

Last Six Months Current Affairs For RRB NTPC Exam



GK-Tornado

RBI Assistant Mains 2020 Exam

Dear Aspirants,

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important **Banking Awareness & Current Affairs news** and events that occurred in last **5 months (1st June 2020 – 7th November 2020)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like **Banking, Insurance, SSC and UPSC Exams**.

News related to RBI

1.

1. RBI imposes monetary penalty on DCB Bank for rule violations

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalty on DCB Bank and Jio Payments Bank for various rule violations. The central bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 22 lakh on DCB Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions on marketing/distribution of mutual fund/insurance etc. The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

2. RBI bars payment system operators from launching any new QR codes

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has barred Payment System Operators (PSOs) from launching any new proprietary QR code for payment transactions. Currently, there are two interoperable QR codes — UPI QR and Bharat QR. The decision to continue with the two existing Quick Response (QR) codes was based on the recommendations of the committee which was set up by the Reserve Bank under the chairmanship of Deepak Phatak to review the current system of such codes in India and suggest measures for moving towards interoperable QR codes.

3. RBI pegs minimum NOF for housing finance companies at Rs 25 cr

Note: The RBI fixed the minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) size for housing finance companies at Rs 25 crore. 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.

4. RBI revises norms for housing finance firms

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shared final guidelines for housing finance companies (HFC) highlighting that these NBFCs should have at least 60% of their net assets deployed in the business of providing finance for housing by March 31, 2024. RBI

notified that any HFC not having 60% of its net assets deployed for housing loans must get 50% of its books utilised for such loans by March 31, 2022, 55% by March 31, 2023 and 60% by March 31, 2024. Minimum percentage of total assets towards housing finance for individuals during this period should be raised to 40%, 45% and 50%, respectively.

5. RBI Issued Draft Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives Directions:

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

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

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

7. RBI's 3rd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21 Released

Key Highlights of the policy are:

- Keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 4.0 per cent.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 3.35 per cent.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 4.25 per cent.

Current Policy Rates:



Policy Repo Rate	4.0%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%

8. RBI Accepted Kamath Panel Recommendations:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its Annual Report for 2019-20. It is Report of the Central Board of Directors on the working of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the year ended June 30, 2020 submitted to the Central Government in terms of Section 53(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. In the report, RBI projected that India's growth at minus 4.5% for 2020-21. It will be (-) 3.7% in the single hit scenario and (-) 7.3% in the double hit scenario in FY2020-21. On the global front, the growth is projected at (-) 6.0% in the single hit scenario and (-) 7.6% in the double hit scenario in FY20-21.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

16. RBI releases the Financial Stability Report, July 2020:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22. RBI raises banks' aggregate exposure limit for small businesses

Note: RBI has raised the banks' maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to entities with turnover up to Rs 50 crore to Rs 7.5 crore from Rs 5 crore. The decision has been taken to increase credit flow to small businesses. The risk weight of 75 per cent will apply to all fresh exposures and also to existing exposures where incremental exposure may be taken by the banks up to the revised limit of Rs 7.5 crore.

23. GoI appoints three new economists as RBI's MPC members

Note: The Government of India has appointed three new economists as members of the six-member rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The appointed members are Prof. Ashima Goyal, Prof. Jayanth R Varma and Dr. Shashanka Bhide. The three members from RBI Side are Dr. Mridul K. Sagar, Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra and Shri Shaktikanta Das. MPC committee of RBI comprises six members which include three officials of the Reserve Bank of India and three external members nominated by the Government of India.

24. RBI fixes Centre's WMA limit at Rs 1.25 lakh crore for second half of FY 2020-21

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set the ways and means advances (WMAs) limit at Rs 1.25 lakh crore for the central government for the second half of the fiscal year (October 2020 to March 2021). Meanwhile, the finance ministry said the government will borrow Rs 4.34 lakh crore in the second half of



the current fiscal to meet its expenditure requirement amid the COVID-19 crisis afflicting the country's economy. With this the government revised the borrowing target to Rs 12 lakh crore in May as against Rs 7.8 lakh crore approved in the.

25. **RBI defers Basel III provisions amid Covid Uncertainty**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deferred implementation of provisions made under Basel III capital due to uncertainty related to COVID crisis. In this regard, RBI will repel the final tranche of the capital conservation buffer (CCB) and the implementation of net stable funding ratio (NSFR) by six months i.e. April 1, 2021.

26. **RBI Policy: India's GDP to contract by 9.5% in FY21**

Note: The Indian economy will contract 9.5% in fiscal 2021 due to disruptions caused by the covid-19

28. **RBI to launch "Positive Pay System" for Cheque Truncation System**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will launch "Positive Pay System" for Cheque Truncation System from 01st January, 2021. The "Positive Pay System" will be developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and make it available to participant banks. Banks will be required to enable the system for all account holders issuing cheques for amounts of Rs 50,000 and above. While availing of this facility is at the discretion of the account holder, banks may consider making it mandatory in case of cheques for amounts of Rs 5,00,000 and above.

29. **RBI releases technology vision for cyber security for urban co-op banks**

Note: The RBI came out with a Technology Vision for Cyber Security for Urban Co-operative Banks for 2020-23 listing act on points for these banks. It aims at enhancing the cybersecurity posture of the UBCs against evolving IT and cyber threat environment. It envisages a five-pillared strategic approach GUARD (Governance Oversight, Utile Technology Investment, Appropriate Regulation and Supervision, Robust Collaboration and Developing necessary IT, cybersecurity skills set).

30. **RBI approves 3-member committee of directors to manage Lakshmi Vilas Bank**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a three-member committee of directors to run the day-to-day functioning of cash-strapped Lakshmi Vilas Bank. The committee chairperson is Meeta Makhan with Shakti Sinha and Satish Kumar Kalra as members. All three are independent directors.

31. **RBI Extends Enhanced Borrowing Limit for Banks Under MSF Till March 31**

pandemic that has hit economic activities, according to the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). RBI governor Das said GDP growth rate may break out of contraction and turn positive during January-March due to recovery seen across sectors. The MPC has maintained an accommodative stance to revive growth on a durable basis.

27. **The RBI extended Interest subvention on MSME loans till March 2021**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has extended the two per cent interest subvention scheme for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) on loans offered by co-operative banks has been extended till 31st of March next year. RBI has further informed that the scheme, initially announced for just two years, has been extended for the financial year 2020-21.

Note: The Reserve Bank has decided to extend by six months the enhanced borrowing facility provided to banks to meet liquidity shortage till March 31, 2021. The RBI, as a temporary measure, had increased the borrowing limit for scheduled banks under the marginal standing facility (MSF) scheme from 2 per cent to 3 per cent of their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) with effect from March 27, 2020.

32. **RBI granted in-principle approval to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit to Vakrangee**

Note: The Reserve Bank has granted in-principle approval to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) to Vakrangee Ltd. The company offers banking, insurance, money transfer services, e-commerce, e-governance and other digital services on behalf of its partner banks, insurers, government agencies, e-commerce players among others through its branches mostly located in rural and semi-urban areas.

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1.

Economic Survey 2019-20

- Economic survey is framed by Chief Economic Advisor of India, Krishnamurthy V Subramanian and is tabled on the parliament by Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.

- Theme for Economic Survey 2019-20: "Wealth Creation, Promotion of pro-business policies, strengthening of trust in the economy."

- **Wealth Creation: The Invisible Hand Supported By The Hand Of Trust:** - The Survey indicates the fact that the ideas of wealth creation are deeply rooted in India's old and rich tradition from Kautilya's Arthashastra to Thiruvalluvar's Thirukural, which emphasizes ethical wealth creation as a noble human pursuit.

- Survey suggests that policies must empower transparency and effective enforcement using data and technology.

- Enable fair competition and ease of doing business is needed to meet the target.

- Enable trade for job creation and Efficiently scale up the banking sector will help in creating wealth.

- **Entrepreneurship and Wealth Creation at the Grassroots: Being a strategy for fuel productivity growth and wealth creation,** entrepreneurship has a significant impact on wealth creation at the grassroots.

- **As per the World Bank, India ranks third in number of new firms created.**

- Emergence of new firms in India is heterogeneous and dispersed across districts and sectors.

- As per the survey, new firms have a growth rate of 12.2 in the formal sector during 2014-18, compared to 3.8 % during 2006-2014. About 1.24 lakh new firms created in 2018, an increase of about 80 % from about 70,000 in 2014.

- Survey depicted that enhancing ease of doing business and implementing flexible labour laws can create number of jobs and will increase the trust of new entrepreneurs to emerge rapidly.

- **Pro-business versus Pro-markets: Promoting pro-business policy releases the power of competitive markets to generate wealth, on the one hand, and on the other hand, weaning away from "pro-crony" policy that may favour specific private interests, especially powerful incumbents. Equity index of connected firms outperformed market by 7 % a year from**

2007 to 2010, reflecting abnormal profits extracted at common citizens' expense. Index underperforms market by 7.5 % from 2011, reflecting inefficiency and value destruction in such firms.

- **Undermining Markets: When Government Intervention Hurts More Than It Helps:** - Each department and ministry in the Government must systematically examine areas where the Government needlessly intervenes and undermines markets.

- Government intervention in the market most of the times undermine the growth of market.

- India ranks 79th among 162 countries in the Index of Global Economic Freedom with 108th rank in business regulation showing the evidence of the same.

- Government interventions is not apt for today's economy. Removing it will enable competitive markets and thereby spur investments and economic growth.

- **Creating Jobs and Growth by Specializing in Network Products:** India has enormous opportunity to frame a China-like, labour-intensive, export trajectory. By integrating Assemble in India for the world" into Make in India, nation can increase the export as well as job opportunities.

- India's exports increased by 13.4 % for manufactured products and 10.9 % for total merchandise

- Imports increased by 12.7 % for manufactured products and 8.6 per cent for total merchandise.

- India gained 0.7 % increase in trade surplus per year for manufactured products and 2.3 % per year for total merchandise.

- **Targeting Ease of Doing Business in India:** In ease of doing business ranking, India jumped to 63 position in 2019 in World Bank's Doing Business rankings. Ease of Starting Business, Registering Property, Paying Taxes and Enforcing Contracts are the parameters that requires further attention.

- **Golden jubilee of bank nationalisation: Taking stock:** - 2019 marks the golden jubilee of the bank nationalisation. Since 1969, India's Banking sector has not developed efficiently with the growth in the size of the economy. India has only one bank in the top 100, which is State Bank of India ranked 55th



at the international level. Finance Technology and Legal framework like Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code is suggested as a measure to tackle this situation.

• **Financial Fragility in the NBFC Sector:** NBFCs are rooted due to their over-dependence on short-term wholesale funding from the Liquid Debt Mutual Funds that results in bank-run cases more frequent in NBFC. A dynamic health index (Health Score) is framed that will observe these risks and can be used as an early warning to anticipate liquidity crisis in an NBFC and Policy framers are suggested to use this tool in this survey.

• **Privatization and Wealth Creation:** Efficiency gains from privatization in the Indian context and bolstering the case for aggressive disinvestment of CPSEs is examined by the survey. Government's strategic disinvestment in HPCL of 53.29 % led to an increase of around Rs. 33,000 crores in national wealth.

• **Is India's GDP Growth Overstated? No!** - GDP growth, a critical variable for decision-making by investors and policymakers. Setting up of 28-member Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) headed by India's former Chief Statistician is important. Survey must be taken on board when assessing the quality of Indian data.

• **Thalinomics: The Economics of a Plate of Food in India:** Average prices of a vegetarian Thali have decreased significantly since 2015-16 across India, though the price has increased during 2019-20. Affordability of vegetarian Thalies improved by 29 % and Affordability of non-vegetarian Thalies improved by 18

• **State of the Economy:** India's GDP growth moderated to 4.8 % in H1 of 2019-20, in between a weak environment for global manufacturing, trade and demand. There was a sharp decline in real fixed investment induced by a sluggish growth of real consumption which has weighed down GDP growth from H2 of 2018-19 to H1 of 2019-20.

○ Current Account Deficit (CAD) narrowed to 1.5 % of GDP in H1 of 2019-20 from 2.1 % in 2018-19.

○ Economy observes Impressive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and rebounding of portfolio flows with accumulation of foreign exchange reserves.

○ Inflation is about to decline with the end of the year with more demand due to the rise of CPI-core and WPI.

○ Financial sector saw great improvement with investment-growth-consumption

○ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and easing of credit, particularly for the stressed real estate and Non-Banking Financial Companies

(NBFCs) sectors and various other factors are going to be helpful soon.

• **Fiscal Developments:** The fiscal policy was characterized by sluggish growth in Tax revenue relative to the budget estimates. The Central government debt was expected to continue with debt reaching 46.2 per cent of GDP and 44.4 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively. Revenue Receipts registered a higher growth during the first eight months of 2019-20, compared to the same period last year. Gross GST monthly collections have crossed the mark of Rs. 1 lakh crore for a total of five times during 2019-20 (up to December 2019). General Government (Centre plus States) has been on the path of fiscal consolidation.

• **External Sector:** India's external sector gained further stability witnessing improvement in Balance of Payments (BoP) position.

○ Current account deficit (CAD) reduced from 2.1% in 2018-19 to 1.5% of GDP in H1 of 2019-20.

○ Foreign reserves of US\$ 461.2 bn as per 10th January 2020 is shown in the data.

○ Global trade is estimated to grow at 1.0% after having peaked in 2017 at 5.7%. It is estimated to recover to 2.9% in 2020 with recovery in global economic activity.

○ India's merchandise trade balance showed improvement

○ India's top five partners in trade are USA, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong this fiscal year as well.

• **Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation:** As on 16 January 2020, Nifty50 and S&P BSE Sensex indices reached record high closing of 12,355 and 41,952 respectively. The repo rate was cut by 110 basis points in four consecutive Monetary Policy Committee meetings due to the reduced growth and lower inflation rate. The Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks has remained unchanged at 9.3 % between March and September 2019 and increased slightly for the NBFC from 6.1% to 6.3%.

• **Prices and Inflation: Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation increased from 3.7 per cent in 2018-19 to 4.1 per cent in 2019-20. WPI inflation fell from 4.7 per cent in 2018-19 to 1.5 per cent during 2019-20. Food inflation showed an upward trend mainly backed by rising vegetables, fruits and pulses prices.**

• **Sustainable Development and Climate Change:** SDG implementation through well-designed initiatives with Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh as the front runners in



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

• **Agriculture and Food Management:** **Agriculture is the basic sector of India.** The share of agriculture and allied sectors in the total Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country has been continuously declining on account of relatively higher growth performance of non-agricultural sectors, a natural outcome of development process. Food processing sector has been growing with AAGR of about 5.06%.

• **Industry and Infrastructure:** Index of Industrial Production (IIP) showed a growth of

Ranking, Indexes, Reports and Survey 1-7th November 2020

1.

1. Fifteenth Finance Commission Report

Note: The Fifteenth Finance Commission headed by N K Singh is to submit its report the President of India. The recommendations made by the commission are as follows

- The Commission has recommended that the states shall get 41% of central tax revenues. Earlier, the fourteenth Finance Commission had recommended 42%.
- 4.3 lakh crores for the local governments
- Rs 1 lakh grant to health care
- Rs 2.9 lakh crores of revenue deficit grants to 17 states.
- The commission have recommended the states to keep aside at least 8% of their budget for building health care capacities.

2. A survey on the Ganges river released by Wildlife Institute of India

Note: The Wildlife Institute of India recently released a survey on the Ganges river. According to the survey, 49% of the river is high on biodiversity. These are results of phase I of the survey. The second survey is to be conducted shortly. The Gangetic Dolphins and Otters in the river have increased in numbers. This indicates that the pollution level in the river has decreased and the river is in healthy state. The study was conducted by

industrial sector of 0.6% in 2019-20. Fertilizer sector, Steel sector, telecom sector achieved a considerable growth. Infrastructure investment of Rs. 102 lakh crores have been observed.

• **Services Sector:** Services sector is now a significant sector with 55% of the total size of economy and GVA growth. Two-thirds of total FDI inflows into India with 38% exports. After witnessing a recovery in early 2019-20.

• **Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development:** Social services (health, education and others) expenditure increased 7.7 % in 2019-20. India's ranking in Human Development Index improved to 129 in 2018 from 130 in 2017. The share of regular wage/salaried employees has increased by 5 % and reached 28%. A significant jump of around 2.62 crore new jobs. Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush played a good role.

the WII on behalf of National Mission for Clean Ganga undertaken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The first phase of the survey was held in 2017-19.

3. The report titled "Estimating the Economic Benefits of Investment in Monsoon Mission and High-Performance Computing Facilities" released by NCAER:

Note: The Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan recently released the report prepared by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). According to the report, 1000 crores of investment in High Performance computing facilities in India will bring in 50,000 crores of benefits. This is to mainly get reflected in livelihood of 1.07 crores of people Below Poverty Line and 53 lakhs Below Poverty Line fisher folk households.

4. World Wide Fund Water Risk Filter Report

Note: The World Wide Fund Water Risk Filter Report says that nearly 30 Indian cities are likely to face acute water risks. This includes Jaipur, Amritsar, Indore, Srinagar, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam and Kozhikode. Of these cities Jaipur topped the list. It was followed by Indore, Thane, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. The report defines "water risk" as battling between flooding and droughts.

October

1.



1. India 4th most powerful country in Asia Power Index 2020

Note: India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 out of 100, in the Asia Power Index 2020, released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute. The Asia Power Index 2020 ranks 26 countries and territories to assess the relative power of states in Asia.

2. India ranked 2nd in OECD International Migration Outlook report

Note: India has acquired the second rank in terms of the number of migrants going to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and acquiring the citizenship of those countries. China retained its top spot with 4.3 lakh migrants, which was 1 per cent lower than the 2019 report.

3. Uttar Pradesh emerges as top destination in 2019

Note: Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting the highest number of domestic tourists visiting the state in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS) 2020, released by the Ministry of Tourism. About 53.6 crore domestic tourists visited Uttar Pradesh in 2019, which is 23.1% of the total travellers. Tamil Nadu (21.3%) came second followed by Andhra Pradesh (10.2%). In terms of Foreign tourists, Tamil Nadu has topped the list with nearly 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019.

4. NTPC ranks 1st among Indian PSUs in Forbes' World's Best Employer 2020

Note: National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has featured on the top on the list of Indian PSUs under the 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes. The recognition is testimony to NTPC's commitment towards inculcating best in class practices that are thoughtfully designed and robustly executed, the company stated in a statement. The modules have helped thousands of workers from NTPC to grow and think beyond the professional sphere.

5. Samsung Tops Forbes' list of World's Best Employer 2020

Note: South Korea based electronics conglomerate, Samsung Electronics has topped the list of 'World's Best Employer 2020' published by Forbes'. Amazon, IBM, Microsoft and LG are among the top 5 in the list respectively. The global list features 750 multinational and large corporations headquartered in 45 countries.

6. Haryana tops Anemia Mukht Bharat Index in country

Note: Haryana is the best State in Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Index with 46.7 among 29 states in

the country. Further, in the year 2019-20, the state had achieved 93 per cent of immunization. This information came to light during the 8th Governing Body Meeting of the State Health Society of the National Health Mission (NHM) in Chandigarh. The meeting was presided over by the Haryana chief secretary, Vijai Vardhan.

7. Annual Status of Education Report for Rural India

Note: The Annual Status of Education Report for Rural India was recently released by Pratham Education Foundation. The survey was conducted in 26 states and four Union Territories. According to the survey, only one-third of the surveyed children had access to online learning. Only 11% of the surveyed children had access to live online classes. Around 24.3% of children did not receive learning material from the school. 3% of rural children were not enrolled in school in 2020. Only 47.4% of surveyed children had access to smartphones in West Bengal. Around 77.1% of children in Jammu and Kashmir had access to smart phones. It was 88% in Punjab, 90% in Himachal Pradesh, 82.3% in Haryana. The children in Kerala topped the list.

8. Migration and Development Brief Report of World Bank

Note: The World Bank released the migration and development brief report. According to the report the remittances of India will fall by 9% by the end of 2020. India's remittances will drop down to 76 billion USD due to covid-19 crisis and the Global economic recession. The report says that the top five countries that will receive lowest foreign remittances will be India, China, Mexico, Philippines and Egypt. The amount of money the migrant workers sending home is expected to reduce by 14% in 2021 as compared to that of 2019. Remittance flows to the low income and middle income countries are predicted to fall by 7% in 2020. This will be around 508 billion USD. Further remittance is to decline by 7.5% in 2021. This has been predicted as 470 billion USD.

9. Kerala, Goa & Chandigarh best governed states in Public Affairs Index

Note: The Public Affairs Index, 2020 was released by Public Affairs Centre, a non-profit organisation. According to the index, Kerala was the best governed the state. The report was released by the committee headed by a former Indian Space Research Organisation chairman Kasturirangan. According to the report, the states were ranked in the context of sustainable development. Kerala was awarded with the top most ranking and Uttar Pradesh with the bottom most ranking.



10. Doing Business in India Report, 2020 released by UK India Business Council

Note: The "Doing Business in India Report, 2020" was released by the UK India Business Council. According to the report the business of you came believe that the business environment in India is improving and there is a greater opportunity for UK India collaboration. India's score of doing business has improved from 2.74 in 2019 22.9 to in 2020. According to the report, for the third consecutive Year Maharashtra emerged as the state with maximum incremental improvement. It was followed by Karnataka, Delhi, Gujarat and tamilnadu.

11. NITI Aayog released "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. The survey focused on good connectivity, access, electricity, customer satisfaction and utilities capacity. The customers included in the survey were from rural households, commercial Enterprises, agriculture and institutions. Uttar Pradesh performed far below then the other utilities according to the report. Around 66% of the surveyed customers were satisfied.

12. State of Global Air report 2020 released

Note: The report was released by US based institutes. These institutes were Health Effects Institute and Institute for Health metrics and evaluation. According to the report, India recorded the highest PM 2.5 exposure in the world in 2019. India was followed by Nepal and Niger. India is one of the Top 10 countries that has highest Ozone exposure. With the recorded the highest Ozone exposure followed by Nepal and India. In the past 10 years the Ozone concentration in India has increased by 17 %. Globally Ozone exposure has increased from 47.3 part per billion to 49.5 parts per billion.

13. The Future of Jobs Report, 2020 released by WEF

Note: The world economic forum recently released the third edition of the future of jobs report 2020. According to the report the covid-19 and its impacts will disrupt more than 85 million jobs by 2025. The automation and new division of labour between the Machines and humans will be the major reason for disruption of jobs in the next five years. The redundancy in workforce will decrease

from 15.4 % to 9 percentage. The covid-19 economic crisis has accelerated the disruption of jobs. Around 43 percentage of businesses all over the world have reduced their work force due to integration of Technology. Around 41 % of businesses in the world are using contractors for task specialised work.

14. Global tuberculosis report 2020

Note: World Health Organisation (WHO) has published global tuberculosis (TB) report of 2020. WHO has published a global tuberculosis (TB) report every year from 1997. The report published by WHO provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic, progress in prevention, diagnosis & treatment of the disease at the regional level and country level and global level. The 2020 edition of the report was published on 14 October 2020. The data in this report are updated every year. Global TB reports from previous years are available from the WHO Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS).

15. Uttar Pradesh emerges as top destination in 2019

Note: Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting the highest number of domestic tourists visiting the state in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS) 2020, released by the Ministry of Tourism. About 53.6 crore domestic tourists visited Uttar Pradesh in 2019, which is 23.1% of the total travellers. Tamil Nadu (21.3%) came second followed by Andhra Pradesh (10.2%). In terms of Foreign tourists, Tamil Nadu has topped the list with nearly 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019.

16. India ranked 2nd in OECD International Migration Outlook report

Note: India has acquired the second rank in terms of the number of migrants going to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and acquiring the citizenship of those countries. China retained its top spot with 4.3 lakh migrants, which was 1 per cent lower than the 2019 report. This is the 44th edition of the annual report.

17. India 4th most powerful country in Asia Power Index 2020

Note: India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 out of 100, in the Asia Power Index 2020, released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute. The Asia Power Index 2020 ranks 26 countries and territories to assess the relative power of states in Asia. The United States has retained its position as the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific with a score of 81.6. It



is followed by China (76.1) and Japan (41) at second and third spot respectively.

18. Mukesh Ambani tops the Forbes India Rich List 2020

Note: The Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani, has topped the Forbes India Rich list for 2020. He has retained his position as the wealthiest Indian for the 13th consecutive year on Forbes India list. The tycoon added \$37.3 billion to his net worth, to bring his total fortune to \$88.7 billion, a rise of 73% over the previous year. The second spot has been retained by Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, with a net worth of \$25.2 billion. Tech tycoon Shiv Nadar acquired the third spot with a net worth of \$20.4 billion.

19. Indian spends 3.5% of average daily income on food, New Yorker 0.6%: UN report

Note: On an average an Indian spends 3.5% of his/ her daily income for a plate of food as compared to 0.6% by a New Yorker, according to the "Cost of a Plate of Food" report released by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP). As per the report, the most expensive plate of food is of South Sudan where people on average would have to spend 186% of their daily salary on basic ingredients. In the list that features 36 countries across the globe, India stands at 28th position as per the percentage of money, people would pay on a plate of food compared to their salaries.

20. India's Life Expectancy Up by a Decade Since 1990: Lancet Report

Note: India has gained more than a decade of life expectancy since 1990, but there are wide inequalities between states, according to a new study which assessed more than 286 causes of death and 369 diseases and injuries in more than 200 countries and territories across the world. The study, published in the Lancet journal, noted that life expectancy in India has risen from 59.6 years in 1990 to 70.8 years in 2019, ranging from 77.3 years in Kerala to 66.9 years in Uttar Pradesh.

