country & to enable more students to avail the benefit under the scheme. The scheme is designed to improve the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in the country & with attractive fellowships it seeks to attract the best talent into research through realizing the vision of development by innovation.

19. Two scientific papers on child survival published by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative stated that the under-5 Mortality Rate in India has dropped by what percent since 2000 -- **49 per cent.**

Note: The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative has recently published two scientific papers. The initiative has given its report on district-level trends of child growth and child mortality. The findings show there were 1.04 million under-5 deaths in 2017, down from 2.24 million deaths in 2000. The child mortality rate has dropped by 49% between 2000 and 2017.

20. For the first time the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has included which region of POK in its weather forecast -- **Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad.**

Note: The department taken this decision as it says that it is a part of India and the country always maintains its position that PoK belongs to India. The agency has included the regions as part of its meteorological sub-division of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in its daily forecast for ‘north-west India’.

21. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru has developed a low-cost device to detect the presence of melamine (adulterate) in milk and dairy products.

Note: The techniques currently used to detect the presence of melamine are time-taking and typically require expensive and sophisticated equipment and highly trained personnel. With the help of a newly developed fluorometer device. Researchers were able to detect up to 0.1 parts per million (ppm) of melamine in water and milk, which is much lower than the acceptable limit of 1 ppm.

22. The Indian Railways operationalized the first 12,000 HP electric locomotive built in **Electric Locomotive Factory, Madhepura** locomotive establishment.

23. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a scheme for 100% solarisation of **Konark** city of India

24. Indian software company **TCS** has launched 'Ignio' an AI Digital Workspace solution.

25. Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad has developed an AI-based Attendance application (AINA) which allows non-contact-based personnel verification, using facial features of the person in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic

26. IIT Madras has developed magnesium alloy to replace steel, aluminium in cars.

Note: There has been an excellent deal of specialising in lowering the carbon footprint of vehicles by using light-weight material in their bodies. Lighter vehicles consume less fuel to run and are therefore play a strategic role in increasing energy-efficiency. Vehicular emissions alone contribute 27 per cent of total CO₂ emissions currently.

1. iGOT e-learning platform has been launched by the government of India for all front-line workers to equip them with the training and updates in coping with Pandemic.

2. Name the mobile doctor booth created by the West Central Railway's Coach Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS) -- **CHARAK**.

3. Uttar Pradesh becomes the 1st state with a software-based in-house facility of virtual courts.

Note: As per an apex court directive to develop video conferencing system for hearing cases and also for maintaining social distancing, Allahabad High Court has developed a new software by which multiple court proceedings at the High Court and district courts across the state can be conducted through virtual courts within the court premises without any internet connectivity.

4. China has become the world leader in international patent filings via WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

5. In accordance with the Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey **India** becomes the world's most digitally dexterous (skilful) country in the world.

Note: India has a vast Gen Z workforce who are keen to learn new digitally powered skills in the workplace. India is followed by the United Kingdom (UK) and United States (US). It should be noted that Generation Z or Gen Z are the ones born between 1995 and 2009.

6. The international day of human space flight is observed across the world annually on **12th April**.

7. The geological survey of **USA** has released the first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon namely "Unified Geologic Map of the Moon".

8. Russia country will launch its first **Arktika-M** satellite for monitoring the Arctic climate and environment at the end of the year.

9. Chak-Hao, the black rice of which state gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag -- **Manipur**.

10. Terracotta work of which place has been granted with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag -- **Gorakhpur (UP)**.

✓ 108th Indian Science Congress 2021 will be held in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

Note: The Indian Science Congress association (ISCA) announced that Pune will host the annual

- session of 108th Indian Science Congress on January 3-7, 2021 at Symbiosis International University's Lavale campus with the theme, "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment". Dr Vijay Laxmi Saxena elected as general president of the Indian Science Congress, 2020-21
- ✓ 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference -2020 was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: A 3-day long 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference -2020 based on the theme 'Empowering Youth for Technology Led Farming'. It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. The conference, organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), focused on technology-led farming and youth entrepreneurship through agriculture.
 - ✓ An International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Water India Smart Utility Week 2020 (ISUW) for Smarter Cities was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: New Delhi based India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) has been organizing India Smart Utility Week 2020 (ISUW) as an International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Water for Smarter Cities in New Delhi from March 3-7, 2020. India and European Union (EU) called upon the Integrated Local Energy System, in which they will jointly work upon clean energy. India and Sweden are also agreed to jointly work on Smart Grids Programme, which is to be funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST)
 - ✓ International Conference on Nano Science and Technology 2020 (ICONSAT) was held in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
Note: The event was supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and organized by S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata. The conference was held from March 5 to 7, 2020. The conference

provides a platform for the young researchers & students from within the country and abroad, with the latest development in the emerging areas of Nano Science and Technology

- ✓ 5th edition of India Pharma & India Medical Device 2020 Conference held at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
Note: The 5th edition of India Pharma 2020 and India Medical Device 2020 Conference & Exhibition will be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from March 5 to 7, 2020. The conference was organized by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- ✓ Name the mobile app which has been launched by the government for delivery of diesel at doorsteps of Housing societies, hotels and hospitals in the national capital region -- '**Fuel Humsafar**'.
- ✓ TRIFED launches 'Tech For Tribals' program to bring technology to **tribal entrepreneurs**.
Note: A 30- days long capacity-building program called "Tech for Tribal" has been launched by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). It was launched in association with IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Roorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and SRIJAN, Jaipur (Rajasthan) to provide entrepreneurship skills to the tribal people.
- ✓ **Indore** becomes the first city in India to use drones to sanitize the city.
- ✓ **IIT Madras** is organizing India's first Global Hyperloop Pod Competition named as 'Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition'.
Note: The competition is aimed at increasing awareness and enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India. The competition is open globally and the final round will take place in the IIT Madras campus in July 2020. Team Avishkar from IIT Madras was the only team from Asia to qualify for the finals of 2019 Hyperloop Pod

Competition, developing India's first self-propelled Hyperloop Pod.

10. Gujarat state Police becomes first in India to introduce taser guns.

11. Gujarat state government has signed an MoU with Dutch Flying car-maker PAL-V.

Note: A Dutch Flying car-maker, PAL-V (Personal Air Land Vehicle) will set up a manufacturing plant in Gujarat.

1. The Department of Science and Technology has launched a special scheme for Science and Technology infrastructure in India is called **Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)**”.

Note: The aim of the scheme is to create shared, professionally managed and strong Science and Technology infrastructure in India. The SATHI scheme will enable academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs to offer high-end analytical testing. This will help to avoid duplication, reduce the dependency on foreign sources & also foster a strong culture of collaboration between institutions.

2. India's biggest rural technical festival 'Antahpragnya 2020' was held in **Telangana**.

Note: The festival was inaugurated by M Prashanthi, District Collector of Nirmal, Telangana. The festival was held for 3 days from 31st January to February 1,2020. The theme for the year 2020 was “**Spot and encourage rural tech innovators**”.

3. According to the recent report published by German cybersecurity firm Greenbone Sustainable Resilience **Maharashtra** state topped hit by global medical data leak.

Note: The analysis was made after data of around 120 million Indian patients were leaked and made freely available on the internet. Maharashtra was followed by Karnataka in 2nd place with 1,82,865 data leaks giving access to 1,37,31,001 images.

4. The “CLIMISHCON” is a Four-day International Conference on changes in Hydrological cycle, Ocean

ecosystem, Fisheries and Food security will be held in **Kochi, Kerala**.

5. India's largest air quality monitoring network will be established at **Mumbai**.

Note: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will develop an air quality monitoring network across 90 locations in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It will be the largest network in India. The project will be completed within next 5 years, funded by BMC and private organisations.

6. The National Water Conference was held at **Bhopal**.

Note: The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Kamal Nath has inaugurated the National water conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The conference is being held to finalize the guidelines of “Right to Water Act” or “Water Rights Act” and also discussed the water crisis in the state and also making the state a water-rich state.

7. 3-day long 17th edition of Bio Asia 2020 was held in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

Note: It is Asia's largest Biotechnology and Life Sciences Forum with the theme of 'Today for Tomorrow'. BioAsia 2020 was held at the life science capital of India i.e. in **Hyderabad**.

8. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research ranked first in the Nature Ranking Index 2020 (**CSIR**).

Note: All the institutions are ranked on the basis of total research output from december 01, 2018 to 30th November , 2019. Numbers in research output are designated by total citations in numbers and shares which indicates the sharing percentage per article.

9. India's 1st Artificial intelligence summit, RAISE 2020 will be held in **New Delhi**.

10. To launch the artificial intelligence (AI) based module including AI kits across Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has collaborated with **NASSCOM**.

Defense:

September

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

Note:

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

August

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

2. Iranian Navy conducted Zolfaghar-99 exercise Note:

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

Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.

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

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

Note:

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

4. Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO)

Note:

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

and indigenisation for achieving self-reliance in defences sector

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

5. Defence Minister bans import of 101 defence items

Note:

- The banned list was prepared by Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence (MoD) to enhance indigenisation of Defence production in India boosting Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

July

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

About PASSEX

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

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

About Ofek:

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

3. ISRO launches Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite

About the satellite:

- **Banned Import Items:** Artillery guns, assault rifles, corvettes, sonar systems, transport aircraft, light combat helicopters (LCHs), radars, etc

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

About ICGS C-454:

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

- Launched by Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV)
- First satellite for Earth observation designed for observing and monitoring the deforestation of Amazon Region and will help in the agricultural and vegetation areas.
- It will not be a hitch-hiking satellite.

4. Indian Navy conducted Passex exercise with US

Note:

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

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

Note

- 'Dhruvastra' or helicopter-launched Nag Missile (HELINA) is tested from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.

- It is a 3rd generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile system mounted on Advanced Light Helicopter
- It has a range of 7 Km and is equipped with four foldable wings and has a length of 1.85m, diameter of 0.20m, wingspan of 0.4m and weight of 43kg.

6. DRDO launches innovation contest ‘Dare to Dream 2.0’

June

1. Defence Minister launches NOC portal for exploration projects

Note:

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

2. Navy Inducts Indigenously Developed Advanced Torpedo Decoy System

Note:

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

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

Note:

- The parade was held on June 24, 2020 to honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other countries in World War II.

Note

- Contest launched on the 5th death anniversary of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- It was an open challenge to encourage individuals & startups for innovation in defence and aerospace technologies
- The winners will be awarded with prize money of Rs 10 lakh for startup and Rs 5 lakh to individual category.

- India’s participation will mark tribute and solidarity to Russia

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

About DSRV Complex:

- Designed to accommodate the newly inducted Submarine Rescue System with DSRV assets storage in a Rescue-Ready state.
- Has Remote Operations Vehicle, Side Scan Sonar, Diver Decompression Chambers, and associated equipment.
- Mobilized by air or road to facilitate submarine rescue operations even at distant locations

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

About TEDBF jet program:

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

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

About ARPIT:

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

- Generates high constant negative pressure that will prevent crew from infection.

6. India and Australia signs Mutual Logistics Support Agreement

- Agreement is signed to allow logistics support in a virtual bilateral summit to provide reciprocal access to military logistics

January- May

1. Western Naval Command develops Ultraviolet Disinfection Facilities

Note:

- It will be used for decontamination of tools, clothes, and other items to control the spread of coronavirus at entry/ exit points to prevent COVID-19
- Large common room will be converted into a UV bay by fabrication of aluminium sheets electrical arrangements for UV-C lighting.

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

facilities, allow more complex joint military exercise, and improve interoperability between two nations.

- Support the rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region facilitating scaling up of overall defence cooperation.

- Laser weapons system demonstrator (LWSD) will provide defence against drones or armed small boats.

- Directed Energy Weapons are electromagnetic systems capable of converting chemical or electrical energy to radiated energy and focusing it on a target, resulting in physical damage that degrades, neutralizes, defeats, or destroys an adversarial capability.

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

About the scheme:

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

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

About ICGS Sachet:

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

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

Note:

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

- ✓ Border Roads Organisation has constructed 430 feet long bailey "Daporijo bridge" in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Note: The bridge was inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu over video conferencing. The bridge is built over Subansiri River the largest tributary of Brahmaputra. The new bridge will provide adequate movement of supplies for 451 villages and approximately 3,000 security force personnel deployed along the India-China border. The bridge replaced an older bridge in Daporijo, which was constructed in 1992.

2. **North Korea** test fired anti-ship cruise missiles as a part of military exercises recently.

Note: The missiles were of short range and test fired into the sea. The missiles were test fired to celebrate the birth anniversary of Kim II Sung. He was the grand father of the current North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The missiles were capable of travelling 150 kilometres. According to the South Korean officials, multiple missiles were test fired.

3. National Cadet Corps (NCC) has offered its volunteer cadets to assist the civilian authorities to fight COVID-19 under '**Exercise NCC Yogdan**'.

4. '**Operation Sanjeevani**' launched by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to air-lifted 6.2 tonnes of essential medical supplies to Maldives via

transport aircraft C-130J as assistance in the fight against the virus.

Note: Medicines including influenza vaccines, anti-viral drugs such as Lopinavir and Ritonavir & other useful items were purchased by the Maldives' State Trading Organisation (STO) from 8 suppliers in India. But due to the 21-day lockdown imposed due to the COVID-19 epidemic, it could not be possible to take them to Maldives by any other means.

5. **Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam** has designed 'Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)'.

