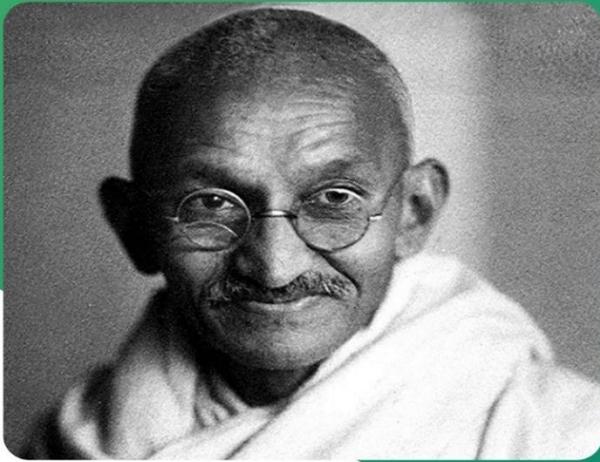


# Monthly GK Digest

## October 2020



## Monthly Digest October -2020

**Dear readers,**

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of **October 2020**. This file is important for **Defence** exams.

### **Important News – India**

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

**Note:** Under POS 3.1 version, keeping in view of prevailing pandemic condition, contactless OTP based authentication option has been introduced. Farmer will be able to purchase fertilizer without touching finger print sensor. The SMS Gateway will periodically send SMS to farmer about availability of fertilizer at retail outlet from where he last purchased the fertilizer.
- South Eastern Railways zone has launched the project, "Operation my Saheli" to enhance the security of women passengers in the train throughout the entire journey from the originating point to their destinations.

**Note:** Since 18th September 2020, The pilot version of the project "Operation my Saheli" has been introduced in 3 trains: Howrah-Yesvantpur Duronto Special, Howrah- Ahmedabad Special and Howrah-Mumbai Special. "Operation my Saheli" is executed under the Framework of "Nirbhaya Fund" and no additional expenditure is provided by the Head of Railways.
- Thaawarchand Gehlot** has launched the "Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)" to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.

**Note:** The mission has been launched under the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in order to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions. The Objective of this fund is to provide concessional finance to the entities of the SC entrepreneurs.
- NITI Aayog and Embassy of The Netherlands in India has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to support the decarbonization and energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy.

**Note:** The focus of the partnership is on co-creating innovative technological solutions by leveraging the expertise of the two entities. Through this collaboration, NITI Aayog and the Dutch Embassy seek a strategic partnership to create a platform that enables a comprehensive collaboration among stakeholders and influencers, including policymakers, industry bodies, OEMs, private enterprises, and sector experts.
- India will construct first five animal overpasses on under construction Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

**Note:** These have been planned to ensure there are no disturbances to the Ranthambore Wildlife Corridor connecting Ranthambhore and Mukundra (Darrah) wildlife sanctuaries in Rajasthan. The plan of the animal bridges have been approved by the Central Wildlife Board. The Rajasthan Government has also approved the project.
- Sambhar lake will have temporary shelters for migratory birds.

**Note:** The Rajasthan government will build temporary shelters for migratory birds near the famous Sambhar Lake before this year's winter season, when a large number of avian guests from the cold northern regions of Central Asia are expected to arrive at the country's largest inland saline water body. More than 20,000 migratory birds had died due to avian botulism in the lake last year.
- PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated the virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians namely "Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020".

**Note:** During the summit he encouraged indigenous vaccine production. The aim of the summit is to bring Indian origin experts in academic institutes and R&D organizations across the world on a single platform to debate upon collaboration mechanisms to strengthen academic and S&T (science & technology) base in India for global development
- SUNIDHI initiative has been launched by the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) to digitise its entire provident fund and pension related activities.

- Note:** CMPFO, a statutory body under the coal ministry, administers different schemes of provident fund, pension and deposit linked insurance for coal mine workers. The project was inaugurated in the virtual presence of Coal Secretary Anil Kumar Jain and Coal India (CIL) Chairman Pramod Agrawal, among others.
9. The **Supreme Court** has constituted the Ravi Chopra Committee to look into the to assess the environmental violations in the Chardham road project.
 

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

**Note:** The 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant was commissioned on 2nd October 2020. The approx cost of the plant is Rs 2.8 crore. With becoming absolutely power-neutral, the Puducherry airport will be able to meet its entire power requirement through the solar power plant.
  11. The red cherry pepper chilli "Dalle Khursani" of Sikkim has earned the geographical indication (GI) tag from the Union department of Industry promotion and internal trade.
 

**Note:** Notably, it is considered as one of the hottest chillies in the world. Dalle Khursani fetches as much as Rs 480 per kg in the local market today. Dalle Khursani has been included in the GI Registry of the Government of India on the basis of an application filed by the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (Neramac) on behalf of Sikkim. It is to be mentioned that the largest manufacturer of Dalle Khursani products is the state government-owned Sikkim Supreme.
  12. The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC) signed am MoU with NCERT to convert educational materials into Indian Sign Language.
 

**Note:** The conversion of all education material in sign language will strengthen the concept of equal opportunity for everyone irrespective of their physical inability,". The signing of MoU between ISLRTC and NCERT was attended by Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Cabinet Minister for Education amongst other members of the NCERT, ISLRTC, and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
  13. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into an MoU with Swiggy, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform under the PM SVANidhi Scheme.
 

**Note:** The MoU aims at giving the street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses. The Ministry and Swiggy will run a pilot programme by on-boarding 250 vendors across five cities namely – Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, and Varanasi.
  14. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the strategically important Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh.
 

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

**Note:** It would provide free clinical services to the tribal population in the area. A research unit on tribal practices for health maintenance had also been set up and it will be a "repository of knowledge and will work in areas of education, nutrition and health problems of the tribal population".
  16. Ajay Kumar Bhalla will chair the screening panel constituted by the government of India to vet all Chinese foreign investment proposals.
 

**Note:** More than 100 proposals involving foreign direct investment (FDI) from China are pending. The screening panel is headed by the home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and has the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) secretary as a member.
  17. Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode will soon be launching an e-learning hub and library as a pilot project for villagers.
 

**Note:** The programme aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and academic system by providing knowledge and practices for the emerging professions. Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan is a flagship programme by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan is aimed at linking the Higher Education Institutions with a set of at least five villages.
  18. India's premium cotton has been named as Kasturi Cotton.

- Note:** Now India's premium cotton would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness. India is the second largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world. It produces about six million tonnes of cotton every year which is about 23 per cent of the world cotton. She said, India produces about 51 per cent of the total organic cotton production of the world.
19. PM Narendra Modi launches physical distribution of property cards under SVAMITVA which scheme.  
**Note:** Under this scheme, beneficiaries of 'SVAMITVA Scheme' can use the property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits. SVAMITVA Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme on National Panchayat Day 24th April 2020. In the States, the Revenue Department /Land Records Department are the Nodal Department and shall carry out the scheme with the support of State Panchayati Raj Department.
  20. PM Narendra Modi will release a commemorative coin of 100 rupees in honour of **Vijaya Raje Scindia**.  
**Note:** One of the founder members of BJP, Vijaya Raje Scindia is popularly known as the Rajmata of Gwalior. The coin is being released in celebration of birth centenary of Vijaya Raje Scindia. The special commemorative coin was minted by the Finance Ministry as a part of these celebrations. This coin will be released by the Prime Minister on her birth anniversary.
  21. India ranked at 155<sup>th</sup> in the health spending index 2020 released by Oxfam.  
**Note:** Globally, the report found, only 26 of the 158 countries surveyed were spending the recommended 15% of their budgets on health. "Nigeria, Bahrain and India, (the last of) which is currently experiencing the world's fastest-growing outbreak of Covid-19, were among the world's worst performing countries in tackling inequality going into the pandemic
  22. India ranked at 129<sup>th</sup> among 158 countries in the 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index.  
**Note:** According to the report, India has spent only 4 percent of its budget on health during the Pandemic, which is the Fourth Lowest in the world. Nigeria, Bahrain and India are among the World's worst performing countries in tackling inequality during the pandemic. With 4% of Budget on Health, India has been ranked at 155 (4th from the Bottom) on the health spending index.
  23. The National Maritime foundation of India joined hand with Taiwan to foster cooperation in the Indo-pacific region.
- Note:** The think tanks will set up a joint task force to deepen the bilateral dialogue in the Indo-pacific region. They will also conduct joint Research and expand cooperation. The Asia exchange Foundation is waiting for the covid-19 travel restrictions to get over in order to send a delegation to India to hold direct talks. The foundation is the organiser of the Yushan Forum.
24. NITI Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) jointly launched the India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) under the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP).  
**Note:** IEMF aims to engage Indian researchers, knowledge partners, think tanks and national and international government agencies and departments for long-term energy planning. The Sustainable Growth is one of the four pillars of the US-India SEP entailing energy data management, energy modelling and collaboration on low carbon technologies as three key activities.
  25. **Harish Kumar** is heading the committee constituted by the Election Commission of India to examine the expenditure limit of candidates contesting in Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections.  
**Note:** The two- member committee will examine the expenditure limit of candidates contesting in Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections. The need to increase expenditure has come up due to the increase in the size of electorate and increasing inflation. Previously the expenditure ceiling of a candidate was revised in 2014.
  26. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the Anaemia Mukh Bharat index in association with Intergovernmental organization **UNICEF**.  
**Note:** The anaemia Mukh Bharat is an initiative to reduce the prevalence of anaemia in India. Haryana topped the anaemia free India index or the anaemia Mukh Bharat Index with a score of 46.7. The index was released during the eighth governing body meeting of National Health Mission in Chandigarh.
  27. AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the Regional Raw Drug Repository in **All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi**.  
**Note:** This RRDR is the second in the series of repositories proposed by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB). AYUSH Ministry has said that there is an increased demand for the natural healing and herbal products across the globe which has been further pushed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
  28. **Injeti Srinivas** is the chairperson of the IFSCA Expert Committee that submitted its second interim report to

- the chairperson of International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
- Note:** It was an IFSCA Expert Committee that was constituted to study about the international retail business development in IFSC. The committee as constituted to make recommendations on promoting international retail business in IFSC (International Financial Service Centre).
29. Recently, the **Mumbai police** registered a **TRP scam case against** certain news channel after ratings agency BARC (**Broadcast Audience Research Council**) filed a complaint with the police.
- Note:** The alleged scam came to light when ratings agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) filed a complaint with the police, alleging that certain channels were rigging TRP numbers to lure advertisers. It was alleged that some families at whose houses metres for collecting data of viewership were installed were being bribed to tune into a particular channel.
30. **Surat** city with the longest BRTS corridor in the country.
- Note:** With this, Surat became the city with the longest BRTS corridor in the country. After the unveiling of the seven km long BRTS corridor from Kumbharia to Kadodara, the BRTS corridor in the city has become 108 running km.
31. **Mandi** district has bagged top position among 30 districts of the country in the successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- Note:** Himachal Pradesh's, Mandi district has bagged top position among 30 districts of the country in the successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Himachal Pradesh has also secured the second position at the national level for construction of roads under PMGSY.
32. **Rajiv Kumar** will head 14-members panel constituted by the NITI Aayog to look into introducing reforms in the urban planning education system.
- Note:** The panel will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar. The members of the committee include Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog and secretaries of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
33. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' an electricity scheme for farmers in **Gujarat**.
- Note:** It is a scheme for providing 16 Hours of Power Supply to Farmers, providing day-time power supply needed by farmers for irrigation. The Farmers will get 3 Phase Power Supply from 5 AM to 9 PM. Gujarat Government has allocated a budget INR 3500 Crore for installing infrastructure under this scheme by 2023.
34. India's rank in Ookla Speedtest Global Index that ranks nation on the basis of Global Mobile Internet Speed-- **131<sup>st</sup>**.
- Note:** India was ranked 121 in 2019 in this index. South Korea has topped the list with an average mobile internet speed of 121.00 Mbps. Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal ranked higher on the list at 102, 116, and 117 respectively.
35. **TCS** has partnered with IIT Kharagpur to develop novel Industry 4.0 technology.
- Note:** IIT Kharagpur has partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to develop novel Industry 4.0 technology for remotely controlled factory operations. This will provide setting a new trend in India's advanced manufacturing sector
36. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched 'e-Dharti Geo Portal'.
- Note:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched 'e-Dharti Geo Portal' to integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system and make its geographic information system (GIS)-enabled.
1. The Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated the DST-IIEST Solar PV Hub in **West Bengal**.
- Note:** It aims to have world-class research facility. It will act as a central node for dissemination of knowledge in the field of solar energy, research and development, fabrication, solar photovoltaics, solar PV module, testing of solar cells and Solar PV systems. The hub provides great boost for the eastern and North Eastern regions of India.
37. **PM Narendra Modi** to head the committee formed to commemorate 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- Note:** PM Narendra Modi will be heading a high level 70 member committee to commemorate 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur. The committee will work to formulate and approve policies, plans, programmes and will look after supervision and guidance for commemoration, deciding broad dates for the programme.
38. **NITI Aayog** has released the "Electricity access in India and benchmarking distribution utilities" report.
- Note:** The report says that 92% of customers received electricity infrastructure within 50 metres of their premises. Around 87% of the customers had access to grid-based electricity. Reminding 13% were those who