21. India Ranks 94 Among 107 Countries in Global Hunger Index 2020

Note: India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020. Last year, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries. The Global Hunger Index data showed that 14 per cent of India's population was undernourished. Besides, the country recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate

among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent. The under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent. Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan are in the 78th and 88th position in the index.

22. New Zealand passport most powerful, India ranked 58 in Global Passport Index

Note: New Zealand has knocked off Japan for the strongest passport in the world according to the latest Global Passport Index compiled by global financial advisory firm Arton Capital. The US passport ranked 21 and India, 58. The passport index lists the power of passports in terms of real-time, visa restrictions, factoring in legislative changes, and entry requirements. The index, which compares the access granted by the passports of 193 United Nations member countries.

23. India slips to rank 151 in protecting labour rights

Note: According to Oxfam's Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII) report India slipped to rank 151 among 158 countries due to weak labour rights and high incidence of vulnerable employment. Highest presence of informal sector for men was in Uttar Pradesh at 86.9 per cent and for women was in Andhra Pradesh at 73.6 per cent. Overall, India ranked 129 in the CRI index out of 158 countries on government policies, and actions in areas of public services of education, health, social protection, taxation, and workers' rights. Norway topped the CRI index. The CRII is a global report that ranks 158 governments, including India, on their commitment to reducing inequality.

24. Mumbai ranks second after Delhi in crimes against women, shows NCRB data

Note: According to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Mumbai recorded 6,519 cases, after national capital Delhi at 12,902 cases during the year 2019. Mumbai is ranked second among 19 cities in the country in recording the highest number of crimes against women after Delhi. Mumbai has 76.5 rate of crime against women as compared to other cities such as Jaipur (235), Lucknow (175.4), Delhi (170.3), Indore (169.1), Patna (102.3), Kanpur (98.5), Nagpur (93.6) and Bengaluru (85.9). Delhi and Mumbai are ranked in the top two, respectively, for reporting the maximum number of cases of crimes against children.

September

1.

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

Note: India has ranked 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index 2020. Last year, India ranked **115 out of**



157 countries. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries. The Human Capital Index 2020 update included health and education data for 174 countries up to March 2020. It covered around 98% of the world's population. India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank.

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

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

3. Finance Minister launched Doorstep Banking Services:

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

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

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

5. India ranks 48 on 2020 Global Innovation Index:

Note: India has ranked 48th position in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020. India has jumped to four places since 2019. The index was compiled by the **World Intellectual Property Organisation** (WIPO) along with Cornell University and the **INSEAD business** school, presents the latest global innovation trends and annual innovation ranking of 131 economies. As per the Index, India

August

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

Note: NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. It is the first report to examine the export preparedness and performance of Indian states. The report was aimed to identify challenges and opportunities.

became the third most innovative lower-middle-income economy in the world. It is attributed to newly available indicators and improvements in various areas of the GII.

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

Note: BRAP is also known as Ease of Doing Business rankings. Andhra Pradesh secured 1st position, followed by UP and Telangana. The ranking is done by Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gujarat topped the Export Preparedness Index 2020. The Export Preparedness Index 2020 focus to enhance the effectiveness of government policies and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework.

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



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

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

July

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

Note: INFORM report released by Research Wing, European Commission ranked India as the 31st World's most dangerous places to live due to high risks of natural disaster, poverty and social injustice

It is global risk index that ranks 191 countries. Singapore is the least dangerous nation, North Korea stands at 39th and South Korea was ranked at the 150th. Somalia is ranked World's 1st most dangerous nation followed by Central African Republic, and Yemen

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

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

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

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

7. Sustainable Development Report 2020:

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

review of data changes in the last 5 Doing Business reports

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

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

Cleanest State: Chattisgarh.

117th in SDG index 2020. The index is topped by Sweden followed by Denmark and Finland.

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

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

9. India's second Voluntary National Review 2020:

Note: It is presented by **NITI Aayog** at the **United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF)** on Sustainable Development, 2020. Title of the report: Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local. It accounts critical component which reviews the progress and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: It is released for measuring the most-suitable locations for global manufacturing in terms of cost competitiveness and operating



conditions. India is placed at 3rd position in MRI 2020. It ranks 28 nations. China retain the top position followed by US.

13. 2020 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

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

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

June

1.

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

Note: India ranked 43rd on the Institute for Management Development's (IMD) 2020 World Competitiveness Index ranks. It stated that the continued low ranking of India is due to the traditional weaknesses such as insufficient education investment and poor infrastructure. The **Singapore** was topped the 63rd edition of IMD rankings. **Denmark ranked 2nd**. It secured 8th rank in 2019.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Forbes Real-Time Billionaire list released:

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

• **University list:** Topped by Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

• **Management Category** topper: IIM Ahmedabad

• **Top Medical category:** AIIMS for the third time.

• **Top best college:** Miranda House

• **Dental category:** Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Delhi

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

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

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

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

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

Note: It focuses on 200 nations and their safety capability against the pandemic. India is placed at 56th rank. Most safe place: Switzerland, followed

by Germany, Israel, Singapore, Japan. China secured 7th rank, USA is ranked 58th and Pakistan has secured 148th rank.

12. QS World University Rankings 2020 released :

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

13. Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2020:

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

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

Note: It is based on parameters like human resources and institutional data, compliance, food testing facility, training, and capacity building besides consumer empowerment. Topped by Gujarat, followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Goa is at the first position in smaller states category followed by Manipur and Meghalaya. Chandigarh, Delhi, and Andaman Islands secured top 3 position at UT category.

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

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

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

Economy News

1-7 November 2020

1.

1. HAL inks Rs 400-crore pact with Tech Mahindra for project Parivartan

Note: Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) said the company signed a contract worth Rs 400 crore with Tech Mahindra for implementation of enterprise resource planning (ERP) to support its project Parivartan. As a system integrator, Tech Mahindra will implement project Parivartan over

a period of nine years at a cost of Rs 400 crore. Project Parivartan is a comprehensive business transformation exercise initiated by HAL through technology enhancement and centralised ERP.

2. India's October unemployment rate rises to 6.98%: Think-tank

Note: India's unemployment rate in October rose to 6.98% from 6.67% in September, according to



data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). The novel coronavirus has infected approximately 8.2 million people in the world's second most populous country with a large share of the economy.

3. Govt set to divest 10% in GIC, New India

Note: Government is set to offer 10% shares in the country's largest non-life insurance company New India Assurance through an offer for sale to the public. The Centre may also do a similar dilution in the General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re). The government had divested close to 15% stakes in both New India and GIC in 2017. The disinvestment of GIC Re resulted in a mop-up of Rs 11,370 crore and New India's IPO raised Rs 9,600 crore.

4. MoU signed between SAI and Arunachal Pradesh government

Note: In order to develop the sports infrastructure at the National Centre of Excellence in Itanagar, an MoU was signed between the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Arunachal Pradesh government. According to the MoU, SAI would develop 'state-of-the-art' sports facilities including sports infrastructure, training centres and multi-purpose hall.

October

1.

1. ADB approves USD 177 mn loan for road projects in Maharashtra

Note: Asian Development Bank and Government of India signed a 177-million-dollar loan to upgrade 450 kilometres of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra. Under the Maharashtra state road improvement project, two major district roads and 11 state highways, with combined length of 450 km will be upgraded to two-lane standard across seven districts. The projects would improve connectivity to national highways, interstate roads, seaports, airports, rail hubs, district headquarters, industrial areas, enterprise clusters and agricultural areas.

2. FSSAI's new food safety compliance platform to become operational across India from Nov

Note: Food regulator FSSAI said its Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) will become operational in the entire country from November 1, 2020. FoSCoS is conceptualized to provide one point stop for all engagement of a food business operator (FBO) with the department for any regulatory compliance transaction. The system is operational in nine States/UTs -Tamil Nadu,

5. ADB approves USD 132.8 mn loan to improve power distribution in Meghalaya

Note: The Asian Development Bank has approved USD 132.8 million loan to improve and upgrade the power distribution network in Meghalaya. The project fully supports Meghalaya's initiative in improving the distribution system & financial sustainability of the Department. The loan will support in clearing the power outstanding dues.

6. CCI Approves Acquisition of Bharti AXA by ICICI Lombard

Note: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of General Insurance Business of Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Limited (Bharti AXA) by ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited (ICICI Lombard) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. Pursuant to the proposed combination, the entire general insurance business of Bharti AXA would be transferred by way of a demerger to ICICI Lombard in consideration of issuance of shares by ICICI Lombard to Bharti AXA.

Delhi, Gujarat, Odisha, Chandigarh, Goa, Manipur, Puducherry and Ladakh since June.

3. Irdai asks life insurers to launch Saral Jeevan Bima from January 1

Note: Regulator IRDAI asked life insurance companies to launch a standard term insurance policy 'Saral Jeevan Bima' by January 1, 2021 to help customers take informed decisions. The Saral Jeevan Bima will be a pure term life insurance product that can be purchased by people in the age group of 18 to 65 years and will have a policy term of 4 to 40 years. The sum assured for the term life insurance policy will range from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh (in multiples of Rs 50,000).

4. Centre to borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore to meet shortfall

Note: The central government will borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore under the special window to meet the shortfall of Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation, the finance ministry informed. The amount borrowed will be passed on to the states as "back-to-back loan in lieu of GST compensation cess" releases, said the finance ministry. This borrowing will not have any impact



on the fiscal deficit of the government. The amount will be reflected as the capital receipts of the state governments and as part of financing of its respective fiscal deficits, said the finance ministry.

5. Centre notifies DG Shipping as the National Authority for Ship Recycling

Note: The Centre notified the directorate general of shipping as the National authority for recycling of ships, as it moves closer to aligning India with an international convention for safe recycling of ships. As an apex body, DG Shipping is authorized to administer, supervise and monitor all activities relating to ship recycling in the country. DG Shipping will also be the final authority for the various approvals required by the ship-recycling yard owners and state governments. The notification was issued under the section 3 of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019.

6. IMF projects India's GDP to contract 10.3% in 2020 due to Covid-19

Note: As per the "World Economic Outlook" report published by the IMF the Indian economy, severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic and is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 percent this year. However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 percent growth rate in 2021 and will become the fastest growing economy in the world. The report said global growth would contract by 4.4 percent this year and bounce back to 5.2 percent in 2021.

7. Government selects Hughes India to connect remotely located panchayats with satellite broadband

Note: The government has selected Hughes Communications India to connect 5,000 village panchayats in border and Naxal-affected states as well as in island territories with satellite broadband under BharatNet project by March 2021. The 5,000-gram panchayats are located in north-eastern states, including Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and the Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh as well as in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep that lack terrestrial connectivity, such as fiber or cable.

8. India will be 3rd-largest economy by 2050: Lancet

Note: India is likely to overtake Japan as the third largest economy in the world by 2050 and continue in that position till 2100, according to a study published in the medical journal Lancet. The study based 2017 as the reference when India was the seventh largest economy in the world, and forecast that India will emerge as the

fourth largest economy by 2030 behind USA, China, Japan and by 2050 it will go onto the third spot. By 2100, India was forecasted to still have the largest working-age population in the world, followed by Nigeria, China, and the USA.

9. Infosys to acquire Blue Acorn iCi for up to USD 125 million

Note: IT services major Infosys said it has inked a pact to acquire Blue Acorn iCi, a digital customer experience, commerce and analytics services provider, for up to \$125 million (about Rs 915 crore). The move further strengthens Infosys' end-to-end customer experience offerings and demonstrates its continued commitment to help clients navigate their digital transformation journey.

10. WTO revises up forecast for goods trade to 9.2% decline in 2020

Note: As per the World Trade Organization the global merchandise trade would fall by 9.2% this year and then increase by 7.2% in 2021. The WTO forecast in April that merchandise trade would decline by between 13 and 32% this year, figures described by the WTO chief as "ugly", before rebounding by between 21 and 24% in 2021 if countries worked together.

11. World Bank expects India's GDP to contract by 9.6% this fiscal

Note: As per the World Bank report titled 'South Asia Economic Focus' India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6% in the fiscal year 2020-21 (FY21). The World Bank earlier in June had estimated the Indian economy to shrink by 3.2% in the current fiscal. South Asia as a region is set to plunge into its worst ever recession with a sharper than expected contraction of 7.7%. India's growth is projected to rebound to 5.4% in FY22, mostly reflecting base effects, assuming Covid19 -related restrictions are completely lifted by 2022.

12. Amazon India partners with IRCTC to offer train ticket bookings

Note: Amazon India said it had partnered with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide their customers with the facility to book reserved train tickets on its platform. For the introductory period, Amazon.in has waived off service and payment gateway transaction charges.

13. IBM to set up centre of excellence for AI with government e-marketplace

Note: IBM announced the creation of an AI centre of excellence in partnership with the government e-marketplace during the inaugural session of RAISE 2020 virtual summit. The AI



centre of excellence's goal will be to apply the power of AI to improve usability and transparency and drive efficiency and cost savings in public procurement.

14. India's first B2B Crypto trading exchange DigitX launched

Note: DigitX, India's first business-to-business (B2B) cryptocurrency trading exchange, began its trading operations. DigitX aims to deliver transparent and secure model with its network of trusted links in a first of its kind industry initiative to instill trust and confidence in its investors and traders of cryptocurrency.

15. Smriti Irani launches first ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton

Note: Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani launched the first ever Brand and Logo for Indian Cotton on Second World Cotton Day. 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.

16. Google launches 'Make Small Strong' initiative in India to help small, local businesses

Note: Technology giant Google has launched a 'Make Small Strong' initiative in India to help small and local businesses across the country. The new initiative launched by Google will be aiming to support those small businesses, Kirana stores, vegetable vendors who have suffered massive loss during the lockdown period which was imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus. The tech giant has noted that it has joined hands with Zoho and Instamojo for this campaign

17. Nabard Disburses Rs 12,298 Crore So Far Under Swachh Bharat Mission

Note: The NABARD has disbursed Rs 12,298 crore so far under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) for construction of 3.29 crore household toilets. To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the development finance institution has launched a nationwide sanitation literacy campaign. The campaign will support the government's SBM-G and Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene (WASH) programmes to enable the vulnerable rural communities to access better sanitation facilities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

18. Arjun Munda launches largest market of tribal products 'Tribes India E-Marketplace'

Note: Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda virtually launched India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace, Tribes India E-Marketplace (market.tribesindia.com) on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Tribes India e-Marketplace is an ambitious initiative through which TRIFED aims to onboard 5 lakh tribal producers for sourcing of various handicraft, handloom, natural food products across the country and brings to you the best of tribal produce.

19. Tata Steel and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) sign MoU to collaborate in the area of CCUS

Note: Tata Steel and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) sign MoU to collaborate in the area of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS). As part of this strategic MoU, Tata Steel and CSIR will work towards accelerating development and deployment of CCUS technologies in the steel industry. CSIR has, in parallel, initiated steps to set up a National facility on CCUS at NEERI, Nagpur. Tata Steel has intended to be a founder partner in setting up of this facility.

September 2020

1.

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

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

Male, Bharat Mishra, and Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Sudhir.

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

Note: The Central Government has been planning to introduce a new law that will ban the trade in cryptocurrencies. The bill has been expected to be discussed by the federal cabinet



before it is sent to the Parliament for approval. Under the law, the federal government will be encouraging the blockchain, the technology underlying cryptocurrencies, but is not keen on cryptocurrency trading.

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

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

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

Note: UBS Securities has projected India's GDP for 2020-21 (FY21) to contract by 8.6%. (Earlier it was -5.8%). For FY22, UBS Securities projects India's GDP to grow by 10%. UBS Securities is a Chinese investment bank and brokerage firm headquartered in Beijing, China.

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

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

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

Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has estimated that the GDP of India is expected to contract by 9% in fiscal 2020-21 (FY21). This estimate is worse than ADB's previous estimate of -4%. However, for the FY22 (2021-22), ADB expects India's GDP at 8 per cent. ADB also expects the gross domestic product (GDP) growth for developing Asia at - 0.7 per cent in 2020, the first negative economic growth since 1962.

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

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

S&P expects GDP growth of 6% and for the FY23 (2022-23), GDP growth is projected at 6.2%.

8. CARE ratings projects India's GDP to contract between 8-8.2% in FY21

Note: The Indian rating agency, CARE Ratings has projected the GDP of India to contract in the range 8 to 8.2% for 2020-21 (FY21). This is more than its earlier projection of -6.4%. The decline in GDP growth by around 8 per cent would also be associated with a decline in the gross fixed capital formation.

9. Moody's forecasts India's GDP at -11.5% for FY21

Note: The rating agency, Moody's has projected the GDP growth rate for India to contract 11.5 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 (FY21) due to the coronavirus pandemic. For 2021-22 (FY22), Moody's projected the economy of India to grow at 10.6 per cent.

10. Crisil projects India's GDP for FY21 at -9%

Note: CRISIL has projected India's GDP rate at -9% for the financial year 2020-21 (FY21). CRISIL revising its forecast down from 5% owing to uncertainty over the spread of Covid-19 and lack of adequate financial support from the government.

11. India Ratings forecasts contraction of 11.8% in FY21 GDP

Note: The Indian arm of Fitch Ratings, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has projected India's FY21 GDP growth forecast at -11.8% as against its earlier prediction of -5.3%. The rating agency estimates the economic loss in FY21 to be Rs 18.44 lakh crore. The rating agency also expects India's GDP to rebound and grow at 9.9% year-on-year in FY22 primarily due to the weak base of FY21.

12. Indian economy contracted by 23.9% in Q1 of 2020-21

Note: The estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first quarter (April-June) Q1 of 2020-21 has been released by the NSO. NSSO has released the GDP estimates at both Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices. As per the estimate the Indian economy has experienced a contraction of 23.9% as compared to 5.2% growth in Q1 2019-20.

August

1.

1. Chunauti- Next Generation start-up challenge contest launched by IT Minister

Note: The Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched "Chunauti"- Next Generation Startup



Challenge Contest to boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of India. The programme aims to identify around 300 startups working in identified areas and provide them seed fund of upto Rs. 25 Lakh and other facilities. The government has earmarked an amount worth Rs 95.03 crore over a period of 3 years for the programme.

2. Govt launches national GIS-enabled land bank system

Note: Union govt e-launched the national GIS-enabled land bank system. It will help investors in getting real-time information about the availability of industrial land and resources. The system has been developed by the Integration of Industrial Information System (IIS) with state GIS (Geographic Information System). The project has been launched for six states

3. India, Bangladesh to open new trade connectivity route

Note: India and Bangladesh have decided to open a new trade route to promote regional connectivity by expanding the scope of inland water transport mechanisms that will enable trade boost in the region. The route which will be connecting Sonamura in Tripura to Daudkandi in Bangladesh has been operationalized under the agreement signed by the two countries in May 2020 to boost riverine trade.

4. Government to sell up to 15 percent stake in HAL

Note: The central government has decided to sell up to 15 percent stake in Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) through an offer for sale (OFS). The floor price has been fixed at Rs 1,001 per share. The Government has proposed to sell 3,34,38,750 equity shares in the state-run aerospace and defence company through the OFS, which constitutes 10 percent paid-up share capital of the company,

5. KVIC creates self employment for migrant workers through its flagship Honey Mission Programme

Note: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken a big major leap towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' by creating the local and self-employment for the migrant workers through its Honey Mission Programme. To provide the livelihood opportunity under the mission, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State for MSME distributed 700 bee boxes to the 70 migrant workers of Bulandshahr and Saharanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh on August 25, 2020.

6. AIIB and India sign agreement of USD 500 million for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III

Note: The Indian Government, Maharashtra government and Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation has signed a loan agreement of USD 500 million dollars with the Asian Infrastructure Investment bank (AIIB) for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III. The project aims at improving the service quality, network capacity, and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.

7. Businesses with annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh now GST exempt: Finance Ministry

Note: The Union Ministry of Finance announced that now businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh will be GST exempt. The Ministry added that those with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only 1 percent tax. Earlier, only businesses with an annual turnover of Rs 20 lakh were exempted from GST tax.

8. Centre to develop a single e-compliance window soon to promote ease of doing business

Note: The central government has been planning to develop a single e-compliance window for India Inc. This new framework will enable the companies to comply with the different regulatory requirements at one go. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has also initiated discussions with various regulators including RBI, SEBI, and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, to create a single platform with common data sources.

9. India, Japan and Australia to launch Supply Chain Resilience Initiative to counter China

Note: India, Australia, and Japan have started the discussions for the launch of a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in order to reduce the dependency on China. The initiative which was first proposed by Japan might be executed. Earlier, Japan through its Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry had approached India and had pressed on the urgency of taking the initiative forward.

10. India ranks first in number of organic farmers, 9th in terms of area under organic farming

Note: India has been ranked first in the number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming. Sikkim has become the first state in the world to become fully organic.



Other states including Uttarakhand and Tripura have also set similar sustainability targets. North-east India has traditionally been organic and the consumption of chemicals is far less than the rest of the country.

11. ADB approves \$1 billion package for Delhi-Meerut Rapid Transit System

Note: The Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) network of 82 kms is the first of the three priority rail corridors in India's integrated transport network under NCR Regional Plan of 2021. The rail project report mentioned that about eight lakh passengers will be boarding the high-speed RRTS trains, which will be running at 180 kmph, for the long and short distance commuting every day.

12. India to provide USD 500 million assistance for connectivity project in Maldives

Note: Indian government will fund the implementation of major connectivity project in the Maldives with USD 400 million line of credit and USD 100 million grant. The announcement was made after the Union External Affairs Minister had wide-ranging talks with Abdulla Shahid, his Maldivian counterpart.

13. PM Modi launches Transparent Taxation-Honoring the Honest platform

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a platform called "Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest" to honour the honest taxpayers of the country. The "Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest" platform will initiate major tax reforms aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers.

14. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches online dashboard of National Infrastructure Pipeline

Note: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an online dashboard of National Infrastructure Pipeline. The Dashboard will showcase over 6,800 projects online. The Online dashboard of NIP is to be hosted on the India Investment Grid (IIG), which is a dynamic and interactive online platform that showcases real-time and updated investment opportunities in India.

15. Indian government contributes over \$15 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund

Note: The Indian government has contributed over \$15.46 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund. The contribution highlights India's commitment to support developing nations in their developmental priorities across all

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The contribution of the fund was made during a low-key ceremony which was held within the social distancing guidelines at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN.

16. Atal Innovation Mission launches 'AIM-iCREST' program in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Note: Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched AIM-iCREST- an incubator capabilities enhancement program for an ecosystem which will be focused on creating high performing startups. The step has been taken to encourage and enable the holistic progress in the incubator ecosystem across India making it the first kind of initiative for advancing innovation at scale in the country.

17. ADB approves USD 3 million grant to India to fight COVID-19 pandemic

Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on July 29 announced that it has approved USD 3 million grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Respond Fund. The bank has provided the grant to support India's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

18. India's FATF review of anti-money laundering regime postponed to 2021

Note: India's much-awaited Financial Action Task Force (FATF) review has been postponed to 2021. The review was scheduled for this year as a part of the regular review cycle after 10 years. The FATF review would comprise an evaluation of India's anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regime and the legal measures taken to keep a check on financial crimes.

19. India-UK affirm shared commitment towards Free Trade Agreement

Note: India and the United Kingdom affirmed their shared commitment towards a Free Trade Agreement during the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting. The virtual meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss.

20. CBDT, CBIC sign MoU to share data regularly

Note: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the data exchange between the two organisations. Along with the signing, a Data Exchange Steering group has also been constituted.



21. NABARD launches development projects in Andaman & Nicobar Islands worth Rs. 44 lakhs

Note: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched development projects in Andaman & Nicobar Islands worth Rs. 44 lakhs. These projects aim at strengthening the concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat through rural entrepreneurship. The projects by NABARD will include the formation and development of Self-Help Groups, SHG.

22. NABARD to provide banks refinance of Rs. 5000 crores to support watershed projects

Note: The NABARD announced Rs. 5,000 crores of refinance scheme for the financial institutions and banks in order to provide finance to the beneficiaries of its 2,150 watershed development projects. The financial institution also designated another Rs. 5,000 crores for turning Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) into multi-service centres.

23. India becomes a second largest source of FDI for UK

Note: United Kingdom (UK) government figures which were released on July 10 showed that India has become the second-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the UK by

June

1. GOI and World Bank signs loan agreements to provide affordable housing to low-income groups in Tamil Nadu

Note: The agreements have been signed for two projects- \$50 million Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project and \$200 million First Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Programme. The two projects will strengthen the state government's housing sector policies, regulations, and institutions.

2. PM FME Scheme launched to generate total investment of Rs. 35,000 crore and 9 lakh employment

Note: The Minister of Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal on June 29 launched the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME) as a part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.

The scheme will generate a total investment of Rs. 35,000 crore. It will also generate 9 lakh semi-skilled and skilled employment and will benefit 8 lakh units through access to training, information, formalization, and better exposure.

3. FM Nirmala Sitharaman launched Garib Kalyan

Note: Union Finance Minister Nirmala

investing in 120 projects and creating 5,429 new jobs in the United Kingdom. It represents an overall 4 percent FDI increase for the UK in 2018-2019, with 1,852 new inward investment in 2019-20.

24. Google to invest USD 10 billion in India to boost digital economy

Note: Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced an investment of Rs. 75,000 crore (approximately \$10 billion) into India over the next five to seven years through the 'Google for India Digitization Fund'. The major investment is significant as it has come in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and multinational companies look across the world for alternative investment destinations.