Note: This oxygen manifold is designed to supply oxygen to multiple patients at a time, which could prove helpful in a contingency created by COVID-19 spread. The preliminary trials were conducted at MI Room at NDV, followed by rapid trials at the Naval Hospital INHS Kalyani, where it was successfully installed within 30 minutes. The Navy personnel from the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) have developed a 'Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)' using a six-way radial header fitted to a single cylinder.

6. Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated Mobile Virology Research and Diagnostics Laboratory (MVRDL) which is developed by **DRDO**.

Note: This mobile lab has the testing capacity of more than 1000 to 2000 samples daily. The Mobile Viral Research lab is the combination of a Bio-Safety Level (BSL)-3 and a BSL-2 lab essential to carry out activities. The Mobile lab was set up in a record time of 15 days which usually takes about 6 months

7. The premier multilateral air combat training Exercise Pitch Black 2020 has been cancelled which was to be conducted by the **Royal Australian Air Force**.

1) Indian Air Force signed MoU with **Savitribai Phule Pune University** to establish a 'Chair of Excellence' named "Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence".

2) **Note:** **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU)** signed a **MoU** (Memorandum of Understanding) to establish a '**Chair of Excellence**' at Department of Defense & Strategic Studies at Pune, Maharashtra. In order to pay tribute to the legend and commemorate the centenary birth year of the MIAF (Marshal of the Indian Air Force), IAF has named it as "Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence".

3) National Conference on Women in Police and CAPFs held in **New Delhi**.

4) The proposed new "Draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020" will come into effect from **1st April 2020**.

5) **Note:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has proposed a new "Draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020". It will replace DPP 2016 and would remain in force till 31 March 2025. Its draft has been finalized by a high-level committee headed by Apurva Chandra, Director General (DG) Acquisition, Ministry of Defence that was set up in August 2019.

6) The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) opened a 360 feet long bailey suspension bridge for traffic over -- **Teesta River**.

Note: The bridge constructed will be useful for the people residing in Lahen town, North Sikkim. The bridge constructed will facilitate the movement of logistics for the Armed forces deployed in forward areas and also acts as tourist spots.

7) **Operation Namaste**, has been given to the initiative launched by Indian Army to protect 1.3 million strong forces from coronavirus.

1. Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, 'MatlaAbhiyaan' in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

Note: Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, ‘MatlaAbhiyaan’ at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters. Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, ‘MatlaAbhiyaan’ at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters.

2. The 4th edition of East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation 2020 was held in **Chennai Tamil Nadu**.

Note: The conference was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

3. The 11th edition of the Biennial Mega Defence Exhibition “DefExpo 2020” held in **Lucknow**.

Note: The 11th edition of DefExpo-2020, organized by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence with a support of Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the first time from 5th to 9th Feb 2020. It’s main theme was “India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub” with focus on “Digital Transformation of Defence”. This expo is also termed as “Mahakumbh of defence manufacturing companies”. The last two days of the expo was opened for public.

4. The “2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2020)” was held at **Bhubaneswar/Puri, Odisha**.

Note: The themes of the exercise was “A cultural heritage site that suffers severe damage in the Earthquake” & “Flooding or Storm”. Organized by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), on behalf of the Government of India, BIMSTEC DMEx-2020 was inaugurated by Chief Minister Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik. The first similar kind of exercise took place in 2017.

5. The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted at **Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh**.

Note: The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted on February 12,2020 by creating a mock situation using a naval Dornier aircraft by INS Dega, (a naval air station of the Indian navy) at Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh and the main objective of the exercise was to test the plans and procedures handled by various agencies during hijack threats.

6. The Central Government has renamed Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) after **Manohar Parrikar**.

7. 5-day long 5th edition of India-UK bilateral air exercise “Indradhanush-V” 2020 was held in **Air Force Station Hindan in Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.

8. Fifth Edition of Joint Military ExerciseAjeya Warrior -2020 is conducted between India and **United Kingdom (UK)**.

9. Air-launched cruise missile Ra’ad-II has been launched by **Pakistan**.

Note: The Ra’ad-II weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance & navigation systems ensuring of engagement targets with high precision. Ra’ad-II missile is planned to be attached to Mirage aircraft or F-16 fighter jets of the Pakistan Air Force. The cruise missile with a range of 600 km significantly enhances air delivered strategic standoff capability on land and at sea.

10. 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group meeting of SCO held in **Islamabad, Pakistan**.

Note: The conference was to discuss different aspects of cooperation between the SCO member states and regional security. They have agreed on joint training and military exercises. The event was hosted by Pakistan as part of the ‘SCO Defence & Security Cooperation Plan – 2020’. India has attended this meet along with China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Belarus attended the meeting as the observer state.

Health

September

- **Russia** becomes the first country to officially register a coronavirus vaccine and declare it ready for use.

Note: The Russian vaccine will be called "Sputnik V" in homage to the world's first satellite launched by the Soviet Union. The vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Institute in Moscow uses a different virus -- adenovirus -- that's been modified to carry genes for the "spike" protein that coats the coronavirus, as a way to prime the body to recognise when a real COVID-19 infection comes along.

- **India** and Maldives signed an agreement to establish "Emergency Medical Services" in Male.
- **Assam** government has launched Kitchen Garden to promote nutritious food, as part of the PoshanMaah.

Note: Kitchen Garden or Nutri garden will be set up at Anganwadi Centres and Government Primary Schools across the state. PoshanMaah is India's flagship programme, launched in March 2018 to improve the nutritional status of children up to 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

- **Tamil Nadu** government has launched a portal for eye donation.

Note: He also pledged to donate his eyes as part of the National Eye Donation Fortnight. The portal will enable persons who wish to pledge to donate their eyes - www.hmis.tn.gov.in/eye-donor.

August

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched a public awareness campaign "Ek Mask-AnekZindagi" from August 1-15.

Note: The Scheme will spread awareness about wearing masks as prevention from Covid-19 infection. Establishment of Mask Banks, where

people can donate masks which in turn will be distributed free to poor people. Citizens can also donate masks through NGOs in every district/urban body.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the 'Ek Sankalp – Bujurgoke naam' campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.
- ✓ India collaborated with **Israel** country to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds.

July

1. India's rank among 10 Asia-Pacific countries in the "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control" prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)-- **eighth**.
2. **Zimbabwe** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
3. **Manodarpan** initiative has been launched by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health.

June

1. India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) comes under the purview of **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Arun Singhal as chief executive officer of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Singhal is special secretary, department of health and family welfare.

2. **DRDO** has developed a disinfection unit called Ultra Swachh.
3. The union cabinet has approved to re-establish the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy as

Subordinate Office under **Ministry of AYUSH**.

4. Name the National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies -- **Aarogyapath**.

5. **DRDO** has developed a sanitizing chamber named 'GermiKlean' to sanitise uniforms of security forces.

6. A Five-day Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene Expo was organized by industry bodies **FICCI**.

Note: The event is to create a self-reliant ecosystem in the Pharmaceuticals and Health & Hygiene Sector by ramping up domestic production. In our resolute fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, this sector has a greater significance.

7. **Uttar Pradesh** becomes the first state in the country to prepare one lakh beds for COVID-19 patients.

8. **Chhattisgarh** has launched a special campaign "Spandan" to check mental stress and depression among its police personnel.

9. **Gujarat Govt.** occupied top position in the 'Food Safety Index 2019-20 released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) among the larger state.

Jan-May

1. **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has launched the mobile application 'AYUSH Sanjivani' App and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation.

Note: The app was developed by the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY). The AYUSH Sanjivani mobile app will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact on the

prevention of COVID-19. It is expected to reach out to a target of 50 lakh people.

2. **Bengaluru** cities has launched "Pranavayu Programme" to create awareness about the respiratory health of the residents.

3. To send medical aid to five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amid COVID-19 pandemic India has initiated -- "**Mission Sagar**".

Note: In this regard, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food items, COVID related Medicines including Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams. For Maldives, 600 tonnes of food items will also be provided and for Comoros medicines related to dengue would be given. This mission is launched in coordination with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and other agencies of GOI.

4. Two scientific papers on child survival published by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative stated that the under-5 Mortality Rate in India has dropped by what percent since 2000 -- **49 per cent**.

Note: The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative has recently published two scientific papers. The initiative has given its report on district-level trends of child growth and child mortality. The findings show there were 1.04 million under-5 deaths in 2017, down from 2.24 million deaths in 2000. The child mortality rate has dropped by 49% between 2000 and 2017.

5. **National Health Authority** is the nodal agency for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

Note: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare (HFW), Harsh Vardhan to mark 1 crore treatments (milestone) of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The National Health Authority (NHA) is responsible for implementing the scheme.

6. **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched the AyushKavach app that will provide health-related tips and information about ayurvedic medicines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. World Health Organization (WHO) has released the first “The State of the World’s Nursing 2020” report amid COVID19 pandemic in partnership with Nursing and **International Council of Nurses (ICN)**.

Note: In accordance with the report, there are 28 million nurses worldwide but still, there is a global shortfall of 5.9 million. Countries facing the greatest shortfall of nurses are in Africa, South East Asia and the WHO Eastern Mediterranean region as well as some parts of Latin America. Between 2013 and 2018, nursing numbers increased by 4.7 million. More than 80% of the world’s nurses work in countries that are home to half of the world’s population.

8. **Italy** country has developed ‘iFeel-You’ bracelet for social distancing.

1. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launched ‘Suposhit Maa Abhiyan’ in **Kota, Rajasthan**.
2. **Andhra Pradesh** state ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Note: Andhra Pradesh (AP) ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN (Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan as per September 2019 progress report of NITI Aayog, “Transforming Nutrition in India: POSHAN Abhiyaan”. The 2nd anniversary of POSHAN Abhiyaan is recognized by celebrating PoshanPakhwada from 8th-22nd March 2020.

3. **Uttar Pradesh** government has set up “Team-11” comprising of as many inter-departmental committees to fight the coronavirus spread.
4. First country to close its financial markets due to the COVID 19 (Coronavirus) outbreak -- **Philippines**.

1. The COVID- 19 National Preparedness Survey 2020 was conducted in **410** districts.

Note: The COVID-19 National Preparedness Survey 2020 was conducted in 410 Districts in the Country within 3 working days beginning on March 25, 2020. The survey was conducted with responses from 410 civil servants who are providing field level leadership.

2. To fight COVID-19 Civil services associations form an initiative called ‘**Caruna**’.
3. **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has divided the health centres into 3 categories namely- COVID Care Centre, Dedicated COVID Health Centre and Dedicated COVID Hospital.
4. Name the mobile doctor booth created by the West Central Railway’s Coach Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS) -- **CHARAK**.

Important Days

August 2020

- ✓ **World Lung Cancer Day** is being observed on **1st August** to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer.
Note: August 1 to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer. The campaign was first organized in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies
- ✓ The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week celebrated annually in the first week of August from 1st to 7th of August-- "**Support Breast feeding for a healthier planet**".
Note: The day is celebrated to encourage breastfeeding and improve the babies' health around the world. The day was commenced after signing the Innocenti Declaration in August 1990.
- ✓ The World Sanskrit Day was observed annually on **Shravan Purnima (3rd August 2020)**.
Note: On the occasion Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked everyone involved in promoting, teaching and using Sanskrit language. Sanskrit is a beautiful language which has made India a repository of knowledge for many years.
- ✓ Annually World Heroshima Day is observed every year on **6th August**.
Note: Annually 6th of August marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima during World War II. The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named "Little Boy", on the town of Hiroshima in Japan.
- ✓ **National Handloom Day** is being celebrated every year on 7th August.
Note: 7th August was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on the same date in the year 1905. The objective is to generate awareness about the Handloom Industry among the public and its contribution to socio-economic development.
- ✓ United Nations observes the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples every year on **09th August**.
Note: The day is being observed to raise awareness of the needs of indigenous peoples. The **theme** of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2020 is "**COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience**".
- ✓ The World Biofuel Day is observed globally every year on **10th August**.
Note: The World Biofuel Day is observed every year to aware about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. The day also highlights the various actions taken by the Government in the Biofuel sector.
- ✓ **International Youth Day** is being celebrated every year on 12th August.
Note: This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society. The Day aims to promote the ways to engage the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.
- ✓ The theme of the International Youth Day (IYD) 2020 -- **Youth Engagement for Global Action**.
Note: This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society. The Day aims to promote the ways to engage the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.
- ✓ The 'World Elephant Day' is observed every year across the world on **12th August**.
Note: The day focuses on bringing the world together to help elephants and also inform people and organisations about the threat that an elephant faces. On 12 August, 2012, the first international Elephant Day was celebrated. Since then, it is observed annually and this day is dedicated to the huge animal protection and preservation.
- ✓ The World Organ Donation Day is observed globally every year on **13th August**.
Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people to donate organs after death.

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- ✓ The World Lizard Day is observed every year on **14th August**.
Note: Most celebrations of this holiday occur at the local level, through events organized by schools, natural history or science museums, zoos, national parks, conservation NGOs etc. World Lizard Day has not yet been taken up for serious conservation work by international agencies or organizations like the IUCN or WWF, and is focused on creating awareness of the reptiles, apparently mostly as pets.
- ✓ The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed globally every year on **19th August**.
Note: This day is celebrated to pay tribute to humanitarian personnel and those workers who lost or risked their lives while doing humanitarian service. This year is the 11th edition of World Humanitarian Day.
- ✓ The World Photography Day also known as World Photo Day is observed annually on **19th August**.
Note: The Day is celebrated to inspire photographers across the globe to share a single photo with a purpose of sharing their world to the world. The day celebrates the arts, crafts, science and history of Photography.
- ✓ Indian AkshayUrja Day or Renewable Energy Day is observed on every year on **20th August**.
Note: It is significant to promote awareness about renewable resources among people who are ignorant about the subject. Indian AkshayUrja Day was established in 2004 to support renewable energy development programs and promote its use instead of traditional sources of energy. The very first event relating to AkshayUrjaDiwas was organized in New Delhi.
- ✓ **Rajiv Gandhi** birth anniversary is celebrated as SadbhavanaDiwas or Harmony Day on 20th August every year.
Note: This year on 20th August 2020, we are going to celebrate the 76th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award in 1992, a year after his death. Every year this day is celebrated in the memory of the late Rajiv Gandhi who was the youngest Prime Minister of India at the age of 40 years.
- ✓ World Mosquito Day is observed annually on **20th August**.