- either used non grid sources or did not use electricity at all.
39. Under construction 8.1 Km long Feni Bridge will connect Indian state **Tripura** with Bangladesh to be completed by December 2020.  
**Note:** The bridge is to be built over Feni river. It will link Tripura with Bangladesh. The construction of the bridge began in December 2010. After completion, the bridge will be the only land link between India's eastern states and its western states other than Assam.
40. The Shipping Ministry has launched 'Direct Port Entry Facility' at **V.O. Chidambaranar port, Tuticorin**.  
**Note:** The modern Direct Port Entry would allow direct movement of containers from mills to the container terminal round the clock, without in-between handling at CFSs. The facility is launch in an area of 18,357 sq. meters inside the truck parking terminal that was created under 'Sagarmala' for issuing customs permission of export cargo such as mills stuffed and e-sealed containers.
41. **M Venkaiah Naidu** has launched the virtual festival of "Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance" organised by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations.  
**Note:** Natya Tarangini has been organising this for the past 23 years. This dance and music festival as the normal life has been disrupted by lockdowns, economic downturns and lack of social interaction caused by the pandemic.
42. Tech giant **Microsoft** has collaborated with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to impart digital skills to more than one lakh underserved women in India over the next 10 months.  
**Note:** As part of the collaboration, more than 70 hours of course content will be made available free of cost, covering topics such as digital literacy, enhancing employability, nano entrepreneurship, and communication skills. This initiative is an extension of Microsoft's partnership with NSDC to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh youth in the country.
43. Indian IT firm **Infosys** has turned carbon neutral thirty years ahead of the 2050 timeline set by the Paris Agreement.  
**Note:** Over the past years, Infosys said it has reduced its per capita electricity consumption by over 55% with the ambition to transition to renewable energy. Infosys was also India's first signatory to the RE100, a global initiative by companies committed to using 100% renewable energy

### Important News – State

1. Nagaland state government launched "Livelihood Generation Programme for Returned Migrant Workers".  
**Note:** The state government, with support from the North East Council, will initially train around 100 such returnees under the "Livelihood Generation Programme for Returned Migrant Workers".
2. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the YSR Jala Kala Scheme under which farmers will be provide free borewells.  
**Note:** The government said that about three lakh farmers will be profited from the scheme and will cover five lakh acres of land under cultivation with an estimated cost of Rs 2,340 crore in four years. The eligible farmers can apply either online or through the village secretariats. The applications will be approved after hydrogeological and geophysical surveys.
3. Yuddh Pradushan Ke Virudh campaign has been launched by Delhi government.  
**Note:** Under the campaign separate detailed plans have been prepared for each of the 13 pollution hotspots identified in the city. The chief minister said one of the major reasons for high levels of pollution in Delhi and nearby areas is stubble burning.
4. Goa state government has launched an action plan to support agriculture and animal husbandry under its "Aatmanirbhar" programme.  
**Note:** The government has announced a series of initiatives under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Swayampoorna Goa programme' (ABSGP) including promoting dairy and poultry farming. It talks about checking 'menace' of wild animals and cattle at agriculture fields. To help farmers, crop insurance and fencing will be availed. Horticulture cultivation, procurement of agricultural equipment, and sustainable harvesting of medical plants will also be assisted with it.
5. Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda launched the home delivery facility of fertilisers for farmers in Andhra Pradesh.  
**Note:** Gowda launched POS 3.1 software, SMS Gateway and home delivery facility of fertilisers for farmers in the state Farmers will be able to purchase fertiliser without touching fingerprint sensors. The states govt. has launched 10,641 Rythu Bharosa Kendralu in all gram panchayats to provide farmers with quality inputs and allied services.
6. West Bengal government has launched 'Pathashree Abhijan' scheme for road repair.

- Note:** It is a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometres across the state will be repaired. West Bengal govt has collated a list of the roads that will be repaired under the new scheme after the people of the state reached out to her through the 'Didi Ke Bolo' initiative of the government.
7. Assam government launched a portal 'Kritagyata' an online pension submission and tracking system.  
**Note:** With the help of the portal, the retired government employee, besides submitting pension related papers on line will get opportunity to check the status of his pension. The portal has been created in line with the 'Bhabhisya' portal of Government of India.
  8. Gujarat state government has announced a 'Digital Seva Setu' programme to ensure optimum utilisation of technology for public welfare in rural areas.  
**Note:** Under the 'Digital Seva Setu' program, public welfare services will be made available in all the 14,000-gram panchayats in the state by connecting village panchayats through an optical fibre network.
  9. Assam state government has launched a mobile app "Kisan Rath" that connects more than 10,000 farmers, 50 farmer-producer organizations and 1,000 verified agricultural traders on its interface.  
**Note:** The app has been customized by National Informatics Centre (NIC) Assam to suit the requirements of the state. It is available in 3 languages-Assamese, Hindi and English. PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Fasal Bima Yojana, KCC etc., have strengthened agricultural ecosystem in the country and made agriculture a dignified calling.
  10. Uttarakhand state government has launched "Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana".  
**Note:** The scheme is aimed at promoting self-employment of the youth and promoting the production of Green Energy. The targeted beneficiaries include youths and migrant workers, who returned home after leaving jobs in various parts of the country due to pandemic.
  11. Delhi state government has exempted road tax on its battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle Policy.  
**Note:** The Delhi government has exempted road tax on its battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle Policy. The Transport department, in its notification issued stated that the Lieutenant Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi exempted the tax levied upon all battery electric vehicles with immediate effect.
  12. Haryana state government has launched "Lab on Wheels" to test the water quality in the state under Jal Jeevan Mission.  
**Note:** The water quality of Haryana is mainly affected by fluoride, iron, nitrate and alkalinity. Lab on wheels is a mobile laboratory. The mobile laboratory has been launched under Jal Jeevan Mission. The mobile laboratory will test for alkalinity, hardness, chlorine, nitrate, zinc, turbidity, PH and other microbiological tests.
  13. Kerala state becomes the first state in the country to make public education completely digital.  
**Note:** The project of making public education completely digital in Kerala was implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education. Around 3,74,274 digital services were distributed in 16,027 schools in Kerala. The project also set up high-tech labs in more than 11,275 schools at primary and secondary levels.
  14. Kerala state government has become the first in the country to decide to form a Welfare Fund Board for the uplift of farmers in the state.  
**Note:** The state cabinet decided to set up the board to be known as 'Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board'. For the farmers to become a member of the Board, they need to pay Rs 100 as registration fee and a monthly fee of Rs 100. The government will provide an equivalent share of upto Rs 250 to the members of the Welfare Fund.
  15. A toll-free government helpline for mental health "Mann Samvad" was launched Rajasthan.  
**Note:** The helpline 1800-180-0018 launched by the state government to continuously strengthening mental health services during the coronavirus period. The facility of free tele-counselling is being provided to patients with mental health issues that through the helpline.
  16. In the country's first and unique drive the agriculture department of Goa has collaborated with the Postal Department to get farmers enrolled in the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) scheme.  
**Note:** Three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months are transferred into the farmers account. The scheme defines family as husband, wife and minor children. The local postman who we are used to seeing bringing mail to our doorstep so far will come to fill the form for the 11,000 farmers in the state who are eligible for this scheme as per the department records.
  17. The multi-national food and beverage major PepsiCo is setting up a greenfield potato chips production unit in Uttar Pradesh.  
**Note:** The unit is being set up in Kosi - Mathura on 35 acres of land provided by UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA). The unit, which is expected to commence commercial production by

- middle of the next year, will facilitate direct and indirect employment to about 1,500 patrons.
- 18. Hollongi airport** which a greenfield airport is being built Arunachal Pradesh.  
**Note:** The new domestic airport, with an area of 4,100 square metres, the Hollongi Airport will be able to handle 200 passengers during peak hours. The terminal will be an energy efficient building provisioned with Rain Water Harvesting system and sustainable landscape. The tentative date for completion of the project is November, 2022.
- 19. Gujarat** state government has announced to has signed a pact with Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) to set up a greenfield zinc smelter in the state.  
**Note:** This facility will entail an investment of Rs 5000-10,000 crore in phases, creating more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs and will be operational by 2022. The proposed 300 (kilo tonnes per annum) production capacity project would provide big employment opportunities to the local youths in this tribal area.
- 20. Rajasthan** state police has launched 'AAWAJ' — 'Action Against Women-related crime and Awareness for Justice' the campaign to spread awareness among woman about the crime against them.  
**Note:** Named 'AAWAJ' — Action Against Women-related crime and Awareness for Justice the campaign was launched by Civil Rights and Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the police and will run across the state to generate gender equality and curb crimes against women. In the first month of the campaign from October 13 to November 12, special efforts will be made to curb rape incidents, besides spreading awareness about the laws related to women safety.
- 21. Odisha** government has launched "Sujal", 'Drink from Tap Mission' scheme, to provide round the clock supply of quality tap drinking water in all urban areas of the state.  
**Note:** The state has set the target to provide piped water connections to all urban areas in the state by March 2022. Odisha government has set Rs 1300 crore for this scheme which will benefit over 15 lakh people in 15 towns in a phased manner.
- 22. Odisha** government signed an agreement with Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) to sponsor the Indian national rugby teams till 2023 and facilitate high-performance training and conditioning of the players.  
**Note:** Odisha government signed an agreement with Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) to sponsor the Indian national rugby teams till 2023 and facilitate high-performance training and conditioning of the players. The agreement was signed at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Mou was signed by R Vineel Krishna, Director of Sports & Youth Services
- Department, Odisha and Maneck Unwala, President of IRFU.
- 23. In Uttar Pradesh** state the 'Safe City Project', a 180-day-long campaign has been launched under which the police and other departments will work towards safety of women.  
**Note:** The 'Safe City Project', a 180-day-long campaign under which the police and other departments will work towards safety of women. The central government has approved the project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs 194 crore with an aim to strengthen security of women in public places.
- 24. Asan Conservation Reserve** has become the India's 38th Ramsar site located in **Uttarakhand**.  
**Note:** The Reserve is located on the banks of Yamuna river near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of the Himalayan state. Ramsar declares Asan Conservation Reserve as a site of international importance. With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 38, the highest in South Asia.
- 25. According to the Indian Tourist Statistics 2020 Uttar Pradesh** state attracted the highest number of domestic tourists in the country in 2019.  
**Note:** According to the Indian Tourist Statistics 2020, 53,58,55,162 domestic tourists visited the state in 2019. The state bagged the third spot in terms of the arrival of foreign tourists. As many as 47,45,181 foreign tourists visited UP in the same year.
- 26. Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari** laid the foundation stone for India's first Multi-modal Logistic Park (MMLP) in **Assam** state.  
**Note:** The park will be developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Government of India. It is being created by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), owned by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH).
- 27. Odisha** government has launched the electricity consumer service portal "Mo Bidyut" and mobile application, over a virtual platform.  
**Note:** The portal was developed by the Energy Department and dedicated to the public under the 5T (Team work, Transparency, Technology, Time leading to Transformation) mechanism, an initiative of the government of Odisha. The electricity services provided by the Mo Bidyut will be governed and monitored under the "Mo Sarkar" (My Government).
- 28. Tamil Nadu** state government will implement the smart blackboard scheme in more than 80,000 Government schools.  
**Note:** The smart blackboard scheme aims to use audio visual teaching material that can be integrated along with digital classrooms. It will create materials that can