25. India, World Bank sign USD 750 million agreement for MSME Emergency Response Programme

Note: The agreement aims at supporting an increased flow of finance to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The **MSME Emergency Response Programme** will help address the immediate credit and liquidity needs of 1.5 million eligible MSMEs to rescue them from current economic crisis.

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

4. PM Narendra Modi launches auction of 41 Coal Mines

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

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

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

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

6. India to set up Coal Exchange

Note: India will soon be setting up a coal trading platform as it gears up to bring in commercial



mining in the coal sector. Under the proposal, the entire coal produced in the country will be traded on a platform called '**Coal Exchange**'. Coal Exchange will be an online coal trading platform where the pricing will be determined in a transparent manner on the basis of demand and supply.

7. Power Minister launches real time market in electricity

Note: The Union Power Minister, R K Singh formally launched the pan-India real-time market in electricity. This will allow consumers to buy power just one hour before the delivery.

The Real-time Market (RMT) will enable the consumers, including captive users and distribution companies (discoms) to buy power on exchanges just an hour before the delivery.

8. Mudra Shishu loan announced for small businesses

Note: Under the scheme, one lakh beneficiaries can avail an interest benefit of 2 percent for a year.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the 'Mudra Shishu loan' while announcing the second tranche of the centre's 20 lakh crore package to revive the Indian economy amid COVID-19 pandemic.

Banking & Financial Awareness

November (1 to 7th) 2020

1.

1. RBL Bank has launched instant payouts for fintech firms by partnering with payments giant VISA.

Note: India-based private sector lender RBL Bank has launched instant payouts for fintech firms by partnering with payments giant Visa. Under this partnership, the bank will leverage Visa's real-time push payments platform Visa Direct, across the country. It will allow RBL Bank to create technology-led banking solutions catering to the growing needs of merchants and partners. Further, this will enable fintech firms to create digital payment solutions for the end customer.

2. Multinational company Procter & Gamble has announced a growth fund of Rs 400 crore to give a hand to the government's vision of a self-reliant country.

Note: The fund would be utilised to localise manufacturing of finished products, procurement of raw materials and packaging materials and to adopt go-to-market innovations and technology. This new fund is part of P&G India's 'vGROW' program that focuses on identifying and collaborating with start-ups, small businesses, individuals or large organisations offering innovative industry-leading solutions.

3. The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) signed a contract worth Rs 400 crore with **Tech Mahindra** for implementation of enterprise resource planning (ERP) to support its project Parivartan.

Note: As a system integrator, Tech Mahindra will implement project Parivartan over a period of nine years at a cost of Rs 400 crore. Project

Parivartan is a comprehensive business transformation exercise initiated by HAL through technology enhancement and centralised ERP.

4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalty on **DCB Bank and Jio Payments Bank** for various rule violations.

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalty on DCB Bank and Jio Payments Bank for various rule violations. The central bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 22 lakh on DCB Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions on marketing/distribution of mutual fund/insurance etc. The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

5. ICICI Lombard General Insurance in partnership with Freepaycard has launched Group Safeguard Insurance.

Note: This strategic partnership will make the bite-sized health insurance solutions, designed specifically for Freepaycard members, available at its multi-category partner retail outlets. Freepaycard members can add these health solutions on the go while shopping for other essential goods or services. The plan will be offered to the members of Freepaycard, allowing them to receive an assured amount in case of any injury or hospitalization for treatment.

6. With **TransUnion CIBIL** the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation launched the MSME Credit Health Index to



provide a measure of the growth and strength of the MSME sector in India.

Note: The TransUnion CIBIL and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation launched the MSME Credit Health Index to provide a measure of the growth and strength of the MSME sector in India. The index provides a numeric indicator for benchmarking the health of the MSME sector to the policy makers, lenders and MSME market participants.

7. In a bid to develop skill sets of career-oriented individuals **State Bank of India** entered into a strategic partnership with edX to expand the learners' perspectives and access to knowledge beyond the classrooms.

Note: As part of this partnership, SBI will offer its Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on the edX platform (edx.org.) from November 2020. With this partnership, SBI becomes 1st Corporate Partner of edX from India. SBI, initially will offer 3 courses, namely Unleashing Creativity at the Workplace, Relationship Marketing Strategy for Financial Services, and Conflict Resolution.

8. Aegon Life Insurance Company life insurance company launched 'Life + 36 critical illness Insurance' on Flipkart

Note: This plan offers a comprehensive insurance cover against COVID-19, which can be availed immediately on the Flipkart app with a basic life insurance plan. This insurance ensures that the policyholders are protected against most lifestyle diseases along with a life cover to ease the financial burden. The starting premium of the plan is Rs 153 for a life cover of Rs 1 lakh plus Critical Illness cover of Rs.10,000.

9. HDFC Bank has been voted as the "Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector" in India in the poll conducted by Asiamoney.

Note: HDFC Bank Limited has been voted as the "Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector" in India in the poll conducted by Asiamoney, a well-established financial publication. HDFC has been given the honour for the 2nd consecutive year. Bharti Airtel won the overall winner by Market in India.

10. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of General Insurance Business of Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Limited by **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd.**

Note: As per the proposed combination, the whole general insurance business of Bharti AXA will be transferred to ICICI Lombard by way of demerger, considering that ICICI Lombard will issue shares to Bharti AXA. The combined

entity(proposed merged non-life insurance company) is likely to have a market share of 8.7% on a pro forma basis.

11. Asian Development Bank has approved USD 132.8 million loan to Meghalaya, to improve and upgrade the power distribution network in the state

Note: The fund will help in improving the distribution system & financial sustainability of the Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited (MePDCL). The MePDCL has a huge outstanding against the power purchased from central power generating stations and to the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL). The loan will support in clearing the power outstanding dues.

12. Adani Gas has acquired the city gas licences for Ludhiana and Jalandhar in Punjab and Kutch (East) in Gujarat from Jay Madhok Energy.

Note: The license was acquired from Jay Madhok Energy. These agencies are operating under Phase 1 of Bharat Mala Pariyojana by NHAI. Jay Madhok Energy has been show-caused by the oil regulator Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) over defaulting on timelines and alleged irregularities in acquisition of the city gas licence.

13. Visa in partnership with **DigitSecure** and **HDFC Bank** deployed the world's 1st live PCI certified Tap to Phone card acceptance solution.

Note: The objective is to accept safe contactless card payments in seconds through an app on their Near-Field Communication(NFC)-enabled Android smartphones, without the need of any dedicated card acceptance machines. The first merchant to go live with HDFC Bank as the acquirer is DeliveryPlus. In line with the 'Made in India' objective of local innovation, DigitSecure is the first Asia Pacific-based company to acquire PCI security certification to implement Tap to Phone technology.

14. AU Small Finance Bank signed an agreement with Care Health Insurance Company Limited as Corporate Agent for Health Insurance Products.

Note: Care Health Insurance is formerly known as 'Religare Health Insurance Company Limited. The Bank has been issued certificate of registration CA0515 under Registration of Corporate Agents – Regulations, 2015 by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Bank has entered into agreement with Care Health Insurance Company. In terms of business, market penetration and



reach, this partnership will be mutually beneficial for the bank and insurance company.

15. ICICI Bank has launched launches 'Mine' a comprehensive banking programme for its millennial customers .

Note: Private lender ICICI Bank has launched a comprehensive banking programme for its millennial customers, (in the age bracket of 18 years to 35 years), called 'ICICI Bank Mine'. The 'ICICI Bank Mine' is India's first and unique product launched by the bank to offer a mobile-first, highly personalised and experiential led banking experience to the millennial customers.

16. TransUnion CIBIL has partnered with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to launch the First Edition of the Quarterly MSME Credit Health Index.

Note: The index will provide a reliable measure and benchmark of the growth and strength of MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) in India. To provide Government, Policy makers, lenders and other stakeholders, insights and analysis on various aspects of the health of MSME industry to enable better policy with respect to MSME lending. The comprehensive information will facilitate better risk management and inclusion of MSME in Indian Banking and financial system.

17. SBI Card partnered with Paytm and Visa to launch contactless co-branded credit cards, India's next generation credit cards.

Note: The credit card will be available in two variants, namely, Paytm SBI Card and Paytm SBI Card SELECT. The 2 variants have been designed for the new age, digitally savvy customers. The

product has been launched on the Visa platform. The aim of the Partnership is to bring in 'new to credit' users into the formal economy and empower them to control their finances.

18. India-based fuel outlet Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) has partnered with **Fino Payments Bank** for recharging truck drivers' fleet cards

Note: India-based fuel outlet Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) has partnered with Fino Payments Bank for recharging truck drivers' fleet cards. Through this partnership, truck drivers in the country can now recharge their BPCL Smartfleet Cards, which are used for fuel payments.

19. WhatsApp has introduced payments services in India following approval by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

Note: The NPCI approval also follows another recent direction imposing a cap of 30% of the total volume of transactions processed in Unified Payments Interface (UPI), applicable to all third-party app providers, effective from 1st January 2021. WhatsApp would now compete with existing players such as Paytm, Google Pay, Amazon Pay and PhonePe.

20. Facebook has rolled out an offline to online small and medium businesses guide and other new resources to help small and medium businesses

Note: This will help them move from offline to social network-owned online platforms. It is a step-by-step manual on how firms can build a digital presence and reach potential customers on social media. The accelerated digital adoption as a result of the pandemic has made it critical for small businesses to pivot from offline to online.

October

1.

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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'.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.



14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. **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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. **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.

23. 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.

24. 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).

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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.

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40. 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.

41. 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.

42. 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.

43. 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.

44. 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.

45. 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.

46. 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.

47. 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.

48. 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.

49. 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.

50. 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.

51. 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.

52. 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.

53. 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.

54. 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.

55. 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 Indian Oil One mobile app & portal are part of Indian Oil's Project ePIC (Electronic Platform for Indian Oil customers), a digital transformation project.

56. 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.

57. 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.

September

1.

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

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

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

Note: Titan Company has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to launch India's first contactless payment watches named "Titan Pay". Using these watches, the account holders of SBI can tap their Titan Pay watch on the contactless payment POS machines for making payments. It is powered by YONO SBI. Under this mechanism, payments of up to Rs. 2,000 can be made without entering a PIN, as per the RBI guidelines.

3. ICICI Bank introduces 'iStartup2.0'

Note: ICICI Bank has launched a new product named "iStartup 2.0", to cater to the banking needs of startups and entrepreneurs. The programme for startups that takes care of their banking as well as beyond-banking needs such as regulatory assistance, analytics, staffing, accounting, customer acquisition and digital outreach to customers, among others. 'iStartup2.0' is the country's most comprehensive programme, offers customers an eponymous Current Account which is available in three variants-Platinum, Gold and Silver- the widest range by any Bank for start-ups.

4. Central Bank Digital Currency testing platform launched by Mastercard

Note: Mastercard has launched "Central Bank Digital Currencies" (CBDCs), a Virtual Testing Environment for Central Banks to Assess and Explore National Digital Currencies. Mastercard

has invited Central Banks, Commercial Banks and tech and advisory firms to evaluate the suitability of CBDCs in a country or region. The testing platform will allow central banks to evaluate use cases and test roll-out strategies for CBDCs by simulating a CBDC ecosystem.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: The Bank of India has launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals with spending limit of up to ₹5 lakhs on POS & e-commerce and ₹1 lakh on ATM. High net worth individuals are those who maintain an average quarterly balance of Rs 10 lakhs and above. It will also provide Insurance against fraudulent transactions.

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



Note: ICICI Bank has launched a virtual property exhibition under the name 'Home Utsav'. The exhibition will digitally showcase real estate projects by renowned developers, across India.

August

1.

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

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

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

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

3. NABARD rolls out Debt and Credit Guarantee Product

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

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

Note: ICICI Bank uses satellite data to assess the creditworthiness of farmers. ICICI Bank has become the 1st bank in India to use such a technique to measure an array of parameters related to the land, irrigation and crop patterns and use it in combination with demographic and financial parameters to make quick lending decisions for farmers.

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

Note: SBI General Insurance has launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product called 'Shagun – Gift an Insurance', which is a unique gift of Personal

The exhibition can be accessed on www.homeutsavicici.com. The exhibition can be accessed by both customers and non-customers of ICICI Bank.

Accident policy. The unique feature of this policy is that it can be gifted to anyone, which means it is not necessary for the policy buyer to be related to the insured. A Gift giver (policy buyer) can gift this product to anyone like family, friends, extended family and even domestic helpers, chauffeurs, drivers, cook, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) has launched LVB DigiGo, a digital initiative to enable the opening of savings account instantly. LVB's new initiative will help people to avail the most required banking services instantly through the website.

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

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

10. Fino Payments Bank launches "Jan BachatKhata"

Note: Fino Payments Bank has launched Jan BachatKhata (JBK), which is an Aadhaar



Authentication based digital savings account that brings neo-banking experience to consumers. Under the JBK, customers can transact at a Fino branch or merchant point with fingerprint and OTP combination, while at non-Fino points they need Aadhaar authentication.

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

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

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

Note: Punjab National Bank has launched a campaign named 'DIGITAL APNAYEN' to encourage

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

13. Axis Bank launches Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA'

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

July

1.

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

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

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

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

3. FamPay launches 'numberless card' for teenagers

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

4. NPCI rolls out UPI AutoPay facility for recurring payment

Note: UPI AutoPay facility for recurring payment has been launched by the National Payment

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Karur Vysya Bank has signed an agreement with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance to offer life insurance solutions to its customers.



Bajaj Allianz's products will be available at the Bank's 780 branch offices spread across India.

8. SBM Bank partners with MasterCard for smarter payments solutions

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

9. Fino Payments Bank launches 'Bhavishya' savings account

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

10. Karur Vysya Bank partners with Star Health Insurance

Note: The Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has entered into a partnership with Star Health and Allied Insurance Co to provide a wide range of health insurance options to its customers. Under the agreement, all the health insurance products of Star Health & Allied Insurance will be made available through all 780 branches of the Karur Vysya Bank.

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

June

1.

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

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

2. GoI brings all cooperative banks under supervision of RBI

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

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

Note: The Karnataka Bank has rolled out a new product titled "KBL Micro Mitra" for the Micro

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

7. Airtel Payments Bank launches 'Suraksha salary account' for MSMEs

Note: Airtel Payments Bank has launched 'Suraksha Salary Account' for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

India's MSME sector has over 60 million units and accounts for 29 per cent of India's GDP.

8. ICICI Bank introduces 'Insta FlexiCash' for salary account customers

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

9. "Summer Treats" campaign launched by HDFC Bank

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

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

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

Banking & Financial terms

1. **AEPS** – Aadhar Enabled Payment System
2. **APBS** – Aadhar Payment Bridge System
3. **ATM** – Automated Teller Machine
4. **ALM** – Asset Liability Management
5. **AIIB** – Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
6. **AMFI** – Association of Mutual Funds in India
7. **BIS** – Bureau of Indian Standards
8. **BBPS** – Bharat Bill Payment System
9. **BCA** – Baseline Credit Assessment
10. **BHIM** – Bharat Interface for Money
11. **BLRA** – Bank Led Resolution Approach
12. **CBL** – Chest Balance Limit
13. **CMFRI** – Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
14. **CBS** – Core Banking System
15. **CIDR** – Central Identities Data Repository
16. **CTS** – Cheque Truncation System
17. **CDR** – Corporate Debt Restructuring
18. **CASA** – Current Account Saving Account
19. **CAD** – Capital Account Deficit
20. **CRA** – Counterparty Risk Assessment
21. **CRR** – Cash Reserve Ratio
22. **ECS** – Electronic Clearing Service
23. **DNS** – Domain Name System

24. **DEAF** – Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
25. **EFTPOS** – Electronic funds transfer at point of sale
26. **EFT** – Electronic Fund Transfer.
27. **FRBM** – Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
28. **LGD** – Loss Given Default
29. **LTV** – Loan To Value
30. **LRS** – Liberalized Remittance Scheme
31. **LCR** – Liquidity Coverage Ratio
32. **GNFV** – Gross Negative Fair Value
33. **SFTs** – Securities financing transactions
34. **HCE** – Host Card Emulation
35. **PFE** – Potential Future Exposure
36. **IIP** – Index of Industrial Production
37. **IBBI** – Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
38. **IFC** – International Finance Corporation
39. **IDRBT** – Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology
40. **Ind As** – Indian Accounting Standards
41. **ICAAP** – Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process



42. IFSC - Indian Financial System Code
43. IMPS - Immediate Payment Service
44. IMPS - Interbank Mobile Payment Service
45. MMID - Mobile Money Identifier
46. MPIN - Mobile Personal Identification Number
47. NPA - Non- Performing Assets
48. NSFR - Net Stable Funding Ratio
49. NPCI - National Payment Corporation of India
50. NFS - National Financial Switch
51. NSFR - Net Stable Funding Ratio
52. NACH - National Automated Clearing House
53. NEFT - National Electronic Fund Transfer
54. NFC - Near field communication
55. NDTL - Net Demand and Time Liabilities.
56. NASSCOM - National Association of Software and Services Companies
57. NIIF - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
58. OTC - Over the Counter
59. PIN - Personal Identification Number
60. PAC - Personal Access Code
61. PCA - Prompt Corrective Action
62. PCR - Public Credit Registry
63. PCR - Provisioning Coverage Ratio
64. PSPs - Payment Support Providers
65. TC-CCP - Third-Country Central Counterparty
66. TRR - Temporary Recognition Regime
67. TReDS - Trade Receivables Discounting System
68. RTGS - Real Time Gross Settlement
69. USSD - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
70. UIDAI - Unique Identification Authority of India
71. VPA - Virtual Payment Address.
72. WMA - Ways and Means Advances
73. TIEA - Tax Information and Exchange Agreement
74. NRETP - National Rural Economic Transformation Project
75. IBC - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

76. GSP - Generalised System of Preferences
77. IFFCO - Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative
78. PMJAY - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
79. NBFC - Non-banking finance companies
80. SWIFT - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
81. NHB - National Housing Bank
82. NGT - National Green Tribunal
83. DSIB - Domestically Systematically Important Bank
84. RWAs - Risk Weighted Assets
85. TCs - Trade credits
86. CSO - Central Statistics Office
87. ASSOCHAM - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
88. WPI - Wholesale Price Index
89. FTA - Free Trade Agreement
90. NHB - National Housing Bank
91. YONO - You only need one
92. ARC - Asset Reconstruction Company
93. D-SIBs - Domestic Systemically Important Banks
94. MFIs - Micro Finance Institutions
95. FPIs - Foreign portfolio investors
96. FVCIs - Foreign venture capital investors
97. PPF - Public Provident Fund
98. NSC - National Savings Certificate
99. CbC - Country-by-Country
100. WEF - World Economic Forum
101. MPI - Multidimensional Poverty Index
102. UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
103. UPI - Unified Payments Interface
104. NPCI - National Payments Corporation of India
105. CII - Confederation of Indian Industry
106. NBCC - National Buildings Construction Corporation
107. NSSO - National Sample Survey Office
108. EMV - Europay, MasterCard, Visa.
109. FATF - Financial Action Task Force

Agreement & Deals

1-7th November 2020

1.

1. ICICI Lombard, FreePaycard to offer health insurance solutions

Note: ICICI Lombard in partnership with Freepaycard, an online pre-paid card trading platform, has launched Group Safeguard

Insurance. This strategic partnership will make the bite-sized health insurance solutions, designed specifically for Freepaycardmembers, available at its multi-category partner retail outlets. Freepaycard members can add these



health solutions on the go while shopping for other essential goods or services.

2. IBM, Indian Oil Corporation collaborate for digital services

Note: Tech giant IBM stated it has collaborated with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to transform the latter's customer experience using digital tools. Around 12,400 IOCL distributors covering about 130 million consumers can now use the IndianOil One mobile app and portal, developed by IBM Services. The IndianOil One mobile app and portal are part of Indian Oil's Project ePIC, an integrated platform for Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Distribution Management System (DMS).

3. IISc and Indian Oil R&D inks MoU for hydrogen-generation technology

Note: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Research and Development Centre of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have signed an MoU to develop and demonstrate biomass gasification-based hydrogen generation

technology. This technology will be used for producing fuel cell-grade hydrogen at an affordable price. The IISc and IndianOil will work jointly on the optimisation of both biomass gasification and hydrogen purification processes. The developed technology will be scaled up and demonstrated at IndianOils R&D Centre at Faridabad, Haryana.

4. AAI Signs MoU With NTPC Subsidiary, NVVN

Note: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), to promote usage of electric vehicles and set up solar power plants at the airports managed and operated by AAI. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) will be provided adequate land and rooftop space by AAI, free of cost, at identified AAI airports to set up solar power plants. Initially, NVVN will begin working on the projects at airports in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

October

1.

1. Bank of Baroda ties up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor

Note: Bank of Baroda (BoB) 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. 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.

2. Mastercard partners with Atlantis to expand Digital First Program in India

Note: Mastercard has entered into a partnership with Atlantis to expand the Digital First Program in India. 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.

3. BSE Signed MoU with ICCI to support SMEs & start-ups

Note: Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed an agreement with Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups, and promote their listing on the exchange. ICCI will offer assistance to BSE in evaluating SMEs and start-ups for listing on BSE SME board.

4. IIT Jodhpur, NHAI sign MoU for betterment of Highway Infrastructure

Note: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share expertise for the betterment of highway infrastructure. The two institutions will work in domains which include transportation engineering, structural engineering, geotechnical engineering. They will also cooperate in hydraulics engineering, infrastructure systems, earthquake engineering, urban and rural planning and disaster management and planning domains.

5. India Post, US Postal Service sign pact for electronic exchange of customs

Note: Indian Posts & US Postal Service entered into an agreement for the electronic exchange of customs data related to postal shipments. It will enable to transmit & receive electronic data of international postal items prior to their physical arrival. The agreement will make it possible to



transmit and receive electronic data of international postal items prior to their physical arrival at the destination and would enable customs clearance of postal items in advance in line with the evolving global postal framework.

6. DMRC & SBI card launch multi-purpose smart card

Note: The 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. 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.

7. Microsoft & NSDC tie-up to empower 1 lakh women with digital skills

Note: 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 ten months. This initiative is an extension of Microsoft's partnership with NSDC to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh youth in the country. The programme will curate a series of live training sessions and digital skilling drives to help create opportunities for young girls and women, particularly first-time job seekers and those whose jobs may have been impacted by Covid-19, to join the future workforce.

8. IIT Kanpur, ASI sign MoU with Italian institutes for restoration of monuments

Note: The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) and the Archaeological Survey of India have signed an agreement with two institutions from Italy, seeking restoration and protection of historical monuments. The MoU was signed among IIT-K, Ca'Foscari University of Venice, Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti E Paesaggio, Venice, on creating a network and sharing skills for restoration and protection of historical monuments.

September

1.

1. ADB & Suguna Foods Private Limited signs \$15 million deal

Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement for \$15 million of debt financing through the subscription of nonconvertible debentures for Suguna Foods Private Limited (Suguna). The deal will help in sustaining poultry farming operations, as well as rural livelihoods and food security in India during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. NSDC, LinkedIn partner to provide digital skills training for youth

Note: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and LinkedIn have announced a partnership to provide access to free learning resources for digital skills. A total of 10 learning paths consisting of 140 courses will be made available for free on e-Skill India digital platform until March 31, 2021.

3. WhatsApp, CPF partner to drive cyber safety awareness

Note: Facebook-owned WhatsApp has partnered with Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF) to create awareness on cyber safety among students. The partners aim to reach about 15,000 students in five Indian states, including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra by the end of this year, under the first phase of a pan-India programme.

4. Infosys acquires product design firm Kaleidoscope Innovation

Note: Infosys has announced that it would acquire product design and development firm, Kaleidoscope Innovation for up to \$42 million. Kaleidoscope is a US-based firm and would bring to Infosys a diverse talent pool with extensive knowledge of design and engineering.

August

1. NeGD signs MoU with CSC E-Governance Services India Limited

Note: The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has partnered with CSC (Common Service Center) e

Governance Services India Limited. The partnership aims to enable delivery of UMANG services to citizens through the network of 3.75 lakh CSCs.



2. APEDA signs MoUs with AFC India Limited & NCUI, Delhi

Note: To synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed MoUs with AFC India Limited, and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Delhi. The MoU aims to employ their expertise by mutually working together to coordinate the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors in order to bring better value to the stakeholders.

3. Tourism Ministry partners with TAAI & FICCI's FLO to promote tourism

Note: Ministry of Tourism has signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with primary objective of women empowerment. The signed MoU will enable FLO & TAAI to focus on personal and hospitality skills, a more flexible work balance and greater options for entrepreneurship with lower capital.

4. Uttar Pradesh partners Israel to resolve Bundelkhand Water Crisis

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

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

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

6. Ministry of Skill Development partners with Ministry of Shipping

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

7. Atal Innovation Mission signs SoI with Business Sweden

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

8. Flipkart establishes academic collaboration with IIT Patna

Note: An Memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed by India's homegrown ecommerce player "Flipkart" with Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Patna. The MoU will encourage industry focused applied research in the areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML). This is flipkart's effort towards strengthening its academic collaboration which it has been promoting for past 5 years now.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Note: Reliance Power and Japanese energy major JERA have signed an agreement with a group of banks for their new gas-fired thermal power generation project in Bangladesh. The **July**

signed agreement will provide full finance of about \$642 million (approx Rs 4,798 crore) for a new 745 MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat in Bangladesh. This is one of the largest funding tie-ups for a project in Bangladesh's power sector.