Note: The Day is celebrated to raise awareness about the Causes and Prevention of Malaria and to commemorate the discovery made by British Doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit Malaria between humans.

- ✓ The World Senior Citizen Day is observed globally every year on **21st August**.
Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness about issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and the abuse of the elderly and support, honour and show appreciation to seniors and to recognize their achievements. The World Senior Citizen's Day also recognises and acknowledges the contributions of older people to society.
- ✓ International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism observed globally every year on **21st August**.
Note: The day is observed to pay tribute to the individuals across the globe who have been attacked, injured, traumatized or lost their lives because of terrorist attacks. This year, the 3rd commemoration of the day will focus on the response to the pandemic and cancellation of many memorials and commemorations, it is critical to take the time to remember and honour the victims of terrorism.
- ✓ The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition observed globally every year on **23 August**.
Note: The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. The day was designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.
- ✓ The World Water Week 2020 is observed as the World Water Week at Home (WWWeek at Home) from **24th to 28th August 2020**.
Note: The theme for World Water Week 2020 at Home is '**Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action**'.
- ✓ The Women's Equality Day is being observed in the United States on **26th August**.
Note: This was 100th anniversary of the Women's Equality Day. The day is celebrated to commemorate American women getting the constitutional right to vote.
- ✓ The National Sports Day is observed every year on **29th August**.
Note: The first National Sports Day was celebrated on 29th August 2012, on the birth

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anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand who was the star of hockey team of India.

- ✓ The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed globally on **29th August**.

Note: The day aims to increase awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

July 2020

- ✓ National Postal Worker Day is observed every year on **1st July**.

- ✓ National Chartered Accountants Day is celebrated every year on **1st July**.

- ✓ The theme of the National Doctor's Day 2020 which is celebrated every year in the country on 1st July-- **Lessen the mortality of COVID 19**.

Note: The theme for National Doctor's Day 2020 is "Lessen the mortality of COVID 19" and includes awareness about asymptomatic hypoxia and early aggressive therapy.

- ✓ World Sports Journalists Day is observed globally every year on **2nd July**.

- ✓ The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the **first Saturday of July**.

- ✓ International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) celebrated Dharma Chakra Day on **4th July**.

- ✓ World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is observed every year on **7th July**.

- ✓ World Population Day is observed globally every year on **11th July**.

Note: This year theme of World Population Day 2020: Putting the brakes on COVID-19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls.

- ✓ The United Nations celebrates World Malala Day to honor the young activist, Malala Yousafzai every year on **12th July**.

- ✓ World Youth Skills Day is observed every year on **15th July**.

- ✓ World Day for International Justice is observed every year on **17th July**.

- ✓ United Nations celebrates World Chess Day globally every year on **20th July**.

June 2020

- ✓ The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed every year on **29th August**.

Note: The day is being observed to express deep concern about the rise in **enforced or involuntary disappearances** in different regions of the world including the incidents of arrest, detention and abduction.

- ✓ To mark the anniversary of man's first historic landing on the moon the Space Exploration Day is celebrated every year on **20th July**.

- ✓ Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated every year on **18th July** by the United Nations.

- ✓ National Broadcasting Day is observed every year all over India on **23rd July**.

- ✓ Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on **26th July**.

- ✓ The theme of the 2020 World Hepatitis Day (WHD) celebrated every year on 28th July -- **Hepatitis-Free Future**.

- ✓ In a bid to promote conservation, raise awareness and encourage sustainability, every year World Nature Conservation Day is observed on **28th July**.

However, this year a global theme has not been decided due to the pandemic.

- ✓ International Tiger Day is observed every year on which date across the globe to create awareness about tiger conservation -- **29th July**.

- ✓ United Nations observes 30th July every year as **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** days.

Note: The 2020 theme for the World Day Against Trafficking: "Committed to the Cause – Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking".

- ✓ The International Day of Friendship is observed every year on **30th July**.

- ✓ The International Day for the conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem is observed every year on **26th July**.

- ✓ **World Milk Day 2020** observed every globally on 1st June **2020**.
- ✓ The theme of the Global Day of Parents 2020 celebrated every year on 1st June-- **Appreciate all parents throughout the world.**
- ✓ World Bicycle Day is celebrated every year on **3rd June**.
- ✓ International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed globally every year on **4th June**.
- ✓ The theme of the World Environment Day 2020, celebrated every year on June 5 -- **Celebrate Biodiversity.**
 - the day was hosted by China under the theme “Air Pollution”.
- ✓ Every year June 2nd is celebrated as the **International Sex Workers Day.**
- ✓ The International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing 2020 is celebrated on **5th June**.
- ✓ World Pest Day or World Pest Awareness Day is celebrated every year on **6th June**.
- ✓ United Nations Russian Language Day is celebrated every year on **6th June**.
- ✓ The World Ocean Day is celebrated every year on **8th June**.
 - This year, the World Oceans Day is celebrated under the theme ‘Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean’.
- ✓ World Brain Tumour Day 2020 was observed on **8th June**.
- ✓ 9th June of Every year is celebrated as the **World Accreditation Day.**
 - The Theme of World Accreditation Day 2020 is “Accreditation: Improving food safety”
- ✓ The World Day against Child Labour is observed every year on **12th June**.
 - **Note:** The theme this year is, “COVID-19 - Protect children from child labour now, more than ever”.
- ✓ International Albinism Awareness Day is observed every year on **13th June**.
 - Theme of the 5th anniversary of International Albinism Awareness Day is "Made to Shine."
- ✓ The World Blood Donor Day is observed on every on **14th June**.
 - This year (2020) the World Blood Donor Day is celebrated under the theme ‘Safe Blood Saves Lives’.
- ✓ Every year, the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is celebrated on **15th June**.
 - The theme of the ‘World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2020 is "Lifting up Voices"’.
- ✓ World Wind Day or Global Wind is observed every year on 15th June. NThe International Day of Family Remittances is observed every year on **16th June** by the United Nations.
- ✓ World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2020 observed every year on 17th June. The theme of 2020 is **Food. Feed.Fibre. – the links between consumption and land.**
- ✓ Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed globally every year on **18th June**.
- ✓ World Hydrography Day is observed globally every year on **21st June**.
 - World Hydrography Day 2020 theme is “Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies”.
- ✓ World Music Day is observed globally every year on **21st June**.
- ✓ The theme of the International Day of Yoga 2020 -- **Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home.**
 - The theme of International Day of Yoga 2020 is “Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home”.
- ✓ The United Nations Public Service Day is observed globally every year **23rd June**.
- ✓ The International Widows Day is observed globally every year on **23rd June**.
- ✓ The theme of Day of the Seafarer, 2020 celebrated every year on 25th June -- **Seafarers are Key Workers.**
- ✓ The theme of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2020 observed every year globally on 26th June -- **Better Knowledge for Better Care.**
- ✓ International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed every year on **26th June**.
- ✓ National Statistics Day 2020’ celebrated every year on **29th June**.

- "Good Health and Well Being and Gender Equality", is the theme for National Statistics Day 2020.

- ✓ The **UN's International Day of Parliamentarism** is observed globally every year on **30th June**.

May 2020

- ✓ International Labour Day or May Day is celebrated every year on **1st May**.
- ✓ World Tuna Day is observed globally every year on **2nd May**.
- ✓ World Press Freedom Day is observed globally every year on **3rd May**.
 - The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2020 is "Journalism without Fear or Favour".
- ✓ International Firefighters' Day is observed globally every year on 4th May.
- ✓ International Day of the Midwife is observed globally every year on **5th May**.
 - The theme for 2020 International Day of the Midwife is Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise, unite – our time is NOW!
- ✓ World Hand Hygiene Day observed globally on **5th May**.
 - The theme of the campaign is "SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands".
- ✓ World Asthma Day is observed every year on **1st Tuesday of May**.
 - The theme for 2020 is 'Enough Asthma Deaths'. World Asthma Day is annually organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).
- ✓ The World Athletics Day is observed every year on **7th May**.
- ✓ To increase awareness about athletics and to encourage youth to take up sports World Athletics Day is observed every year on **7th May**.
- ✓ World Red Cross Day is observed globally every year on **8th May**.
- ✓ World Thalassaemia Day is observed globally every year on **8th May**.
- ✓ World Migratory Bird Day is observed globally every year on **9th May**.
 - This time the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is "Birds Connect Our World".
- ✓ Mother's Day is celebrated every year on **Second Sunday of May (9th May 2020)**
- ✓ National Technology Day is celebrated every year on **11th May**.
- ✓ International Nurse Day is observed globally on every year **12th May**.
- ✓ Armed Forces Day is observed every year on **___third Saturday in May (16th May 2020)**.
- ✓ The International Day of Light is celebrated every year on **16th May**.
- ✓ World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed globally every year on **17th May**.
 - The theme of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day of 2020: "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"
- ✓ World Hypertension Day is observed globally every year on **17th May**.
- ✓ International Museum Day is celebrated every year on **18th May**.
 - The International Museum Day 2020 was celebrated with the theme "Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion".
- ✓ World Bee Day is observed globally every year on **20th May**.
- ✓ International Tea Day is observed globally every year on **21st May**.
- ✓ World Metrology Day is observed globally every year on **20th May**.
- ✓ Anti Terrorism Day 2020 is observed every year in India on **21st May**.
 - **Note:** The day marks the death anniversary of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 21 May 1991.
- ✓ World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is celebrated every year on **May 21**.
- ✓ The United Nations celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity every year on **22nd May**.

- ✓ The United Nations observes International Day to End Obstetric Fistula every year on **23 May**.
 - The theme for International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 2020 is “End gender inequality! End health inequities! End Fistula now!”.
- ✓ World Turtle Day is being celebrated every year on **23rd May**.
- ✓ International Missing Children’s Day is observed globally every year on **25th May**.
- ✓ World Thyroid Day is observed globally every year on **25th May**.
- ✓ International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed globally every year on **29th May**.
 - The Theme of day for 2020 is “Women in Peacekeeping: A Key to Peace”.
- ✓ International Day of Action for Women’s Health is observed globally every year on **28th May**.
- ✓ World Hunger Day is observed globally every year on **28th May**.
- ✓ International Everest Day is being observed every year on **29th May**.
- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates World No Tobacco Day every year on **31st May**.

April 2020

- ✓ **World Autism Awareness Day** is observed every year on **April 2**.
 - The theme for 2020 is “The Transition to Adulthood”.
- ✓ The **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action** is observed every year on **4th April**.
- ✓ The **57th Edition of National Maritime Day (NMD)** was celebrated on **April 5, 2020**.
- ✓ The **International Day of Conscience (IDC)** is observed for the 1st time on **5th April 2020**.
- ✓ The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSP) is celebrated every year on **6th April**.
- ✓ The International Romani Day is observed every year on **8th April**.
 - **Note:** The day is observed annually to raise awareness of the issues faced by Romani people and to celebrate Romani culture.
- ✓ The **World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated every year on **10th April**.
 - Theme of the day this year 2020 is “**Enhancing the scope of Homeopathy in Public Health**”.
- ✓ The **Play True Day** is observed every year on **9th April**.
 - **Note:** The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) celebrated the Play True Day 2020.
 - The theme of this year is ‘Play Safe on Play True Day 2020’.
- ✓ **National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD)** is celebrated annually on **11th April**.
- ✓ The **international day of human space flight** is observed across the world annually on **12th April**.
- ✓ National Pet Day is celebrated every year on **11th April**.
- ✓ The **World Voice Day (WVD)** is celebrated every year on **16th April**.
 - The Theme of the day for the year 2020 is “**FOCUS ON YOUR VOICE**”.
- ✓ The International Day of Mathematics (IDM) was celebrated for the first time on **March 14, 2020**.
 - Theme for the year 2020 is “**Mathematics is Everywhere**”.
- ✓ **World Haemophilia Day** is celebrated worldwide on **17th April**.
 - The theme of the **World Haemophilia Day 2020** is “**Get+involved**”.
- ✓ The World Art Day is celebrated every year on **15th April**.
- ✓ World Heritage Days celebrated every year on **18th April**.
 - Theme for the year 2020 is “**Shared Culture, Shared Heritage and Shared Responsibility**”.
- ✓ **World Liver Day (WLD)** is observed every year on **19th April**.