- be fed into computer screens using pen drives. The Tamil Nadu State government has also decided to reduce the syllabus of 2020-21 by 40 percentage.
- 29. Uttar Pradesh** state government has decided to establish women help desks in each and every police station of state.  
**Note:** The women police personnel deputed on helpdesk will not only listen to the complaints of women but will always be ready to help them anytime. The Chief Minister has also directed the state police force to personally visit the site of crime against women and children and ensure timely investigation.
- 30. Jammu and Kashmir** has signed an historic **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with online store Flipkart to provide a platform for local artisans, craftsmen, weavers to reach customers across the globe.  
**Note:** This partnership will provide an appropriate opportunity for the momentous growth and development of the respective sectors. This e-marketing channel shall involve and benefit artisans and weavers both in organized and unorganized sector and for the first six months, Flipkart will not charge any fee from the artisans and weavers.
- 31. Andhra Pradesh** state government has launched a BIMA scheme to provide financial assistance through insurance cover to the beneficiary in case of death or accident of their family members.  
**Note:** All families with white ration cards are eligible for YSR Bima scheme. Village/ward volunteers will visit the families and enrol the names of the primary householders. The claim amount will be directly credited into the beneficiary bank account within 15 days of making the claim.
- 32. Uttar Pradesh** government has secured first rank in loan disbursement under PM SVANidhi Scheme.  
**Note:** UP has been ranked first in all the categories like Applications, Sanctions and Disbursements of the loans under PM SVANidhi scheme.
- 33. Arunachal Pradesh** state has been recently included under ESI Scheme for the first time.  
**Note:** It will be applicable to all the factories located in Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh employing 10 or more persons, along with other benefits. ESI Scheme has been implemented in 568 districts in all the States and Union Territories, except Lakshdweep.
- 34. Arunachal Pradesh** state has built a war memorial in Bum La.  
**Note:** A war memorial has come up in at Bum La in Arunachal Pradesh. Joginder Singh of 1st Battalion the Sikh Regt received the highest gallantry award, 'Param Vir Chakra' in the Eastern Theatre during the 1962 Sino- India War. Indian Army organised the Inauguration Ceremony of Joginder War Memorial at Bum La on October 23 coinciding with the day on which the Battle of Tongpen La (Bum La) took place in 1962.
- 35. Kerala** became the first Indian state to fix Minimum Support Price for sixteen agriculture items.  
**Note:** The scheme is to support farmers and increase agriculture sector. Sixteen different varieties of vegetables will be covered in the first phase. There is also a condition to revise the MSP price on a regular basis.
- 36. The Young Advocates Welfare Fund** has been launched in **Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:** It provides monthly financial assistance of three thousand rupees each for two years to the lawyers who just come out of law colleges. Normally a fresher from law colleges takes three to four years to begin practice as an advocate in the court as the registration in the Bar Council, and the mandatory practicing under a senior advocate takes time.
- 37. Uttar Pradesh** state government has decided to establish anti-human trafficking Police Stations in each and every district in a major step towards the security of women and children.  
**Note:** These Police Stations will be given enough powers to register the case and investigate the matter independently. The state government is going to establish 40 new anti-trafficking units which will work like police stations in districts and will conduct the investigation after registering the cases.
- 38. Odisha** state government has launched 'State Scholarship Portal' to help eligible students of the state to avail scholarship benefits in a seamless and transparent manner.  
**Note:** According to a government release, 21 scholarships would be offered by eight state departments and more than 11 lakh beneficiary students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and educationally backward classes would benefit from the scholarship portal.
- 39. Odisha** state government has launched 'Sumangal Portal' to help people avail inter-caste marriage incentives.  
**Note:** The Chief Minister said while inaugurating the Sumangal portal that inter-ethnic marriages increased social unity and it reduced racial discrimination while promoting equality and peaceful coexistence in society. The CM added that Rs 2.5 lakh can be availed by beneficiaries within 60 days of applying at the portal.

### Important News – World

1. Human rights organization, **Amnesty International** has announced that it has decided to halt its operations in India after a successful eight-year run alleging that its bank accounts were frozen as part of government's "witch-hunt".  
**Note:** The decision which came after the recent move by the Enforcement Directorate to freeze the organisation's accounts will impact about 150 employees.
2. India with France to launch a constellation of maritime surveillance satellites to monitor illegal spillage of oil in the Indian Ocean Region.  
**Note:** In August 2020, the ISRO and the French Space Agency CNES agreed to develop and build a constellation of satellites. CNES is Centre National d'études spatiales, the National Centre for Space Studies. The satellites will carry optical-remote sensing instruments, telecommunication and radar instruments.
3. China is all set to send the world's **first mining robot named 'asteroid mining robot'** into space by November 2020 to identify and extract resources.  
**Note:** The mining robot will be launched into space by a Chinese Long March series rocket. The 30-gram spacecraft, NEO-1, is likely to be launched as a secondary payload on a Chinese Long March rocket. This company also has another mission, Yuanwang-1 ('Look up-1'), nicknamed 'Little Hubble', which is to be launched by late 2021 or early 2022.
4. Google announced the launch of its nationwide campaign 'Make Small Strong' in order to help support small businesses and drive demand through customer support.  
**Note:** "Make Small Strong" campaign is meant to rally support from the citizens for small businesses. The citizens can help small businesses by buying locally, leaving reviews and ratings and by promoting their favourite retailers on social media.
5. USA committed \$1.9 million to India to support informal sector workers, micro enterprises.  
**Note:** The financial assistance from US Agency for International Development (USAID), extended generously by the American people to partners in India, will support efforts to rebuild local economies and improve the livelihoods of Indians who have been hit hardest by this pandemic.
6. India will build a 100-bedded cancer hospital and a 22,000-seater cricket stadium in Maldives.  
**Note:** This project will build on the already close bilateral cooperation in the health sector and include a robust component of human resource development. Projects covered under the LoC include several infrastructure development projects.
7. Russia will chair the 12<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit to be held on be held on 17th November 2020 via video conference.  
**Note:** The theme of the Meeting of the Leaders of BRICS countries is "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth". The Summit this year is being held under the Chairmanship of Russia and aims at a multifaceted cooperation between the member countries.
8. World Economic Forum will jointly establish country's first of its kind Advanced Manufacturing hub (AMHUB) in association with Guidance.  
**Note:** AMHUB is Advanced Manufacturing hub and is first of its kind in the country. Guidance is the nodal investment promotion agency of the state of Tamil Nadu. AMHUB will help the state in the sectors of solar energy, electronics, electric mobility and textiles. It will help boost production sector of Tamil Nadu by identifying regional opportunities brought by Fourth Industrial Revolution.
9. Russia has successfully tested a new hypersonic anti-ship cruise missile Tsirkon.  
**Note:** The Tsirkon missile was fired from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate in the White Sea in the Russian Arctic and successfully hit its target. Russia boasts of developing a number of "invincible" weapons that surpass existing systems and include Sarmat intercontinental missiles and Burevestnik cruise missiles. The first Avangard hypersonic missiles were put into service in December last year.
10. The Union Cabinet approved signing of an agreement with Japan that is aimed at enhancing cooperation in emerging technologies, protection of critical infrastructure, cyberspace and to mitigate threats to communication networks.  
**Note:** The approval to the pact by the cabinet comes in the midst of growing concerns over cyberattacks from China, particularly after India banned over 100 mobile apps with Chinese links.
11. As per the latest report of FIS India has become the global leader in real-time financial transactions with 41 million transactions per day.  
**Note:** The Covid-19 pandemic has seen India doubling its every day real-time transactions at 41 million, says the latest report from FIS. FIS is a leading provider of technology solutions for merchants, banks and capital markets firms globally. According to the report released, six other countries also saw more than doubling of their real-time payment transactions year-over-year, while four saw at least a twofold increase in transaction value.
12. Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Kuwait.

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

- region. These announcements were made by Israeli Ambassador to India Ron Malka.
24. The North Atlantic Treaty organisation is to setup a new Space Centre in **Germany**.  
**Note:** The new Centre will gather information about possible threats to satellites. The centre is to be developed into a command centre of defensive measures in near future. The centre is being setup based on Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty organisation.
  25. India has contributed to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Near East --**one million dollars**.  
**Note:** India has contributed one million dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Near East. This aid will support the Agency's programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services.
  26. Intergovernmental organization **World Economic Forum** has released the third edition of "The Future of Jobs Report 2020", according to which the covid-19 and its impacts will disrupt more than 85 million jobs by 2025.  
**Note:** According to the report the covid-19 and its impacts will disrupt more than 85 million jobs by 2025. The report is based on the future of jobs. The report has been prepared by the forum based on the projections of Senior Business leaders from more than 300 Global firms.
  27. World famous UNESCO Heritage site cou, Nazca lines is located in **Peru**.  
**Note:** The Nazca lines consists of hundreds of gigantic geoglyph that date back more than 2000 years. The newly discovered cat Geoglyph is older than the ones discovered earlier.
  28. India-assisted with Hydroelectric project **Mangdechhu** (in Bhutan) has been awarded the Brunel Medal-2020, UK's top engineering body award.  
**Note:** The 720-MW Mangdechhu run-of-river power project is built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan at a cost of Rs 4,500-crore. The project was jointly inaugurated by the prime ministers of the two countries in August 2019, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Bhutan.
  29. **Andorra** country has joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to become its 190th member.  
**Note:** Andorra is a microstate situated between France and Spain. IMF's Membership allows the Andorran government to benefit from IMF policy advice, especially as the country tackles the crisis caused by COVID-19 and can now receive an annual review or "health check" of its economy by the IMF.
  30. The United States approved the potential sale of three weapon systems, as well as missiles and artillery to **Taiwan**.  
**Note:** The United States also approved 11 truck-based rocket launchers created by Lockheed Martin Corp called a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System for an approximately cost of USD 436.1m. It also approved 135 AGM-84H Standoff Land Attack Missile Expanded Response (SLAM-ER) Missiles & associated instruments created Boeing, for an estimated cost of USD 1.008bn.
  31. **Bangladesh** has announced 'no mask, no service' policy.  
**Note:** The Bangladesh government has decided that no service will be provided to people who don't wear masks. The cabinet meeting Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina decided that no one will be allowed to enter offices without the mask.
  32. **Sudan** became 3rd Arab Nation to normalise relations with Israel.  
**Note:** The new agreement between Sudan and Israel will establish economic and trade links, with an initial focus on agriculture. United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain were the other Arab nations to establish formal ties with Israel.
  33. **India** has hosted the 19th SCO foreign trade and economic ministers meet 2020.  
**Note:** During the meet, the Minister remarked that countries have to leverage their Economic Strength to enhance trade and investment in the region. This according to the Minister will help in enhancing the speed of recovery from the covid-19 pandemic.

### Honor & Awards

1. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2020 announced by the central government recently, the award in given outstanding contribution in the field of Science and Technology.  
**Note:** The prize is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45 for outstanding research in seven fields—Biology, Chemistry, Environment Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Physics. The Prize is bestowed on a person who, in the opinion of CSIR, has made conspicuously important and outstanding contributions to human knowledge and progress fundamental and applied, in the particular field of endeavour, which is his/her specialization.
2. Kerala's 'Human by Nature Print Campaign' bagged the Prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing.  
**Note:** The awards were announced during a presentation ceremony of Virtual PATA Travel Mart