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

Note: Unnat Bharat Abhiyan-Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (UBA-IITD) and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA), New Delhi has signed a tripartite MoU with CSIR. The signed MoU will offer access to CSIR rural technologies for UBA. It will also lay the foundation for cooperation as well as joint action in the area of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) for rural development of India.

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

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

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

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

4. Airtel Payments Bank partners NSDC to train rural youth

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

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

Note: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Union Bank of India, after its amalgamation

with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank, have announced a corporate agency agreement to distribute LIC policies. The bank will market LIC products of term insurance, pension, plan, children plan, ULIPs, and endowment schemes.

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

Note: The Punjab government has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, in the area of skill development. The agreement provides IIT's technical education department to become an academic mentor for the state's engineering colleges at Gurdaspur and Ferozepur, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Skill Institute at Chamkaur Sahib, five government polytechnics and 10 government ITIs.

7. MYAS partners with UNICEF to promote volunteerism among youth

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

8. CBSE ties up with IBM to integrate AI curriculum

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

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

Note: UNICEF India has partnered with SAP India to offer career counselling to young people in the country. The partnership between the two aims to improve the employability skills of young people in a COVID-19 as well as post COVID-19 era. Under this initiative, **UNICEF has**



collaborated with YuWaah (Generation Unlimited) to offer digital education as well as occupational skillset to the underserved young people of India.

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

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

11. UNICEF INDIA partners with FICCI for #Reimagine Campaign

Note: The campaign aims to support the most vulnerable populations and children during the COVID-19 response and its after-math in India. It will also help in avoiding the potential long-term damage to business operations as well as employment pipeline.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. CBDT & SEBI signs MoU for data exchange

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

16. Microsoft partners NSDC to provide digital skills

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

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

Note: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Bakamla RI (Indonesian Coast Guard) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 'Maritime Safety and Security' to boost maritime relations. India and Indonesia are historically connected through the Indian Ocean and it has been the resolve of both nations to ensure safe and secure sea passage for all seafarers in the region.

18. Ola partners with PhonePe for digital payment

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

19. Railways, BHEL tie up for solar power generation

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

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

Note: Government-owned mining majors **NLC India Ltd** and **Coal India Ltd** have formed a joint venture to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5,000 megawatts of power.



Both companies will hold equal 50:50 equity in the joint venture company.

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

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

22. India-Bangladesh forms LPG joint venture

June

1.

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

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

2. TCS iON partners with National Skill Development Corporation

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

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

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

Books & Author

1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1. World's 1st scientoon book titled "Bye Bye Corona" is authored by **Pradeep Srivastava**.

Note: World's 1st scientoon book entitled "Bye Bye Corona", was released by Anandiben Patel, Governor, Uttar Pradesh. The book was written by 'scientoonist' Dr Pradeep Srivastava, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. It is further planned to make a 3D version of the book. The book has been published by Vigyan Prasar.

2. Tamal Bandyopadhyay authored the book titled "Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy".

Note: This book, published by Roli Books, provides an understanding of the challenges and economic potential of India. The book "Pandemonium" accounts how many promoters had swapped equity with debt while the managements of the banks were finding a way to protect their balance sheets until the intervention of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) against their bad loans.

3. Ajay Kumar Parida authored the book titled "The Age of Pandemic (1817-1920): How they Shaped India And the World.

Note: The book is published by HarperCollins India and is set to release in December 2020. It documents the scale of devastation, cause and consequences and the resilience of the people during the pandemics. It also portrays the continuing relevance of learning from the disaster that affected the nation and the ways to combat the challenges like COVID-19.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

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

13. A book titled "Voices of Dissent" authored by Romila Thapar

Note: The book will be jointly published by Penguin Random House India and Seagull Books, set to publish in October 2020. The book is a historical essay that explores dissent, including its articulation and public response to its forms, with a focus on the recent protest in India against the citizenship law and the National Register of Citizens.

14. A book titled "Kitchens of Gratitude" authored by Chef Vikas Khanna

Note: Feed India initiative is one of the largest food drives in the world, serving meals to the underprivileged. The book will be released in 2021. He will also be honoured with the 2020 Asia Game Changer Award in October.

15. Barack Obama announces his memoir 'A Promised Land'

Note: Former US President, Barack Obama has announced his first presidential memoir titled "A Promised Land." The 768-page book will be published in November 2020 by Penguin Random House and is scheduled to be released on November 17, 2020, in 25 languages.

16. A new book titled "Azadi" authored by Arundhati Roy

Note: Arundhati Roy's new book titled "Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction" is published by Penguin Books Limited. The nonfiction book is a collection of essays that shows the meaning of Freedom in the world of increasing authoritarianism. The essay collection includes meditations on language and roles of fiction and alternative imaginations amid global pandemic due to COVID-19.

17. Gauri Khan announces her debut book 'My Life in Design'

Note: Interior designer, Gauri Khan has authored her first book titled "My Life In Design", which will be published by Penguin Random House India in 2021. It is a coffee-table book, in which Gauri has written about her journey as a designer.

18. UN Environment Programme launches "The Little Book of Green Nudges"

Note: A new publication "The Little Book of Green Nudges" has been launched by the United Nations Environment Programme. The newly launched publication seeks to encourage around 200 million students around the world to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.

19. A new book titled "Let Us Dream" by Pope Francis

Note: Pope Francis is set to release the book "Let Us Dream" in December 2020. In the book, Pope Francis explains how a crisis can teach an individual to deal with problems they face in their lives. He cites three major crises from his own personal life.

20. A book title "The Big Thoughts of Little Luv" authored by Karan Johar

Note: Bollywood Filmmaker, Karan Johar authored a children's picture book titled "The Big Thoughts of Little Luv" inspired by his Twins Yash and Roohi. The book will be published by Juggernaut Books.

21. A book title 'Cricket Drona' on renowned coach Vasoo Paranjpe

Note: A book title 'Cricket Drona' on renowned coach Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe or Vasoo Paranjpe will be released on September 2, 2020. The book is written by Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe's son and current national selector Jatin Paranjpe along with Cricket Journalist Anand Vasu and published by Penguin.

22. A book titled "Who painted my lust red?" by Sree Iyer

Note: A book titled "Who painted my lust red?" has been authored by Sree Iyer. The book is something about when Bollywood meets Cricket meets Politicians. This is the second book in this series of Sree Iyer's Money Trilogy series. The first book was "Who painted my money white?".

23. A book titled "Gastric Cancer" released by Jitendra Singh

Note: Union Minister, Jitendra Singh has released a book on cancer named "Gastric Cancer" edited by Dr Ashok K. Vaid. The book was launched during a special session organized during the 3-day virtual conference on Oncology. The book is published by Springer Healthcare Education. Ashok K. Vaid is a Noted Oncologist and was



awarded Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding work in the field of medicine.

24. A book titled 'One Arranged Murder' authored by Chetan Bhagat

Note: A book titled 'One Arranged Murder' authored by Chetan Bhagat will be released globally on September 28, 2020. The fiction book portrays a murder mystery in the backdrop of an arranged marriage. The book will be published by Westland Publications Ltd. It is the author's 9th novel and 11th book overall. His last release was The Girl in Room 105.

25. A book titled "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020" by Arjun Subramaniam

Note: Retired Air Vice Marshal, Arjun Subramaniam has authored a new book titled, "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020". It is the sequel to his 1st book, 'India's Wars: A Military History, 1947-1971'. The book portrays the comprehensive account of war and conflict in contemporary India over the past five decades next month. It will be published by HarperCollins Publishers India Pvt. Ltd.

26. A book titled "Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World" by Dalai Lama

Note: The Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama, will release a new book titled "Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World" on climate change with German environmental journalist, Franz Alt in November. The Dalai Lama in the book calls on political decision-makers to fight against deadlock and ignorance on the issue of climate change and to stand up for a different, more climate-friendly world and for the younger generation to assert their right to regain its future.

27. A book titled 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing' released

Note: The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar unveiled an e-version of the book titled 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing'. The book chronicles Shri M Venkaiah Naidu's three years in office as the Vice President of India. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has completed three years in office on 11 August 2020.

28. A book titled 'Amazing Ayodhya' authored by Neena Rai

Note: The book titled 'Amazing Ayodhya' has been authored by Neena Rai. The book offers "authentic information" about the city, which will not only help understand the life and times of ancient Hindus but also the revered figures of Rama and Sita. The book is publishing by house Bloomsbury.

29. A book titled 'RAW: A History of India's Covert Operations' authored by Yatish Yadav

Note: The book, titled "RAW: A History of India's Covert Operations" has authored by investigative journalist and author Yatish Yadav. A new book gives a peep into the heroic covert operations carried by India's external spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and thereby narrates a gripping account of what actually happens behind the grey walls of the secret society.

30. A book titled "Vishesh: Code To Win" authored by Nirupama Yadav

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

31. A book titled "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata" authored by Vijay Kumar Choudhary

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

32. "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India" authored by Viral V. Acharya

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

33. "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World" authored by Dr. S Jaishankar

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

34. A book titled "Suraj Kade Marda Nahi" authored by Baldev Singh Sadaknama

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



35. A book titled "The Endgame" authored by Hussain Zaidi

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

36. A book titled "If It Bleeds" authored by Stephen King released

Note: A new book titled "If It Bleeds", a collection of four stories, authored by Stephen King has been released. The book published by Hachette India. The book has the story centres around a bomb at Albert Macready Middle School. It is a sequel to his bestselling work, "The Outsider".

37. A book titled 'A Song of India' authored by Ruskin Bond to be released

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

38. A book on Dalai Lama's biography to release in 2020

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

39. "Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India" authored by R C Bhargava

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

40. Former RBI governor U. Patel pens book 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver'

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

41. A book titled "The Future of Higher Education" released by M Venkaiah Naidu

Note: Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has virtually released a book titled "Future of

Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends". The book is authored by CA V Pattabhi Ram. The Virtual event was hosted by ICT Academy.

42. Amish Tripathi launches new book 'Legend of Suheldev'

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

43. Ruskin Bond's new book released on his 86th birthday

Note: Ruskin Bond's new book titled 'Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes' was released on his 86th Birthday in an e-book format. The book narrates some of his memorable travel adventures on boats, trains and planes from his childhood. The book presents its readers with a number of the author's hilarious journeys and travel adventures. The illustrations for Ruskin Bond's new book has been done by Samrat Halder.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Note: Union Culture Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel launched an e-book titled "Prof. B.B. Lal: India Rediscovered". E-book was launched on the

occasion of centenary year of great archaeologist Professor B. B. Lal.

1.

Art and Culture November (1 to 7)

1.

NMCG virtually inaugurates three-day long Ganga Utsav 2020

- **Organizer:** National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) along with Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Duration:** three-day and held from 2nd to 4th November 2020
- Ganga Utsav is organised to spread awareness about river Ganga and the need to keep the river clean and rejuvenated.
- The 2020 edition of Ganga Utsav marks 12th anniversary of holy river Ganga, which is being accorded the status of National River, on 4th November 2008

2. Tourist Facilitation Centre' facility in Kerala under Prashad Scheme

- Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism **Prahlaad Singh Patel** has virtually inaugurated 'Tourist Facilitation Centre' facility at Guruvayur, Kerala
- It has been constructed under **Development of Guruvayur project** under PRASHAD Scheme of

Ministry of Tourism with a cost of Rs. 11.57 Crores.

• **PRASHAD:** 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' was launched in 2014-15 to integrate development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations. It includes infrastructure development and basic tourism facilities

3. Vice President launches 'International Satavadhanam' event

- **Organiser:** Medasani Mohan under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang in Tirupati.
- **Avadhānam:** It is a literary performance popular, that originated as a Sanskrit literary process in ancient India and is revived by poets in Telugu and Kannada in modern times. It involves the partial improvisation of poems using specific themes, metres, forms, or words.
- It is held with number of Pṛcchakas/questionnaire that can be 8 (Aṣṭāvadhānam) or 100 (Śatāvadhānam)

October

1.

Culture Ministry virtually launches 'Life in Miniature' project

Note:

- It has been launched in collaboration with **National Museum, New Delhi** and **Google Arts & Culture**.
- The project will facilitate users to see famous miniature collections like Ramayana, Royal Saga, Pahari style paintings of National Museum in never before seen ways with extraordinary detail in just a few clicks
- The project uses technologies like machine learning, augmented reality and digitization with high-definition robotic cameras
- **5 universal themes of project:** nature, love, celebration, faith and power.
- **Culture Minister:** Prahlaad Singh Patel
- 2. **Ministry of Tourism organised Dekho Apna Desh Webinar on Bundi, Rajasthan**
- **Title of webinar:** 'Bundi: Architectural Heritage of a Forgotten Rajput Capital'

• Bundi is a district in Hadoti region of south-eastern Rajasthan and is also known as City of stepwalls, blue city

• It is also known as **Chotti Kashi** due to presence of over hundred temples within and around the hada capital.

• **Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series:** It is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. It is presented in technical partnership with National e Governance Department, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

3. Films Division of I&B Ministry organises concluding part of 'Nrityanjali'

- **Duration:** from 28 to 30 October 2020
- **Nrityanjali:** It is an online festival of documentary films on the life and work of some of the leading Indian classical dance exponents (Dance and its maestros)
- It will be streamed live on Films Division website and its YouTube channel for three days.



4. VP M. Venkaiah Naidu launches 'Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance'

- It focuses on music and dance that can provide relief from the anxiety during COVID-19
- **Organised by:** Natya Tarangini in partnership with United Nations.
- Natya Tarangini is organising 'Parampara Series' National festival continuously since past 23 years coinciding with the World Day for Audio-visual Heritage.

5. ICCR Global Art Competition

- Bangladeshi boy Anzar Mustaeen Ali (6 year) won \$1000 special prize for his artwork in the **August**

47.

1. Tamil Nadu celebrates Aadi Perukku

Note:

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

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

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

3. Warli paintings on National Fertilizers Limited, Noida

Note:

- National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) under Department of Fertilizers has displayed Maharashtra's famous Warli painting on the outer walls of its Corporate Office in Noida.
- Warli paintings: Resembles like Rock Shelters, Bhimbetka. It has hunting, fishing, farming, festivals as central theme. Graphic vocabulary like circle, triangle, square are used.
- **Warlis:** Indigenous tribe of Maharashtra-Gujarat border, whose roots are traced to 10th century.

4. Onam celebrated across Kerala

Note:

- Onam is celebrated in the first month of solar Malayalam calendar (Kollavarsham-August or September) for 10 days and culminates with Thiruvonam

global art competition organised by Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

- ICCR launched global painting competition titled as 'United Against CORONA- Express through Art' that attracted 8000 artwork entries from around the world.

6. FIP organises virtual version of Delhi Book Fair for the year 2020

- **Organizer:** Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) in partnership with PragatiE
- **Duration:** 2 days which culminates on 31st October.
- It was the 26th and unique edition of the Delhi Book Fair

- Celebrated to welcome King Mahabali and as the festival of paddy harvest.

- Pookalam (rangoli made with fresh flowers), Vallam Kali (boat race), Pulikali (tiger dance), Kai Kottu Kali (Onam dance), Kummattikali (mask dance) are its key features

5. Facelift to 11th century Lingaraj Temple

Note:

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

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

Note:

- Strongest proponent of 'purna swaraj' or 'total self-rule', Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's 100th death anniversary observed on August 1st .
- He was known as 'father of Indian revolution' by JL Nehru
- He was also known as 'the maker of modern India' by Mahatma Gandhi
- His famous slogan: 'Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it'

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

Note:

- **National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi** organised virtual tour titled "The Great Maestro | Abanindranath Tagore" to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore on 7th August 2020.

- **Abanindranath Tagore** was a prominent artists of **Bengal school of art** and the founder of '**Indian Society of Oriental Art**'

- **His Famous paintings:** Bharat Mata, The Passing of Shah Jahan (1900), My Mother (1912-



13), Fairyland illustration (1913), Journey's End (circa 1913).

July

1.

1. Culture Ministry reprints 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur

Note:

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

June

1. Ministry of Culture celebrates Sankalp Parva

Note:

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

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

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

3. Ministry of Culture launches Namaste Yoga campaign

Note:

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

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

About 'talamaddale':

- **Literary works:** 'BudoAngla', 'KhirerPutul', 'Rajkahini' and Arabian Nights

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

Note:

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

- It is an ancient debate performance form of Karavali and Malnad regions of Karnataka and Kerala focusing on popular mythology

- It consist of sarcasm, puns, philosophy positions and humorous debate.

- It is a variant of Yakshagana (temple art form) and is said to be art form minus dance, costumes, and stage conventions.

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

About festival:

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

6. NGMA launches ONLINE NAIMISHA 2020 Summer Art Program

Note:

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

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

Note:

- National Gallery of Modern Art presents "NGMA KE SANGRAH SE" to showcase the rarely seen



or unseen jewels from its repository on various weekly/ daily themes

- It will give opportunity to art lovers, artists, art connoisseurs, students, teachers, etc. to see the rarely presented artworks from their homes.

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

About the contest:

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

GI Tag

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

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



Science & Technology November (1-7th) 2020

1

Nasa's SOFIA telescope confirms water presence on Moon's north and south poles surface

Note:

- Water molecules have been found at Clavius Crater, one of the largest craters visible from Earth on the lunar surface
- This discovery indicated that water may be distributed across moon's surface and not limited to cold and shadowed places
- SOFIA: Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, is a joint project of Nasa and the German Aerospace Center to maintain and construct an airborne observatory.

2. IIT Bombay launches self- help website named Bandhu

- It has been unveiled by Union Minister of State for Education Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre
- The website addresses challenges ranging from adjustment to college life, academic stress, and mental health.
- Project Bandhu was initiated by alumni of 1992 batch as a part of their silver jubilee reunion in 2017.

3. India's first Solar-Powered Miniature Train launched at Veli Tourist Village, Kerala.

Note:

- It has 3 bogies and will cover a distance of 2.5 km with 45 people at a time.
- It will have fully- equipped rail system, including a tunnel, traditional station and a ticket office and will attract especially children
- Artificial steam spouted by the engine of the train, modelled after vintage steam locomotive, will stir nostalgic feelings.

4. Indian Naval Ship Airavat entered Port Sudan under Mission SAGAR II

- It will provide assistance to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic by carrying a consignment of 100 Tonnes of food aid and medical assistance
- Under Mission Sagar-II, Indian Naval Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.

5. First Phase of 24th edition of Malabar Naval Exercise begun in Visakhapatnam, Bay of Bengal

October

1.

India successfully test-fired Stand-Off Anti-Tank (SANT) Missile FROM Odisha coast

About Malabar Exercise:

- Participants: Indian Navy, United States Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force and Royal Australian Navy
- It will be conducted in 2 phases and phase 2 will be conducted in Arabian Sea in mid-November
- Malabar series of maritime exercises were commenced in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy-United States Navy exercise and was joined by Japan in 2015 and Australian Navy in 2020 to strengthen maritime and security ties.

6. ISRO to launch Earth Observation Satellite EOS01 on Nov 7, 2020

About EOS01:

- It is being launched by PSLV- C49 launch vehicle from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- Along with this, 9 other customer satellites will also be carried into space by PSLV-C49.
- This would be the first launch by ISRO after the Covid-triggered lockdown.
- EOS-01 will be used for agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

7. Bangladesh & US jointly launches naval exercise 'CARAT Bangladesh 2020'

About 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh-2020':

- Aim: To expand relationships and broaden maritime awareness
- Sea-phase of the exercise will take place in Bay of Bengal with ships from both countries.
- First edition of CARAT Bangladesh was held in 2011

8. DRDO successfully tested Enhanced PINAKA rocket from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha

About Enhanced Pinaka system

- It will help in achieving longer range performance compared to earlier design with reduced length.
- It has been designed and developed by DRDO labs: Armament Research and Development Establishment and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory
- It will replace the existing Pinaka Mk-I rocket

About SANT:



- It is an air to surface missile and is an upgraded version of anti-tank missile, Helicopter Launched Nag (HeliNa).

- It is developed by DRDO for Indian air Force

- It has both lock-on before launch and lock-on after launch capability and can destroy targets 15 km to 20 km away.

2. Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvette INS Kavaratti to be commissioned into Indian Navy

Note:

- **Kavaratti:** indigenously designed by Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata

- It will be commissioned as a combat-ready platform as the ship has completed sea trials of all the systems fitted onboard.

3. IIT Kharagpur developed 'COVIRAP' gets Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) certification

About COVIRAP:

- It is easy to conduct and affordable test as well and can produce results within one hour without requiring manual interpretation.

- It is highly reliable and accurate molecular diagnostic procedure that can be conducted in an ultra-low-cost portable device unit.

- Cost: Rs 500

4. Union Minister for Science & Technology announced 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020

About IISF:

- It will be held from 22nd to 25th December 2020 at virtual platform.

- It is jointly by science & technology-related Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha).

- IISF is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.

5. Defence Minister releases new version DRDO Procurement Manual 2020

Note:

- Aim: To encourage more participation of Indian industry, including Start-ups and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Defence Research & Development (R&D) for achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

- The manual was last modified in 2016.

6. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launches CuRED on Repurposed Drugs for Covid- 19

About CuRED:

- It stands CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs
- It is a website that gives comprehensive information about COVID-19 clinical trials, carried out by CSIR in partnership with industry, other government departments and ministries.

- It will also provide information about drugs, diagnostics and devices, etc for COVID-19

7. DRDO successfully tested final trial of Nag anti-tank guided missile at Pokhran, Rajasthan

Note:

- Nag anti-tank missile has completed 10 successful user trials

- It is an Indian 3rd-generation, all-weather, fire-and-forget, lock-on after launch, anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) with an operational range of 500 m to 20 km

- It is developed as a part of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)

8. Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN gets nod for phase 3 clinical trials

About COVAXIN

- It is developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

- It is a vaccine for COVID-19

- This vaccine will be tested on over 28 thousand people (across 10 states and 19 sites) aged 18 years and above.

9. IIT Kharagpur with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) develops novel Industry 4.0 technology

- It has been developed for remotely controlled factory operations and real-time quality correction during industrial production

- It has been developed by Prof. Surjya K Pal along with TCS and other fellows

10. Ministry of Science & Technology launches SERB-POWER scheme

About SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)

- It is designed exclusively for women scientists to mitigate gender disparity

- It will have 2 components: Fellowship and Research Grants

- **Age group:** 35-55 years

- **Components of support:** Fellowship of Rs. 15,000/- per month in addition to regular income;

- Duration: 3 years

- It will be regulated through terms of reference conforming to SERB-CRG (Science and



Engineering Research Board-Core Research Grant) guidelines.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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 apertureradar.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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 interoperability.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. **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.

31. 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.

September

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

About Chakr DeCoV:

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

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

About HSTDV:

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

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

Note:

- **DVT:** It is a serious condition that occurs when a blood clot forms in a vein of human body resulting in life threatening complications.
- The device is cost effective and will facilitate flow of blood from the veins in the legs preventing and giving relief from DVT

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

Note:

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

5. Recently, a team of researchers found traces of phosphine gas in **Venus** planet is associated with the living organisms which on Earth.

Note: Phosphine gas is associated with the living organisms which on Earth. The team used telescopes in Hawaii and Chile's Atacama Desert in order to observe upper cloud deck of Venus which is around 60 km from the surface. They

detected traces of phosphine, a flammable gas that on Earth occurs from the breakdown of organic matter.

6. India conducts 10th Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting virtually with **USA**.

Note: The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Raj Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, from the Indian Ministry of Defence and Ms. Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, from the U.S. Department of Defense. During the meeting, the co-chairs signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) that declared their intent "to strengthen our dialogue on defense technology cooperation by pursuing detailed planning and making measurable progress" on several specific DTTI projects.

7. Researchers at which university have developed the world's smallest ultrasound detector **Helmholtz Zentrum München and the Technical University of Munich (TUM)**.

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

8. The Indian Navy (IN) conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the navy of **Australia**.

Note: The exercise involved participation of HMAS Hobart from the Australian side and Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Karmuk. The Passage Exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices from each other.

9. **DRDO** has conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS- High speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicle.

Note: ABHYAS-HEAT is an air vehicle. It uses twin underslung boosters. ABHYAS was designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment of DRDO. The missile is powered by a small gas turbine and has MEMS based Inertial Navigation System.

10. India's first Coast Guard academy will be established in **Mangaluru**.

Note: India's first Coast Guard academy will be established at Mangaluru. Around 158 acres Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board



(KIADB) land has been taken over for setting up ICG Academy

11. Three-day-long maritime military exercise, JIMEX 2020 was conducted between the navies of **India and Japan**.

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

12. **Shivangi Singh** has become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the Rafale

combat aircraft that was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

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

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

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

August

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

July

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

Note:

Note:

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

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

Note:

- **Pavitrapati:** Ayurvedic based Biodegradable Face Mask which will act as a virus neutraliser and will be made available on Amazon, Flipkart etc.

- **Aushada tara:** Anti-microbial body suit which comprises of superhydrophobic, breathing, anti-microbial, comfort feeling properties.

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

About BEEG:

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

- It is a 1-minute film competition with theme "Science through My Eyes" and various sub-themes like science in the lab, kitchen, sports, hospital, etc.



- It will help people to understand and appreciate science around them fostering and promoting the scientific spirit

- It is open to Indian nationals only without any entry fee

2. Govt launches Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020

Note:

- It is a joint initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and All India Council for Technical Education for developing COVID-19 drug along with students, academicians, researchers, and professionals

- MyGov portal will be used for participation and works.

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

About SHUDH:

- It stands for Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper

- It has six UV lights of 15 Watts and can disinfect a 10x10 squared feet room in about 15 minutes.