- ✓ **World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)** is celebrated all across the world on April 21.
- ✓ The **National Civil Service Day** is celebrated every year on **21st April**.
- ✓ **Mother Earth Day** is celebrated every year on **22nd April**.
 - The theme for **Earth Day 2020** is **“Climate Action”**.
- ✓ World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated every year on **23rd April**.
- ✓ Every year the United Nation Celebrates the UN English Language Day and UN Spanish Language Day on **23rd April**.
- ✓ The **World Day of Laboratory Animals** has been observed annually on **24th April**.
- ✓ National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) is observed annually on **24th April**.
- ✓ Every year 25th April is celebrated as **World Malaria Day**.
 - The theme of World Malaria Day 2020 is “Zero Malaria Starts with Me”
- ✓ World Intellectual Property Day established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is celebrated every year on **26th April**.
 - The theme of this year is **“Innovate for a Green Future”**
- ✓ International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on **26th April**.
- ✓ 25th April of every year is celebrated as **World Penguin Day**.
- ✓ The **World Day for Safety and Health at Work (WDSHW)** is observed every year on **28th April**.
 - Theme of the Day for the year 2020 is Stop the pandemic: Safety and health at work can save lives.

March 2020

- ✓ The Zero Discrimination Day 2020 was observed globally on **1st March 2020**.
 - The theme for 2020 is **“Zero Discrimination against Women & Girls”**.
- ✓ The **World Civil Defence Day** was observed on **1st March 2020**.
 - **Note:** To create awareness on the self-protection & preventive measures to be taken in the event of disasters or accidents and pay tribute to the efforts, sacrifices of the national services responsible for the fight against disasters.
 - Theme of the WCDD 2020: “Civil Defence and a first aider in every home”.
- ✓ The World Wildlife Day is celebrated around the world on **3rd March**.
 - **Note:** The World Wildlife Day (WWD) has been celebrated based on the theme “Sustaining all life on Earth”.
- ✓ The World Hearing Day (WHD) is observed annually on **3rd March**.
 - Theme of WHD 2020: Hearing for life: Don't let hearing loss limit you. The theme ensures that the people with hearing loss are able to achieve their full potential.
- ✓ The National safety day is observed every year on **4th March**.
 - The Theme of National Safety day 2020 is “Enhance Health & Safety Performance by Use of Advanced Technology”.
- ✓ Janaushadhi week was celebrated throughout the country from **1st March to 7th March 2020**.
 - **Note:** The main aim of the week is to provide various activities like health checkup Camp, free doctor consultation, free medicine distribution is hosted by Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
- ✓ The International Women's Day (IWD) 2020 was observed globally on **March 8, 2020**.
 - The 2020 theme for IWD was “I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights”.
- ✓ The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day** is observed every year on **10th March**.
- ✓ The World Kidney Day is observed globally on **12th March**.
- ✓ The World Sleep Day was observed on **13th March 2020**.

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- The theme of the year 2020: “Better Sleep, Better Life, Better Planet”.
- ✓ The Pi Day is celebrated every year on **14th March**.
 - Pi (Greek letter “ π ”) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant and its value up to five decimal places 3.14159. Coincidentally, March 14 is also Physicist Albert Einstein’s birthday.
- ✓ The World Consumer Day 2020 was observed on **March 15, 2020**.
 - The theme of the year 2020 is ‘The Sustainable Consumer.’
- ✓ National Vaccination Day is observed every year on **16th March 2020**.
- ✓ The Global Recycling Day 2020 was observed on **18th March 2020**.
 - The Global Recycling Foundation announces “**Recycling Heroes**” as the theme for third Global Recycling Day. The main aim of the day is to turn ‘waste’ into a valuable resource.
- ✓ World Sparrow Day (2020) is observed every year on **March 20**.
- ✓ The theme of the World Sparrow Day 2020 is **I LOVE Sparrows**.
- ✓ The “International Day of Happiness” is celebrated worldwide every year on **20th March**.
 - The theme this year is “Happiness for All Together”.
- ✓ The World Poetry Day is observed every year on **21st March**.
- ✓ The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on **21st March**.
- ✓ The International Day of Forests (IDF) is observed annually on **21st March**.
 - **Note:** The theme of the day this year is “**Forests and Biodiversity**”.
- ✓ The World Down Syndrome Day (WSDS) is observed annually on **21st March**.
 - **Note:** The day has been observed based on the theme ‘**We Decide**’ by the UN.
- ✓ The World Puppetry Day is observed annually on **21st March**.
 - **Note:** The day was celebrated with the aim to raise interest and encourage the kids and youngsters towards the comic-art-entertainment form.
- ✓ The International Day of Nowruz was celebrated on **21st March**.
 - **Note:** The word Nowruz (new day) is the name of the Iranian new year or Persian new year which is celebrated worldwide by various ethnolinguistic groups.
- ✓ The World Water Day is observed globally every year on **March 22**.
 - **Note:** The day is observe to highlight the importance of freshwater. Theme of the year 2020: “**Water and Climate Change**”.
- ✓ The World Meteorological Day (WMD 2020) is observed every year on **23rd March**.
- ✓ The theme of WMD 2020 is “**Climate and Water**”.
- ✓ The World Tuberculosis Day is observed globally on **24th March**.
- ✓ The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed on **25th March**.
 - **Note:** The 2020 Theme of the day is “**Confronting Slavery’s Legacy of Racism Together**”.
- ✓ World Theatre Day (WTD) is celebrated every year on **27th March**.
 - The theme of “**Theatre and a Culture of Peace**”.

February 2020

- ✓ The **World Wetlands Day** was observed on **February 2, 2020**.
 - **Note:** World Wetlands Day (WWD) was observed to spread awareness and to conserve the wetlands all over the world. The of this year day is “Wetlands and Biodiversity”.
- The theme highlights the importance of biodiversity conservation, which conveys nearly 40% of the world’s plant & animal species live or breed on wetlands.
- ✓ The **World Cancer Day** was observed on **February 4**.

- **Note:** The World Cancer Day is organized by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), Geneva, Switzerland, every year on February 4 to raise awareness to encourage cancer's prevention, detection and treatment.
- The primary goal of World Cancer Day is to reduce the illness & death caused by cancer. The theme of WCD from 2019-21 is "I am and I will".
- ✓ International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation 2020 was observed on **February 6, 2020.**
 - **Note:** The International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was observed.
 - It was observed since 2003, as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation.
 - The day spreads the awareness about FGM which is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.
- ✓ The National Deworming Day (NDD) was observed across the country on **February 10, 2020.**
 - **Note:** The day was organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
 - This will be followed by the mop-up day on February 17, 2020. The objective of the day is to deworm children and adolescents to reduce the prevalence of parasitic worms in the intestine.
- ✓ The World Pulses Day was observed on **Feb 10.**
 - **Note:** World Pulses day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as global food.
 - World Pulses day has been designated on Feb 10 every year since 2019 by the 73rd session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on December 20, 2018.
- ✓ International Day of Women and Girls in Science was observed on **February 11.**
 - **Note:** The day was celebrated to achieve equal participation & access to women's and girls in science.
 - The theme of this year is "Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth".
 - The theme aims to encourage women and girls to opt for science.
- ✓ The World Unani Day was celebrated on **February 11.**
 - **Note:** The day marks the birthday of great Unani scholar and social reformer "Hakim Ajmal Khan".
 - Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh was the chief guest of the 4th Unani day function organized by AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) Ministry, New Delhi, India.
- ✓ National Productivity Day 2020 was observed on **February 12, 2020.**
 - National Productivity Council (NPC) comes under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
 - NPC increases productivity, competitiveness, profits, augments safety and ensures better quality.
- ✓ To commemorate the birth anniversary of the father of evolutionary biology Darwin Day was observed on **12th February.**
 - **Note:** Darwin Day was celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the father of evolutionary biology, Charles Darwin.
- ✓ The World Radio Day (WRD) was observed on **February 13.**
 - **Note:** World Radio Day (WRD) is celebrated all over the world with the theme "Radio and Diversity".
 - In the year 1924, Radio was 1st introduced to India by Madras Presidency Club.
- ✓ National Women day was observed on **February 13.**
 - **Note:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of independence activist, Sarojini Naidu (also named Nightingale of India), every year India observes February 13 as it is National Women day.

- It should be noted that the **International Women's Day** is observed on 8th March annually.
- ✓ The World Pangolin Day was observed across the world on **15th February (3rd Saturday of Feb)**.
- ✓ **Soil Health Card Day** was observed across the country on **19th February**.
 - The scheme aims at **issuing soil health cards** to farmers every 2 years to identify the **nutritional deficiencies in the soil**.
- ✓ **World Day of Social Justice** is observed annually on **20th February**.
 - **Note:** The day creates awareness against social injustice regarding gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.
 - Theme of this day this year is “Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice”.
 - The theme aims to uphold the principles of social justice by promoting gender equality, or the rights of indigenous people or migrants.
- ✓ The **International Mother Language Day (IMLD)** is observed annually on **21st February**.
 - **Note:** International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on February 21 since 2000 as a worldwide observance of UNESCO (United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation).
 - The day creates an awareness on linguistic, cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism and in India the day is observed as ‘MatribhashaDiwas’.
 - Theme of IMLD for the year 2020 is “Languages without Border”.
- ✓ The World Thinking Day is celebrated on **22nd February**.
 - **Note:** Each year on February 22 Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from 150 countries celebrate World Thinking Day.
 - The theme of World Thinking Day 2020 is “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion”.
- ✓ The Central Excise Day is celebrated every year on **24th February**.
- ✓ Right to Protein, a national-level public health initiative, has launched India's 1st Protein Day on **27 February 2020**.
 - **Note:** It is to raise awareness about the health benefits of protein.
 - Theme of the Protein Day 2020: ProteinMeinKyaHai. The theme aims to include proteins in our every meal.
- ✓ World Non-Governmental Organization Day was observed annually on **27th February**.
 - **Note:** The human Right activists & all individuals celebrated World NGO Day 2020, to raise awareness about the NGO sector and to encourage people worldwide who are involved & dedicatedly working for a good cause.
- ✓ National Science Day (NSD) was observed all over India on **February 28, 2020**.
 - **Note:** This day marks the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir ChandraShekhara Venkata Raman (also called Sir C V Raman) on 28th February 1928 for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.
 - In 1986, the Government of India (GOI) declared Feb 28 as National Science Day. Theme of the NSD 2020: “Women in Science”.
- ✓ Rare Disease Day (RDD) is an observance held on the **last day of February**.
 - **Note:** This year marked the 13th observance of International Rare Disease Day, which was observed on February 29, 2020.
 - The day creates an awareness of rare diseases and improves access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases & their families.
 - Slogan of RDD 2020: “Rare is Many. Rare is Strong. Rare is Proud”.

January 2020

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- ✓ The **World Braille Day** is observed across the world every year on **4th January**.
 - **Note:** The day marks the birth anniversary of Louis Braille. He was the inventor of Braille script or Braille code.
- ✓ **National Youth Day (YuvaDiwas)** is celebrated in India on **12th January**.
 - The theme of the 23rd National Youth Festival 2020 is “FIT YOUTH FIT INDIA”.
- ✓ The **National Youth Festival** will increase the EK BHARAT SHRESTHA BHARAT bonding and it will prove as a The World Hindi day being celebrated across the world every year on **10th January**.
 - **Note:** Hindi is the fourth most spoken language in the world.
 - The first World Hindi Conference was organized in Nagpur on 10th January 1975.
- ✓ The **National Hindi Divas** is being observed on **14th September** every year across India. learning platform for everyone.
- ✓ **Armed Forces Veterans Day** is celebrated every year on **14th January**.
 - Every year, January 14 is marked as Armed Forces Veteran Day as the Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Commander-in-chief of Indian Armed Forces retired on the day.
- ✓ In India, the **Indian Army Day** is observed every year on **15th January**.
- ✓ The **15th raising day of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** observed on **19th January 2020**.
- ✓ **National Immunization Day (NID)** also known as ‘**Polio Ravivar**’ was observed on **19th January 2020**.
- ✓ The **National Martyr’s Day** is observed annually on **30th January**.
 - This day also marks the 72nd death anniversary of India’s Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on Jan 30, 1948 by Nathuram Vinayak Godse.
- ✓ The **National Voters’ Day** is celebrated every year in India on **25th January**.
 - The theme for the 10th edition of National Voters’ Day is ‘Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy’.
- ✓ **World Leprosy Day** is observed annually on **last Sunday of January**.
 - This year, the day was observed on January 26, 2020. In India, it is celebrated on January 30 every year to commemorate the death of Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on this day in 1948.
 - This year’s theme is “Leprosy isn’t what you think”
- ✓ India celebrates **National Girl Child Day** every year on **24th January**.
 - The day was observed for the first time in 2008 as an initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India.

Important Committees and Commissions in India

- ✓ Committees and commissions are formed for studying a problem/issues and then putting forth recommendations to resolve those issue. The govt can either accept or reject the findings/recommendations of the committee/ commission:

Committee/Commission	Head	Objective
Justice Mukandakam Sharma Committee	Justice Mukandakam Sharma	The aim is to review the draft of the National Code for Good Governance in sports.