- 2020 in Beijing. The PATA Awards are supported and sponsored by Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO). 'Human by Nature' was a marketing strategy to revive tourism that was hit by the 2018 floods and the Nipah outbreak.
3. **Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice** won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine  
**Note:** The 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice "for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus," the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet announced in Stockholm, Sweden. The trio's work helped explain a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the hepatitis A and B viruses
  4. Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of HDFC Bank, Ravi Santhanam has been recognized in the Forbes list of 'The World's Most Influential CMOs'.  
**Note:** Ranked at Number 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of Apple, BMW, Lego, Adobe, Microsoft, P&G among others. This is the 8th edition of this annual list released by Forbes with research partners Sprinklr and LinkedIn. This year, 427 global CMOs were eligible for consideration. It is generated using data from news reports, websites and social networks to measure influence.
  5. Pro-democracy campaigner of Belarus Ales Bialiatski has been awarded with Swedish honour sometimes called "the alternative Nobel Prize along with three others.  
**Note:** Ales Bialiatski of Belarus and his NGO Viasna, Nasrin Sotoudeh of Iran, Bryan Stevenson of the United States and indigenous rights and environmental activist Lottie Cunningham Wren of Nicaragua share the Right Livelihood Award. Although the Right Livelihood Award is promoted as an "Alternative Nobel Prize", it is not a Nobel prize.
  6. **Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez** won the Physics Nobel Prize 2020.  
**Note:** The Prize in Physics 2020 was divided, one half awarded to Roger Penrose for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity. The other half jointly to Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy.
  7. **Ratan Tata** has been bestowed with lifetime achievement award by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC).  
**Note:** The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has bestowed a lifetime achievement award to Indian business icon Ratan Tata at a closed-door meeting, owing to ongoing pandemic. Tata, who grew the revenues for India's largest conglomerate 'The Tata Group' to nearly USD 100 billion by 2011-12, remains an influential industrialist, philanthropist and humanitarian to the day.
  8. **Sanjay Singh** has been chosen for 'Gandhi' Award instituted by the Mahatma Gandhi National Foundation.  
**Note:** He was instrumental in India's diplomatic intervention to remove Mahatma Gandhi's images on beer bottles of a private company in Israel, Mr Jose, who brought the matter into the public domain. The Award carries a sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi, cash prize of Rs 25,001 and a certificate.
  9. Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna won the Chemistry Nobel Prize 2020.  
**Note:** The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna "for the development of a method for genome editing". The Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.
  10. Nityanand Nayak will be conferred the prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work 'Setebelaku Nathiba'.  
**Note:** The poet will be felicitated with a cash award of `5 lakh and a citation. Two other eminent personalities from the State - Ranjit Kumar Nag and Shyamsundar Pattanaik - will be felicitated for their contribution to fields of music and art respectively. While Nag will be awarded the Ila Panda Sangeet Samman, Pattanaik would be felicitated with Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman.
  11. Louise Glück has been awarded with the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2020.  
**Note:** The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by The Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden. The American poet Louise Glück was born in 1943 in New York and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She has received several prestigious awards, among them the Pulitzer Prize (1993) and the National Book Award (2014).
  12. The Nobel Prize for Economics, 2020 was awarded to Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson for improvement in Auction theory.  
**Note:** They were awarded for improvements to Auction Theory and also for inventing new auction formats. The prize is also called Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The theory formulated by Milgrom allowed calculating common and private values that vary from bidder to bidder.
  13. Gautam Adani secured the second position in the Forbes India Rich list for 2020.  
**Note:** Amid the Covid-19 pandemic which hit India hard and led to a sharp economic contraction, half of the nation's 100 richest on the 2020 Forbes India Rich List

- saw gains. Reliance Group Chairman Mukesh Ambani, who topped the list for the 13th year “accounted for more than half of those gains”.
14. The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 has been awarded to World Food Programme for efforts in order to Combat Hunger.  
**Note:** The award comes with a 10-million krona (\$1.1 million) cash prize and a gold medal to be handed out at a ceremony in Oslo, Norway, on December 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel’s death. This year’s ceremony will be scaled down due to the pandemic.
  15. **Kani Kusurthi** bagged the award for the best actress in Kerala Film Awards 2020.  
**Note:** Kusurthi had won the best actress award at the recently concluded 42nd Moscow International Film Festival for her performance in ‘Biriyani.’ Lijo Jose Pellissery, who directed ‘Jallikattu’ bagged the best director award, while the best movie award was given to ‘Vasanthi’, directed by Rahman Brothers. ‘Vasanthi’ also bagged the award for the best female actor in a character role.
  16. **Bank of Ghana** has won the 2020 Central bank of the year award.  
**Note:** Apart from this, Economist Mark Joseph Carney, Governor of the central bank of the United Kingdom Bank of England, has won the 2020 Governor of the year at the Central bank of the year award. Central Banking Awards is held annually to recognize excellence in the central banking community. This was the 7th edition of the award and the ceremony was held virtually.
  17. **Aishwarya Sridhar** becomes first Indian woman to win Wildlife Photographer of the Year award.  
**Note:** Her photo won among 50,000 entries from over 80 countries across the world. Only 100 images were shortlisted and she won the award for her photograph in the Behaviour Invertebrates category. Sridhar’s photograph titled ‘Lights of Passion’ bagged the coveted title at the award show organised by the National History Museum.
  18. **Japan** has won the Visvesvaraya ISA Solar Award in the Asia Pacific Region, announced for the first time by International Solar Alliance.  
**Note:** The awards went to Japan for the Asia Pacific region and the Netherlands for Europe and other regions. The awards named after Bharat Ratna M. Visvesvaraya to the representatives of the countries of Japan, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The winners received USD 12,330 prize money.
  19. The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to **Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya**.  
**Note:** It is an honour to announce that the women and men of the democratic opposition in Belarus are the 2020 Sakharov Prize laureates. A 38-year old former English teacher with no previous political experience, Ms. Tsikhanouskaya joined the race after her husband who aspired to run for president was jailed. He has remained in prison.
  20. Tech giant **Samsung** has bagged the first position in the Forbes’ list of World’s Best Employer 2020.  
**Note:** Samsung Electronics has topped the Forbes list of World’s Best Employer 2020, which features 750 multinational and large corporations, Amazon has bagged second position, followed by IBM, Microsoft and LG. From India, HCL Technologies is top industry in the list. It is placed at 30th position globally.
  21. **Global Himalayan Expedition** has won the UN Global Climate Action Award for combating climate change amid COVID-19 pandemic.  
**Note:** The UN Global Climate Action awards are guided by the power for change drive at UN Climate Change. The declaration of awards is also a major goal to mobilize wishes and action as government work with regards to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. GHE is a corporation that manages ‘Impacts Expeditions’ to the Himalayan villages in native areas. These expeditions will have a valid cause. For instance, to set up solar energy in remote villages.

### Obituaries

1. Famous writer Dr G S Amur passed away recently.  
**Note:** Veteran writer and critic Dr G S Amur passed away. He was proficient in Kannada and English languages. He had won many awards including Sahitya Akademi Award, Rajyotsava Award and Bharatiya Bhasha Award
2. Renowned **Social Activist** Pushpa Bhave passed away in Mumbai following a prolonged illness.  
**Note:** She has been associated with the Rashtra Seva Dal and democratic movements since her student days.
3. She was also an academician and an intellectual, who fought for the rights of common citizens. During the Emergency, she had offered her home as shelter to underground political workers.
3. Renowned politician and former minister of Odisha Pradeep Maharathy passed away  
**Note:** He was elected to the Assembly from the Pipili constituency consecutively seven times from 1985 till last Assembly elections in 2019. Before joining the

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

17. Renowned Indian-origin human rights lawyer Priscilla Jana passed away, he was a national of South Africa.  
**Note:** Jana, who had played a significant role against apartheid, was the Deputy Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). Jana was also a member of the South African Law Commission and served as a member of the Advisory Committee to the President.
18. Renowned politician Vinod Kumar Singh passed away due to COVID-19, he was a minister of Bihar  
**Note:** He was a BJP MLA from Prampur Assembly constituency of Katihar district in northeast Bihar and has been elected MLA thrice from the constituency.
19. Noted poet and 55th Jnanpith awardee Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passed away recently, he was a poet of **Malayalam** language.  
**Note:** Akkitham also won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1973. He became a household name in the 1950s when his work Irupatham Noottandinte Ithihasam, a khandakavya, which is one of the first modernist poems of Malayalam literature, gained popularity. It even won the Sanjayan Award in 1952.
20. Veteran Test cricketer of **New Zealand** John Reid passed away recently.  
**Note:** Reid, regarded as one of the world's best all-rounders during his heyday in the fifties and early sixties, captained New Zealand in 34 Tests including, most notably, the country's first three victories. A hard-hitting right batsman and a seam bowler, he played 58 Tests after making his debut as a 19-year-old in 1949, scoring 3428 runs at 33.28, while taking 85 wickets at 33.35.
21. Renowned **Classical Dancer** Shobha Naidu passed away recently,  
**Note:** Her major achievements include choreography and presentation of Ballets Vipranarayana, Kalyana Srinivasam and many others, in which she was the main protagonist and portrayed various roles like Satyabhama, Devadevaki, Padmavathi, Mohini, Sai Baba, and Goddess Parvati which won her great appreciation. Some of the famous awards won by her includes Padma Shri in 2001, Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1991.
22. Renowned personality Bhanu Athaiya passed away recently, she was a veteran **Costume Designer**.  
**Note:** She won the Best Costume Design Oscar for her work in the 1982 film Gandhi, directed by Richard Attenborough. In 2012, Athaiya returned her Oscar to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for safekeeping. Bhanu Athaiya had also designed costumes for over 100 Bollywood movies.
23. Renowned **Journalist**. Kishore Bhimani passed away recently,
- Note:** He was a leading cricket commentator in the Eighties and Nineties and is best remembered for being on the air during the tied Test of 1986 between India and Australia in Chepauk, Chennai. He had received a lifetime achievement award for his decades-long contribution in the fields of media and commentary in 2013.
24. Legendary singer Kaumudi Munshi passed away due to COVID 19, she is also known as 'Nightingale' of **Gujarat**.  
**Note:** During the early stage of her career, Munshi sang mostly in Gujarati, gaining fame with songs like 'Sachi re maari satre bhavani maa'. The singer also sang Bhojpuri songs, for the 1963 movie Bidesiya she sang 'Neek Saiyan bin' with renowned singer Geeta Dutt.
25. Renowned **Economist** Dr Jayanta Madhab passed away recently.  
**Note:** The renowned economist from Assam, Dr Jayanta Madhab passed away. He worked as financial adviser to Calcutta Metropolitan Development Corp and has served as a director at the ADB. He was the founder chairman of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.
26. Renowned personality Mahesh Kanodia passed away recently, he was a veteran **Singer**.  
**Note:** Former BJP MP from Patan Lok Sabha constituency and legendary Gujarati singer-musician Mahesh Kanodia died following prolonged illness. Mahesh, 83, is the elder brother of legendary Gujarati film star and former MLA Naresh Kanodia and the two are known as the Mahesh-Naresh duo in Gujarati film industry.
27. Renowned personality Daniel Menaker passed away recently; he was a veteran **Author**.  
**Note:** Daniel Menaker was the author of several books, including the memoir My Mistake and the comic psychological novel The Treatment, adapted into a 2007 movie starring Chris Eigeman and Ian Holm. He was also known for the O Henry Award-winning title story of his collection The Old Left.
28. Renowned personality **Dr Vijaylakshmi Ramanan** passed away, she was **Indian Air Force 1st woman officer**.  
**Note:** She was born in February 1924, she did her MBBS and later was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps on **August 22, 1955**. Besides having served as a gynaecologist at various Air Force Hospitals, including here, she had also attended to the troops wounded during wars and performed administrative duties.
29. K J Mohammed Babu, popularly known as 'Zero' Babu passed away, he was a veteran **Playback singer**.  
**Note:** He was a recipient of the **Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award**. He has sung in nearly 90 films and

various plays. His first movie was the 1964 film 'Kudumbini'.

30. Renowned personality Lee Kun-hee has passed away, recently he was a veteran **Business Tycoon**.  
**Note:** Lee helped to transform Samsung from a small trading business to become the world's largest producer of smartphones and memory chips. The firm's overall turnover today is equivalent to a fifth of South Korea's GDP.
31. Renowned personality Naresh Kanodia passed away, he was a veteran **film star-turned-politician**.

- Note:** He was the younger brother of Gujarati singer **Mahesh Kanodia** who died on 25 October 2020 in Gandhinagar after a prolonged illness.
32. Renowned personality Keshubhai Savdasbhai Patel passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.  
**Note:** Former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Keshubhai Savdasbhai Patel passed away. He had served as the Chief Minister of the state for a few months in 1995 and then from March 1998 to October of 2001.