- It's on/off, speed, and location can be controlled remotely using available android application.

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

Note:

- It is a fully indigenous molecular probe that will be used in COVID test kit

- PCR based test kit has three critical components: oligos, enzymes and molecular probes.

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

Note:

- It is launched by Long March 3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre.

- It is a high-power broadband communications geostationary satellite into orbit to provide broadband internet service.

- It will be operated by APT Mobile SatCom Limited to provide services for airborne, shipborne, vehicle-borne, and other applications for users across Asia-Pacific region.

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

Note:

- It is developed by IIT, Delhi and has received ICMR and Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approval

- It is cost-effective and faster covid-19 test kit.

7. Android malware titled 'BlackRock' discovered

About BlacRock:

- It steals data like password and credit card details from 337 apps including Gmail, Amazon, Netflix, Uber, etc through 'Overlays' technique

- It is based on the leaked source code of another malware strain 'Xerxes'

- It basically detects when a user interacts with a legitimate app and places a fake window on top that asks for login and credit card details before the user enters the actual app.

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

About MediCAB:

- It is foldable and is composed of 4 zones: doctor's room, an isolation room, a medical room/ward, and a twin-bed ICU at negative pressure.

- It can be installed anywhere within 8 hours by 4 people and is very cost-effective that can work well for far flung areas.

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

About HOPE:

- It will provide complete picture of the Martian atmosphere

- It is an unmanned mission which is launched by H2A rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center for 7-month journey

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

About COPS:

- It has solar Based Intelligent Mask Automated Dispensing Unit cum Thermal Scanner (IntelliMAST) that identifies the body temperature, Face Mask; Touchless Faucet (TouF); 360° Car Flusher

11. Comet NEOWISE approaches closest to the Earth

About NEOWISE:

- It is the brightest comet that can be seen with naked eye in Earth's night sky and is visible only after 6800 years gap

- It was first spotted by NASA's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) mission

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

About ANASIS-II:

- It stands for Army/Navy/Air Force Satellite Information System 2

- Launched by Falcon 9 Block 5 rocket at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida



- It is a secure communications satellite for Defense Development and will supplement the Koreasat-5/ANASIS-I satellite, a combined civilian and military communications satellite launched in 2006.

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

About Tianwen-1

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

14. DST launches India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment Programme

Note:

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

June

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

About Dhruva:

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

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

Note:

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

3. DST unveils official logo for Golden Jubilee Commemoration Year

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

Note:

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

16. IIT Kharagpur develops COVID-19 Rapid Test technology

Note:

- It can be conducted in an ultra-low-cost portable device with test results available in a customized smartphone app within an hour without requiring manual interpretation.
- It deploys a disposable simple paper-strip for chemical analysis and visualization of test results.
- It will cost around Rs 400 per test

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

About LCHG:

- It is a protective garment made up of biocompatible fabrics that can be used in space, military applications, firefighting, and personal cooling-heating purposes shielding for long term without skin irritation



- It has a system for circulating temperature controlling fluid into and out of the garments through tubes inside the garment.

6. India witnessed rare Annual Solar Eclipse Note:

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

7. June 21 marks Summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere

Note:

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

8. Central Indian Railways launches AI enabled Captain Arjun robot

Note:

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

9. Home Affairs launches GermiBAN device About GermiBAN:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

14. IIT Guwahati develops Flyzy mobile app

Note:

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

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

About ANANYA:

- It is a water-based non-toxic 24 hours spray that can be used on masks, PPEs, hospital linens, and other contaminated surfaces like medical instruments, elevator buttons, doorknobs, corridors, and rooms.
- It has shelf life of more than 6 months.

16. DoNER Minister launches COVID BEEP

About COVID BEEP:

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



17. ISRO signs MoU with ARIES for Space Situational Awareness

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

19. CSIR-CMERI develops new indigenous ventilator

Note:

Defence

September

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

Note:

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

2. Iranian Navy conducted Zolfaghar-99 exercise

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

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

Note:

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

21. DRDO develops Ultra Swachh for disinfection of materials

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

- It also has catalytic converter for environment friendly exhaust that operates on **15 Ampere, 220 Volts, 50 Hertz power supply.**
- It also has safety features such as emergency shutdown, door interlocks, dual door, delay cycle, and leak monitors, etc.

Note:

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

August

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

Note:

- Ministry of Defence signed Rs 2580 Cr contract with Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEM), Tata Power Company Ltd. (TPCL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for supplying Six Pinaka Regiments to the

Regiment of Artillery of Indian Army, designed by DRDO

- It comprises of 114 launchers with Automated Gun Aiming & Positioning System (AGAPS), 45 Command Posts, and 330 Vehicles.

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



Note:

- India has withdrawn its participation from the multilateral Military Exercise Kavkaz 2020 to be held in Russia between 15th to 26th September 2020.
- The reason for this has been cited as the COVID-19 Pandemic and consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics.
- Kavkaz 2020 would be held in Astrakhan province of Southern Russia where member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.
- Other countries that would participate in this exercise are- China, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Belarus, Turkey, Armenia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

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

Note:

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

4. Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO)

Note:

July

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

About PASSEX

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

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

About Ofek:

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

- Defence Minister launched 3-tiered organisation 'NIIO' with apex level headed by Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC)
- It will have structures to interact with academia and industry fostering innovation and indigenisation for achieving self-reliance in defences sector
- Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has also been created
- Indian Navy's Indigenisation perspective plans titled 'SWAVLAMBAN' was also released

5. Defence Minister bans import of 101 defence items

Note:

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

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

About ICGS C-454:

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

- Launched from Palmachim air base in central Israel into space.

3. ISRO launches Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite

About the satellite:

- Launched by Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV)
- First satellite for Earth observation designed for observing and monitoring the deforestation of Amazon Region and will help in the agricultural and vegetation areas.
- It will not be a hitch-hiking satellite.

4. Indian Navy conducted Passex exercise with US

Note:

- It was conducted by Indian Navy ships Rana, Sahyadri, Shivalik and Kamorta together with USS Nimitz (CVN 68), USS Princeton (CG 59), USS Sterett (DDG 104) and USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114).
- USS Nimitz is a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.



- It will be deployed in the Gulf region from the South China Sea.

- Indian Navy had also recently conducted similar joint exercises with Japanese and French Navy.

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

Note

- 'Dhruvastra' or helicopter-launched Nag Missile (HELINA) is tested from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.

- It is a 3rd generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile system mounted on Advanced Light Helicopter

- It has a range of 7 Km and is equipped with four foldable wings and has a length of 1.85m, diameter of 0.20m, wingspan of 0.4m and weight of 43kg.

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

Note

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

- It was an open challenge to encourage individuals & startups for innovation in defence and aerospace technologies

- The winners will be awarded with prize money of Rs 10 lakh for startup and Rs 5 lakh to individual category.

June

1. Defence Minister launches NOC portal for exploration projects

Note:

- Portal for No Objection Certificate (NOC) issue of power projects and Research Survey Exploration Exploitation (RSEE) activities in the Indian Territorial Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone launched

- Developed by National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG) and NIC.

- **Aim:** Facilitate the applicants in submitting their proposals online for seeking Security Clearance with effective, speedy and transparent mechanism.

2. Navy Inducts Indigenously Developed Advanced Torpedo Decoy System

Note:

- Indigenously designed and developed by DRDO labs (NSTL and NPOL).

- Capable of being fired from all frontline warships.

- Its induction was jointly done by Indian Navy and DRDO.

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

Note:

- The parade was held on June 24, 2020 to honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other countries in World War II.

- India's participation will mark tribute and solidarity to Russia

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

About DSRV Complex:

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

- Has Remote Operations Vehicle, Side Scan Sonar, Diver Decompression Chambers, and associated equipment.

- Mobilized by air or road to facilitate submarine rescue operations even at distant locations

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

About TEDBF jet program:

- Jets will be developed indigenously under Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) project to operate from the deck of INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant

- It will include 4 Pre-Production Prototypes and will be cheaper.

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

About ARPIT:

- Utilized for the evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude areas, isolated and remote places.

- Lightweight transparent and durable isolation system having life support, monitoring instruments and other essential kits.

- Generates high constant negative pressure that will prevent crew from infection.

6. India and Australia signs Mutual Logistics Support Agreement

- Agreement is signed to allow logistics support in a virtual bilateral summit to provide reciprocal access to military logistics facilities, allow more complex joint military exercise, and improve interoperability between two nations.



- Support the rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region facilitating scaling up of

overall defence cooperation.

Summits & Conference November (1-7th)

1

MoHUA organises 13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference

- **Organiser:** Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Hardeep Singh Puri
- **Main theme of this year's event:** Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility
- Theme will address challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic to provide accessible and convenient transport to people
- Jan Gehl, renowned Danish Architect, Urbanist, Professor & founder of Modern Urban Planning delivered keynote address at the event
- The conference will showcase 12 different events

2. India hosts 8th edition of India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments

- **Co-chaired:** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of Abu Dhabi's Executive Council
- Joint Task Force was established in 2012 as a crucial forum for deepening the already strong economic ties between UAE and India.
- Both sides reviewed the existing UAE special desk ('UAE Plus') and Fast Track Mechanism created in 2018 to facilitate investments and to

resolve any challenges experienced by UAE investors in India.

3. PM Narendra Modi chaired Virtual Global Investor Roundtable

- **Organized by:** Finance Ministry and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.
- This roundtable is an exclusive dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and highest decision makers of Govt and Financial Market Regulators.
- **Participants:** 20 world's largest pension and sovereign wealth funds from key regions like US, Europe, Canada, Korea, Japan, West Asia, Australia, and Singapore.

4. Shaktikanta Das chaired 40th SAARCFINANCE Governors' Meet

- **Participants:** The meeting was attended by all the Governors from SAARC nation central banks
- SAARCFINANCE is a network of central bank governors and finance secretaries of the SAARC region.
- **Current Chair of SAARCFINANCE:** Reserve Bank of India
- **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation ():** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

October

1

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 4th India Energy Forum

- **Organizer:** NITI Aayog and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- The forum was organised for interacting with CEOs of leading Global Oil & Gas Companies comprising participants from more than 30 nation
- **Host:** CERAWEEK, IHS Markit
- **Duration:** 3 days from 26th to 28th October 2020

Theme for 4th India Energy Forum: India's Energy Future in a world of Change

2. 6th edition of BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in virtual format

- **Participants:** Speakers and members of Parliament of BRICS nation
- **Chairmanship:** Vyacheslav Volodin (Chairman of Russian Parliament)

• Indian Parliamentary Delegation has been led by Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla and consisted of Lok Sabha Member Kanimozhi Karunanidhi.

• **Theme:** 'BRICS partnership in the interest of global stability, general safety and innovative growth: Parliamentary dimension'.

• **BRICS:** Brazil, Russian, India, China and South Africa

3. India and US hold 3rd bilateral 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi

- **Main members:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark Esper.
- Two nations signed the landmark defence pact Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) that will allow India to use global geospatial maps of US for accuracy of stand-off weapons like cruise and ballistic missiles.



• MoU for Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences and Letter of Intent between Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and National Cancer Institute, USA has also signed

4. India hosted 19th SCO Ministers Meet of Foreign Economy & Foreign Trade

• **Host:** Minister of Commerce and Industry of India Piyush Goyal

• **Participants:** Secretary General of SCO and Ministers from Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

September

1.

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

About Cycling Summit 2021:

• It will begin with a cycle ride from the heart of the city to the event venue followed by curated workshops, masterclasses, and open interactions with eminent athletes

• CFI signs MoU with new-age marketing exploration firm, Contarctica for the summit.

2. Ministry for Tribal Affairs inaugurates National Tribal Research Conclave

Note:

• It is 2-day conclave held on 3rd and 4th September 2020.

• It reviewed the progress on the outcome of various projects being implemented under different partnerships and the best practices to be followed by stakeholders along with road map of National Tribal Research Institutes

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

Note:

• It was held under the Chairmanship of **Bhutan**.

• APRC 35 focused on regional priorities and issues like COVID 19, state of agriculture, natural resources management, food security and nutrition.

• It was first organized in India in 1953 and is held biennial

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

August

1.

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

Note:

• **Aim:** To leverage the economic strength and explore partnerships that enhance trade and investment in the region.

• It focused on greater cooperation for access to medicines and facilitation of trade and statement was signed on the Multilateral Trading System of Ministers of SCO Countries who are WTO Members.

Note:

• **Aim:** Accelerate affordable and sustainable clean green with next generation technologies in solar power.

• **Tripartite agreement** between India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, World Bank and ISA inked during the summit

• The summit observed launching of ISA's technology journal, **Solar Compass 360**.

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

Note:

• It was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, France counterpart François Delattre, and Secretary of Australian Foreign Affairs Frances Adamson.

• The meeting observes discussion on Marine Global Commons, regional organisations like ASEAN, IORA and challenges & trends in regional and global multilateral institutions.

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

Note:

• Title of conclave: '**School Education in the 21st Century**'

• **First day:** Addressed by PM Narendra Modi with focus on Principal and Teacher practitioners for implementation of NEP in creative ways.

• **Second Day:** Discussions by Expert Practitioners to demystify important themes of NEP for school education.

• It will strengthen the regional supply chains, becoming resilient during Covid-19 with economic growth.



- Economic ministers from 10 ASEAN members and other nations including India, US, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Australia and New Zealand attended the meeting

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

Note:

- The conference is organized by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)
- Urdu writers and personalities will be honoured at the conference with awards in the name of Amir Khusrow, Mirza Ghalib, Agha Hashar, Ram Babu Saxena and Daya Shankar Naseem.

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

Note:

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

4. Defence Minister addressed Naval Commanders' Conference 2020

Note:

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

July

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

Note:

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

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

About India Global Week 2020:

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

- The agenda of the conference is Navy's Modernisation and Security in the Indian Ocean amidst the situation at the LAC in Ladakh

- It will focus on optimising joint planning structures, Tri-Service Synergy, and operational readiness, as well as functional reorganisation within the Indian Navy to improve efficiency.

5. Health Minister inaugurated CII Public Health Conference virtually

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

- **Theme: 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission'.**

- It was organised by **Tamil Nadu Technology Development & Promotion Centre (TNTDPC), Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).**

- **Aim:** Development of defence and Indian civil Aviation MRO market to enhance Aerospace and Defence industry's market to 70 billion Dollar by 2030.

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

Note:

- **Aim:** Review progress, accomplishments, and new areas for cooperation between India and US.
- It was co-chaired by Dan Brouillette (Energy Minister) and Dharmendra Pradhan (MoPNG)



- MoU was signed on Strategic Petroleum Reserves, storing oil, PACE-R and for India's first-ever Solar Decathlon in 2021
- USAID tied-up with POSOCO to develop India's National Open Access Registry (NOAR).
- Public-private Hydrogen Task Force has also been launched

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

- Theme: 'Multi-lateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary'

June

1.

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

- It will facilitate easier communication with adoption of common policy and practices.

- India's developmental motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas' was linked with the core Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) principle of leaving no one behind.

8. PM Modi addresses India Ideas Summit 2020 virtually

Note:

- **Focus:** Building global economic resilience through stronger domestic economic capacities
- It is being hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC) marking its 45th anniversary
- **Theme:** 'Building a Better Future'.

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

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

- It is also mandated to formulate countrywide programmes, policies, and activities in the science communication.

4. World Economic Forum to host 2021 Unique Twin Summit

Note:

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

5. PM Modi addresses virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020

Note:

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



Government Schemes

November (1 to 7)

1. Govt extended Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

Note:

- Central Govt has extended ECLGS till 30th November or till Rs 3 lakh crores is sanctioned under the scheme, whichever is earlier.
- The extension is done in view of increasing demand and opening up of various sectors in the economy
- **ECLGS:** It is a fully guaranteed and collateral free additional credit to MSMEs, business enterprises, individual loans for business purposes and MUDRA borrowers.

October

1. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launches Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)

- 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.
- Under this, 117 companies promoted by SC entrepreneurs will be given financial assistance to set up business ventures.

2. South Eastern Railways (SER) has launched the project, 'Operation my Saheli'

- Aim: To enhance the security of women passengers in the train.
- It is executed under the Framework of "Nirbhaya Fund" and no additional expenditure is provided by the Head of Railways.

3. West Bengal Govt launches "Pathashree Abhijan" scheme for road repair

- It is a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometres across the state will be repaired.

4. Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launches Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme

- This initiative will run for 3 year optimizing the contribution of tribal population in the growing economy
- The programmes Centre of Excellence (CoE) has been set up by apex industry body Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)

5. Union Health Minister launches 2nd phase of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna

- It is launched for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients.
- It is a Coal India CSR funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) program
- **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna:** Launched in 2017 to provide 1-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies like Thalassaemia and

Sickle Cell Disease for patients who have a matched family donor

- **Haemoglobinopathies:** inherited disorders of red blood cells and are preventable.

6. Odisha launches 'Sujal' Mission to Provide Tap Water Fit for Drinking in Urban Areas

- 'Sujal'- 'Drink from Tap Mission' scheme will provide round the clock supply of quality tap drinking water in all urban areas of Odisha by March 2022 benefitting over 15 lakh people in 15 towns in a phased manner.
- Once fully implemented, Odisha will become the first state in the country to provide quality drinking water, fit for direct consumption, in urban areas

7. Finance Minister launches Leave Travel Concession (LTC) voucher and festival advance scheme

- Govt has announced twin set of measures to boost consumption demand and capital expenditure (Capex) known as Leave Travel Concession (LTC) voucher scheme and a festival advance scheme.
- LTC scheme: Central Govt employees can avail cash payment and leave encashment in lieu of one LTC during 2018-21 according to entitlement
- Special Festival Advance Scheme has also been revived as a one-time measure for both Gazetted and non-Gazetted employees
- Additional budget of Rs. 25,000 crore is being provided for Capital Expenditure

8. Delhi Cabinet approve 'Tree Transplantation Policy' for the conservation of trees

- Delhi becomes the first State in India to pass this policy.
- Under this, Concerned agencies will have to transplant 80% of the trees affected by their projects to a new location.
- Dedicated panel of govt agencies is being formed under the policy.

9. Uttarakhand Govt launches 'Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana'



- **Aim:** to generate self-employment for youth & migrants through green energy sector
- State will allocate solar plants of 25 kw each to the targeted beneficiaries and loans will be granted by cooperative banks for these plants at 8% interest rate for 15%

10. PM launches Property Cards under SVAMITVA scheme

- **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas)** is a Central Sector Scheme launched in April 2020 to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties and issue Property Cards.

- **Benefit:** Allow the villagers to use the property as a financial asset for taking loans and other economic and financial benefits.

- The scheme is being implemented in a phased manner for 4 years covering 6.62 lakh villages

11. Andhra Pradesh CM launches Jagananna Vidya Kanuka' scheme

- **Aim:** To distribute school kits among the poor children of the state.

- **Total outlay:** Rs 650 crore

- Under this, government school students from classes 1 to 10 across the state will set the school kits or Vidya Kanuka, which will contain three pairs of uniform, one pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, a belt, one set of textbooks and notebooks and one school bag.

12. Gujarat launches 'Digital Seva Setu' for online public welfare services in rural areas

- Under this, public welfare services will be made available in 14,000-gram panchayats in Gujarat by connecting village panchayats through optical fiber network, e-gram office and data centre
- It will be initiated under Centre's BharatNet Project

13. Approval of 16 eligible applicants under PLI Scheme

- Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MeitY) has approved 16 eligible applicants under PLI Scheme extending an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of goods 5 years subsequent to FY2019-20 as base year

- **PLI scheme:** It was focused to provide financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the electronics value chain

14. Agriculture Minister launches NCDC Ayushman Sahakar scheme

- **Formulated by:** National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

- NCDC will extend Rs.10,000 crore loans to prospective cooperatives to set up healthcare facilities under this.

- It will also provide 1% interest subvention to women majority cooperatives.

- **Aim:** To bring transformation in rural areas, to revolutionize comprehensive health care services, through co-operatives, due to their strong presence in rural areas.

15. Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launches 'YSR BIMA' scheme for BPL families

About YSR Bima Scheme

- It is an insurance cover provided in case of death, and disability due to accident of their family's members that will cover 1.41 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families

- **Eligibility:** All families with white ration cards

- **Funding:** 100% by Andhra Pradesh Government

16. Tamil Nadu Govt launches Smart Black Board Scheme in 80,000 Government schools

About the scheme

- It will facilitate usage of audio-visual teaching material that can be fed into the computer screens in classes using pen drives.

- It is launched in line of Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

17. Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme extended to Arunachal Pradesh for the first time

Note:

- **Applicability:** The scheme will be applicable to all factories located in the district of Papum Pare, Arunachal Pradesh employing 10 or more persons under **ESI Act 1948**, along with other benefits

- **ESI Corporation:** It is a **Social Security organization** providing comprehensive social security benefits like reasonable Medical Care and a range of Cash Benefits during employment injury, sickness, death etc.

- ESI Scheme is being implemented in 568 districts in all the States and Union Territories, except Lakshdweep.

18. Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme

- Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat has inaugurated **Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana)** to strengthen the economy of farmers by doubling their income.

- The scheme has been launched in partnership with **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).**



• NABARD will lend a helping hand to farmers to switch over to mechanised and scientific farming boosting productivity.

19. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) implementation list released

Note

• Himachal Pradesh's **Mandi district** has bagged top position in the list of PMGSY programme implementation

• The list was declared by **Union Ministry of Rural Development**

• Chamba, Shimla, Kangra, Una, Sirmour, Hamirpur and Solan from Himachal Pradesh have secured top position in the list

• PMGSY: It was launched by Union govt to provide all weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations, having population of more than 250 in the state, as part of a poverty reduction strategy

20. Kisan Suryodaya Yojana

• PM Narendra Modi has launched '**Kisan Suryodaya Yojana**' to provide day-time power supply to farmers for irrigation of Gujarat

• **Total outlay:** Rs. 3,500 crores

• About 3,500 circuit kilometers (CKM) of new transmission lines will be laid.

• **Implementation:** 10 districts including Dahod, Gir-Somnath and Tapi have been selected under the Scheme for **2020-21**. The remaining districts will be covered in a phase-wise manner **by 2022-23**.

21. Extension of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

Note:

• Union Cabinet has approved MIS extension for apple procurement to Jammu & Kashmir in 2020-21

• Procurement of apple will be done by Central Procuring Agency (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation, NAFED) through State Designated Agencies

• The payment will be made through DBT

September

1. Govt approves 'Mission Karmayogi' Programme

Note:

• It is a **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**.

• **Aim:** To build future-ready civil servants with right attitude, skills & knowledge, with focus on competency led capacity building.

22. Indian Railways launches Meri Saheli initiative for women security

Note:

• The initiative is launched for focused action on security of women across all zones to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains till the destination station.

• It was initiated by **Railway Protection Force (RPF)**

• Under this, lady passengers are briefed about all precautions to be taken during the journey and told to dial 182 in case they face or see any problem in the coach.

• This initiative was started as a pilot project in South Eastern Railway in September 2020

23. Govt revises PLI Schemes for bulk drugs & medical devices manufacturing

• Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has revised Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for promoting domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices.

• As per revised guidelines, 'Minimum Threshold' investment requirement has been replaced by 'committed investment' taking into account availability of technology choices which varies from product to product.

• It has been released to encourage efficient use of productive capital.

24. LTC tax voucher scheme extended to all employees

• Govt extended the income-tax exemption available under **LTC cash voucher scheme to non-central government employees** that include employees of state governments, state-owned enterprises and private sector.

• LTC tax voucher scheme: Cash payment to employees in lieu of one LTC during 2018-21, in which full payment on Leave encashment and tax-free payment of LTC fare in 3 flat-rate slabs depending on class of entitlement will be given. An employee, opting for this scheme, will be required to buy goods / services worth 3 times the fare and 1 time the leave encashment before 31st March 2021.

• It will focus on setting-up PM's Public Human Resources (HR) Council, Capacity Building Commission, Special Purpose Vehicle for digital assets, technological platform for online training, and Coordination Unit

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

Note:



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

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

About REWARD:

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

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

Note:

- PMMSY is a **flagship fishery sector scheme** with an investment of Rs. 20,050 crore for 5 years
- '**e-Gopala App**' was also launched, which is a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.

August

1.

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

Note:

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

2. NABARD launches credit guarantee programme for NBFC-MFIs

Note:

- It is titled as 'Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Programme'
- It will ensure unhindered flow of credit in rural areas hit by COVID-19 by providing partial guarantee on pooled loans extended to small and mid-sized microfinance institutions (MFIs)
- For this, NABARD has tied-up with Vivriti Capital and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

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

Note:

- **Other initiatives:** Establishment of fish brood bank at Sitamarhi, aquatic disease referral lab at Kishanganj, fish feed mill at Madhepura and 'Fish on Wheels' at Patna, Fish production technology centre at Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University

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

Note:

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

6. Meghalaya launches Piggery Mission

Note:

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

• AMRUT stands for Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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



- It is focused on financial knowledge and access
- July**

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

Note:

- It is launched through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) that will purchase the short-term papers from eligible NBFCs/HFCs (whose NPA is not more than 6%) till 30 Sept after which new purchases will be made.

- Commercial papers (CPs) and non-convertible debentures (NCDs) will be used as instruments with 3 months maximum maturity period in this

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

About the scheme:

- It provides a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops

- It will encourage high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower identifying research potential, mentoring, training, and hands-on workshop on a national scale.