General Shekatkar Committee	General Shekatkar	Committee of Experts on rebalancing defence expenditure.
Naresh Chandra Committee	Naresh Chandra	Report on the Taskforce on National security
Prakash Tandon Committee(1994)	Prakash Tandon	Unification of existing railway service
Rajat Bhargav Committee	Rajat Bhargav Committee	Panel on petrochemical investment
H R Khan Committee	H R Khan Committee	Code for responsible lending in Micro Credit
Tapan Ray Committee	Tapan Ray	It will review the regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework of Core Investment Companies (CIC)
Harsh Vardhan Committee	Harsh Vardhan	It will examine the existing state of mortgage securitization in India and Development of Housing Finance Securitization
Monetary Policy Committee/Shaktikanta Das Committee	Shaktikanta Das	It will accelerate the GDP growth of the country
High-level Committee/Nandan Nilekani Committee	Nandan Nilekani	It will suggest measure to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments in the country
High-level and Bezbaruah Committee	M.P. Bezbaruah	It will review the implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord
Expert Committee/UK Sinha Committee	UK Shina	It will look into the various challenges faced by MSMEs
National Implementation Committee/Rajnath Singh Committee	Rajnath Singh	It will look into the multiple challenges faced by MSMEs
Rajiv Kumar Committee	Rajiv Kumar	It will look at selling as many as 149 small and gas fields of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output.
Injeti Srinivas High-Level committee	Injeti Srinivas	It will review the existing framework and guide, and formulate a roadmap for a coherent policy on Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR)
Ethics Committee /Lal Krishna Advani	Lal Krishna Advani	It is a Committee of Lok Sabha which examines complaints related to any unethical conduct by members of Lower House of Parliament
Bhaskar Ramamurthy Committee	Bhaskar Ramamurthy	It will suggest changes to JEE(Advanced)in the wake of an

		inadequate number of candidates qualifying the entrance test.
B Sesikera Committee	B Sesikera	To review food labelling standards
High-level Empowered Committee	Cabinet Secretary	It will suggest measures to address issues of Stressed Thermal Power Projects.
Sub-Committee/Dr. NilimaKshrisagar Committee	Dr NilimaKshrisagar	It will evaluate 324 irrational FDCs in three months
Group of Minister(GOM)and High-Level Committee/Rajiv Gauba	Rajiv Gauba	It will deliberate and make a recommendation for a separate penal provision on incidents of mob violence
13-member Committee/Ravinder H Dholakia Committee	Ravinder H Dholakia.	It will review Sub-National Accounts to upgrade the norms for the computation of economic data.
Sunil Mehta Committee	Sunil Mehta	It will examine setting up of Asset Reconstruction /Management Company for faster resolution of stressed assets of PSB
Minorities Commission and S.C., S.T. Commission	Mohammed Qamaruddin	For Minorities and S.C., S.T.
14-member panel/Umesh Sinha Committee	Umesh Sinha	It will study the use of social media and other digital platforms in the voting and give suggestions on how to adapt the Model Code of Conduct to these changes.
Manmohan Juneja Committee	Manmohan Juneja	The panel will revisit "Schedule VII of Companies Act, 2013, based on references received from stakeholders, including ministries and department of centre and states, members of Parliament, member of state legislatures and civil societies".
Defense Planning Committee(DCP)/AjitDoval Committee	AjitDoval	It will suggest measures to reform the process of higher defence planning and national security strategy.
Injeti Srinivas Committee	Injeti Srinivas	It will suggest improvements in the National Sports Development Code and functioning of Sports Federations
Negotiation Committee	A representative from Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation	On Mahanadi & its Tributaries
Timothy Gonsalves Committee	Timothy Gonsalves	The committee suggested creating 20% reservation seats for the girl students in IITs
Vinod Rai Committee	Vinod Rai	To manage the Indian cricket board

N.S Kang Committee	N.S Kang	It will frame uniform rules for the states to avoid delay in the fast implementation and reduce hindrance of the Rights of Person with Disabilities (RPD) Act in the country
N.K. Singh Committee	N.K. Singh	It will review the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management(FRBM)
Amitabh Chaudhry Committee	Amitabh Chaudhry	To analysis the existing framework of IRDA-kinked and non-linked insurance product regulation
Afzal Amanullah Committee	Afzal Amanullah	It suggests ways to improve India's Haj policy. It also looks into the issue of subsidy to the pilgrimage.
H. R. Nagendra Committee	H. R. Nagendra	The objective is to prepare a Yoga Protocol for Diabetes Control
Dr Pritam Singh Committee	Dr. Pritam Singh	The aim is to study the setting up of a Defence procurement organization
Meena Hemchandra Committee	Meena Hemchandra	It reviews the threats inherent in the existing and emerging technology also consider the adoption of various security standards and protocols, interface.
Partha Mukhopadhyay Committee	Partha Mukhopadhyay	It suggests the necessary legal and policy framework protecting the interests of the migrants in the country.
Arvind Panagariya Committee	Arvind Panagariya	It will examine the working of the regulatory bodies Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) and Central Council of Homeopathy(CCH)
AK Bajaj Committee	AK Bajaj	It will address issues related to the management of the waters of Krishna River between warring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
Lt. Gen. D.B. Shekatkar Committee	Lt. Gen. D. B. Shekatkar	It will Reform the military and improve financial management.
Justice Shri Girdhar Malviya Committee	Justice Shri Girdhar Malviya	To prepare draft Ganga Act
Kewal Kumar Sharma Committee	Kewal Kumar Sharma	To review the recommendations made by the University Grants Commission (UGC)panel on implementation of the 7 th pay commission in educational institutions
Mr Ashok Dalwai Committee	Mr Ashok Dalwai	To establish a regulated wholesale agri-market at a distance of every 80 km
Dr R B Barman Committee	Dr R B Barman (Chairman of the national statistical	The objective is to lay down technical standards for the performance of core services and other services

	Commission)	
Arvind Panagariya Committee	Arvind Panagariya	To compute timely data on the employment situation in the country
Madhav Chitale Committee	Madhav Chitale	The objective is to recommend measures for de-siltation of river Ganga
Smt. Rina Mitra Committee	Smt. Rina Mitra Special secretary(internal security)in the ministry of Home affairs.	It examines the rules which allow free movement of Indians and Myanmar Citizen.
Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan Committee	Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan	To draft the national education
Uday Kotak Committee	Uday Kotak	It will suggest improvement in the standards of corporate governance of listed companies
Pradeep Kumar Committee	Pradeep Kumar	It will look at the stressed assets of the banking sector
CK Khanna Committee	CK Khanna	The objective is to support staff of the Indian team and then decide in the contracts that will hand over to the coaches
Pradeep Kumar Shina Committee	Pradeep Kumar Sinha	To select the national anti-profiteering authority
Usha Nath Banerjee Committee	Usha Nath Banerjee	Deal with the players' transfer dispute.'
Justice B N Srikrishna Committee	Justice B.N. Srikrishna	It is an expert committee to study various issues relating to data protection.
Renuka Chowdhury Committee	Renuka Chowdhury	According to the committee, Genetically modified(G.M.) crop should be introduced only after biosafety, socio-economics evaluation
TarunRamadorai Committee	TarunRamadorai	Rights-based privacy framework in household finance

India's Ranking in various Indices

Indexes	Released by	India's Rank	Top Ranking Country
Human Capital Index 2019	Human Capital Index is released by the World Bank as a part of The World Development Report.	115	Singapore
Global Talent Competition Index,	It is launched by INSEAD, a partner and sponsor of the United Nation's Sustainable Development	72	Switzerland

2019	Goals (SDGs), Davos, Switzerland.		
The Human Development Index (HDI), 2019	United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.	129	Norway, Switzerland, Ireland occupied the top three positions
UN World Happiness Report, 2020	Sustainable Development Solution Network	144	Finland
Ease of Doing Business, 2019	Published by World Bank	63	New Zealand
Global Gender Gap Report, 2020	Published by the World Economic Forum (WEF)	112	Iceland
Global Competitive Report, 2019	Published by the World Economic Forum (WEF)	68	Singapore
World Economic Outlook, 2020	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	This year it has analyzed the impact of COVID-19 on the world economy. According to this report, India's growth is expected to dip to 1.9% in 2020 and rebound 07.4% in 2021.	----
Global Peace Index, 2019	Released by Australian think tank Institute for Economics & Peace	141	Iceland
Global Innovation Index, 2019	Published by Cornell University, INSEAD and The UN World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)	52	Switzerland
Global Liveability Index	Published by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	New Delhi lowest Rank 118	Vienna (Austria)
Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index, 2019:	World Economic Forum (WEF)	India is on the 34th place	Spain secured the top spot
Global Inequality Crisis Report	Oxfam international	Key Points: The world had 2,153 billionaires in 2019 The world's richest 1%	----

		have more than twice as much wealth as 6.9 billion people.	
World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Sans Frontieres	142	Norway
Corruption Perception Index, 2019	Transparency International	80	Denmark
Global Terrorism Index, 2020	Institution of Economic and Peace	India 7th worst Terrorism affected country.	----
Global Hunger Index, 2019	Released by Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe	102	----
International Intellectual Property index, 2020	Released by US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center	40	The US, UK, Germany, France and Sweden are top five economies
Global Democracy Index, 2019	Released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	51	Norway
Global Climate Risk Index, 2019	Germanwatch	5	Worst affected country Japan, Philippines and Germany
Climate Change Performance Index, 2019	The CCPI is published by Germanwatch, Climate Action Network International and the New Climate Institute.	9	Top 3 spots have remained unoccupied as none of the countries assessed is already on a path compatible with Paris Climate Targets. Sweden on 4th Spot
World Digital Competitiveness, 2019	International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Center	48	The United States of America
Good Governance Index	Released by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, and the Centre for Good Governance.	112	Iceland
Global Energy Transition Index, 2020	World Economic Forum(WEF)	74	Sweden

Asia Power Index	Lowy institute	4	The United States remained to be pre-eminent power in Asia
Inclusive Internet Index, 2020	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	46	Sweden
Global Social Mobility Index, 2020	World Economic Forum (WEF)	76 out of 82 countries	Denmark
World Air Quality Report, 2019	It is released by IQAir and Greenpeace	India ranked 5th in the most polluted cities in the world, and Bangladesh is the most polluted country in the world.	

Military Exercises

Name of Exercise	Few Points to Remember
Indo–Thai CORPAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy. • IN Dornier arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, on September 5, 2019, for the conference for the 28th cycle of Indo-Thai CORPAT. • The CORPAT is genuinely reflective of the strong desire for the peaceful Indian Ocean safeguarded through good maritime order in the region.
SITMEX 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime exercise amongst Singapore, Thailand, and India. • It is being held from May 16 to May 22, 2019. It was first initiated in 1993. • The aim is to enhance interoperability, strengthen mutual trust, and build greater synergy to address shared maritime concerns among both navies.
MAITREE-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint military exercise between India and Thailand. • India and Thailand conducted the military exercise from 16-29 September at Foreign Training Node, Umroi, in Meghalaya • The contingents of Indian Army and Royal Thailand Army (RTA) comprising of 50 soldiers each will participate in the exercise.
YudhAbhyas 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint military exercise between Indian and U.S. armies from 05-18 September 2019. • This will be overall 15th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries • It will result in a higher degree of joint manship that will further facilitate interoperability between forces of both countries to meet any unforeseen situation.
Tiger Triumph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first-ever tri-service joint exercise between India and the United

	<p>States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exercise is being conducted from 13th-21st November 2019. • The exercise will be conducted off Visakhapatnam and Kakinada coasts in Andhra Pradesh • It aims to develop interoperability for conducting HADR operations.
Malabar 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime exercise between India, Japan, and the United States. • It is the 23rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise MALABAR. • It began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S. • Then it got permanently expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.
Counter-Terrorism Table-Top Exercise (CT-TTX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First counter-terrorism exercise for "Quad" countries (U.S., India, Japan, and Australia). Between November 21, 2019, and November 22, 2019.
TSENTR 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the Russian Armed Forces' annual training cycle. • Along with Russia, military contingents from China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan will take part. • The exercise aims at evolving drills of the participating armies and practising them in the fight against international terrorism, thereby ensuring military security in the strategic Central Asian region. • It will comprise two modules. • The first module will include counter-terror operations, repelling airstrikes, reconnaissance operations, and defensive measures, while the second will focus on offensive operations.
Nomadic Elephant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India-Mongolian joint military training exercise. • The 14th edition of India-Mongolia joint military exercise is being held from 5th to October 18 at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. • The Mongolian Army is being represented by officers and troops of the elite 084 Airborne-Special Task Battalion while Indian Army is being represented by a battalion of the RAJPUTANA RIFLES Regiment • It evolves various tactical drills in counter-terror environments such as Convoy Protection Drill, Room Intervention Drills, Ambush & Counter Ambush Drills.
BIMSTEC-DMEx 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise is a three-day exercise • It was attended by five out of seven member countries of BIMSTEC • The objective of the exercise is to discuss, standardization of protocol, formulation of policy and guidelines for the protection of heritage sites during a disaster and their conservation post-disaster • National Disaster Response Force Hosted BIMSTEC-DMEx 2020
Exercise SHAKTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biennial exercise between armies of India and France. • The edition will be conducted from October 31, 2019, to November 13, 2019, in Rajasthan, India. • The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between the two Armies. • The exercise will focus on Counter-Terrorism operations in a semi-desert terrain under United Nations Mandate. • The exercise will also have a 36 hours long validation, which involves

	neutralization of terrorists in the village hideout.
Exercise Garuda-VI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise between Indian and French Air Force. • It was hosted by French Air Force (FAF) from 01 to July 12 19 at Mont-de-Marsan France, was successfully completed. • The participating aircraft included four Su-30 MKI fighters besides one IL-78 and two C-17 aircraft. • It fosters a closer relationship between India and France so as to promote interoperability through the exchange of knowledge and experience. • It was unique, fascinating, and timeless learning at the exercise for the IAF contingent.
Exercise Surya Kiran- XIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint military exercise between India- Nepal. • It is conducted in Nepal from 3rd- 16th December 2019. • The 13th edition of the exercise was held in Uttarakhand, India.
Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint military exercise between India-Sri Lanka. • The 7th edition of India-Sri Lanka joint military training exercise Mitra Shakti– 2019 was conducted in Pune from December 1, 2019, to December 14, 2019. • The exercise aims to build and promote positive relations between armies of India and Sri Lanka for counter-insurgency & counter-terrorism operations in the urban and rural environment under the United Nations mandate. • The Mitra Shakti exercise began in 2013 • The exercise is conducted annually as a part of military diplomacy and interaction between the armies of India and Sri Lanka.
SLINEX 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime exercise between India and Sri Lanka. • It commenced on September 7, 2019, and will go on till September 14. • Sri Lankan Navy has sent two offshore patrol vessels, namely SLNS Sindurala and SLNS Suranimala, to India to participate in the seventh annual Joint Indo-Lanka Maritime Fleet Exercise- SLINEX 2019.
Exercise SAMPRITI-IX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military exercise between India and Bangladesh. • It was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya from 3rd-16th February 2020 • The 8th edition of the exercise was held at Tangail, Bangladesh.
Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint maritime exercise between the navies of India and Qatar. • It was being conducted between November 17 and November 21, 2019. • It was held for the first time. The exercise will include Air defense, Surface action, interdiction operation, maritime surveillance, and anti-terrorism.
Dustlik-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a first-ever joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan. • The exercise will be held at Chirchiq Training Area, Uzbekistan, between November 4 and November 13, 2019. From India, a 45-member contingent has been trained for this.
Hand in Hand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military exercise between India and China. • The 8th India-China joint training exercise Hand-In-Hand 2019 is being conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya, from 7 to December 20, 2019.