### Important Days

1. The first ever World Postcard Day was celebrated on October 1, 2020.  
**Note:** The goal for the World Postcard Day is to bring that joy to as many people as possible. A postcard or post card is a piece of thick paper or thin cardboard, typically rectangular, intended for writing and mailing without an envelope. The study and collecting of postcards is termed deltiology.
2. International Coffee Day is observed every year on 1<sup>st</sup> October.  
**Note:** The focus of International Coffee Day 2020 is 'Coffee's Next Generation', a global initiative targeting talented and motivated young people and entrepreneurs in the coffee sector.
3. The International Day of Older Persons is observed every year on **1st October**.  
**Note:** The Day is observed to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society. The theme of 2020 is 'Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?'
4. World Vegetarian Day is observed annually around the planet on October 1.  
**Note:** World Vegetarian Day is observed annually around the planet on October 1 to promote the joy, compassion and life-enhancing possibilities of vegetarianism. This day is celebrated to encourage and bring awareness about a vegetarian diet.
5. The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2nd October.  
**Note:** It is annually held on October 2 to coincide with renowned Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. This day is referred to as Gandhi Jayanti in India. The objective of the day is to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness".
6. World Habitat Day celebrated every year on 5th October.  
**Note:** The day is celebrated to remind the people that they have all power and responsibility to shape the future of towns and cities. The first Monday of every year is being celebrated as World Habitat Day. This was designated by the United Nations. The theme of the Day this year is 'Housing for All-A better Urban Future'.
7. World Teachers' Day is observed globally every year on 5th October.  
**Note:** The day provides the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, take stock of achievements, and draw attention to the voices of teachers, who are at the heart of efforts to attain the global education target of leaving no one behind. In 2020, World Teachers' Day will celebrate teachers with the theme "Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future".
8. Indian Air Force Day is celebrated every year on 8th October.  
**Note:** Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force. The name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950.
9. The World Post Day is observed every year on 9th October.  
**Note:** The purpose of World Post Day is to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives and its contribution to the social and economic development of countries. World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.
10. World Migratory Bird Day is observed globally on 10<sup>th</sup> October.  
**Note:** The Day will celebrate the biannual migration. The aim of the day is to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them. This time the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is "Birds Connect Our World".

11. World Mental Health Day is observed globally every year on 10<sup>th</sup> October.  
**Note:** The day is celebrated with an objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing the efforts in support of mental health. This year's theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is 'mental health for all'.
12. In India, the National Postal Day is celebrated annually on 10<sup>th</sup> October.  
**Note:** The Day aims to commemorate the role played by the Indian postal department for the past 150 years, which was founded in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.
13. International Day of the Girl Child is observed globally every year on 11<sup>th</sup> October.  
**Note:** The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. The theme for 2020 International Day of the Girl Child is "My voice, our equal future".
14. World Arthritis Day is observed globally every year on 12<sup>th</sup> October.  
**Note:** The day is celebrated to raise awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition which causes pain and stiffness in joints which can worsen with age. This day was started by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) in 1996 in order to spread awareness about arthritis and encourage policymakers to help reduce the burden of arthritis.
15. The United Nations marks the International Day for Disaster Reduction every year on 13<sup>th</sup> October.  
**Note:** The day is celebrated to spread how people and communities all over the world are reducing their exposure to disasters. The day is also called World Calamity Control Day. This year, in 2020, the day is marked under the theme "Disaster Risk Governance"
16. The World Standards Day 2020 is observed every year on 14<sup>th</sup> October.  
**Note:** The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of standardisation to the global economy among the consumers, regulators and industry. World Standards Day 2020 theme is "Protecting the planet with standards".
17. World Students' Day is observed every year on **15th October**.  
**Note:** This year marks the 89th birth anniversary of the former president and 'Missile Man' Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. In 2010 the United Nations declared 15 October "World Students' Day", due to Kalam's love for students and who himself was a dedicated teacher and identified himself foremost in that role before anything else.
18. Global Handwashing Day is observed every year on **15th October**.  
**Note:** This year's theme, "Hand Hygiene for All," seeks to raise awareness of making soap and water available globally, especially in public places, schools, and health care facilities
19. The **International Day of Rural Women** is observed globally each year on **15 October**.  
**Note:** In India, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare observes the day as the Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas since 2016, to increase the active participation of women in agriculture. The theme for this International Day of Rural Women is "Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19," to create awareness of these women's struggles, their needs, and their critical and key role in our society.
20. National Women Farmers' Day is observed every year on **15th October**.  
**Note:** Mahila Kisan Diwas was celebrated at ICAR Institutes and Krishi Vigyan Kendras across the country to recognize the contribution of women in Agriculture. The day was celebrated by ICAR-CIFRI with the hope to empower and leverage farm women with fisheries sector to bring Second Blue Revolution in the country.
21. World Food Day is observed every year on **16th October**.  
**Note:** This day generates awareness globally for those who suffer from hunger and to ensure the need for food security and nutritious diets for all. Theme 2020: "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together".
22. The World Statistics Day is observed every year on **20th October**.  
**Note:** The celebration of World Statistics Day 2020 is a global collaborative endeavour, organized under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The World Statistics Day 2020 theme "Connecting the world with data we can trust." This theme reflects the importance of trust, authoritative data, innovation and the public good in national statistical systems.
23. The World Osteoporosis Day is observed every year on **20th October**.  
**Note:** WOD is organized by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), by the launch of a year-long campaign with a specific theme. In 2020 the Global WOD Campaign theme is "THAT'S OSTEOPOROSIS", highlighting emotionally impactful visuals and stories of real people living with osteoporosis in all regions of the world.
24. International Chef's day is celebrated every year on **20th October**.  
**Note:** International Chef's day is celebrated on October 20 every year to honour the profession and educate

- people about healthy food. The theme of International Chefs Day 2020 is 'Healthy Food For the Future'.
25. World Snow Leopard Day is observed globally every year on **23rd October**.  
**Note:** The day also emphasizes the importance of taking measures to stop poaching, as well as consolidating efforts in terms of an environmental organization in the countries of the snow leopard range. The first Snow Leopard Day occurred on the 23rd of October in 2014.
  26. The theme of World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2020 – **Your Window to the World**.  
**Note:** World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is held annually on 27 October across the globe. This day was chosen by UNESCO in 2005 to raise awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audiovisual documents.
  27. The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 -- **Vigilant India - Prosperous India**.  
**Note:** Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 Theme: Satark Bharat, Samridhd Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India). It is commemorated to affirm our commitment towards promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation
  28. International Animation Day is observed globally every year on **28th October**.  
**Note:** The day has celebrated the art of animation and also recognise the artists, scientists and technicians behind animation. This year marks the 19th International Animation Day. The day was created in 2002 by International Animated Film Association (ASIFA), an International Animated Film Association, a member of UNESCO.
  29. The United Nations Day is observed every year on **24th October**.  
**Note:** The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and its founding Charter. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries.
  30. The United Nations' World Development Information Day is observed every year on **24th October**.
  - Note:** The day aims to draw the attention of world public opinion to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them for overall growth and development.
  31. The World Polio Day is celebrated annually on **24th October**.  
**Note:** World Polio Day provides an opportunity to highlight global efforts toward a polio-free world and honour the tireless contributions of those on the frontlines in the fight to eradicate polio from every corner of the globe.
  32. International Animation Day is observed globally every year on **28 October**.  
**Note:** The day has celebrated the art of animation and also recognise the artists, scientists and technicians behind animation. The day was created in 2002 by **International Animated Film Association (ASIFA)**, an International Animated Film Association, a member of **UNESCO**.
  33. The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is observed every year on **31st October**.  
**Note:** This year marks the 145th anniversary of the great leader who played an instrumental role in India's struggle for independence, and later during the integration of the country.
  34. The UN World Cities Day is observed every year on **31st October**.  
**Note:** The Day is celebrated to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.
  35. International Internet Day is observed every year on **29th October**.  
**Note:** It aims to honour a momentous day in the history of telecommunications and technology. This day also highlights the sending of the 1st electronic message which was conveyed from one computer to another computer in the year 1969.

### New Appointments

1. Amir Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Online live tutoring company Vedantu.  
**Note:** Online live tutoring company Vedantu has onboarded Bollywood actor Aamir Khan as its brand ambassador. Vedantu with its new ad campaign aims to make quality LIVE online learning accessible to every child, every home with India's best curated teachers.
2. Saurav Ganguly has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Real Estate Developer, Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited.  
**Note:** Kolkata based Real Estate Developer, Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited appointed Former National Cricket Team Captain and

- Current President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Sourav Ganguly as its Brand Ambassador. He will lead the campaign of Bengal Peerless's Residential Project Avidipta II
3. Alexander De Croo has been selected as the Prime Minister of Belgium.  
**Note:** De Croo's French-speaking socialist rival Paul Magnette confirmed that the parties had chosen the 44-year-old finance minister as premier. Belgium has had no governing majority for 21 months since the collapse of former leader Charles Michel's government, and it has been 493 days since federal elections failed to resolve the crisis.
  4. Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) the State Bank of India.  
**Note:** State Bank of India (SBI) said Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Before joining the country's largest public sector lender, Attra was Partner at EY India and senior executive at ICICI Securities.
  5. **Jayant R Varma, B. Shashank Bhide and C. Ashima Goyal** appointed as the member (s) of the **Monetary Policy Committee** (MPC) by the Government of India.  
**Note:** Their appointments were cleared by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet chaired by PM Modi. The current MPC was set up by the GoI in 2016 following the finalisation of Monetary Policy Framework Agreement. The framework introduced inflation targeting. The committee consists of six members. Of these three are nominated by GoI as done recently. A Government official cannot be appointed to the committee.
  6. M A Ganapathy has been appointed as the Director-General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).  
**Note:** The post of BCAS chief fell vacant after Rakesh Asthana was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force in August. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Ganapathy to the post of Director-General, BCAS, for a tenure up to his superannuation on February 29, 2024.
  7. Dinesh Kumar Khara has been appointed as the new Chairman of State Bank of India for a period of three years.  
**Note:** The post was lying vacant after the former Deputy MD & CFO Prashant Kumar, was appointed as the CEO of Yes Bank in March 2020. C Venkat Nageshwar was serving the post on interim capacity. Attra is a former Partner at global consulting firm EY India and had also served as the CFO at the ICICI Securities.
  8. Rinki Sethi has been appointed as New Information Security Head of Twitter.  
**Note:** Twitter Inc appointed Rinki Sethi, a former information security executive at IBM, as its chief information security officer. Sethi had previously worked as the vice president of information security at cyber-security firm Palo Alto Networks Inc.
  9. M Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the new deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).  
**Note:** Prior to this, M Rajeshwar Rao was an executive director at RBI. He succeeds NS Vishwanathan as the central bank's fourth deputy governor. NS Vishwanathan resigned from the post in March 2020 before the completion of his term in June, citing health reasons.
  10. Nilesh Shah has been elected as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).  
**Note:** He was earlier elected as the Chairman for 2019 – 2020. Nilesh Shah would also continue as the ex-officio Chairman of AMFI Financial Literacy Committee, being the Chairman of AMFI. These decisions were taken by AMFI, the industry body of SEBI-registered mutual funds at its Board Meeting.
  11. J Venkatramu has been appointed the managing director and chief executive officer of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).  
**Note:** J Venkatramu has been appointed the managing director and chief executive officer of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). He will succeed Suresh Sethi, who served the post till March 2020. Venkatramuis presently working as the chief digital officer in Equitas Small Finance Bank. He has been appointed to the post of MD and CEO of IPPB for a period of three years.
  12. Arvind Hali has been appointed as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL).  
**Note:** Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL) has appointed Arvind Hali as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of its housing finance company Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL). It has also appointed Amar Bahl as the Deputy Managing Director & COO of the company.
  13. Piyush Goyal has been assigned the additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution after the demise of Ram Vilas Paswan.  
**Note:** The Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been assigned the additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in addition to his existing portfolios, following the death of union minister Ram Vilas Paswan. Goyal is currently serving as the Union Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry.