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

Note:

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

- It has been designed in collaboration with NABARD

4. Karnataka launches Weavers' Sammaan Yojana for handloom weavers

Note:

- It is also named as Nekar Samman Yojane
- Scheme will provide annual financial assistance of Rs 2,000 to handloom weavers in the state through Direct Benefit Transfer covering 19,744 weavers in the first phase.

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

Note:

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

June

to credit.

covered under this NISHTHA and it will cover 12,000 persons in AP.

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

Note:

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

- It will be a part of strengthening human capital and increasing productivity.

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

Note:

- Under this, large scale plantation would be carried out across 130 locations spread in 38 Districts of 10 coal/lignite bearing States.

- Foundation stone of 6 Ecoparks/ Tourism sites will also be laid.

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

Note:

- It brings all **Post Office Savings schemes** to the doorstep in rural areas allowing Branch Post Offices to offer **Public Provident Fund, Monthly Income Scheme, National Savings Certificate, Kisan Vikas Patra** and **Senior Citizen Savings Schemes facilities**.

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

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

Note:

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

- The grant-in-aid will be 90% in case of North-East and hilly States and 70% in other States.

- For medical devices, **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** has been launched for 5 years.

- **Focus Areas:** Cancer care / Radiotherapy medical devices, Radiology & Imaging medical devices and Nuclear Imaging devices and Anesthetics & Cardio-Respiratory medical devices including catheters of Cardiorespiratory Category & Renal Care medical devices



1.

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

4. MSMEs launches Credit Guarantee Scheme for Sub-ordinate Debt for distressed MSME sector.

Note:

- It is also known as Distressed Assets Fund-Sub-ordinate Debt for MSMEs.
- It will provide Rs. 20,000 crores of guarantee cover to 2 lakh MSMEs that are stressed or are under NPA through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for MSEs (CGTMSE).
- **Moratorium Period:** 7 years
- **Maximum Tenure:** 10 Years

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

Note:

- It will empower and provide livelihood opportunities to the migrant workers and rural citizens.

- Villages across 116 districts in 6 states (Bihar, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Odisha) will join this programme through the Common Service Centres and Krishi Vigyan Kendras maintaining social distancing.

- It is a 125 days campaign that will work in mission mode involving employment generation as well as infrastructure creation in rural regions.

- A web portal has been launched for monitoring the progress and completion of the works

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

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

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

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

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

Note:

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

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

Note:

- It is a mega reform for the ease of doing business by facilitating faster Customs clearance of imported goods using faceless assessment by the Customs officers assigned by automated system located outside the port of import.

- It will be initiated all over the country till 31st December 2020.

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

Note:

- It is launched in partnership with U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) MAITREE program.

- It will address the challenges of retrofitting existing buildings and air conditioning systems ensuring good indoor air quality

- **MAITREE:** Part of the US-India bilateral Partnership for cost-effective energy efficiency.



10. Power Minister launches '#iCommit' initiative

Note:

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

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

Note:

• SWADES stands for Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support

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

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

About TULIP:

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

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

Note:

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

14. Kiren Rijju launches Khelo India e-Pathshala programme

Note:

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

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

Note:

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

Obituaries

November

1.

1. Renowned personality R Doraikannu passed away recently due to COVID-19 complications, he was Agriculture Minister of **Tamil Nadu**.

Note: Doraikkannu was undergoing treatment here, after being shifted from a government medical college hospital in Villpuram on October 13, where he was admitted to after he complained of uneasiness. Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit condoled the death of Daoraikkannu and

said he was saddened to know about the demise of the Minister.

2. Mesut Yilmaz passed away recently, he was veteran politician and former prime minister of **Turkey**.

Note: He was the Chief of the now-defunctional centre-right Motherland Party or ANAP from 1991 to 2002. He served as prime minister of Turkey three times in the 1990s. His first two prime-ministerial terms lasted for just one month, in



1991 and then in 1996, while the third term was from June 1997 to January 1999.

3. Renowned personality Satish Prasad Singh passed away recently, he was former chief minister of **Bihar**.

Note: Satish Prasad Singh, the leader of Soshit Samaj Dal became the 6th and the shortest-served CM of Bihar for 5 days (28 January to February 1, 1968) with the support of Indian National Congress (INC). He was born on January 1, 1936 in Korchakka (now known as Satish Nagar) Village, Khagaria district, Bihar.

4. Renowned personality Tripunithura Narayanaier Krishnan (T N Krishnan) passed away, he was a veteran **Violinist**.

Note: T N Krishnan was a child prodigy who made his first solo violin concert in Triruvantahpuram in 1939. He was mentored by Alleppy K. Parthasarathy and had accompanied numerous musicians like Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Musiri Subramania Iyer, Alathur Brothers, Madurai Mani Iyer, Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar among others.

5. Renowned personality Faraaz Khan passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: He had acted in several popular Bollywood films in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Some of them include Mehndi (1998), Fareb (1996), Dulhan Banoo Main Teri (1999) and Chand Bujh Gaya (2005) among others.

6. Veteran Actor Faraaz Khan passed away recently.

Note: Noted actor, filmmaker and voiceover artiste, Ashish Kakkad, has passed away. He was one of the most prominent artists from the Gujarati film industry. As a filmmaker, Ashish was known for his Gujarati projects namely Better Half (2010) and Mission Mummy (2016).

7. Renowned Hollywood Actor Sean Connery passes away recently.

Note: Scottish movie legend Connery, who shot to international stardom as the suave and sophisticated British agent James Bond and went on to grace the silver screen for four decades. Connery will be remembered first as British agent 007. He was admired by generations of film fans as the original and best 007 and went on to create a distinguished body of work in films such as The Man Who Would Be King, The Name of the Rose and The Untouchables.

October

1.

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 Bhavé 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. 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 Bhishmam 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 Pranpur 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 Loksabha 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.

September

1.

1. Veteran politician and former President of India, **Pranab Mukherjee** passed away recently.

Note: He held post finance minister and External Affairs Minister Twice. Finance minister from 1982-84 and 2004-2012. External Affairs Minister from 1995-96 and 2006-2009. He also held the post of Defence Minister from 2004-2006.

2. Renowned **Animation Creator** Joe Ruby passed away recently.

Note: He was the founder of **television animation** production company Ruby-Spears Productions, together with Ken Spears.

3. Noted **Cardiologist** Dr S Padmavati passed away at the age of 103 years due to COVID-19.

Note: She was the first female cardiologist of India and was popularly known as "God Mother of Cardiology". She was the founder of the National Heart Institute. She was born in Burma (now Myanmar) in 1917, a year before the world was hit by the Spanish Flu pandemic.

4. Famous cricketer David Capel held from **England** passed away recently.

Note: He made his Test debut against Pakistan in 1987. Capel made 270 first-class appearances for Northamptonshire from 1981-1998. He became the first cricketer born in the county to play a Test for England in 77 years when he made his debut against Pakistan in July 1987.

5. The petitioner of a historic case, **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala**, Kesavananda Bharati passed away recently, he was chief pontiff of Mutt/temple **Edneer Mutt, Kasaragod**.

Note: Shri Kesavananda Bharati was the chief pontiff of Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district, Kerala, India. He was a follower of Smartha Bhagawatha tradition and the Advaita Vedanta school of Hindu philosophy. He took Sanyasa at the age of 19 and headed the Edneer Mutt as the Peetadhipathi until his death.

6. Renowned **Baseball player** Tom Seaver passed away recently.

Note: He became a constant on magazine covers and a media presence, calling postseason games on NBC and ABC even while still an active player. Seaver was elected to the **Hall of Fame in 1992**

when he appeared on 425 of 430 ballots for a then-record 98.84%.

7. Famous **Film Director** Jiri Menzel passed away recently.

Note: His 1st feature film, 'Closely Watched Trains' won an **Academy Award (Oscars)** for Best Foreign Language film in 1968. Menzel won the Czech Lion for lifetime artistic contribution and was honoured by the Karlovy Vary festival.

8. Renowned **Astronomer** Govind Swarup passed away.

Note: He was the founding director of National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

9. Renowned **Film maker** Johnny Bakshi passed away recently.

Note: Veteran producer-director, Johnny Bakshi passed away. He mostly worked as a producer, backing films such as Manzilein Aur Bhi Hain, (1974), Raavan, (1984) and Phir Teri Kahani Yaad Aayee (1993). He has also directed two films Daku Aur Police (1992) and Khudai (1994).

10. Renowned personality **Jaya Prakash Reddy** passed away.

Note: He was working as a sub-inspector of police when he got an opportunity to act in Venkatesh's 1988 film Brahma Puthrudu. He was last seen in Mahesh Babu starrer Sarileru Neekevvaru (2020).

11. Famous **Actor** Diana Rigg passed away recently.

Note: British actress **Diana Rigg**, whose commanding career stretched from iconic 1960s spy series The Avengers to fantasy juggernaut Game of Thrones passed away. Ms. Rigg also starred in 1967 James Bond thriller On Her Majesty's Secret Service as the only woman ever to marry Agent 007.

12. Renowned **Politician** Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away.

Note: He was a member of the 15th Lok Sabha of India and represented the Vaishali constituency of Bihar. Singh had served as the Union Minister for Rural Development in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's cabinet.



August

1.

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

Note: He played a major role in reviving and promoting the Lepcha Culture which is one of the indigenous culture of Sikkim. Sonam Tshering Lepcha started his career as a soldier. He composed songs with traditional musical instruments collected from various parts of Sikkim and became the first Lepcha to feature on the All India Radio (AIR) in 1960.

2. Lee Teng-hui dubbed as "Mr. Democracy" passed away recently. He was former president of **Taiwan**.

Note: He was popularly known as "Mr. Democracy" for eradicating the dictatorial rule in favour of unbiased pluralism in Taiwan. He was educated under Japanese colonial rule in 1945 in Japan's culture. He was a fluent Japanese speaker. He served in the Japanese army and the surrender of the army after World War II put him in Kyoto University in Japan.

3. Famous personality Anil Murali passed away recently. He was a veteran **Malayalam Actor**.

Note: Anil Murali started his acting career as a part of the Malayalam tele serials. He first starred in the film Kanyakumariyil Oru Kavitha in 1993. His most known works in Malayalam include Ivar, Lion, Babakalyani, Nasrani, Puthiya Mukham, Pokkiri Raja, City of God and his Tamil and Telugu films include Nimirndhu Nil, Thani Oruvan, Ragile Kasi and Janda Pai Kapiraju.

4. Former **Uttar Pradesh** education minister of Kamal Rani Varun passed away due to coronavirus.

Note: Uttar Pradesh's Technical Education Minister Kamal Rani Varun, has passed away due to a novel coronavirus. Kamal Rani Varun, who served as Minister of Technical Education, is the first minister in Uttar Pradesh to die after contracting coronavirus.

5. **Writer and Singer** Vangapandu Prasada Rao passed away recently.

Note: Prasada Rao who has been associated with Jana Natya Mandali since 1972 enthralled audience with his thought provoking songs and speeches. His famous song 'Emi pillado Eldamostava' brought laurels.

6. Renowned personality Sunnam Rajaiah passed away recently.

Note: A native of Sunnamvaari Gudem village, V.R. Puram mandal, in East Godavari district, Mr. Rajaiah served as Bhadrachalam MLA for three

times. He participated in many tribal agitations, protecting tribal lands and their rights in the Agency areas in Bhadrachalam, East and West Godavari districts.

7. **Politician** Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar passed away recently.

Note: The 88-year-old minister who had been suffering from several co-morbidities including diabetes and high blood pressure, and had been tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Pune was admitted at a private hospital. The former CM is survived by wife, three sons, a daughter and grandchildren. His last rites are to be performed in Nilanga his birthplace in Latur district.

8. Renowned **Theatre Director** Ebrahim Alkazi passed away.

Note: He was considered as the father of modern Indian theatre. He was the first Director of National School of Drama (NSD). Also an art connoisseur, collector and gallery owner, he founded Art Heritage Gallery in New Delhi.

9. Nobel Peace Prize winner, John Hume passed away.

Note: He was a founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970 and led the party from 1979 until 2001.

10. **Politician** Ram Pradhan passed away recently.

Note: He served as the governor of Arunachal Pradesh during Rajiv Gandhi government. He was an IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre. He also headed 2-member committee set up in December 2008 to probe the security forces' response to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

11. Renowned personality Sameer Sharma passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: He was known for her role in TV serials: Geet – Hui Sabse Parayi, Left Right Left, Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii, Ssshhhh....Koi Hai Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, Jyoti, Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon – Ek Baar Phir. He was also seen in Siddharth Malhotra and Parineeti Chopra starrer 'Hasee Toh Phasee' movie and Sonakshi Sinha starrer movie 'Ittefaq'.

12. Renowned politician Shyamal Chakraborty passed away due to COVID-19 infection, he was a former governor of **West Bengal**.

Note: He served as the Transport Minister of West Bengal thrice from 1982 to 1996. Shyamal Chakraborty was also elected twice as Rajya Sabha member. He was also a member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1981 to 1996.



He was also the state President of Centre of Indian Trade Unions, (CITU), the trade union arm of CPM.

13. Renowned personality Shirley Ann Grau passed away recently.

Note: The famous fiction writer and Pulitzer Prize-winner, Shirley Ann Grau, died at the age of 91 due to stroke in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States. She wrote six novels and four short stories which are all set in the Deep South, from New Orleans to north Louisiana and Alabama.

14. Renowned personality Sadia Dehlvi passed away recently, she was a veteran **Writer and Activist**.

Note: She was born in 1957, came from the royal 'Shama' family, edited the Urdu women's journal Bano. Dehlvi, writing focuses on women, minorities, Islamic spirituality, and Delhi's heritage and culture.

15. Renowned personality Mukund Lath passed away recently, he was a veteran **Culture Historian**.

Note: A prominent culture historian and exponent of Mewati Gharana, Mukund Lath passed away at the age of 82 on 6th August, 2020 in Jaipur. He was awarded India's fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri, in 2010 for his contributions to the field of arts and cultural history.

16. Renowned personality Nandi Yellaiah passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.

Note: He was first elected to the Lok Sabha from Siddipet in 1979. He was elected to Lok Sabha six times and Rajya Sabha twice from 2002 to 2014. Nandi Yellaiah commenced his political career as a corporator of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

17. Famous personality Manitombi Singh passed away, he was a veteran **Sportsman**.

Note: He played for Mohun Bagan and was part of the Hindustan FC team that won the Delhi Soccer Association league title in 2010. Manitombi played for India in the 2002 LG Cup in Vietnam.

18. Renowned personality PK Muthusamy passed away recently, he was a veteran **Songwriter**.

Note: Veteran Tamil film songwriter, PK Muthusamy passed away. He had penned memorable Tamil film lyrics like 'Mannukku Maram Baaramaa ?' – which means 'are the trees a burden on the earth?'. His other famous songs composed by Muthusami include 'Mapilai vandar' and 'Chinna Chinna nadai nadandu' etc.

19. Noted personality Rahat Indori passed away recently, he was a veteran **Urdu Poet**.

Note: With a 50-year career in poetry, Indori, an Urdu scholar of great repute, was one of the biggest mushaira (poetry symposiums) stars in the country and someone who fearlessly called a spade

a spade. He was also a Bollywood lyricist and known for the lyrics of songs like "M Bole to" from Munnabhai MBBS (2003), and "Neend Churai Mei" from Ishq (1997).

20. Renowned personality GK Menon passed away, recently he was a veteran **Journalist**.

Note: He played cricket at the club level and also was an active member of the Shivaji Park Gymkhana in Dadar, central Mumbai. He was manager of the 1952-53 Bombay University team which won the Rohinton Baria Trophy by beating Delhi in the final at Bengaluru.

21. Chunnakara Ramankutty passed away recently he was a famous poet and film and drama lyricist of **Malayalam** language.

Note: Popular Malayalam poet and film and drama lyricist Chunnakara Ramankutty passed away at a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram. Starting from 1978 he wrote lyrics for Malayalam films, till a few years back.

22. Famous sportsperson Chetan Chauhan passed away recently, he was associated with **Cricket**.

Note: He was Minister for youth and sports in the state of Uttar Pradesh Cabinet in 2018 and has also served as Minister of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, PRD and Civil Security in the UP Cabinet.

23. Noted Carnatic musician Dr B Siva Kumar passed away recently, he was proficient in **Veena** musical instrument.

Note: Dr Siva Kumar, a science graduate of Loyola College Chennai has also taken MA in Music from Bharathi Dasan university and followed it up with a PhD in Music. He has won several awards including the Tamil Iyal Isai Nataka sangam award and the award for Ragam Tanam Pallavi presentation from the Tamil Isai Sangam.

24. Renowned personality Nishikant Kamat passed away, he was a veteran **Film Director**.

Note: Nishikant had directed some popular Bollywood movies like Force, Drishyam and Madaari. He made his silver screen debut in 2004 with the Hindi movie Hava Aney Dey. In 2008, Kamat helmed his first Bollywood film Mumbai Meri Jaan. As an actor, he was known for his performances in Daddy, Rocky Handsome, Julie 2 and Bhavesh Joshi. He was also the creative producer of the web series The Final Call and Rangbaaz Phirse.

25. Renowned personality Pandit Jasraj passed away recently, he was a veteran **Vocalist**.

Note: Pandit Jasraj was a recipient of India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 1975; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1987 and Padma Bhushan in 1999. In the year 2000, the government of India conferred him with Padma



Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honour in the country.

26. Legendary sportsperson Angela Buxton passed away recently; she was associated with **Tennis** sports.

Note: Buxton won the women's doubles alongside Althea Gibson at both Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 1956. Buxton also reached the singles final at Wimbledon 1956 but lost to American Shirley Fry.

July

1.

1. Renowned **Actor** Carl Reiner passed away recently.

Note: Legendary comedian, Carl Reiner passed away. He was a prolific writer, comedian, director and actor. He had a run as a movie director with such films as "Oh, God!" (1977) and "The Jerk" (1979). He won several Emmys awards in writing and producing.

2. Renowned personality Saroj Khan passed away recently, she was a veteran **Choreographer**.

Note: In a career spanning over four decades, Khan is credited with choreographing more than 2,000 songs, including Dola Re Dola from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Devdas, Ek Do Teen from Madhuri Dixit-starrer Tezaab and Ye Ishq Haaye from Jab We Met in 2007.

3. Famous sportsperson Everton Weekes passed away recently he was associated with **Cricket** sports.

Note: Everton Weekes made his first-class debut at 19-year-old and his Test debut in 1948 at 22. His test career spanned between 1948 to 1958, where he played 48 Tests & scored 4455 runs at an average of 58.62.

4. Name the Hollywood screen writer, film maker, actor and voice artist passed away recently -- **Carl Reiner**.

Note: Veteran Hollywood and multi-hyphenate personality Carl Reiner, a creator and director of several Steve Martin films, died at 98 of natural causes at his Beverly Hills home. He has won multiple Emmy Awards, among which 5 awards were backed by "The Dick Van Dyke Show" in the 1960s.

5. Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri popularly known as Jagdeep passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: Jagdeep appeared in around 400 films but it is his role as Soorma Bhopali in 1975 film "Sholay. Better known by his stage name Jagdeep, the actor also directed the movie "Soorma Bhopali" with his character as the protagonist.

27. Renowned personality Russell A.

Kirsch passed away recently, he was a veteran **computer scientist**.

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

6. Renowned personality Charlie Daniels passed away recently.

Note: He was country music and southern rock icon who entertained fans for decades with songs like "Long-Haired Country Boy," "In America," and his signature fiddle tune "The Devil Went Down To Georgia", who won his only Grammy Award in 1979. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2016.

7. Renowned personality Nagindas Sanghvi passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.

Note: He was 100 and suffering from acute asthma. Mr. Sangvi was conferred Padma Shri award in the year 2019. He was in teaching at Bhavan's College Andheri from 1951 to 1980. Later he moved to Ruparel College, Mahim and Mithibai College, Vile Parle for teaching political science.

8. Famous footballer Wim Suurbier of **The Netherlands** passed away recently.

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

9. English sports person Jack Charlton passed away recently, he was associated with **Football** sports.

Note: A member of the England 1966 World-Cup winning team, Jack Charlton passed away. He was also an integral part of the great Don Revie-managed Leeds United side that won the 1969 League title and the 1972 FA Cup.

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

Note: His cartoons were published in Gujarati magazine "**Abhiyan**" for last over two decades. He had also worked in Gujarati newspaper **Phulchhab** as a cartoonist. He was a drawing



teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jamnagar and became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.

11. Amadou Gon Coulibaly who passed away recently was prime minister of **Ivory Coast**.

Note: He recently returned from France after receiving medical treatment. He was also chosen as the ruling party Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (**RHDP**)'s candidate for October's presidential election.

12. First woman election commissioner of Maharashtra **Neela Satyanarayan** passed away recently.

Note: The 1972 batch officer was admitted at the Seven Hills Hospital, Mumbai after she was diagnosed with COVID-19. Neela Satyanarayan retired in 2014. She has penned more than 150 songs. Also, she has composed music for several Marathi movies.

13. Renowned personality John Lewis passed away recently, he was a veteran **Civil Rights Activist of US**.

Note: He was also the youngest and last survivor of the Big Six civil rights activists, a group led by the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr that had the greatest impact on the movement. He was best known for leading around 600 protesters in the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

14. Renowned personality Professor C. S. Seshadri passed away recently, he was a veteran **Mathematician**.

Note: A leader in the field of algebraic geometry, he made breakthroughs that lie at the base of many branches of this profound discipline. Seshadri began his career at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research as one of the first batches of graduate students. He moved to Chennai in 1984, to the Institute of Mathematical Sciences. In 1989, he got an opportunity to start the School of Mathematics as part of the SPIC Science Foundation, which has evolved into the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI).

15. Renowned personality Lalji Tondon passed away recently, he was governor of **Madhya Pradesh**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: He was born on 5th August 1936 as Carmine Orrico in Brooklyn, New York, United States of America. He was debuted in 1954 and starred in detective and horror shows like "A Nightmare on Elm Street".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Note: Her real name was Zaibunnissa. She has featured in over 100 Hindi films like Mother India, Kohinoor, Ek Sapera Ek Lootera, Naya Daur, Ujala, Raja Aur Runk, Lalkar, Aankhen, Geet, among others.

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

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

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

Note: She was born on 1st July 1916, in Tokyo, Japan. The actress, who starred in blockbusters like Captain Blood (1935), The adventures of

Robin Hood (1938), Gone with the Wind (1939), The Snakepit, The Heiress. She unchained the Hollywoods contract system which was later called as "De Havilland Law".

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

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

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

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

June

1.

1. Veteran **Music Director** Wajid Khan passed away recently.

Note: Wajid Khan was the brother of music director Sajid Khan. He was born in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh on July 10, 1977. Wajid along with his brother Sajid served as mentors on singing reality shows "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2012" and "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Superstar".

2. Famous sprinter Bobby Morrow passed away recently.

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

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

Note: Former Union Minister and three-time Congress MP from Ladakh, P Namgyal passes away. He has served as the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Surface Transport and Chemicals and Petro chemicals. He was also an agriculturist, a social worker and served as the secretary general and vice president of the Pradesh Congress Committee in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state.

4. Famous sportsperson turned coach Jayantilal Nanoma passed away recently, he was associated with **Archery** sports.

Note: Former International Archer turned coach Jayantilal Nanoma passed away. He was an Asian

Cup and Asian Grand Prix medallist in compound individual and team archery in 2010. He was also the recipient of prestigious Maharana Pratap State Sports Award and was presently serving as the District Sports Officer in Dungarpur.

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

Note: He worked in Hindi & Bengali cinema and was a dialogue writer and produced a few films. He received the National Film Award for Best Film on Family Welfare in 1992 for his film Durga. He was born on January 10, 1930, in Ajmer, British India.

6. Renowned personality Anwar Sagar passed away recently, he was a veteran **Song Writer**.

Note: He is best remembered for his hit track Waada Raha Sanam from 1992 Akshay Kumar-starrer Khiladi. The lyricist also has to his credit films like Yaarana, Salaami, Aa Gale Lag Jaa and Vijaypath among more. Anwar Sagar also worked with music directors like Nadeem-Shravan, Rajesh Roshan, Jatin-Lalit and Anu Malik.

7. Renowned personality Chiranjeevi Sarja passed away recently,

Note: He has featured in films such as Samhaara, Aadyaa, Khaki, Sinnga, Amma I Love You, Prema Baraha, Dandam Dashagunam and Varadhanayaka among others. He was last seen in the Kannada action-drama Shivarjuna.

8. Ved Prakash Marwah who passed away recently is a former governor of the **Jharkhand, Manipur and Mizoram states**.



Note: Ved Marwah was an alumnus of St. Stephens college. He was the first Secretary of the High Commission of India, London. From 1985 to 1988 he served as the Police Commissioner of Delhi during the repercussions of 1984 anti-Sikh riots and he served as the third Director General of the National Security Guard from 1988 to 1990.

9. Renowned personality Arjun Charan Sethi passed away recently.

Note: He was Water Resources Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Cabinet from 2000 to 2004. He entered Lok Sabha from Bhadrak on a Congress ticket in 1971 and re-elected in 1980, also on a Congress ticket. The veteran politician was also elected to Odisha Assembly twice on Janata Dal ticket in 1991 and 1995 from Bhandaripokhari.

10. Pierre Nkurunziza passed away recently was President of **Brundi**.

Note: He was born on 18th December 1964 in Ngozi Province. He was a sports graduate and assistant lecturer at the University of Burundi and after the Civil War he became the leader of Forces for Defence of Democracy (FDD) in 2001.