Indra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Tri-Services Exercise between India and Russia. • It was conducted in India from 10th-19th December 2019 simultaneously at Babina (near Jhansi), Pune, and Goa.
Exercise Indradhanush - V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exercise was conducted between the Indian Air Force and Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom. • The 5th edition of India-UK joint Air Force Exercise 'Indradhanush' began at Air Force Station, Hindan (Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh) on February 24, 2020.
Ajeya Warrior-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Military Exercise between India and the United Kingdom. It was conducted at Salisbury Plains, the United Kingdom from 13th-26th February 2020
IndSpaceEx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's first-ever simulated space warfare exercise. It was held last week of July 2019.
MILAN 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian navy. • MILAN (11th edition) was held in Visakhapatnam from 18th - 28th March 2020. • More than 40 countries were expected to participate in the exercise in 2020.
Operation Him Vijaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted by the Indian Army to test offensive capabilities against China in Arunachal Pradesh. • The first phase was held between October 7 and October 10, 2019. The second phase was held between October 20 and October 24, 2019.
Exercise Eastern Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exercise is conducted between the Indian Air force and Royal Air force of Oman • The Joint exercise was held in Oman

Sport Events

1. Asian Games - The Asian Games, also known as Asiad is a Pancontinental multi-sport event held every four years among athletes from all over Asia. The Games were regulated by the Asian Games Federation (AGF).

Note: First Asian games were held in **New Delhi, India in 1951.**

- Venue of Asian Games 2014 – **Incheon, South Korea.**
- Venue of Asian Games 2018 - **Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia.**
- Venue of Asian Games 2022 – **Hangzhou, China.**
- Venue of Asian Games 2026 – **Nagoya, Japan.**

2. Commonwealth Games (CWG) - The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations held every four years.

Note: The first Commonwealth Games held in **1911 in London, England.**

- Venue of **CWG 2010 – New Delhi, India.**
- Venue of **CWG 2014 – Glasgow, Scotland.**
- Venue of **CWG 2018 – Gold Coast, Australia.**

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- Venue of **CWG 2022 – Birmingham, England.**

Note: The 2022 Commonwealth Games will no longer take place in Durban, South Africa as the South African government failed to give financial guarantees for the event.

3. Olympics Games - The Olympic Games are held every four years, with the Summer and Winter Games alternating by occurring every four years but two years apart.

Note:

- The first modern Olympics games were held in **Athens, Greece, in 1896.**
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters - **Lausanne, Switzerland.**
- IOC President - **Thomas Bach.**

Summer Olympic -

- Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2016 – **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**
- Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2020 – **Tokyo, Japan.**
- Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2024 – **Paris, France.**

Winter Olympic –

- Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2014 – **Sochi, Russia.**
- Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2018 – **Pyeongchang, South Korea.**
- Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2022 – **Beijing, China.**

4. ICC World Cup Cricket - The ICC Cricket World Cup is the international championship of One Day International (ODI) cricket. The event is organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC), every four years.

Note:

- The first World Cup was held in **England in June 1975.** West Indies won the title by defeating Australia in the final.
- India** won the first World Cup title in **1983** by defeating West Indies in the final.
- Australia** won the World Cup title in **2015** after defeating New Zealand in the final.
- Australia** has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with **5 titles** and 2 runners-up.
- International Cricket Council (ICC) headquarter - **Dubai, United Arab Emirates.**
- President of ICC – **Zaheer Abbas.**
- Chairman of ICC – **Shashank Manohar.**
- CEO – **David Richardson.**

- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 – **India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.**
- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 – **Australia & New Zealand.**
- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 – **England, Wales.**
- Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 – **India.**

5. ICC World Cup T20 – The ICC World Twenty20 is the international championship of Twenty20 cricket. It is organised the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Note:

- The first T20 World Cup was held in **Johannesburg, South Africa in 2007.**

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ii. India won the **first T20** world cup title in 2007 after defeating Pakistan in the final.

iii. West Indies won the title in **2016** after defeating England in the final.

iv. West Indies won the T20 World Cup title two times.

- Venue of World Cup 2014 – **Bangladesh.**
- Venue of World Cup T20 2016– **India.**
- Venue of World Cup 2020 – **Australia.**

6. ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup – The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is the oldest and most prestigious international women's cricket tournament.

Note:

i. The first Women’s World Cup was held in **England in 1973**, two years before the inaugural men's tournament. England won the title by defeating Australia in the final.

ii. England won the Women’s World Cup in **2017** by defeating India in the final.

iii. Australia has been the most successful team in the Women’s World Cup, with 6 titles and 3 runners-up.

- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2013 – **India.**
- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2017 – **England.**
- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2021 – **New Zealand.**

7. ICC Women’s World Cup T20 - The ICC Women’s World Twenty20 is the international championship for Women’s Twenty20 cricket. It is organised the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Note:

i. The first Women’s T20 World Cup was held in **England in 2009**. England won the first T20 world cup title after defeating New Zealand in the final.

ii. West Indies won the title in **2016** after defeating Australia in the final.

iii. Australia has been the most successful team in the Women’s World Cup, with 3 titles and 1 runners-up.

- Venue of World Cup 2014 – **Bangladesh.**
- Venue of World Cup T20 2016– **India.**
- Venue of World Cup 2020 – **Australia.**

8. Hockey Men’s World Cup – The Hockey World Cup is an international field hockey competition organized by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). It is held every four years, bridging the four years between the Summer Olympics.

Note:

i. The first Men’s Hockey World Cup was held in **1971 Barcelona, Spain**. Pakistan won the title after defeating Spain in the final.

ii. Australia won the title in **2014** after defeating Netherlands in the final.

iii. Pakistan has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 4 titles from 6 appearances in the final.

iv. International Hockey Federation (IHF) headquarters - **Lausanne, Switzerland.**

v. President of IHF - **Narinder Batra.**

- Venue of Hockey Men’s World Cup 2010 – **New Delhi, India.**

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- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2014 – **The Hague, Netherlands.**
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 – **Bhubaneswar, India.**

9. Hockey Women's World Cup - The Women's Hockey World Cup is an international field hockey competition organized by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). It is held every four years, bridging the four years between the Summer Olympics.

Note:

i. The first Women's Hockey World Cup was held in **1974 in Mandelieu, France.** Netherlands won the title after defeating Argentina in the final.

ii. **Netherlands** won the title in **2014** after defeating Australia in the final.

iii. Netherlands has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 7 titles from 11 appearances in the final.

- Venue of Hockey Women's World Cup 2010 – **Rosario, Argentina.**
- Venue of Hockey Women's World Cup 2014 – **The Hague, Netherlands.**
- Venue of Hockey Women's World Cup 2018 – **London, England.**

10. FIFA (Football) World Cup – The FIFA World Cup is an international association football competition contested by the senior men's national teams of the members of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every four years.

Note:

i. The first FIFA World Cup was held in **1930 in Uruguay.** Uruguay won the title after defeating Argentina in the final.

ii. **Germany** won the title in **2014** after defeating Argentina in the final.

iii. Brazil has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 5 titles from 7 appearances in the final.

iv. Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) headquarter - **Zürich, Switzerland.**

v. President of FIFA - **Gianni Infantino.**

- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2014 – **Brazil.**
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2018 – **Russia.**
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2022 – **Qatar.**

11. FIFA Women's World Cup – The FIFA Women's World Cup is an international football competition contested by the senior women's national teams of the members of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every four years.

Note:

i. The first FIFA Women's World Cup was held in **1991 in China.** The United States won the title after defeating Norway in the final.

ii. The **USA** won the title in **2015** after defeating Japan in the final.

iii. The USA is the most successful nation in the tournament's history, with 3 titles and 1 runners-up.

- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2015 – **Canada.**
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2019 – **France.**

12. FIFA (U-17) World Cup – The FIFA U-17 World Cup, founded as the FIFA U-16 World Championship, later changed to its current name in 2007, is the world championship of association football

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for male players under the age of 17 organized by Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every two years.

i. The first FIFA (U-17) World Cup was held in **1991 in Italy**. Ghana won the title after defeating Spain in the final.

ii. **Nigeria** won the title in **2015** after defeating Mali in the final.

iii. Nigeria is the most successful nation in the tournament's history, with five titles and three runners-up.

- Venue of FIFA (U-17) World Cup 2015 – **Chile**.
- Venue of FIFA (U-17) World Cup 2017 – **India**.

Highlights of the UP Budget:

Gross State Domestic Product

- The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2020-21 (at current prices) is estimated to be Rs 17, 91,263 crores.
- This is on the basis of the estimate that the state's economy will grow at a rate of 6% from the year 2019-20.
- GSDP (2019-20) is estimated to **grow at a rate of 14%** over the previous year.

Expenditure

- The expenditure for 2020-21 is estimated to be Rs 5, 12,861 crores which shows a 13.5% increase over the revised estimate of 2019-20.
- The revised expenditure for 2019-20 is Rs 27,873 crore, about (5.8%) lower than the budgeted estimate.

Total receipts

- Total receipts (excluding borrowings) for 2020-21 are estimated to be Rs 4, 24,768 crore which is 13% more as compared to the revised estimate of 2019-20.
- In 2019-20, total receipts (excluding borrowings) are estimated to fall short of the budgeted estimate by Rs 21,469 crore which is about (5.4%).

Fiscal deficit

- The Fiscal deficit for the year 2020-21 is targeted at Rs 53,195 crore (2.97% of GSDP).
- As per the revised figures in 2019-20, it is estimated to increase by Rs 3,494 crore to 2.98% of GSDP, as compared to the budgeted 2.97% of GSDP.
- The sector such as Housing and Urban Development (26%), Police (19%), and Health and Family Welfare (16%) shows the highest increase in allocations.
- The highest decrease was shown in the allocation of the Energy sector (15%).

New Scheme / Policy in Budget 2020-2021

- **Apprenticeship scheme**
 - This scheme has been proposed to encourage youth to work as apprentices in industries by providing them apprenticeships, along with a monthly stipend.
 - For this scheme a sum of Rs. 100 crore has been proposed.
- **YUVA hubs**
 - The Scheme Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyaan has been proposed with the aim of making more than one lakh young trained person self-reliant.
 - It will be set up in all districts to provide financial and operational assistance to startups for a one-year period, starting from the planning stage.
 - Rs 50 crore has been proposed to set up these hubs.
- **State National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog**
 - State Planning Commission will be replaced by the State NITI Aayog.
 - **Functions of State NITI Aayog**

- Preparation of a road map for the integrated and sustainable development of the state.
- Developing a mechanism for the preparation and consolidation of plans at the district level.

Sector-wise expenditure

Education

- 13.6% of Govt expenditure allocated for education in 2020-21 which is much lower than the average expenditure (15.9%) allocated for education by other states (using 2019-20 BE).
- A total of Rs 18,363 crore has been allocated for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and Rs 2,660 crore for the Mid-Day Meal scheme.

Transport

- For the Ganga Expressway project and the Noida International Greenfield Airport project at Jewar, Rs 2,000 crore each has been allocated.

Rural Development

- For Rural Development (in 2020-21): 6.6% of Expenditure is allocated which is higher than the average allocation by other states (6.2%).
- For the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural), the sum of Rs 6,240 crore has been allocated.
- The scheme like Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGS) has been allocated Rs 5,791 crore for and Rs 4,800 crore respectively.

Housing and Urban Development

- Amount to be allocated for under Housing and Urban Development are
- PM Awas Yojana (Urban): Rs 8,241 crores
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Scheme and Smart Cities Mission: Rs 2,200 crore and Rs 2,000 crore respectively.
- Finance Commission will be granted Rs 4,695 crore for urban local bodies.

Health and Family Welfare

- The government has allocated 5.5% of its expenditure on health in 2020-21, which is marginally higher than the average allocation for health by other states (5.3%).
- The National Rural Health Mission: Rs 3,845 crores allocated

Social Security and Welfare

- A total expenditure of Rs 3,578 crore is planned from the State Disaster Response Fund.

Agriculture and allied activities

- **Agriculture and Allied Activities (in 2020-21):** 2.7% of Govt expenditure allocated in this sector. It is significantly lower than the average allocation by states (7.1%).
- Rs 1,200 crore has been provided for the payment of electricity dues of farmers.