14. Srikant M Datar has been appointed as the dean of the Harvard University's business school.  
**Note:** Datar will succeed Nitin Nohria, another Indian-American, and will be the second dean of Indian origin at Harvard University, with Rakesh Khurana, who heads Harvard College. Datar will be the 11th dean of the prestigious school.
15. Former **Reserve Bank of India** Executive Director **Uma Shankar** has been appointed as the Additional Director (Non-Executive, Independent) to **Karnataka Bank**.  
**Note:** She is a former Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India. She was with RBI for over 37 years in different capacities. Her core competence is in the financial sector supervision but she has also been responsible for currency management, foreign exchange and the internal accounting and administration.
16. **Rohan Jaitley** has been elected as the President of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA).  
**Note:** He was the single candidate left for the post, as the lone candidate who had filed his nomination against him withdrew his candidature. The 31-year-old lawyer is slated to remain in the post till June 30, 2021. Notably, late Arun Jaitley had also served as the president of DDCA between 1999 and 2013.
17. Jacinda Ardern has been elected as **prime minister** of **New Zealand** for the second consecutive three-year term.  
**Note:** In the battle against Covid, Ardern was alone among her western peers in pursuing an explicit elimination strategy and imposed one of the strictest nationwide lockdowns in the world. Ardern's centre-left Labour Party won 49.2% of the total 83.7% votes counted in the 120-member parliament.
18. **Rajkiran Rai G** has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for the term 2020-21.  
**Note:** Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India, was elected as Deputy Chairman of the Association. IBA is an association of banks and other entities in the banking ecosystem in India catering to its members. The decision was taken during a meeting of the managing committee of IBA.
19. **Dhruv Bahl** has been appointed as chief operating officer (COO) of Merchant payment network BharatPe.  
**Note:** Merchant payment network BharatPe has elevated Dhruv Bahl as its chief operating officer (COO) with immediate effect. In his new role, Bahl will be leading operations across customer support, deployments – QR, Swipe & Cards, KYC, loan disbursements and lead generation.
20. **Constantina Dita** has been named an ambassador for the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships to be held in Gdynia,  
**Note:** Dita competed at eight editions of the World Half Marathon Championships and earned seven medals in the process, making her one of the most successful athletes in the history of the event. Her double victory in Edmonton in 2005, taking individual and team gold medals, remains one of the highlights of her career.
21. **Seema Mustafa** has been elected as President of the Editors Guild of India.  
**Note:** Mustafa succeeds Shekhar Gupta, the Editor-in-Chief of ThePrint, while Kapoor and Nath will take over from A.K. Bhattacharya, the Editorial Director of Business Standard, and Sheela Bhatt, the Contributing Editor of Rediff.com, respectively.
22. **Amrit Mohan Prasad** has been appointed as head of the newly created Guwahati based Eastern command of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).  
**Note:** The Indo Tibetan Border Police guards the line of actual control. The Eastern command overlooks the Indo Tibetan Border Police battalion posted along the line of actual control in states such as Assam, Sikkim, arunachal pradesh.
23. **Saad al-Hariri** has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Lebanon by the President Michel Aoun.  
**Note:** Hariri won the backing of a majority of parliamentarians in consultations with Aoun. He faces major challenges to navigate Lebanon's power-sharing politics and agree a cabinet, which must then address a mounting list of woes: a banking crisis, currency crash, rising poverty and crippling state debts.
24. **Farooq Abdullah** has been selected as the chairman of the Gupkar alliance to fight for the restoration of full statehood and special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir.  
**Note:** Veteran CPM leader M.Y. Tarigami was elected the convenor while Lok Sabha member from South Kashmir Hasnain Masoodi will be the coordinator of the conglomerate known as Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD).
25. **Wavel Ramkalawan** has been elected as the President of Seychelles recently.  
**Note:** He secured 54.9% of the total vote. Seychelles has elected an opposition candidate as its President for the first time since 1977.
26. Luis Arce has been elected as the President of **Bolivia**.  
**Note:** He captured 55.1% of the total votes. Arce will take the charge of the office on 8 November 2020. He would succeed Jeanine Anez, who is serving as the interim President of Bolivia. The 57-year-old, Luis is a member of the political party Movement Toward Socialism.

**27. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha** has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of India.

**Note:** He was already the Information Commissioner and was also the most senior. The post of CIC chairman had been vacant for several months after Bimal Zulka retired. A Marathi journalist, Uday Mahurkar has been selected for the post of Information Commissioner. Uday Mahurkar worked as a deputy editor in India

Today Group and is considered close to the Sangh Parivar.

**28. Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of healthcare company Dr Trust.

**Note:** Senior India cricketer Rohit Sharma was named brand ambassador of healthcare company Dr Trust. Dr Trust manufactures monitoring devices, which help in tracking vitals like blood pressure, blood oxygen levels, respiration rate, pulse rate and others.

### Sports News

1. Visnu Shivaraj Pandian has won the Gold Medal in the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.

**Note:** The second place was won by world no. 27 Etienne Germond of France while Olympic quota winner Martin Strempl of Austria, who had shot the best qualification score of 631.4, took the third place. The only other Indian in the finals Pratyush Aman Barik finished seventh

2. Yashaswini Singh Deswal has won the 10m air pistol event in the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC).

**Note:** Indian Olympic quota winner Yashaswini Singh Deswal won the 10m air pistol event in the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC). The second place was grabbed by Ahmed Nabil of Egypt while his compatriot Yehya Shams took the third place. Sylvia Steiner, an Olympic quota winner for Austria, settled for the fourth place.

3. Odisha released a picture postcard named "Jau Kandhei" on the theme of 'Traditional Toys of India' on the occasion of World Postcard Day.

**Note:** World Postcard Day is observed every year on 1st October. Ten other postal circles across the country have also released similar postcards on the same theme. The objective is to promote the artisans making traditional toys in Odisha and other parts of the country.

4. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the new logo of Sports Authority of India's (SAI).

**Note:** The new logo signifies SAI's journey of metamorphosis from identifying and nurturing grassroot level sporting talent to creating sporting excellence in the country.

5. Lewis Hamilton has won the 2020 Eifel Grand Prix, held at the Nürburgring in Nürburg, Germany.

**Note:** This is Hamilton's 7th win of the season and 91st career race victory, which was till now achieved only by Michael Schumacher. Max Verstappen (Red Bull - Netherlands) came second followed by Daniel Ricciardo (Renault, Australia) at third position.

6. Rafael Nadal won the men's 2020 French Open Single Title.

**Note:** This is his 13th French Open men's singles title and 20th Grand Slam title. The Spaniard defeated Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 in 2 hours and 41 minutes at Court Philippe-Chatrier in Paris.

7. Iga Swiatek won the women's 2020 French Open Single Title.

**Note:** The 19-year-old Swiatek, at 54 the lowest-ranked woman to capture the Roland Garros title in the modern era, is the ninth first-time Major champion in the past 14 Grand Slams. Swiatek is the youngest women's French Open winner since Monica Seles 28 years ago. Swiatek was only the second Polish woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era after Agnieszka Radwanska at Wimbledon in 2012.

8. Nihal Sarin won the 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship.

**Note:** The title win earned the 16-year old Sarin \$ 8,766 and enabled him to qualify for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final which will feature the world's best players. Sarin had beaten American Andrew Tang, Australia's Anton Smirnov and Armenian Haik Martirosyan en route the title.

9. Los Angeles Lakers team has won the National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship 2020.

**Note:** This is the 17th NBA title win for LA Lakers and also their first since 2010, after late Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago. LeBron James of the Lakers' was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the fourth time in his career. With this, he became the first player in league history to be named Finals MVP with three different franchises.

10. **Nozomi Okuhara** won women's singles title in Denmark Open 2020 badminton championship.

**Note:** In Badminton, former World Champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan clinched the Denmark Open 2020 title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin in women's singles. In the men's singles final, world number seven Anders Antonsen of Denmark defeated his compatriot Rasmus Gemke.

- 11. Pakistan** Pace bowler Umar Gul announced his retirement from of cricket after the end of the ongoing National T20 Cup.  
**Note:** Gul is probably most noted for his success in T20 cricket with Pakistan and he was the leading wicket-taker at both the 2007 and 2009 World Twenty20 tournaments. From 47 Test matches, Gul took 163 wickets at an average of 34.06. He also claimed 179 wickets from 130 ODIs, besides 85 wickets from 60 T20Is
- 12. Andrey Rublev** won the men's single title in St. Petersburg Open tennis tournament 2020.  
**Note:** Andrey Rublev joined Novak Djokovic as the only men to win four tour singles titles in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season as he beat Borna Coric 7-6 (5), 6-4 in the final of the St. Petersburg Open tennis tournament. The 22-year-old Rublev added the title in Russia to trophies in Doha, Adelaide and Hamburg.
- 13. Lewis Hamilton** has won the 2020 Portuguese Grand Prix, held at Algarve International Circuit, Portugal.  
**Note:** This was the 12th round of the 2020 Formula One World Championship. This is Hamilton's 8th win of the season and 92nd career race victory. With this win, he has surpassed the record of 91 wins set by German great Michael Schumacher. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes- Finland) came second followed by Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) at the third spot.
- 14.** The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has consented a national coaching camp for **Table Tennis**.  
**Note:** The National Coaching camp has been allowed at an estimated cost of Rs 18 lakh (plus air travel and medical expenses). Table Tennis Federation of India has organized the camp at the Delhi Public School Sonapat. The camp consists of 11 players (5 male, 6 female) and four support staff.

### Books and Authors

- Padampani Bora has authored the book titled "Discovering the Heritage of Assam" released by union minister Dr Jitendra Singh.  
**Note:** The book depicts the heritage, faith, beliefs and traditions of different ethnic tribes and subtribes living in Assam, the largest State of the North Eastern Region. The book by Padampani Bora will help to understand the grand splendour and glory of the undiscovered facets of Assam.
- Anand Neelakantan has authored the kid's book titled "The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids".  
**Note:** The book narrates the story of the asura twins Kundakka and Mandakka who hate to go to school, troublesome Bhasma and per pig Nakura, brothers Atapi and Vatapi and others. This book introduces the Indian Puranas to the kids who are indulged in electronic gadgets. The illustrations of the book are made by Subhadeep Roy and Shiladitya Bose.
- Manish Sisodia has launched the coffee-table book titled "Babu – The Unforgettable".  
**Note:** The book narrates the story of the asura twins Kundakka and Mandakka who hate to go to school, troublesome Bhasma and per pig Nakura, brothers Atapi and Vatapi and others. This book introduces the Indian Puranas to the kids who are indulged in electronic gadgets. The illustrations of the book are made by Subhadeep Roy and Shiladitya Bose.
- The book titled 'Deh Vechwa Karani, is autobiography of former Union Minister Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.  
**Note:** The autobiography of Dr Patil has been titled 'Deh Vechwa Karani,' means 'dedicating one's life for a noble cause.' Dr Patil served as Member of Lok Sabha for multiple terms. He died in 2016 at the age of 84.
- GBS Sidhu has written the book titled "The Khalistan Conspiracy" -- **GBS Sidhu**.  
**Note:** The book published by HarperCollins will be released on October 24. The contents of this book revolve around a two-phased, top-secret operation, which he named "Operation Bhindranwale-Khalistan". It was initiated and managed by some senior and influential Congress leaders operating from the prime minister's residential office at 1 Akbar Road, New Delhi.
- Shashi Tharoor** has authored the book titled "The Battle of Belonging" set to be released in November 2020.  
**Note:** The book is about nationalism, patriotism, citizenship, belonging and what they really mean. Tharoor has written many books, mostly nonfiction like the upcoming book, and a novel. His most recently published is 'Tharoorosaurus' a vocabulary book that released in September 2020.
- Deepankar Aron** has authored the book titled "On the Trail of Buddha: A Journey to the East".  
**Note:** On the Trail of Buddha—A Journey to the East is a unique sojourn in search of the spiritual, philosophical, and cultural linkages that bind India to

the East Asian civilisations. From the wandering monks of Asia to the temples and monasteries they visited; from the statues and frescoes in grottoes to those in the museums; from the diverse ethnicities of the people to their common gods and goddesses—the book explores the ‘ancient India’, beautifully preserved in the traditions, art, and architecture of China, as also in Mongolia, Korea and Japan, to where it spread from China.

8. The book titled “Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside” is an autobiography of Indian Economist **Nand Kishore Singh**.

**Note:** The book portrays the life of NK Singh who played an active role in the development of the Indian economy. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission. The book portrays NK Singh's stents from 1964 when he joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), serving in higher positions of the Indian Government before entering politics as a member of Rajya Sabha.

9. **Pradeep Goorha** has authored the book titled “Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank the Dragon”.

**Note:** The book, though fiction is inspired by reality revolving around the currently developing story on India's northern borders along with the perennially neglected Pakistan's illegal occupation of PoK, Gilgit-

1. India to acquire Sprut Light Tanks to be used in high altitude areas of Line of Actual Control from Russia.

**Note:** They are being acquired to be used in high altitude areas of Line of Actual Control. The need to buy Sprut Light Tanks has come after border hostilities with China increased in the Line of Actual Control. The new tank is under trial in Russia.

2. 1000 km is the strike range indigenously developed nuclear capable hypersonic missile ‘Shaurya’ test fired recently.

**Note:** The surface-to-surface tactical missile, which is the land variant of India's K-15 missile, has a strike range of 700 km to 1000 km and is capable of carrying payloads of 200 kg to 1000 kg. It is 10 metres long, 74 cm in diameter and weighs 6.2 tonnes. Its two stages use solid propellants.

3. The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test fired SMART Wheeler Islands in the coast of Odisha it is a Torpedo.