11. Famous sport person Tony Dunne, passed away recently, he was associated with **Football** sports.

Note: He joined Manchester United at the age of 18 in 1960 and debuted on 16th October 1960 against Burnley (A) league. He was a part of the winning side of the European Cup in 1968.

12. Famous **Cricket** sportsperson Vasant Raiji passed away recently.

Note: A chartered accountant, he was also a well-known chronicler of cricket, having written books on C.K. Nayudu, Ranjitsinhji, Duleepsinhji, L.P. Jai and Victor Trumper. A Cricket Club of India player, he represented Bombay and Baroda. The cricketer-historian was also a founding member of Jolly Cricket Club in Mumbai.

13. Former Test cricketer of **New Zealand** Matt Poore passed away recently,

Note: He is remembered for catching a stray dog during a match in Bengaluru in 1955 and subsequently taking 12 anti-rabies injections. An all-rounder, Poore had a short but colourful 14-Test career between 1953 and 1956 alongside two greats - Bert Sutcliffe and John Reid.

14. Veteran **Urdu** poet and freedom fighter Anand Mohan Zutshi passed away recently,

Note: Anand Mohan Zutshi 'Gulzar' Dehlvi was the editor of the 1st Urdu science magazine, Science ki Duniya, published by the Government of India in 1975. He played a prominent role in opening Urdu schools across India & has been a part of a number of mushairas (Poetic symposium), which

includes Jashn-e-Rekhta in 2015 and Jigar Fest in 2018.

15. veteran **Actor** Sushant Singh Rajput found dead in his house in Mumbai was a veteran.

Note: 34-year-old actor committed suicide & found dead at his home in Bandra, Mumbai. He was born on 16th January 1986 in Patna, Bihar. He promoted the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog which was launched on 8th March 2018.

16. Renowned **Military personnel**. Raj Mohan Vohra passed away recently due to COVID-19.

Note: Maha Vir Chakra awardee Lt Gen (retd) Raj Mohan Vohra passed away due to COVID-19. He was a 1971 war hero. Lt Gen Vohra had received the coveted award in 1972. The Maha Vir Chakra is that the country's second-highest gallantry award. It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry within the presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.

17. Renowned **Journalist** Dinu Ranadive passed away recently.

Note: The veteran journalist was born in 1925 at a tribal hamlet at Dahanu near Mumbai, he started his journalistic career in 1956. Ranadive started his career as the founder-editor of Samyukta Maharashtra Patrika in the 1950s. He then did exemplary reporting on the Goa Freedom Struggle in 1961.

18. **Malayalam** Film Director, Scriptwriter, and Producer K.R. Sachidanandan passed away recently, he was associated with which language films.

Note: Malayalam Film director, scriptwriter, and producer K.R. Sachidanandan passed away. His directorial debut was Anarkali in 2015. He had co-scripted numerous movies with Sethu and later began composing solo contents. Sachy was a rehearsing legal advisor at the Kerala High Court.

19. Renowned **Economist** B.P.R. Vithal passes away recently.

Note: He also served as the Secretary, Finance and Planning, government of Andhra Pradesh, from 1972 to 1982. B.P.R. Vithal also worked at the International Monetary Fund as the fiscal adviser to the governments of Malawi and Sudan. He also played an instrumental role in the establishment of Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad.

20. Renowned **Army Man** Lachhman Singh Lehl passed away recently.

Note: Lachhman Singh Lehl took part within the 1948 war in Jhangar area of Jammu and Kashmir as a captain and commanded a division within the 1971 war. He received the Vir Chakra, the third



highest gallantry award in India for his role as a forward observer within the 50 Para Brigade.

21. Famous sportsperson Rajinder Goel passed away recently he was associated with **Cricket** sports.

Note: He made his ranji debut in 1957-58 and began his first class career with Patiala (southern Punjab team). He represented Delhi from 1963 and in 1973 he moved to Haryana

22. Famous **Basketball** K Raghunath passed away recently, he was associated with which sports.

Note: Raghunath represented Indian All-Star team which toured Sri Lanka in 1962. He played for Karnataka with distinction in 1960s He was one of the founding members of the still-popular Beagles Basketball Club. Raghunath's tryst with basketball began in 1958.

23. Famous sportsperson Pournima Zanane passed away recently, she was associated with **Shooting** sports.

Note: She started as a shooter in Mumbai and represented India in numerous ISSF World Cups,

Asian Championships, Commonwealth Championships. She holds a national record in the 10 m air rifle event. She started coaching shooters in 2012 and she was the coach of the shooters team of Sri Lanka.

24. Renowned **Journalist** Vishwa Bandhu Gupta passed away recently.

Note: He was the chairman and chief editor of the Tej-Bandhu group of publications, The Weekly Sun, The North-East Sun, Treasure monthly and Flash newspaper. He was the President of All India Newspaper Editors Conference (AINEC) and one of the founding members of the Press Club of India (PCI).

25. Noted **Kannada** novelist Geetha Nagabhushan passed away.

Note: She was the first woman writer to bag Kendra Sahitya Academy and Nadoja awards and serve as the chairperson of Karnataka Sahitya Academy. She had presided over 76th Akhil Bharat Kannada Sahitya Sammelan, a prestigious literary fest, held at Gadag in 2020.

Important Days

November

1.

1. World Vegan Day is observed globally every year on **1st November**.

Note: This day is celebrated to spread benefits of veganism for humans, non-human animals, and the natural environment. Vegan Day is an opportunity to promote the benefits of a vegan diet and veganism in general.

2. International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is observed every year on **2nd October**.

Note: Between 2006 and 2019, more than 1,200 journalists have been killed. The recent assassination of Journalist Jamal Khashoggi in October 2018 kindled worldwide criticism and scrutiny of the Saudi Government. The date of November 2nd was chosen to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against journalists to commemorate the assassination of French journalists in Mali in 2013.

3. World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed all across the world on 5th November.

Note: The day is celebrated to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related

to the dangers of tsunami. In 2020, World Tsunami Awareness Day encourages the development of national and community-level, local disaster risk reduction strategies to save more lives against disasters. This year's observance promotes "Sendai Seven Campaign," target.

4. Every year, the International Day for Preventing the exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is observed on **6th November**.

Note: The resolution to celebrate the day was passed in 2001. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, a least 40% of internal conflicts are linked to the exploitation of natural resources in the last 60 years.

5. The National Cancer Awareness Day is observed annually in India on **7th November**.

Note: Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan first announced National Cancer Awareness Day in September 2014. According to the WHO, cancer is the second leading cause of death globally. World Cancer Day is observed on 4th February every year.

October

1.



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 1st 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 10th 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 10th 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 10th 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 11th 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 12th 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 13th 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 14th 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, Samridh 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.

September

1. United Nations celebrates the International Day of Charity globally every year on **05th September**.

Note: The day is being celebrated to sensitize and mobilize people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others via volunteer and philanthropic activities. The day also recognizes the role played by charity in reducing humanitarian crises and human suffering within and among nations.

2. The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed globally on **7th September**.

Note: The day aims to raise public awareness at all levels individual, community, corporate and government that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment. The very first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies will be held on September 7th, 2020.

3. The theme of the 55th International Literacy Day 2020 -- **Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond**.

Note: International Literacy Day is observed globally on 8th September every year. The theme

highlights literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective, and therefore, mainly focuses on youth and adults.

4. International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on **9th September**.

Note: The day was established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly, calling on UNESCO and UNICEF to raise awareness of the plight of millions of children living in countries affected by conflict. The resolution proclaiming the Day was presented by the State of Qatar and co-sponsored by 62 countries.

5. The World Suicide Prevention Day is observed every year on **10th September**.

Note: The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented. The theme for the 2020 World Suicide Prevention Day is 'Working Together to Prevent Suicide'.

6. Hindi Diwas is celebrated to mark the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India -- **14th September**.



Note: The Constituent Assembly of India had, in 1949, recognised and adopted Hindi — an Indo-Aryan language written in the Devanagari script — as the official language of the newly-formed

nation. Hindi is one of the two official languages of the Union government — the other being English. It is one of the 22 scheduled languages of the Republic of India.

August

1. World Lung Cancer Day is being observed on **1st August** to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer.

2. The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week celebrated annually in the first week of August from 1st to 7th of August -- **"Support Breast feeding for a healthier planet"**.

3. The World Sanskrit Day was observed annually on **Shravan Purnima (3rd August 2020)**.

Note: On the occasion Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked everyone involved in promoting, teaching and using Sanskrit language.

4. Annually World Heroshima Day is observed every year on **6th August**.

Note: Annually 6th of August marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima during World War II. The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named "Little Boy", on the town of Hiroshima in Japan.

5. National Handloom Day is being celebrated every year on 7th August.

6. United Nations observes the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples every year on **09th August**.

Note: The **theme** of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2020 is **"COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience"**.

7. The World Biofuel Day is observed globally every year on **10th August**.

Note: The World Biofuel Day is observed every year to aware about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. The day also highlights the various actions taken by the Government in the Biofuel sector.

8. International Youth Day is being celebrated very year on 12th August.

Note: This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society. The Day aims to promote the ways to engage the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.

9. The theme of the International Youth Day (IYD) 2020 -- **Youth Engagement for Global Action**.

Note: This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society. The Day aims to promote the ways to

1.

engage the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.

10. The 'World Elephant Day' is observed every year across the world on **12th August**.

Note: The day focuses on bringing the world together to help elephants and also inform people and organisations about the threat that an elephant faces. On 12 August, 2012, the first international Elephant Day was celebrated. Since then, it is observed annually and this day is dedicated to the huge animal protection and preservation.

11. The World Organ Donation Day is observed globally every year on **13th August**.

Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people to donate organs after death.

12. The World Lizard Day is observed every year on **14th August**.

Note: Most celebrations of this holiday occur at the local level, through events organized by schools, natural history or science museums, zoos, national parks, conservation NGOs etc.

13. The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed globally every year on **19th August**.

Note: This day is celebrated to pay tribute to humanitarian personnel and those workers who lost or risked their lives while doing humanitarian service.

14. The World Photography Day also known as World Photo Day is observed annually on **19th August**.

Note: The Day is celebrated to inspire photographers across the globe to share a single photo with a purpose of sharing their world to the world.

15. Indian Akshay Urja Day or Renewable Energy Day is observed on every year on **20th August**.

Note: It is significant to promote awareness about renewable resources among people who are ignorant about the subject. Indian Akshay Urja Day was established in 2004 to support renewable energy development programs and promote its use instead of traditional sources of energy.

16. Rajiv Gandhi birth anniversary is celebrated as Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day on 20th August every year.



Note: This year on 20th August 2020, we are going to celebrate the 76th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

17. World Mosquito Day is observed annually on **20th August**.

Note: The Day is celebrated to raise awareness about the Causes and Prevention of Malaria and to commemorate the discovery made by British Doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit Malaria between humans.

18. The World Senior Citizen Day is observed globally every year on **21st August**.

Note: This day is celebrated to raise awareness about

issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and the abuse of the elderly and support, honour and show appreciation to seniors and to recognize their achievements. The World Senior Citizen's Day also recognises and acknowledges the contributions of older people to society.

19. International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism observed globally every year on **21st August**.

Note: The day is observed to pay tribute to the individuals across the globe who have been attacked, injured, traumatized or lost their lives because of terrorist attacks. This year, the 3rd commemoration of the day will focus on the response to the pandemic and cancellation of many memorials and commemorations, it is critical to take the time to remember and honour the victims of terrorism.

20. The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition observed globally every year on **23 August**.

Note: The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. The

day was designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.

21. The World Water Week 2020 is observed as the World Water Week at Home (WWWeek at Home) from **24th to 28th August 2020**.

Note: The theme for World Water Week 2020 at Home is '**Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action**'.

22. The Women's Equality Day is being observed in the United States on **26th August**.

Note: This was 100th anniversary of the Women's Equality Day. The day is celebrated to commemorate American women getting the constitutional right to vote.

23. The National Sports Day is observed every year on **29th August**.

Note: The first National Sports Day was celebrated on 29th August 2012, on the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand who was the star of hockey team of India.

24. The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed globally on **29th August**.

Note: The day aims to increase awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

25. The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed every year on **29th August**.

Note: The day is being observed to express deep concern about the rise in **enforced or involuntary disappearances** in different regions of the world including the incidents of arrest, detention and abduction.

July

1.

1. National Postal Worker Day is observed every year on **1st July**.

Note: National Postal Worker Day is a unique way to say 'thank you' to the postmen and all delivery personnel, as online shopping has become a lifeline for many of us. In India, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, postal services have uniquely diversified. Workers in postal departments have become the new 'corona warriors', playing an active role in India's fight against COVID-19

2. National Chartered Accountants Day is celebrated every year on **1st July**.

Note: This day is celebrated to commemorate the finding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) by the parliament of India in 1949.

Every year on the day of the establishment of the ICAI, CA Day is celebrated to honour the Chartered Accountant.

3. The theme of the National Doctor's Day 2020 which is celebrated every year in the country on 1st July-- **Lessen the mortality of COVID 19**.

Note: The theme for National Doctor's Day 2020 is "Lessen the mortality of COVID 19" and includes awareness about asymptomatic hypoxia and early aggressive therapy. The National Doctor's Day also marks the birth and death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was the one of the most renowned physicians of India.



4. World Sports Journalists Day is observed globally every year on **2nd July**.

Note: The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work. The day was established in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS). This year 2020 marks the 96th anniversary of AIPS.

5. The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the **first Saturday of July**.

Note: In the year 2020, the International Day of Cooperatives will be celebrated on 4th July with a focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change. UN has also appealed to spread the word: “#Coops4ClimateAction” to celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives 2020.

6. International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) celebrated Dharma Chakra Day on **4th July**.

Note: This day commemorates Buddha's First Sermon to his first five ascetic disciples at the **Deer Park, Rsipatana** in the present day Sarnath near Varanasi, UP. The day is also observed as Guru Purnima by both Buddhists as well as Hindus as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.

7. World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is observed every year on **7th July**.

Note: The day celebrates the existence of chocolate in our lives. It is marked by eating chocolates and sharing with dear ones. The first International Chocolate Day was celebrated in 2009. The day is celebrated on July 7th because it was on this date in 1550 that chocolate was first brought to Europe.

8. World Population Day is observed globally every year on **11th July**.

Note: This day is observed to raise awareness among people about the impact of a growing population and issues including gender equality, the importance of family planning, poverty, maternal health, human rights, etc. This year theme of World Population Day 2020: Putting the brakes on COVID-19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls.

9. The United Nations celebrates World Malala Day to honour the young activist, Malala Yousafzai every year on **12th July**.

Note: Malala Day is commemorated, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honour women and children's rights around the world. On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen after she publicly advocated for the education of girls. Despite the attack, Malala soon returned to the public eye, fiercer in her views

than earlier and continued her advocacy for gender rights.

10. World Youth Skills Day is observed every year on **15th July**.

Note: It was designated by the General Assembly in 2014. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a digital conclave on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day (WYSD).

11. World Day for International Justice is observed every year on **17th July**.

Note: 17 July every year to mark the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and for the people to pay attention to serious crimes happening around the world. 17 July is the Day of International Criminal Justice. It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the founding treaty of the ICC, which seeks to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

12. United Nations celebrates World Chess Day globally every year on **20th July**.

Note: The day marks the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924. To celebrate the International Chess Day 2020 top chess personalities will participate in a high-level virtual event “Chess for Recovering Better”.

13. To mark the anniversary of man's first historic landing on the moon the Space Exploration Day is celebrated every year on **20th July**.

Note: On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Buzz became the first humans to land on moon's surface. The Armstrong-Aldrin duo spent 21.5 hours on the surface of the moon. Also, they spent 2.5 hours outside of their capsules. The day is mainly celebrated in the United States.

14. Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated every year on **18th July** by the United Nations.

Note: The day acknowledges Nelson Mandela's contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world. Nelson Mandela Day is an occasion for all to take action and inspire change.

15. National Broadcasting Day is observed every year all over India on **23rd July**.

Note: On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company. The first radio broadcast was made on July 23, 1927, from Bombay Station. The station was then owned by a private company called the Indian Broadcasting Company.



16. Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on **26th July**.

Note: On this day, the country remembers the extreme valour, sacrifice and exemplary courage of Indian soldiers during the 1999 Kargil war. This year nation is celebrating the 21 years of victory in Kargil war.

17. The theme of the 2020 World Hepatitis Day (WHD) celebrated every year on 28th July -- **Hepatitis-Free Future**.

Note: Every year, World Hepatitis Day is marked by the **World Health Organization** and various other organizations all over the world. The day is marked to encourage actions, partners and public for greater response towards controlling Hepatitis.

18. In a bid to promote conservation, raise awareness and encourage sustainability, every year World Nature Conservation Day is observed on **28th July**.

Note: The day is marked globally to spread awareness about the best practices to protect the natural resources as our Earth has limited resources which we need to use efficiently to maintain the balance. People share ideas and some also take-up activities to contribute their bit in preserving nature and its resources. However, this year a global theme has not been decided due to the pandemic.

19. International Tiger Day is observed every year on which date across the globe to create awareness about tiger conservation -- **29th July**.

Note: Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released All India Tiger Estimation Report-2018 yesterday. He also released a poster

on small wild cats of India. India is home to nearly 70 per cent of the global tiger population and it leads the world in showing effective conservation of the wild species.

20. United Nations observes 30th July every year as **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** days.

Note: The 2020 theme for the World Day Against Trafficking: "Committed to the Cause – Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking". The theme will focus on the first responders to human trafficking. These are the people who work in different sectors – identifying, supporting, counselling and seeking justice for victims of trafficking, and challenging the impunity of the traffickers.

21. The International Day of Friendship is observed every year on **30th July**.

Note: To mark the International Day of Friendship, the UN encourages governments, organizations, and community groups to hold events, activities and initiatives that promote solidarity, mutual understanding and reconciliation.

22. The International Day for the conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem is observed every year on **26th July**.

Note: It is celebrated each year on July 26 and aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangroves as "a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem". It also aims to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses

June

1.

1. World Milk Day 2020 observed every globally on 1st June **2020**.

Note: June 1 is observed as World Milk Day with the aim to raise awareness about milk and its importance as a global food. Established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as global food, World Milk Day is been observed on June 1 each year since 2001.

2. The theme of the Global Day of Parents 2020 celebrated every year on 1st June-- **Appreciate all parents throughout the world**.

Note: United Nations celebrates Global Day of Parents on 1st of June every year to honour all the parents throughout the world. Not only parents rather grandparents and great grandparents are also a part of this day. So Global Day of Parent's

urges upon to show gratitude and due respect to the elderly.

3. World Bicycle Day is celebrated every year on **3rd June**.

Note: The World Bicycle Day is being celebrated since 2018. The day was declared by the United Nations. The main aim to observe the day is to celebrate uniqueness, versatility and longevity of bicycle. The day is being celebrated as an after effect of Leszek Sibilski's crusade. Sibilski led campaigns to promote UN resolution for World Bicycle Day.

4. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed globally every year on **4th June**.

Note: This day affirms the UN's commitment to guard the rights of children. This day is to



acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the planet who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. The main aim of celebrating today is to spread the notice about the pain and sufferings faced by the victims as children.

5. The theme of the World Environment Day 2020, celebrated every year on June 5 -- **Celebrate Biodiversity.**

Note: This year, in 2020, the day is to be hosted in Colombia in partnership with Germany. The day was hosted by India in 2018. It was then India emphasized on prevention of Plastic pollution. In 2019, the day was hosted by China under the theme "Air Pollution".

6. Every year June 2nd is celebrated as the **International Sex Workers Day.**

Note: The is celebrated to ensure that the sex workers enjoy the same rights as all the other human beings and tackle the abuse and trafficking problems. More than 100 sex workers occupied the Saint-Nizier Church, Lyon, France On 2nd June 1975 to express their anger on being treated as criminals and their disgraceful living conditions with a banner saying "Our Children do not want their mothers to go to jail" broadcasted their campaign to the world through the media. The gathered were brutally raided by the police on June 10.

7. The International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing 2020 is celebrated on **5th June.**

Note: The first International Day for the fight against IUU fishing was observed in 2018. In July 2017, The proposal for the day was submitted to the 40th Session of the FAO conference. UN had declared the year 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

8. World Pest Day or World Pest Awareness Day is celebrated every year on **6th June.**

Note: The day is observed to raise awareness of how pest management helps preserve the quality of life. The day is initiated by the Chinese Pest Control Association, and co-sponsored by the Federation of Asian and Oceania Pest Managers' Association (FAOPMA), the National Pest Management Association (NPMA), and the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA).

9. United Nations Russian Language Day is celebrated every year on **6th June.**

Note: The Day is celebrated to promote and support Multilingualism and cultural diversity and to celebrate the birthday of the famous Russian poet Alexander Puskin who was born on 6th June 1799. The First UN Russian Language Day was celebrated in 2010.

10. The World Ocean Day is celebrated every year on **8th June.**

Note: The Day is celebrated to remind people all over the world about the importance of oceans in everyday life. This year, the World Oceans Day is celebrated under the theme 'Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean'.

11. World Brain Tumor Day 2020 was observed on **8th June.**

Note: The day is celebrated to improve the care for the patients and to educate the general public about the sufferings and seriousness of brain tumor. The grey ribbon is the international symbol for the solidarity with brain tumor patients.

12. 9th June of Every year is celebrated as the **World Accreditation Day.**

Note: It is an initiative established by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to promote the value of accreditation. The Theme of World Accreditation Day 2020 is "Accreditation: Improving food safety"

13. The World Day against Child Labour is observed every year on **12th June.**

Note: The theme this year is, "COVID-19 - Protect children from child labour now, more than ever". According to figures available on the United Nations' website, approximately 152 million children have been pushed into child labour.

14. International Albinism Awareness Day is observed every year on **13th June.**

Note: This day is observed to educate everyone about the rights of people with albinism and celebrate them. The United Nations General Assembly was first perceived this day as a resolution. The theme of the 5th anniversary of International Albinism Awareness Day is "Made To Shine."

15. The World Blood Donor Day is observed on every on **14th June.**

Note: This day tries to create awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products. This year (2020) the World Blood Donor Day is celebrated under the theme 'Safe Blood Saves Lives'.

16. Every year, the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is celebrated on **15th June.**

Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the neglect and abuse of older persons. It also raises awareness of social, cultural, economic and demographic processes that has impacts on elder neglect and abuse. The theme of the 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2020 is "Lifting up Voices".

17. World Wind Day or Global Wind is observed every year on 15th June.



Note: The day is encouraging and raises awareness on wind energy, which is a natural form of energy and also sheds light on all the ways that wind energy helps to shape the energy systems and the way it encourages economic and other growth in the society. Global Wind Day began in Europe in 2007 and globally in 2009.

18. The International Day of Family Remittances is observed every year on **16th June** by the United Nations.

Note: The day is observed all over the world. The theme of the for the year 2020 is 'Remittances are a lifeline'. The first International Day of Family Remittances was celebrated in 2015.

19. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2020 observed every year on 17th June. The theme of 2020 is **Food. Feed.Fibre. – the links between consumption and land.**

Note: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on 17th June every year. The day is observed to spread awareness among people about the cooperation required to combat desertification and the effects of drought.

20. Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed globally every year on **18th June.**

Note: This day is observed to acknowledge gastronomy as a cultural expression related to nature as well as the cultural diversity of the world. It also reaffirms that each one culture and civilizations are contributors and crucial enablers of sustainable development throughout the planet.

21. World Hydrography Day is observed globally every year on **21st June.**

Note: World Hydrography Day is observed globally on 21st June every year. This day was adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) as an annual celebration to publicise the work of hydrographers and the importance of hydrography. World Hydrography Day 2020 theme is "Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies".

22. World Music Day is observed globally every year on **21st June.**

Note: Over 120 countries celebration World Music Day by organizing free public concerts in parks, streets, stations, museums and other such public places. The aim of celebrating World Music Day is to provide free music to everyone, and also to encourage amateur musicians to showcase their work to the world.

23. The theme of the International Day of Yoga 2020 -- **Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home.**

Note: Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and

consciousness. The theme of International Day of Yoga 2020 is "Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home".

24. The United Nations Public Service Day is observed globally every year **23rd June.**

Note: This day is widely known by various public service organisations and departments around the world by organising several events to recognise the role of public servants in making developments and improvements in the community. On 20 December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly designated 23 June per annum to watch as United Nations Public Service Day.

25. The International Widows Day is observed globally every year on **23rd June.**

Note: The day is widely known to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they have. Several women around the world after losing her life partner faces challenges and do long-term struggle for basic needs, their human right and dignity.

26. The theme of Day of the Seafarer, 2020 celebrated every year on 25th June -- **Seafarers are Key Workers.**

Note: The Day of the Seafarer was first celebrated in 2011, following its establishment by a resolution adopted by the Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, held in Manila, Philippines, in 2010. The Day of the Seafarer has now been included in the annual list of United Nations Observances.

27. The theme of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2020 observed every year globally on 26th June -- **Better Knowledge for Better Care.**

Note: For countering the impact that drug has on our societies, it is important that cross border cooperation increases among countries across the globe. This will help in restricting the negative effects of many kinds of misinformation that has caused challenges for the authorities involved in addressing the drug problem.

28. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed every year on **26th June.**

Note: This day is observed by the United Nations to raise awareness among the people about the human torture that it is not only unacceptable but it is also a crime. It's to be remembered that pain or suffering caused by legal penalty isn't considered as torture. On 26 June 1998, the primary International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was held.

29. National Statistics Day 2020' celebrated every year on **29th June.**



Note: On June 29, 2006, the first Statistics Day was observed. "Good Health and Well Being and Gender Equality", is the theme for National Statistics Day 2020.