Receipts in 2020-21

- The total revenue receipts for the financial year 2020-21 are estimated to be Rs 4,22,568 crore which is 14.1% more than that of the revised estimate of 2019-20.

How will they raise these receipts?

- 45% of the revenue receipts will be raised through the state's own resources.
- 55% of the revenue receipts will be in the form of central transfers, i.e. state's share in central taxes and grants-in-aid from the central government.

Devolution

- In 2020-21, receipts from the state's share in central taxes are estimated to get increased by 13% over the 2019-20 revised estimates.
- However, in 2019-20, devolution is estimated to decrease by 11.5% as compared to the budgeted estimate.
- This may be due to a 19% cut in the union budget for devolution to states at the revised stage.

Own tax revenue

- Total tax revenue of Uttar Pradesh Government is estimated to be Rs 1,58,413 crores in 2020-21 (Which is **37% of the revenue receipts**).
- It is **24.1% higher** than the revised estimate of 2019-20.
- The own tax to GSDP ratio is targeted at 8.8% in 2020-21, which is much higher than the revised estimate of 7.6% in 2019-20.
- This implies that **growth in the state's tax collections is expected to be higher than the GSDP growth rate.**

Expenditure in 2020-21

Capital Expenditure:

- **Proposed Capital expenditure for 2020-21: Rs 1,17,744 crore (9.2% higher than the revised estimate of 2019-20).**
- Capital expenditure consists of expenditure that affects the assets & liabilities of the state, such as
 - Capital outlay: It is defined as expenditure which leads to the creation of assets (such as bridges and hospitals).
 - Repayment as well as the grant of loans by the state government.
- In 2020-21, estimated capital outlay is higher than the revised estimate of 2019-20 by 2.8%.
- **Sectors that receiving most of the allocation for capital outlay in 2020-21:**
 - Transport (30% of total Capital outlay)
 - Energy (14%)
 - Housing & urban development (11%).

Subsidies:

- In 2020-21, subsidies by the state Government are estimated to be 5.4% more than that of the revised estimate of 2019-20. Under this:
 - Power subsidy: 54%
 - Various subsidies in agriculture: 17%

- In 2019-20, the state's expenditure on subsidies is estimated to an increase of 6.9% from the budgeted stage to that of the revised stage. It is primarily due to increase of Rs 1,000 crore in power subsidy.

Revenue expenditure:

- **Proposed Revenue expenditure for 2020-21: Rs 3, 95,117 crores (14.9% higher than the revised estimate of 2019-20).**
- Revenue expenditure is **77% of the total expenditure** in 2020-21.
- The rest 23% of the total expenditure comprises of capital outlay (16%), and repayment and grant of loans (7%).
- Examples of revenue expenditure are -
 - Subsidies
 - Payment of salaries
 - Pension
 - Interest

Highlights of India's Union Budget 2020-21

The **2020-21 Union Budget** presented by the Union Finance Minister '**Nirmala Sitharaman**' in Lok Sabha.

- This is the second **budget** being presented by **Finance Minister** Nirmala Sitharaman.

Union Budget:

- The **annual financial statement** of a government, the Union budget gives details about the revenue and expenditure of the Centre in the past and estimated spending and projections for the coming year.

Following are the highlights of 'Mrs Sitharaman' Budget speech:

- **The themes of this Budget: Aspiration, development, compassion**
 - **Aspirational India** in which all sections of the society seek a better standard of living
 - **Economic development for all**
 - **Caring and compassionate:** Ours shall be a caring society:

Sector-wise highlights

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

- The nominal GDP growth for the year 2020-21 estimated at 10%, on the basis of trends available
- Accordingly, receipts for 2020-21 estimated at 22.46 lakh crore rupees
- Expenditure at 30.42 lakh crore rupees
- Revised expenditure estimate at ₹ 26.99 Lakh Cr for FY 21
- **Estimate Fiscal deficit at 3.8% vs target of 3.3% of GDP**
- Corporate tax at 15% lowest in the world
- The turnover threshold for audit raised to ₹ 5 Crore from ₹ 1 Crore

Agriculture

- Finance Minister listed a 16-point action plan for farmers, towards the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022

- Agricultural credit target has been set at Rs 15 lakh crore. NABARD Refinancing Scheme to be further expanded.
- Will encourage state governments who implement following model laws: Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act of 2016; Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Act of 2017;
- Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services Promotion and Facilitation Act of 2018
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evem Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) to be expanded to provide 20 lakh farmers in setting up standalone solar pumps
- **2.83 lakh crore rupees allocated for agriculture and allied activities, irrigation and rural development**
- Encourage balanced use of all fertilizers, a necessary step to change the incentive regime which encourages excessive use of chemical fertilizers
- Village Storage Scheme run by SHGs, will provide holding capacity for farmers, women in villages can regain their status as Dhaanya Lakshmi
- Krishi UDAN will be launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on international and national routes, improving value realization in North East and tribal districts
- **Milk processing capacity to be doubled by 2025**
- Indian Railways will set up Kisan Rail through PPP arrangement, for transportation of perishable goods
- Fish production to be raised to 200 lakh tonnes by 2022-23

Education

- A medical college to be attached to a district hospital in PPP mode, viability gap funding to be set up for setting up such medical colleges
- Rs 3,000 crore for skill development
- IND-SAT exam to be held in African and Asian countries, for benchmarking foreign candidates who wish to study in India
- Degree-level full-fledged online education programme to be offered by institutes in top 100 in National Institutional Ranking Framework
- **Government announces Rs 99,300 crore outlay for education sector in 2020-21**
- New Education Policy to be announced soon
- Urban local bodies across the country to provide internships for young engineers for a period of up to one year
- 8,000 crore rupees over five years to be provided for quantum technologies and applications

Health

- The Budget provides an additional Rs 69,000 crore for the health sector.
- Proposes to expand Jan Aushadhi Kendras in all districts of the country to provide medicines at affordable rates.

Finance

- Deposit Insurance Coverage to be increased from 1 lakh rupees to 5 lakh rupees
- Enshrine in the statute a taxpayers' charter.
- I would like to reassure taxpayers that we remain committed to taking measures to eliminate tax harassment
- To achieve higher export credit, a new scheme being launched which provides higher insurance cover, reduced premium for small exporters and simplified procedure for claim settlements
- 27,300 crore rupees for the development of industry and commerce

- Investment Clearance Cell to set up through a portal, will provide end-to-end facilitation, support and information on land banks
- Amendments to be made to enable NBFCs to extend invoice financing to MSMEs
- Government proposes to sell a part of its holding in LIC by initial public offer.

Energy

- All states and UTs to replace conventional energy meters by pre-paid smart meters in 3 years, this will give consumers the freedom to choose supplier and rate as per their requirements.
- 22,000 crore rupees to be provided to power and renewable energy sector in 2020-21
- India to provide Rs. 273 billion or promotion of industry and commerce

Infrastructure

- 100 more airports to be developed by 2024 to support the UDAN scheme
- 1.7 lakh crore rupees to be provided for transport infrastructure in the coming financial year
- More Tejas-type trains to connect iconic destinations
- Accelerated development of highways will be undertaken. Delhi-Mumbai expressway and two other projects to be completed by 2023. Monetization of 12 lots of highway bundles of over 6,000km before 2024
- National Logistics Policy will soon be released, creating a single-window e-logistics market
- Project Preparation Facility to be set up for preparation of infrastructure projects, actively involving young engineers and management graduates
- Fibre to Home connections under Bharat Net will be provided to 1 lakh gram panchayats this year itself, 6,000 crore rupees provided for Bharat Net
- Soon, policy for the private sector to build Data Centre Parks throughout the country
- National Gas Grid to be expanded from 16,200 km to 27,000 km

Women & Nutrition

- **Gross Enrolment Ratio** is now higher for girls than for boys at all levels under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'
- **28,600 crore rupees provided for programmes which are specific to women**
- **35,600 crore rupees for nutrition-related programmes in 2020-21**
- Over 6 lakh Anganwadi workers have been equipped with smartphones to upload the nutrition status of 10 crore households.

Other Sectors

- 85,000 crore rupees for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes in 2020-21 53,700 crore rupees for Scheduled Tribes Enhanced allocation of 9,500 crore rupees for Senior citizens and Divyangs
- Five archaeological sites to be developed as iconic sites
- 2,500 crore rupees to be allocated for tourism promotion, in 2020-21
- 3,150 crore rupees to be provided for culture ministry in 2020-21
- Parameters and incentives to be provided to states who take measures for cleaner air in cities above 1 million population - 4,400 crore rupees allocated for this
- India will host G20 Presidency in 2022, 100 crore rupees to be allocated for making preparations for this historic occasion, where India will drive global economic agenda

Skill India initiative

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- The government proposed ₹3,000 crores for 'Skill India' to provide relevant skill training to the youth in the country, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday.
- "There is a huge demand for teachers, paramedical staff and caregivers in foreign countries. However, their skills do not match in accordance to demand by employers. So, my government proposes ₹3,000 crores for skill development," she said during the 90th Budget presentation.
- -Government to sell govt stake in IDBI Bank to private investors

Indian Railways

- 4 station redevelopment projects in railways via PPP models
- To develop solar capacity in Indian railways
- Plan more Tejas like trains to connect tourist locations
- Govt to launch Rs. 18,600 crore worth Bengaluru Suburban Transportation project

Ayushman Bharat

- Union Budget 2020 allocated Rs. 69,000 crore for the healthcare sector.
- Out of the total amount, Rs. 6,400 crore will be sanctioned for Ayushman Bharat Yojna.
- Ayushman Bharat scheme provides health assurance cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family and is targeted to cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families.

Connecting India

- -Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said ₹6,000 crore allocated for BharatNet programme
- - Around 1 lakh gram panchayats to be linked with BharatNet this year

To clean air and pollution-free cities

- Power plants with emissions above prescribed limits will be asked to close down.
- India's commitment towards tackling climate change made at the Paris conference kick starts from **January 1, 2021**.
- FM said ₹Rs. 4,400 crore has been allocated for states that work towards clean air.

Transport sector:

- Cente to provide 20% equity for Bengaluru Suburban Transportation Raj
- 100 more airports to be developed by 2024 to support the Central government's "Udaan" scheme

TAX

- **100% tax** exemption on Sovereign Wealth Funds' Indra Investment.
- Concessional 5% withholding tax entended to municipal bonds, Nirmala Sitharaman FM Nirmala Sitharaman on the new tax regimes: Lowest, simplest, smoothest
- **On DDT: Dividend Distribution Tax** to be removed, companies will not be required to pay DDT, dividend to be taxed only at the hands of recipients at applicable rates
- Propose to bring a personal income tax regime, where income tax rates will be reduced.

The proposed changes in tax slabs are listed in the following table:

Taxable Income Slab (Rs.)	Existing Tax Rates	New Tax Rates
0-2.5 Lakh	Exempt	Exempt

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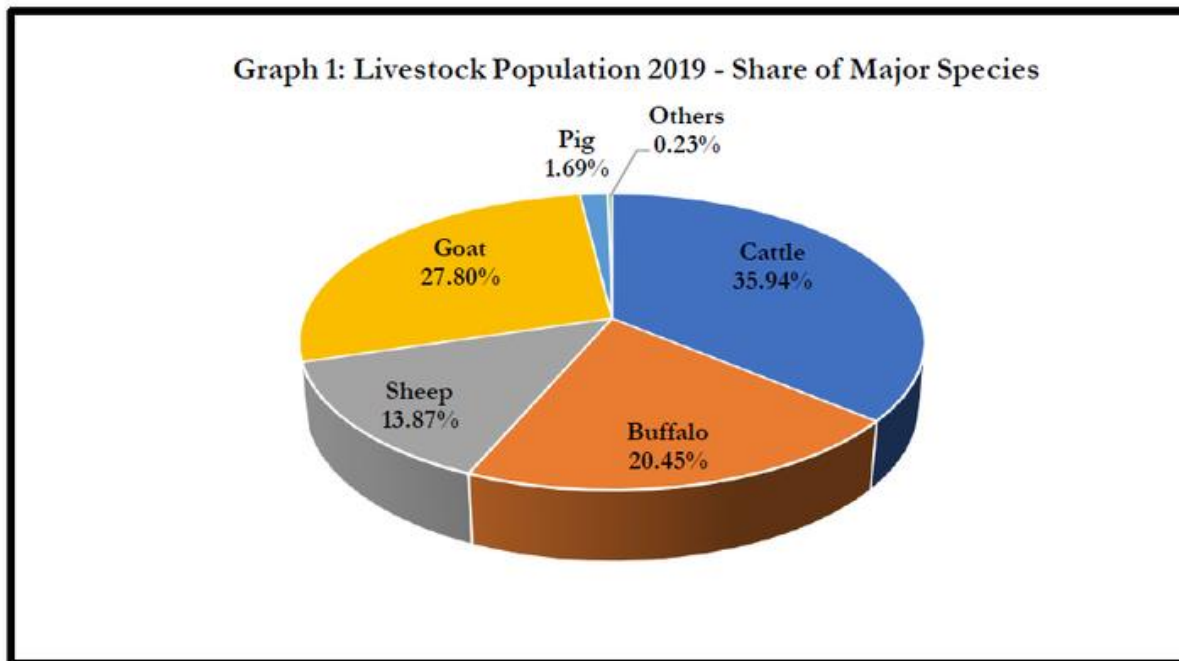
2.5-5 Lakh	5%	5%
5-7.5 Lakh	20%	10%
7.5-10 Lakh	20%	15%
10-12.5 Lakh	30%	20%
12.5-15 Lakh	30%	25%
Above 15 Lakh	30%	30%

20th Livestock Census

Various species of animals (sheep, goat, pig, horse, cattle, buffalo, donkey, camel, Mithun, yak, pony, mule, dog, rabbit and elephant)/poultry birds (duck, fowl and other poultry birds) possessed by the households, non-household enterprise and household enterprises were counted at that site.