**Note:** The Torpedo was test fired from Wheeler Islands in the coast of Odisha. The launch is important for India to establish its anti-submarine warfare capabilities. SMART is an anti-submarine Torpedo system and is the fastest in the world. It has a range of 650 km.

Baltistan, and how these could be solved at this opportune time.

10. **Sarbpreet Singh** has authored the book titled “Night of the Restless Spirits: Stories from 1984”.

**Note:** Sarbpreet Singh has authored a book titled “Night of the Restless Spirits: Stories from 1984”. The book recounts the Sikh massacre or anti-Sikh riots of 1984. The book narrates many stories of ordinary people, that capture the horrors and uncertainties of 1984 through the eyes of Sikhs around the world. The book is published by Penguin.

11. **Om Puri** has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 at the At the 3rd India International Film Festival of Boston (IIFFB) 2020 based in Boston, USA.

**Note:** Chef Vikas Khanna was honoured with “Pride of India” a special award at the 3rd IIFFB 2020. Om Puri was an acclaimed actor who worked with directors like Satyajit Ray, Shyam Benegal, Govind Nihalni and Mrinal Sen and he has also worked with various Hollywood directors like Roland Joffe, Mike Nichols, Lasse Halstrom etc.

### Science and Defence

4. Vighraha offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) that has been formally unveiled at the Kattupalli port, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

**Note:** The vessel, built by Larsen and Toubro, is the last in the series of seven OPVs contracted to the company by the Ministry of Defence in 2015. It was the first time a private sector shipyard has undertaken the design and construction of offshore patrol vessel class of ships.

5. IIT Khargpur has launched a telemedicine system ‘iMediX’ to help patients receive assistance from doctors without having to go to hospitals or clinics.

**Note:** ‘iMediX’ allows patients to request for consultation by choosing a department of a hospital, entering their complaints and uploading necessary medical records. The hospital then processes the request and assigns a doctor. The system iMediX which is accessible by any standard internet browser and also from a mobile device, has been developed by researchers at IIT Kharagpur's Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

6. ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025.

**Note:** The VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS atmospheres, environments and space observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific

research centre CNRS has been selected by the ISRO after a request for proposals.

7. Armament Research and Development Establishment of the DRDO has developed the Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) which was successfully test-fired recently.

**Note:** The ATGM employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour protected armoured vehicles in ranges from 1.5 to 5 kilometres. This Laser Guided Missile has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune and IRDE, Dehradun.

8. Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS 'Kanaklata Barua' of the Indian Coast Guard was commissioned at Kolkata.

**Note:** ICGS Kanaklata Barua is one of the five FPVs built by GRSE, the Defence Public Sector Undertaking, for the Indian Coast Guard. The entire design of the FPVs has been developed in-house by GRSE as per requirements specified by the Indian Coast Guard.

9. Bilateral Naval Exercise 'Bongosagar' conducted recently between India and Bangladesh.

**Note:** The 2nd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar is commenced in the Northern Bay of Bengal. Exercise is aimed at developing interoperability and joint operational skills through conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.

10. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune to set up a Rs 17-crore supercomputing facility.

**Note:** The agreement is for a period of five years. The new supercomputer with "650 TFLOPS is more powerful and a technologically superior facility", which will play an important role in the field of scientific and engineering applications. IIT-G's Computer and Communication Centre is already equipped with 'Param Ishan', a '250 TF' supercomputer.

11. Intel India in association with International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-H), has set up an artificial intelligence research centre in Hyderabad.

**Note:** It will apply AI solutions to population-scale problems in the Indian context, with focus on challenges in the healthcare and smart mobility segments. The center will solve India's population-scale challenges in sectors such as healthcare and smart mobility.

12. Nirbhay missile has been test fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation that was failed due to technical snag.

**Note:** The missile developed engine problems within 8 minutes of its launch. Nirbhay was the tenth missile to be fired by India in the last 35 days.

13. Indigenous combat drone, Rustom-2 was successfully tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

**Note:** Rustom-2 is capable of carrying different combinations of payloads, which includes electronic intelligence systems, situational awareness systems and also synthetic aperture radar.

14. In association with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur the "Tech for Tribals" initiative has been launched by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and Chhattisgarh Minor Forest Produce Federation.

**Note:** The initiative aims for holistic development of Tribals with focus on Entrepreneurship development, soft skills, Information Technology (IT) and Business Development. As part of this initiative, TRIFED has partnered with National Institutions such as IIT Kanpur, Art of Living, Bangalore, TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) Mumbai, KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) Bhubaneswar, Vivekananda Kendra, Tamil Nadu and SRIJAN (Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action), Rajasthan to impart training to the beneficiaries.

15. India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile Rudram 1 was successfully test fired from a Sukhoi-30 fighter jet.

**Note:** The supersonic-capable missile can be launched at speeds ranging from 0.6 mach to 2 mach, i.e., twice the speed of sound. IT can be launched from a height of 500m to 15 km. Rudram-1 is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.

16. Anti-terror exercise "Suraksha Kavach" was organized by Maharashtra state police organization with the Indian Army.

**Note:** The aim of the exercise was to harmonize the drills and procedures of both Army and Police for activating anti-terrorist Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) to counter any terrorist actions in Pune. The exercise involved the participation of Quick Reaction Teams, Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of Army as well as Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Quick Reaction Team of Maharashtra Police.

17. The eighth edition of the bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 was conducted between India and Sri Lanka.

**Note:** It was conducted in non-contact at-sea only format. This strategy has been adopted due to COVID-19 pandemic. The drill included series of anti-air weapons firing, cross deck flying operations to fine tune high degree of inter-operability.

18. The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) test fired the naval version BRAHMOS missile from naval base **INS Chennai** successfully.  
**Note:** The missile was test fired from an indigenously built stealth destroyer INS Chennai. The missile hit a target in Arabian Sea. BRAHMOS is a supersonic missile. It was jointly developed by India and Russia. The major classification of the missiles is Cruise Missiles and Ballistic Missiles.
19. India recently conducted the night version of indigenously developed nuclear capable missile **Prithvi II**.  
**Note:** The test was successful. The test was conducted at the Integrated Test Range, Balasore, Odisha. Prithvi II is a surface-to-surface missile. The first trial of Prithvi II was conducted in September 2020.
20. **Australia** will not be a participant in the Malabar exercise that is to be conducted in November 2020.  
**Note:** This means that all the four Quad countries are to participate in the exercise. The countries to participate in the exercise are Japan, India and US. In the process of seeking international cooperation in maritime security domain, India had sought Australia to participate in the exercise. The exercise is to be held in "non-contact at sea" format.
21. India successfully test fired **SANT** Anti-Tank Missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization.  
**Note:** It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization for the Indian Air Force. The missile was test fired at the Chandipur test range. The missile has both lock-on before launch and lock-on after launch capabilities. SANT missile is a variant of Nag missile. The other variants of Nag missile are Helina (or Dhruvastra) and MP-ATGM. SANT is an upgraded version of HELINA.
22. Name the indigenously built anti-submarine Warfare stealth corvettes under project 28 which is being commissioned into the Indian Navy -- **INS Kavaratti**.  
**Note:** The INS Kavaratti is one of the four indigenously built anti-submarine Warfare stealth corvettes under project 28. The project 28 is also called Kamorta class Corvettes. The project 28 was approved in 2003. The construction of INS Kamorta under the project began in 2005.
23. **IIT Kharagpur** has developed the covid-19 test called COVIRAP that was recently approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research recently.  
**Note:** It is a Diagnostic machine that was developed by the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. This kit gives close test results as produced by RT-PCR. COVIRAP is user friendly and is of low cost. It determines the results in less than an hour.
24. As per the announcement made by the Department of Science and Technology the third phase of National Supercomputing Mission will start by **January 2021**.  
**Note:** The third phase of the mission is to increase computing speed to around 45 petaflops. The C-DAC and the National Supercomputing Mission signed agreement with the leading institutes of India. According to the agreement, manufacturing units and assembly units of super computers are to be established in the Premier Institutes of the country.
25. The final user trial of Anti Tank Guided Missile, NAG was conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully by defence manufacturing units **Bharat Dynamics Limited**.  
**Note:** The Nag missile was fired from the Nag Missile Carrier. The range of Nag missile is between 4 and 7 kilometres. In 2018, the Ministry of Defence cleared acquisition of 300 Nag missiles and 25 Nag Missile Carriers. A Nag carrier is a modified BMP infantry combat vehicle.
26. **IIT Jodhpur** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to share expertise for the betterment of highway infrastructure.  
**Note:** The two institutions will work in domains which include transportation engineering, structural engineering, geotechnical engineering. The joint activities will bridge the industry-institution gap and develop technologies that would be adopted in practice by NHAI.
27. The researchers from **IIT Guwahati** developed a low-cost method to produce anti-ageing compounds.  
**Note:** The compound has been developed from a wide range of agricultural resources such as pulses, tea, berries, orange peels, parsley, onion and sea buckthorn. The product does not use organic solvents as done by the other commercial industry.
28. The Indian Space Research Organization will launch Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite jointly with space agency **NASA**.  
**Note:** A joint statement issued after the dialogue read that the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar called the NISAR is to be launched by 2022. The space agencies of the countries signed an agreement to conduct a joint NISAR mission. The mission will develop and launch a synthetic aperture radar.
29. Indian organization **Indian Army** has launched Secure Application for Internet (SAI), that will provide secure voice, video and text calling services to the security personnel.

**Note:** The SAI model is much similar to other commercial applications such as Telegram, WhatsApp, SAMVAD. The mobile application developed by the

Indian Army is called the Secure Application for Internet (SAI). It facilitates secure communication among the Indian Army personnel.

## Banking & Financial Awareness

2. Indian Bank launched a green initiative named "IB-eNote" to enable a total paperless working environment.  
**Note:** This tool enables processing and tracking of notes put up by various offices digitally. The bank for this initiative has customised SharePoint, one of the features of Microsoft Office. The Bank also launched 'Ind Guru', an e-learning platform for its employees.
3. **E-commerce** marketplace, **Flipkart** has launched a cyber insurance cover for online financial frauds with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.  
**Note:** The product, 'Digital Suraksha Group Insurance', will help customers who want to cover themselves against financial losses caused as a result of cyber attacks, cyber frauds, or other such malicious activities across various online platforms.
4. **IDBI Bank** become the first bank to implement the new feature of document embedding facility with Letter of Credit/Bank Guarantee messages over Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS) platform of Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS).  
**Note:** The process would be conducted via a middleware application "**i@Connect-SFMS (CSFMS)**" developed by IDBI Intech. This new feature of "document embedding" provides banks with the functionality of transmitting a "pdf" document up to 1MB size along with the LC / BG messages. Through this feature, there will be the transmission of digitally signed documents which ensure the reliability of the transaction.
5. e-wallet company **Paytm** announced to launch 'mini app' store for Indian developers.  
**Note:** The mini apps are a custom-built mobile website that give users app-like experience without having to download them. Paytm will add a new section on its main application wherein these mini apps will be listed and can be accessed by Paytm app users.
6. Indian bank has introduced a **Kisan credit card loan scheme** for fishermen in Tamil Nadu.  
**Note:** The features of the scheme include the availability of revolving credit up to ₹2 lakh, 7 per cent interest rate, interest subvention of 3 per cent for those who repay the loan within a period of one year. The loan can be renewed once in a year. There is no restriction on the number of credit and debit transactions.
7. Punjab National Bank has launched a financial inclusion and literacy initiative called 'Gram Sampark Abhiyan'.  
**Note:** The nationwide campaign was launched by Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar. The campaign is centred on four key themes: digital, credit, social security and financial literacy, that will encapsulate various activities and prescribes the cherished theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
8. Indian Bank has launched 'MSME Prerana' to support small businesses.  
**Note:** 'MSME Prerana' will train entrepreneurs in business skills, communication, credit assessment. The programme was launched by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that aims to support 1,500 entrepreneurs across India in small businesses. The programme will begin in Tamil for the Coimbatore clusters of Indian Bank and later spread across the country.
9. State Bank of India has entered into a partnership with FMCG major Hindustan Unilever to offer corporate solutions to its trade partners.  
**Note:** The partnership aims to make availing of credit easy for channel partners, provides UPI based payment solutions and PoS terminals to retailers & distributors. The objective of the partnership is to augment the width of credit and will be beginning a pilot in Mumbai and Bengaluru.
10. **SBI Card** joined hands with **American Express** to offer global benefits and exclusive privileges for consumers in India.  
**Note:** Under this agreement, SBI Card's top-end products SBI Card ELITE and SBI Card PRIME will be available on American Express' global network. Customers will also get benefits like pre-ticketing access to sporting and entertainment events such as the Wimbledon and the US Open which are presently accessible virtually.
11. New Development Bank has approved loan for Mumbai metro and for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project.  
**Note:** \$241 million loan for the Mumbai metro rail-II project will be used for implementing a metro rail line 6 with a length of 14.47 km in Mumbai. A loan of \$500 million has been approved for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS project.