- The total Livestock population is 53.6 Crore in the country showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census during 2012.
- West Bengal observed the highest increase of 23%, followed by Telangana (22%).
- The increase is mainly driven by a sharp increase in crossbred cattle and higher female indigenous cattle population.
- Uttar Pradesh has a maximum decrease in cattle population.

Distribution of Livestock Population



By comparing to previous Livestock Census, the percentage share of goat and sheep and population has increased whereas the percentage share of Buffalo, Cattle and pig has marginally reduced.

Livestock Population (Top three State):

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- Uttar Pradesh
- Rajasthan
- Madhya Pradesh

Poultry:

- The total poultry population has increased by 16.81% and the total poultry is 851.81 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Poultry Population:
 1. Tamil Nadu
 2. Andhra Pradesh
 3. Telangana

Cattle:

- The total Cattle Population in the Country is 19.2 Crore in 2019 and increased by 0.8 % over the previous livestock census.
- Around 36% of the total Livestock population is contributed by cattle.
- Top three state in Cattle Population:
 1. West Bengal
 2. Uttar Pradesh
 3. Madhya Pradesh

Buffalo:

- The total Buffalo population in the country is 109.85 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Buffalo Population:
 1. Uttar Pradesh
 2. Rajasthan
 3. Gujarat

Sheep:

- The total Sheep population in the country is 74.26 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Sheep Population:
 1. Telangana
 2. Andhra Pradesh
 3. Karnataka

Goat:

- The total Goat Population in the country is 148.88 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Goat Population:
 1. Rajasthan

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2. West Bengal
3. Uttar Pradesh

Pig:

- The total Pig Population in the country is 9.06 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Pig Population:
 1. Assam
 2. Jharkhand
 3. Meghalaya

Camel:

- The total Camel Population in the country is 0.25 million during 2019.
- Top three state in Camel Population:
 1. Rajasthan
 2. Gujarat
 3. Haryana

10th Edition of Agriculture Census

10th Edition of Agriculture Census Data for 2015-16 Released By Ministry of Agriculture. The Agriculture Census in India is conducted at 5 yearly intervals to collect data on structural aspects of operational holdings in the country. The Agriculture Census programme is carried out in 3 phases at five-yearly intervals with the cooperation of States/Union Territories. The first Agriculture Census in the country was conducted with from 1970-71. The current Agriculture Census was conducted in 2015-16 is 10th in the series.

Objectives

- It provides statistical data on land utilization, operational holdings, irrigation, the irrigated and unirrigated area under different crops, use of agricultural machinery and implements, agricultural credit, use of fertilizers, seeds etc.
- To provide data for formulating new agricultural development programmes and for evaluating their progress.
- To provide a basic structure of operational holdings of agriculture land for carrying out future agricultural surveys and for developing an integrated programme for current agricultural statistics.

Definitions

Operational Holding:

- All land which is used by person partly or wholly for agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to the title, legal form, size or location.

Technical Unit:

- An area of land which is under the same management and has the same means of production such as machinery, labour force and animals.

Operated area:

- The operated area includes both uncultivated areas, cultivated and provided part of it is put to agricultural production during that period. Consider an operational holding of agriculture land consists of six survey numbers out of which one survey number is put to non-agricultural uses, the total area of the operational holding will be equal to the total geographical area of all the six survey numbers.

Operational holder:

- A person who perform agriculture activity and has the responsibility for the operation of the agricultural holding and who exercises the technical expertise and is responsible for its operation. The operational holder may be Individual/Joint/ Institutional.

Individual Operational holder: If the holding is being operated either by one person or by a group of persons who are the members of the same household, such holding will be considered as an individual holding.

Joint Operational holder: If two or more persons belonging to different households share jointly as partners in the technical and economic responsibility for the practice of an agricultural holding, such holding will be considered as joint holding.

Institutional Operational holder: Holdings such as government farms, farms of sugarcane factories, cooperative farms, lands managed by trusts would be treated as institutional holdings.

Size classes and Size groups of Holdings:

S.No.	Group	Group	Classes (in Ha.)
I	Marginal	1.	Below 0.5 ha
		2.	0.5<1.0 ha
II	Small	3.	1.0<2.0 ha
III	Semi-Medium	4.	2.0<3.0 ha
		5.	3.0<4.0 ha
IV	Medium	6.	4.0<5.0 ha
		7.	6.0<7.5 ha
		8.	7.5<10.0 ha
V	Large	9.	10.0<20.0 ha
		10.	and above

Highlights

- The highest number of operational holders belonged to Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka and in a total of **146.45 million operational holdings** in the country,
- Compared to the 1.15-hectare **average size of operational holding** in 2010-11 has declined to **1.08-hectare** in 2015-16.

- The **share of female operational holders** has increased from 12.79% in 2010-11 to **13.96%** in 2015-16
- The **small and marginal holdings** taken together (0.00-2.00 hectare) constituted **86.08%** of the total holdings in 2015-16.
- As per the latest data, women participation in the farming sector with an overall increase of small and medium land holding farmers and tillers.
- Agricultural Census showed a decline of 1.53% of the total operated area to 157.14 million hectares as compared to 159.59 million ha in 2010-11 data & in terms of operated area participation of women increased from previous 10.36% to 11.57%
- By the number of people tilling the land, Uttar Pradesh topped the chart followed by Bihar and Maharashtra.
- According to Agricultural Census in terms of total operated area: Rajasthan comes first followed by Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.
- The total operational holdings aggregate to over 146 million hectares an increase of 5.33 per cent from 138 million in 2010-11.
- Goa has witnessed the sharpest fall and Manipur had the lowest in a number of operational holdings.
- In terms of the operated area, 14 states hold for 88.08% of operational holdings. They are West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Kerala.
- Comparing this to the farmers holding 10 hectares and more account for just 0.57% and had a share of 9.04 per cent in the operated area.
- Semi-medium and medium operational holdings (2-10 ha) in 2015-16 were 13.22 per cent, with 43.61 per cent of the operated area.
- The individual, joint and institutional operational holder have shown growth of 5.04%, 7.07% and 10.88%, respectively.
- The **average size of farm holding** was the **lowest in Kerala** at (0.18 hectare) and the **highest in Nagaland** at (5.06 hectares).

Indian State of Forest Report, 2019 (ISFR)

The forest survey of India released the India state of forest report for the year 2019. It publishes the India state of forest report biennially. Forest Survey of India is a premier national organization under the Union Ministry of Environment and monitoring of the forest resource of the country. 2019 report is the 16th edition of the India state of forest report. Forest Survey of India published the 1st report in 1987

Indian State of Forest Report, 2019 (ISFR): Terminologies; Key Findings; Points to note for Prelims

Terminologies related to Forest report

- **Forest Cover:** Forest Cover refers to all lands more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10% irrespective of ownership and legal status. It also includes orchards, bamboo, and palm.
- **Tree Cover:** Tree patches outside the recorded forest areas exclusive of forest cover and less than the minimum mappable area of one hectare.
- **Open Forest** includes lands with forest cover having a canopy density between 10 to 40%.
- **Dense Forest** includes lands with a forest cover having a canopy density of 40% and above.
- **Moderately dense Forest** includes all lands with forest cover having a canopy density between 40-70%
- **Very Dense Forest** Includes lands with forest cover having a canopy density of 70% and above.
- **Growing Stock:** It is the sum (by number or volume) of all the trees growing/living in the forest or a specified part of it

Key Findings of the report

- The total forest cover in our country is 7,12,249 sq km.
- It is 21.67% of the geographical area of the country.
- The tree cover of India is approximately 95,027 Km
- It is 2.89% of the geographical area.
- The total Forest and Tree cover of India is 8,07,276 sq km.
- It is 24.56% of the geographical area of the country. In the last assessment, it was 39%.
- The current report shows an increase of 3,976sq km of forest cover, 1,212 sq km of tree cover, and 5,188 sq km of forest and tree cover.
- Very Dense Forests (VDF), which represents the lushest vegetation and has canopy density above 70%, increased by 1,120 sq km over the assessment of
- Forest cover within the Recorded Forest Area (RFA) / Green Wash (GW) has shown a slight decrease of 330 sq km (0.05%), but there is an increase of 4,306 sq km of forest cover outside the RFA/GW when compared with ISFR 2017.
- Forest cover in all the hill districts of India is 2,84,006sq km.
- It is 40.30% of the total geographical area of all these districts. Overall, there is an increase of 544 sq km (0.19%) in 140 hill districts of the country
- There is an increase in the bamboo area as compared to ISFR 2017
- Except for Assam and Tripura, all the states in the northeastern region shows a decrease in the forest area.
- In the tribal district, there is a decrease of 741 sq km of forest cover within the RFA/GW and an increase in 1922sq km outside.

POINT TO NOTE FOR PRELIMS

- States where there is an increase in the forest area in descending order
 - 1) Karnataka (1025 sq km) 2) Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km) 3) Kerala (823 sq km) 4) Jammu & Kashmir (371 sq km) 5) Himachal Pradesh (334 sq km)
- States where there is a loss in the forest area in descending order
 - 1) Manipur (499 sq km) 2) Arunachal Pradesh (276 sq km) 3) Mizoram (180 sq km).
- States having forest cover area in descending order
 - 1) Madhya Pradesh 2) Arunachal Pradesh 3) Chattisgarh 4) Orissa 5) Maharashtra
- States having forest cover area as a percentage of the total geographical area in descending order
 - 1) Mizoram (85.41%) 2) Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%) 3) Meghalaya (76.33%) 4) Manipur(75.46%) 5) Nagaland (75.31%).

Mangrove Cover:

- There has been a net increase of 54 sq km in the mangrove cover of the country as compared to the 2017 assessment.
- The mangrove cover in the country is 4,975 sq km, which is 0.15% of the country's total geographical area.
- West Bengal has 42.45% of India's mangrove cover, followed by Gujarat 23.66% and A&N Islands 12.39%.
- About 40% of the world's Mangrove Cover is in South East Asia and South Asia. India has approximately 3% of the total Mangrove cover in South Asia.
- All the coastal states have mangroves cover.

Wetlands:

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- Among the big States, Gujarat has the largest area of the wetlands within RFA in the country, followed by West.
- Among the smaller States/UTs, Puducherry, followed by Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands, have large areas of wetlands within.
- In India, 62,466 wetlands are covering 3.83% of the area within RFA/GW of the country, and nearly 8% of the total number of wetlands is within the RFA/GW.

Forest Fire

- In India, about 21.40% of forest cover of the country is highly prone to extreme fire.
- Most of the fire-prone forest areas are in the northeastern region and central part of the country
- Most of the forest fires have occurred in open forests followed by moderately dense

Carbon Stock

- India's total carbon stock was approximately 7,124.6 million. There is an increase of 42.6 million tons from 2017.
- India's NDC goal is to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3.0 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- The Soil organic carbon contributes 56% to the total forest carbon stock of India, which is the largest pool of carbon stocks in the forest.

Biodiversity

- Tropical wet evergreen and semi-evergreen forest of Western Ghats shows maximum Biodiversity.
- In terms of states, maximum biodiversity is in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, followed by northeastern states.
- In terms of species richness for trees, Karnataka is on the top
- In terms of species richness for shrubs, Arunachal Pradesh is on top
- In terms of species richness for herbs, Jammu Kashmir is on the top
- Combining all the three types of species richness, Arunachal Pradesh is in the first position, followed by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Bamboo Cover

- In India total bamboo bearing area is 1,60,037sq km.
- There is an increase of 3,229 sq km as compared to 2017 estimates.
- Madhya Pradesh has a maximum bamboo bearing area followed by Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, and Odisha.

Dependence of fuelwood on forest

- Maharashtra has the highest dependence on fuelwood in the forest.
- In terms of fodder, small timber, and bamboo, dependence is highest in Madhya Pradesh.

Growing stocks

- In India, the total growing stock of wood is approximately 5,915.76 million cubic meters.

- The average growing stock per hectare in the forest is 55.69 cum.

List of Important GI Tags

- A **geographical indication (GI)** is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- Here is the list of important Geographical tags that have a high tendency to appear in the latest examination. So far, 363 products have been given GI Tags in India with Terracotta and black rice being the latest ones.

List of GI Tags	State
Kandhamal Haladi	Odisha
Kodaikanal Malai	Tamil Nadu
Poondupawndum	Mizoram
Ngotekherh	Mizoram
Hmaram(Handicraft)	Mizoram
Gulbarga Tur Dal	Karnataka
Khola Chilli	Goa
Idu Mishmi (Textile)	Arunachal Pradesh
Dindigul Locks	Tamil Nadu
Kandang Saree	Tamil Nadu
Srivilliputtur Palkova	Tamil Nadu
Kaji Nemu	Assam

Palani Panchamirtham	Tamil Nadu
Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei	Mizoram
Tirur Betel leaf	Kerala
Palani Panchamirtham (a 'prasadam' or religious offering in temples)	Tamil Nadu
Tawlhlohpuan, (a fine quality fabric)	Mizoram
Mizo Puanchei (a shawl, is considered the most colourful textile)	Mizoram
'Odisha rasagola'	Odisha
Tirur betel vine	Kerala
Terracotta	Gorakhpur
Black Rice or Chak-Hao	Manipur

Note:



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