12. Indian Bank has introduced a Kisan credit card loan scheme for fishermen in Tamil Nadu.  
**Note:** The features of the scheme include the availability of revolving credit up to ₹2 lakh, 7 per cent interest rate, interest subvention of 3 per cent for those who repay the loan within a period of one year. The loan can be renewed once in a year. There is no restriction on the number of credit and debit transactions.
13. ICICI Bank has launched a debit card facility for the customers availing the Loan Against Securities (LAS) from the Bank.  
**Note:** The debit card is available on the Visa platform. With this launch, ICICI Bank has become the first bank in India to launch such a facility. The LAS debit can be used by customers across all domestic merchant establishments to make seamless POS and online transactions like payments on e-commerce portals among others, using their sanctioned LAS amount.
14. e-commerce company, Amazon has partnered with 'Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation' (IRCTC), to provide with the facility to book reserved train tickets on its platform.  
**Note:** With this launch, the e-commerce company's digital payments arm Amazon Pay adds another travel category, thereby offering its customers a one-stop-shop for booking flights, bus and train tickets. With this new offering, users will be able to check seat and quota availability across all train classes on the Amazon app.
15. Axis Bank has partnered with India's full-service carrier, Vistara to launch a Co-Branded Forex Card.  
**Note:** This is the 1st-ever collaboration by a bank and an Indian airline for a co-branded forex card. The multi-currency forex card enables customers to travel to international destinations in a cashless and hassle-free manner.
16. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched the Application Programming Interface (API) integration between the PM SVANidhi Portal and eMudra portal of State Bank of India.  
**Note:** As a part of Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme will facilitate seamless flow of data between the two portals. It will benefit the street vendors seeking working capital loan under the Scheme.
17. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has inked three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with **State Bank of India** to extend credit support for various projects in Gujarat.  
**Note:** The signing of MoUs took place between D. K. Mishra, Chief General Manager of NABARD in Gujarat and Dukhbandhu Rath, Chief General Manager, SBI Ahmedabad Circle in the presence of NABARD Chairman G. R. Chintala.
18. Neobank, **Chqbook** has launched India's First 'Financial Control Center' on Mobile to Empower 60 Million Small Business Owners.  
**Note:** With this launch, Chqbook brings world-class financial services to a massive underserved segment. The mobile application of Chqbook will give small businesses the power to manage everyday financial needs and to access other financial products, which helps them to save time, effort and money.
19. **Microsoft** partnered with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to empower students, educators in Next-Generation Technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Data Science and Cloud Computing.  
**Note:** 1, 500 course modules from Microsoft will be accessible for the students & educators for free of cost. It will be accessible through AICTE's e-learning portal ELIS (Enhancement in Learning with Improvement in Skills). To ensure an interactive learning process, Microsoft will host live webinars for students of AICTE.
20. Mastercard has entered into partnership with RegTech startup, Signzy for Global Rollout of Video Know Your Customer (KYC).  
**Note:** The customers of Mastercard, with this partnership will benefit from a 100% paperless, remote and secure onboarding solution for end-users. It is backed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies.
21. Axis Bank has launched a new entry-level credit card named ACE Credit Card, with a focus on increasing participation of users in the digital economy partnership with Google Pay.  
**Note:** It also aims to bring a seamless, digital experience to users from application to issuance. The card has been launched in collaboration with Google Pay and will run on Visa (Signature) platform.
22. Digital wallet, Amazon Pay has partnered with Uber technology to integrate the digital payment platform as a payment option on the ride-hailing service app.  
**Note:** This partnership with Uber will allow customers to complete their transaction in a contactless manner, especially during the pandemic. The strategic association will also focus on providing users one-click payment experience with cashback offers to drive adoption and further strengthen the digital payments ecosystem.
23. **LIC Housing Finance Limited** housing finance company has launched "Project RED" to improve efficiencies at every level of the organization.  
**Note:** LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL) launched "Project RED" (Reimagining Excellence through Digital

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

- Note:** The card provides instant in-store card bookings, direct payments via Bharat QR, accelerated reward points and attractive EMIs and would also offer reward points on all purchases with instant reward redemption at IKEA. The card is available to IKEA family members at "zero joining fee and zero annual fee" and can be used for purchases made on IKEAs online and offline stores, or anywhere in the world that accepts credit cards.
- 35. Indian Bank** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).  
**Note:** Indian Bank has developed an integrated online system to make payments of interest subvention and cash incentives to all street vendor-beneficiaries across the country through the Direct Benefit Transfer.
- 36. Jana Small Finance Bank** has partnered with Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank Limited under the bank sponsorship programme.  
**Note:** With this, Jana Bank has become the first SFB to go live under the sponsorship programme. Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank Limited, in association with Jana Small Finance Bank, can extend ATM, POS and e-commerce services to its customers. This association marks the fulfilment of Jana Bank's endeavour to promote a full suite of services to co-operative banks.
- 37. PhonePe** launched car and bike insurance products on its platform in association with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**.  
**Note:** With this launch, over 230 million registered PhonePe users can now insure their vehicles seamlessly in under 2 minutes, without the need for any documents to be uploaded before the purchase and also view their policy documents instantly on the app. PhonePe users can also customise their car insurance plan based on their needs with a range of value-added offerings such as zero depreciation, 24X7 roadside assistance and engine protection among others.
- 38. World Bank** has approved \$12 billion in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute coronavirus vaccines, tests, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to one billion people.
- 39. Note:** The \$12 billion envelop is part of a wider World Bank Group package of up to \$160 billion to help developing countries fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 40. World Bank** has approved \$12 billion in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute coronavirus vaccines, tests, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to one billion people.  
**Note:** The World Bank has approved \$12 billion in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute coronavirus vaccines, tests, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to one billion people.
- 41. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** pegs minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) for housing finance companies at **Rs 20 cr**.  
**Note:** The housing finance companies (HFCs) holding a Certificate of Registration (CoR) and having an NOF of less than Rs 25 crore will be required to achieve NOF of Rs 15 crore by March 31, 2022 and Rs 25 crore by March 31, 2023, the Reserve Bank said in a notification. The RBI has issued the revised regulatory framework for HFCs.
- 42. The revised base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) --- 2016.**  
**Note:** The new series would not have an impact on the dearness allowance (DA) given to government employees for now. The linking factor of the new series to the old series was 2.88, something which employer federations had raised in consultations.
- 43. World Bank** has sanctioned Rs crore for India's first sand dune parks and interpretation centres set to be developed in Goa.  
**Note:** The Goa state biodiversity board has proposed the project, which will be implemented with financial assistance from the World Bank. The Sand Dune park project will have interpretation centres to educate locals and tourists on the importance of the sand dune ecosystem.
- 44. Fintech company Mastercard** has entered into a partnership with Atlantis to expand the Digital First Program in India.  
**Note:** The partnership aims to provide the users of Mastercard, a technology solution that enables them to enjoy a best-in-class digital banking experience. After the launch in India, the partnership will expand to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The partnership allows the users of the Mastercard to have immediate account access and convenient payments.
- 45. Bank of Baroda** has entered into a tie-up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), whereby the bank will be one of the preferred financiers for the entire range of vehicles sold by the latter.  
**Note:** India's third-largest public sector bank, in a statement, stated that under the tie-up, customers can avail customised solutions such as high on-road funding of 90 per cent, long repayment period of 84 months, no prepayment or foreclosure charges. On the other hand, TKM dealers will benefit from 'digitised supply chain finance' with competitive interest rates.

- 46. ICICI Bank** has shut down operations in Sri Lanka after getting approval from the Sri Lankan monetary authority.  
**Note:** ICICI Bank has shut down operations in Sri Lanka after getting approval from the Sri Lankan monetary authority. The Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, having considered the request made by ICICI Bank, has granted approval to close down business operation of the bank in Sri Lanka and cancel the licence issued to it.
- 47. Indian Bank** has partnered with IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) to launch 'IND Spring Board' initiative for funding start-ups.  
**Note:** Under this, IITMIC will refer start-ups with proven technology and established cash flows to the Indian bank. Indian bank will extend loans of up to Rs 50 crore to these selected start-ups for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery and equipment, among others.
- 48. ICICI Bank** has closed its operation in Sri Lanka recently.  
**Note:** ICICI Bank has announced the closure of its business operation in Sri Lanka. Bank has cancelled the licence issued to it in terms of the provisions of the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988, subject to certain terms and conditions.
- 49. India Post** has signed an agreement with **USA** postal service for electronic exchange of data related to postal shipments.  
**Note:** Based on the agreement, the respective bodies will transmit and receive electronic data of international postal items before their arrival. This will help the customs to clear the postal items well in advance, that even before the shipment reaches the port.
- 50. CSB Bank** entered into partnership with IIFL finance Ltd to source and manage retail gold loan assets in untapped locations, including rural areas.  
**Note:** Under the partnership, IIFL will act as a Business Correspondent (BC) of the Bank. IIFL with its vast branch network will source new business from markets where CSB Bank does not have an adequate branch network.
- 51. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** has organized 'India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)' in association with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).  
**Note:** This hackathon on the circular economy will be held on 7th and 8th Dec 2020. In the linear economy, raw natural resources are taken, transformed into products and get disposed off.
- 52. SVC Co-operative Bank** partnered with NPCI to launch a rewards programme.  
**Note:** They have entered into a partnership to launch a rewards programme. They launched loyalty management program with an aim to provide ease and rewardable banking experience to the customers.
- 53. State Bank of India** has signed a loan agreement of up to \$1 billion with The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).  
**Note:** While \$600 million will be financed by JBIC, the rest will come from other participating lenders which include the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, MUFG Bank, Mizuho Bank, Shizuoka Bank and Bank of Yokohama. JBIC will provide a guarantee for the portion co-financed by the participating banks.
- 54. BharatPe** has announced the launch of digital gold on its platform.  
**Note:** The launch of this new category of fintech product is in line with the company's commitment to offering the entire gamut of financial products to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). BharatPe's merchants will be able to buy and sell 99.5 per cent pure 24-carat gold. Merchants can choose to buy in rupees or grams, any time of the day and from anywhere, by using the BharatPe app.
- 55. SBI Card** in association with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation launched a contactless multi-purpose card that can function as a credit card and as a metro smart card.  
**Note:** The credit card Delhi Metro SBI Card is designed for regular commuters on Delhi Metro. It will enable its users to use it as a smart card with an auto-top up facility whenever the balance is below Rs 100. The credit card facility will automatically recharge a top-up value of Rs 200 from the user's linked card/bank account.
- 56. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** partnered with technology company **International Business Machines** to transform the customer's experience of IOCL.  
**Note:** Under this partnership, IBM developed Indian Oil One mobile app & portal which will be used by about 130 million consumers covered by about 12,400 IOCL distributors. The IndianOil One mobile app & portal are part of IndianOil's Project ePIC (Electronic Platform for IndianOil customers), a digital transformation project.
- 57. DBS Bank** named as the Safest Bank in Asia and 4th safest commercial bank in the world in the Global Finance's Safest Banks 2020 report.  
**Note:** DBS secured the 4th rank as the safest commercial bank in the world and 14th safest bank globally from 2019 and 2018. Due to COVID-19 pandemic situation the Global Finance conducted a

virtual award ceremony of the 2020 World's Safest Banks on 19th October 2020.

**58.** The Reserve Bank of India has given approval to Maple to acquire over 5% but up to 9.99% of the paid-up share capital of the **RBL Bank**.

**Note:** Maple Group was one of the investors that participated in the bank's preferential issue. The group

had acquired rights to buy the stake and was waiting for permission from the banking regulator. RBL reported a standalone net profit of Rs 144.2 crore in July-September quarter as against Rs 54.3 crore posted in Q2 the previous financial year. The number was better-than-expected, as a CNBC-TV18 poll had estimated the number to the tune of Rs 126.2 crore.

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# SSB Interview

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