30. The UN's International Day of Parliamentarism is observed globally every year on **30th June**.

Note: It is also a chance for parliaments to spot challenges and stock ways to deal with them effectively. The Day was established in 2018 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution. This day also acknowledges the formation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the

global organization of parliaments which was established in 1889.

31. International Asteroid Day is observed globally every year on **30th June**.

Note: The day is widely known to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to tell the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken at the worldwide level just in case of a credible near-Earth object threat. Several events are organized everywhere in the world to teach people about asteroids

Appointments

Prime Minister			
Shri Narendra Modi		Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.	Varanasi(Uttar Pradesh)
Cabinet Ministers			
Sr. No	Name of the Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence	Lucknow(Uttar Pradesh)
2	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs	Gandhinagar(Gujarat)
3	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.	Nagpur(Maharashtra)
4	Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda	Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.	Bangalore North(Karnataka)
5	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Karnataka)
6	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Panchayati Raj.	Morena(Madhya Pradesh)
7	Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	Minister of Law and Justice; Minister of Communications and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.	Patna Sahib(Bihar)
8	Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Rajya Sabha (Madhya Pradesh)
9	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
10	Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Minister of Human Resource Development.	Hardwar(Uttarakhand)
11	Shri Arjun Munda	Minister of Tribal Affairs.	Khunti(Jharkhand)
12	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Minister of Women and Child Development and Minister of Textiles.	Amethi(Uttar Pradesh)
13	Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences.	Chandni Chowk(NCT of Delhi)
14	Shri Prakash Javadekar	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise.	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)



15	Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry.	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
16	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel.	Rajya Sabha (Madhya Pradesh)
17	Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minister of Minority Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Jharkhand)
18	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal and Minister of Mines.	Dharwad(Karnataka)
19	Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.	Chandauli(Uttar Pradesh)
20	Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.	Begusarai(Bihar)
21	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti.	Jodhpur(Rajasthan)

List of Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

S. No.	Name of Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.	Bareilly(Uttar Pradesh)
2	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning.	Gurgaon(Haryana)
3	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence.	North Goa(Goa)
4	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and Minister of State in the Department of Space.	Udhampur(Jammu and Kashmir)
5	Shri Kiren Rijiju	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs.	Arunachal West(Arunachal Pradesh)
6	Shri Prahlad Singh Patel	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Culture and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Tourism.	Damoh(Madhya Pradesh)
7	Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.	Arrah(Bihar)
8	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.	Rajya Sabha (Uttar Pradesh)
9	Shri Mansukh L.	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)



	Mandaviya	of Shipping and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.	
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Ministers of State

S. No.	Name of Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Shri Faggan singh Kulaste	Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel.	Mandla(Madhya Pradesh)
2	Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.	Buxar(Bihar)
3	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.	Bikaner(Rajasthan)
4	General (Retd.) V. K. Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.	Ghaziabad(Uttar Pradesh)
5	Shri Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Faridabad(Haryana)
6	Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.	Jalna(Maharashtra)
7	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.	Secunderabad(Telangana)
8	Shri Parshottam Rupala	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
9	Shri Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
10	Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.	Fatehpur(Uttar Pradesh)
11	Shri Babul Supriyo	Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.	Asansol(West Bengal)
12	Shri Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.	Muzaffarnagar(Uttar Pradesh)
13	Shri Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao	Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development; Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.	Akola(Maharashtra)
14	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.	Hamirpur(Himachal Pradesh)
16	Shri Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.	Ujjain(Bihar)
17	Shri Rattan Lal Kataria	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Ambala(Haryana)
18	Shri V. Muraleedharan	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.	Vadakkara(Kerala)
19	Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.	Surguja(Chhattisgarh)
20	Shri Som Parkash	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.	Hoshiarpur(Punjab)
21	Shri Rameswar Teli	Minister of State in the Ministry of Food	Dibrugarh(Assam)



		Processing Industries.	
22	Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.	Balasore(Odisha)
23	Shri Kailash Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.	Barmer(Rajasthan)
24	Sushri Debasree Chaudhuri	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.	Raiganj(West Bengal)

National & International

November

1.

1. John Magufuli has been re-elected as the president of **Tanzania**.

Note: Magufuli received 12.5m votes in presidential ballot, while his main challenger, Tundu Lissu of the Chadema party, received 1.9m votes. Magufuli has been seeking a second five-year term and promised voters that he would boost the economy by completing ambitious infrastructure projects started in his first term.

2. PVG Menon has been appointed as the chief executive officer of the Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI).

Note: The Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI), an organization setup to provide a skilled workforce for the Electronics industry, announced the appointment of PVG Menon as its chief executive officer. Prior to taking up this role, Menon was the President & CEO of VANN Consulting and has over three decades of experience in the development, marketing and management of technology.

3. Gurdeep Singh has been appointed as the chairman of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT)

Note: The appointment committee of the Union cabinet issued the order for the central deputation. The post of MbPT chairman was vacant after former chairman Sanjay Bhatia retired on July 31 and was appointed as Lokayukta of Maharashtra. Jalota, who is the first Goods and Services Tax (GST) commissioner of Maharashtra, is currently the additional chief secretary in the higher and technical education department of the state government.

4. Priyanka Radhakrishnan has been appointed as the first-ever Indian-origin minister of New Zealand by the country's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

Note: She was appointed as the Minister for the Community & Voluntary Sector and Minister for

Diversity, Inclusion & Ethnic Communities. She was elected first as a Member of Parliament belonging to the Labour Party in September 2017. In 2019, she was appointed the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Ethnic Communities.

5. Duarte Pacheco has been elected as the 30th President of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) for a three-year term of 2020-2023.

Note: He succeeds Gabriela Cuevas Barron, a Mexican Parliamentarian. The Presidential Election was conducted over the virtual platform during the 206th Session of the Governing Council of IPU, which was conducted as a virtual session. Around 400 parliamentarians from 140 member Parliaments registered their vote during the 24-hour window.

6. Alassane Ouattara has been elected as the president of which country for a consecutive third term. - **Ivory Coast**.

Note: The 2020 Ivory Coast Election held on 31st October 2020 was boycotted by the two opposition figures – former President Henri Konan Bedie and ex-Prime Minister Pascal Affi N'Guessan and their supporters. The total voter turnouts was around 53.90% and the opposition claimed that only 10% Ivorians took part in the election.

7. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha has been appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)

Note: President Ram Nath Kovind has administered the oath of office to Sinha as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Sinha, a former diplomat, joined as the Information Commissioner on January 1, 2019. He has served as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka.

October

1.



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 Magette 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. Venkatramu is 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.

September

1.

1. Mustapha Adib has been appointed as the Prime Minister of **Lebanon**.

Note: He was Lebanon's ambassador to Germany. Mustapha Adib was named by four former prime ministers on the eve of binding consultations between the president and parliamentary blocs on their choice for the post.

2. Matthew Hayden has been appointed as the trade envoy to India by Australian government along with Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh for advancing business ties with India.

Note: Three new appointments to the board of the Australia-India Council were announced. Lisa Singh, former Labor Party Senator from Tasmania, would be the Deputy Chair. Former Victoria Premier Ted Baillieu and former cricketer Hayden are the other new members.

3. Hemant Khatri has assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-owned defence shipbuilder, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL).

Note: He will replace Rear Admiral L V Sarat Babu (Retd). Previously, Hemant Khatri was serving as the Director of Strategic Projects HSL. Hemant Khatri was appointed as the CMD of HSL was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on 27th May 2020 with effective from 1st September 2020 till 31st July 2025 the date of his superannuation or until further orders.

4. Aavek Sarkar has been appointed as the chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI).

Note: He succeeds Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers. Aavek Sarkar was the founding

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.

Managing Director of Penguin India, the Indian counterpart of Penguin Books, the founding Editor of Business Standard and also the pivotal figure behind the acquisition of STAR News by the ABP Group in 2003.

5. Usha Padhee has become the first women Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

Note: She is the first woman and third IAS officer to have been appointed to the post. The central deputation tenure of Usha is scheduled to end on 16th July 2022. She succeeds Rakesh Asthana (IPS) who was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF) on 17th August 2020.

6. S Krishnan has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab and Sindh Bank

Note: Prior to this appointment, he was an Executive Director at Canara Bank. He will replace S Harishankar, the current MD and CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank.

7. Murali Ramakrishnan has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of the South Indian Bank.

Note: Ramakrishnan had retired from ICICI Bank as Senior General Manager at Strategic Project Group on May 30, 2020, and joined the South Indian Bank as an advisor on July 1, 2020. He represented the bank in the board of CIBIL and the risk advisory board of VISA for the Asia Pacific.

8. VK Yadav has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board.

Note: The chairman and CEO will be the cadre controlling officer responsible for human resources



(HR) with assistance from a DG (HR). The Cabinet had earlier approved the restructuring of the Railway Board, whose strength has been cut from eight to five, as part of large scale reforms initiated by the national transporter.

9. Ayushmann Khurrana has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Bajaj Allianz Life.

Note: The actor will promote its products and digital services across offline and online mediums. Khurrana will feature in the brand's next campaign 'Smart Living' that encompasses its term plan – Smart Protect Goal and the new digital service – Smart Assist.

10. Dwayne Bravo has been appointed as the first cricket ambassador of SBOTOP sportsbook brand.

Note: Bravo is recognised as one of Caribbean cricket's best ever 'all-rounders', representing the West Indies in all formats of the sport. He has represented the country in 256 test matches and 120 one-day-internationals and is also considered as one of the best ever 'all-rounders' of the sport.

11. Kenichi Ayukawa has been elected as the President of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Note: He will replace Rajan Wadhwa. Ashok Leyland MD and CEO, Vipin Sondhi has been elected as the new vice president of SIAM.

12. Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations appointed Vinkesh Gulati as its 35th President for the year 2020-22.

Note: Gulati is the Director of United Automobiles, based out of Allahabad and Faridabad. United Automobiles is involved in the Auto Dealership business since the year 1985 and are dealers for brands like Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Auto.

13. Anil Jain has been appointed as the president of All India Tennis Association (AITA).

Note: He was elected unanimously to lead the administration of AITA after Praveen Mahajan's tenure as AITA President came to an end this year. Anil Dhupar was elected as the Secretary-General and Rohit Rajpal will serve as the Treasurer of AITA.

14. S. Mahalingam has been appointed Honorary Consul of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Chennai, with consular jurisdiction over Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Note: Mr. Mahalingam retired as chief financial officer and executive director of Tata Consultancy

Services. Mr. Mahalingam is replacing former Honorary Consul Suhasini Maniratnam, whose mandate was terminated after five years.

15. Preeti Sudan has been appointed to the World Health Organisation's independent panel for pandemic preparedness.

Note: The decision by the panel's two heads, former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clarke and former Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. In a meeting of the Chairs, Helen Clarke is believed to have conveyed that Sudan's experience as the head of the government ministry that led India's response to the pandemic makes her much more suited for the job.

16. Paresh Rawal has been appointed as the new chief of National School of Drama (NSD).

Note: In a career span of over three decades, Rawal has been acknowledged with numerous awards, including the prestigious National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1994. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2014 for his contribution to the entertainment industry.

17. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Smriti Mandhana has been appointed as the brand ambassadors of the fantasy sports gaming platforms, Playerzpot.

Note: The partnership will see the cricketers in the brand's upcoming campaigns and promote Playerzpot through engagement activities. The duo will anchor the brand with their sports charisma and help in creating a higher brand recall amongst the key target audience.

18. Jane Fraser has been appointed as the first women Chief Executive Officer of the Citigroup.

Note: She will be the first women CEO of Citigroup. She will take over the top job in February, replacing Michael Corbat who will retire. Fraser, who has served as president and CEO of global consumer banking since 2019, will join the board of directors immediately.

19. Ayushmann Khurrana has been appointed as the celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign titled as 'For Every Child' by UNICEF.

Note: He will support UNICEF towards ending violence against children, by working towards this initiative in India. After his appointment, Ayushman Khurrana joins the like of former football star David Beckham who is working on this campaign globally.

August

1.

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

Note: The Republic of Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara has appointed Defence Minister Hamed Bakayoko (55 years old) as Prime Minister (PM).



Hamed Bakayoko will also hold his position as defence Minister. Hamed Bakayoko became acting PM on May 2, 2020 due to the absence of Amadou Gon Coulibaly.

2. Indian economist Urjit Patel has been appointed as the additional and independent director of Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd.

Note: He has been appointed for a term of five years. Recently, he has authored a book titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver'. The book will be published by HarperCollins India.

3. Varun Sridhar has been appointed as the New Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Money.

Note: Sridhar will report to Amit Nayyar, President of Paytm who leads the financial services business of Paytm. He will lead the launch and development of equity development and the mutual funds, NPS and Gold Services.

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

Note: The rover will land on Jezero Crater of Mars on Feb. 18, 2021 with duration of at least one Mars year (about 687 Earth days). The outlay of Mars mission 2020 is around \$2.7 billion.

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

Note: He is a member of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP). He succeeds David Arthur (A.) Granger. David A. Granger is a member of A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change (ANPU-AFC).

6. Gen. Charles Q. Brown sworn in as the first Black Chief of Staff of the Air Force of **USA**.

Note: President Donald Trump hosted the swearing-in of Gen. Charles Q. Brown. Vice President Mike Pence administered the oath of office to Gen. Brown, who was confirmed by the Senate in June in a 98-0 vote.

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

Note: Former Chief-of-Staff of the Guyana Defence Force Brigadier (retired), Mark Anthony Phillips has been sworn in as Prime Minister of Guyana. He served as the Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force from 2013 to 2016. Meanwhile, former President Bharrat Jagdeo has been sworn in as Vice President.

8. Sashidhar Jagdishan has been appointed as the next Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank for a period of 3 years.

Note: Aditya Puri was the CEO of HDFC Bank since September 1994. He is the longest-serving head of any private bank in India. Sashidhar Jagdishan is a chartered accountant. He holds a Master's degree in Economics of money, banking and finance. He joined the Bank in 1996 and heads finance, human resources, and other departments.

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

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

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

Note: He will assume office on 8 August 2020. He will replace Rajiv Mehrishi, a 1978 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, as the CAG. Murmu, a 1985 batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, was the first Lt Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

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

Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved extension of Tyagi's term until February 28, 2022. His tenure would otherwise have ended at the end of this month. In 2017, the government had initially appointed Tyagi for five years as Sebi chief, but suddenly it was cut to three years. With this second extension, he will be at the helm for five years.

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

Note: In addition to this, Suresh Raina has also joined the brand as Strategic Partner. World Trade Fantasy (WTF) Sports is a fantasy sports gaming platform, which was formally launched in India and other parts of the world on 6th August, 2020.

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

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

14. GK Pillai has been appointed as the chairman of the 3-member committee set up by the government of India for determination of ceiling rates under Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme.

Note: The two other members are Y G Parande, retired Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs member and Gautam Ray, retired chief commissioner of custom and central excise.

15. Hardayal Prasad has been appointed as new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PNB Housing Finance Limited.

Note: Prasad will take over from, Neeraj Vyas the current interim managing director and chief executive



officer of the company, will step down from the position on August 10. Prasad is experienced in banking, international operations at SBI and SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card).

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

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

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

Note: President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko has won his sixth consecutive term with 80.23 per cent of the vote at the country's presidential election. A former English teacher Svetlana Tikhanouskaya, who emerged as Lukashenko's main rival at the elections gets 9.9 per cent of the vote.

18. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala has been appointed as the Executive Chairman of Financial Services Platform, Capital India Finance Limited (CIFL).

Note: Dr. Bhanwala is a PhD holder and did his Post Graduation degree in Management from Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. He was Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) from December 2013 till May 2020.

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

Note: His appointment was confirmed by President of Peru, Martin Vizcarra. Ruiz will succeed Pedro Álvaro Cateriano Bellido. The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Government Palace in Lima.

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

Note: The appointment was made by the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani. Mohamed Ould Bilal is a veteran public administrator and has served as the head of the country's national water agency, a presidential aide and a cabinet minister.

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

Note: He is currently the vice-chair of the board of governors at ICRIER. He will replace Isher Judge Ahluwalia, who has stepped down due to health reasons. Isher had been in this position for 15 years. She will continue as chairperson emeritus, a position specially created to honour her exceptional contributions to the Council.

22. Subhash Sheoratan Mundra has been appointed as non-executive chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH).

Note: Sameer Gehlaut, the co-founder and Chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IBHFL) has

stepped down as the Executive Chairman of the company, and taken up the role of Non-Executive, Non-Independent Director of IBHFL. He has stepped down to take charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indiabulls Ventures Ltd, a subsidiary company of IBHFL.

23. Soma Mondal has been selected as the next chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

Note: She will be taking charge when the present Chairman Anil Chaudhary. Mondal had taken over as Director (Commercial) of SAIL in September 2018. Prior to this, she was Director (Commercial), NALCO, Bhubaneswar which was history in making as was NALCO's first-ever female director.

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

Note: Asthana is currently heading the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) with an additional charge of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), will assume full-time charge of the border guarding force deployed at the approximately 2,280 km long border with Pakistan.

25. Kaushik Khona has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of GoAir Airline.

Note: GoAir is owned by the Indian business conglomerate Wadia Group. Khona brings with himself more than 32 years of corporate experience and all at the CXO level. He was with the Wadia Group for almost 4 years from 2008 to 2011.

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

Note: Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari has been given the additional charge of Goa, it added. Mr. Malik, who was Governor of Jammu and Kashmir when its special status under Article 370 was abrogated last August, will be replacing Tathagata Roy in Meghalaya.

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

Note: Lavasa is set to join the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank as the vice-president from September 2020. He will succeed the incumbent vice-president Diwakar Gupta, who is in charge of private sector operations, and public-private partnerships.

28. GP Garg has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Note: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has appointed GP Garg as executive director (ED). Prior to this, he was Chief General Manager in Sebi and has handled several assignments since joining in January 1994. He has been closely associated with Sebi's initiatives on financial literacy and investor education in the country.



29. Rohit Sharma has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Sports eyewear "Oakley" .

Note: As a part of the partnership, Sharma will be sporting Oakley eyewear equipped with patented Prizm technology created specifically for sports lenses. With this partnership, Sharma will sport the brand's performance eyewear on and off the pitch. He joins the likes of Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and Milind Soman who have endorsed the brand before.

30. Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona has been sworn in as the 54th President of **Dominican Republic**.

Note: Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections with 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo who was the candidate of the ruling PLD got 37.7%. The 53-year old Luis Rodolfo Abinader was elected to the four-year term on July 5, which ended the 16-year run in power by the Center-Left Dominican Liberation Party (PLD).

31. Keith Rowley has been appointed as the **Prime Minister** of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term.

Note: Keith Rowley sworn in as Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd consecutive 5-year term. He is from the ruling People's National Movement (PNM). As per the preliminary result, PNM won 22 of the 41 electoral seats, while the opposition United National Congress (UNC) led by former prime minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar won 19 seats.

32. Ritesh Shukla has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of the newly launched NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NPCI.

Note: It is also responsible to co-create payment technologies with other countries. NPCI has appointed Ritesh Shukla as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NIPL. As per the Regulatory records the NIPL was incorporated on April 03, 2020 and has Dilip Asbe, MD & CEO of NPCI, Arif Khan, Chief Digital Officer and Rupesh Achayara, Head of Finance at NPCI as directors.

33. Luis Rodolfo Abinader has been sworn in as the President of Dominican Republic .

Note: He succeeds Danilo Medina of Liberation Party. Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections with 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo who was the candidate of the ruling PLD got 37.7%. The 53-year old Luis Rodolfo Abinader was elected to the four-year term on July 5, which ended the 16-year run in power by the Center-Left Dominican Liberation Party (PLD).

34. Ashwani Bhatia has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI).

Note: He has been appointed as the managing director up to the date of his superannuation that is May 31, 2022. Bhatia is currently working as the managing director and chief executive officer at SBI Mutual Fund.

35. Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the **Election Commissioner of India**.

Note: Mr. Kumar has been appointed in place of Ashok Lavasa, who has resigned to join the Asian Development Bank. Mr. Kumar is an ex-IAS officer of the 1984 batch of Jharkhand cadre.

36. Vinay Tonse has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Mutual Fund (MF).

Note: Vinay Tonse has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Mutual Fund (MF). He will replace Ashwani Bhatia, who has been now appointed as the managing director (MD) of State Bank of India.

37. Akinwumi Adesina has been re-elected as the **President of African Development Bank**.

Note: The 60-year-old Nigerian was the sole candidate to head the continent's biggest multilateral lender, in a virtual vote as a result of the coronavirus, at the end of its two-day annual meetings.

July

1.

1. Gudni Johannesson was re-elected as president of **Iceland**.

Note: In 2016, Gudni became the youngest president of Iceland since Independence in 1944. He enjoyed a solid support from 76 to 86 percent throughout his first term. Iceland is the Second European country to hold polls during the COVID 19 pandemic.

2. Indra Mani Pandey has been appointed as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Note: He will represent India in more than 25 important organisation of the UN in Geneva including World Health Organization (WHO) and therefore the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). India was appointed as the chair of the executive committee of the WHO in 2020 at the World health assembly.

3. Ravinder Bhakar has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC).

Note: He is a 1999 batch officer of Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS). He will replace Anurag



Srivastava. Prior to this, Bhakar was posted as the Secretary & Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railways. He also served as an Indian Engineering Services officer.

4. Sanjay Dwivedi has been appointed as the as the Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC).

Note: He is presently serving as the Registrar of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal. K.S. Dhatwalia, Principal Director General in the Press Information Bureau, is presently holding the additional charge of the post of Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC).

5. Srikant Madhav Vaidya has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

Note: Vaidya will also be the chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd, a stand-alone refining subsidiary of IOC, and Indian Oiltanking Ltd, a joint venture providing terminalling services. He will also take over as the head of Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd and also be a director on the board of Petronet LNG Ltd. He has had a decade-long association with India's largest cracker plant—the Panipat Naphtha Cracker Complex.

6. As per the votes during referendum in Russia the President Vladimir Putin can lead the Russia until **2036**.

Note: As per the votes during the Referendum, 77.95 percent of Russian citizens have voted in support of the Amendments to the 1993 Constitution of Russia. Only 21.23 percent of the Russian Citizens voted against the Amendments.

7. V Suryanarayanan has been appointed as the New **Managing Director** (MD) of Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company.

Note: Suryanarayanan was a Chartered Accountant and Company Secretary served in financial services sector of the Murugappa Group for the past 24 years. Suryanarayanan served in Cholamandalam Investments and Finance for 10 years and moved to Chola MS as the CFO in 2006 and became the President and COO in April 2019.

8. Jean Castex has been appointed as prime minister of **France**.

Note: He is known for his role in drafting the strategy to lift lockdown measures in the country in the French Media. He is known as Mr Deconfinement of French Media.

9. Injeti Srinivas has been appointed as the 1st chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for a period of three years.

Note: Besides the Chairman, IFSCA has a member each nominated from RBI, IRDAI, SEBI and PFRDA. There are also two members from the Central

Government and full-time or part-time members in the Authority. The IFSCA was recently established by the finance ministry on April 27 as the unified authority to regulate all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in the country.

10. G. Srinivasan has been appointed as the chairman of the nine-member working Group (WG) set up by IRDAI to study the suitability of insurers offering surety bonds for contractors.

11. Injeti Srinivas has been appointed as the first chairman of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) for a 3 years term.

Note: IFSCA regulates all financial services in international financial services centres (IFSCs) in Gandhinagar. In addition to the chairman, IFSCA has other members who have been nominated from the RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA and two members from the Centre. Injeti Srinivas is a 1983 batch IAS officer from the Odisha cadre

12. Jayant Krishna has been appointed as the first India based Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UKIBC.

Note: He will assume office from 3rd August 2020 succeeding the current CEO Richard Heald. Richard Heald will take charge as the chairman of the Group from 1st September 2020 succeeding Lord Davies of Abersoch, the current Chair. Lord Davies of Abersoch will assume the position of President of UKIBC's new Senior Leadership Council.

13. Sukhbir Singh has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Luxury Ride the multi-brand luxury car showrooms.

Note: He will soon be seen in a full-fledged marketing campaign besides being leveraged across its upcoming brand and product communication initiatives. Luxury Rides is a chain of pre-owned, multi-brand luxury car showrooms. Its pre-owned luxury car portfolio includes Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, Volvo, Jaguar, Land Rover, Mini Cooper, and others.

14. The term of Rajkiran Rai as Managing Director and **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of **Union Bank of India**

has been extended for two years.

Note: Rai was appointed as the managing director of Union Bank on July 1, 2017, for a period of 3 years until June 30, 2020. The extension of Rai's tenure implies to facilitate the merger properly. The merged entity is now India's fifth-largest public sector bank.

15. Priyanka Chopra has been appointed as the ambassador for Toronto IFF.

Note: She joined the list of 50 celebrated filmmakers and actors who are invited as the ambassadors of the TIFF. The esteemed film festival will be opting for digital screenings and virtual red



carpets in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The festival is scheduled to kick off from September 10 to September 19, 2020.

16. The Incumbent President of Poland, Andrzej Duda has secured a victory in the 2020 Presidential Election.

Note: Andrzej Duda has secured 1,04,13,094 (1 crore 4 lakh 13 thousand 94 votes) votes in the Second Round of the Election to cross the majority figure marginally with 51.21 percent of the total valid votes. Duda's opponent Rafal Trzaskowski secured 99,21,219 (99 lakh 21 thousand 219 votes) to finish at second place with 48.79 percent of the total valid votes. Andrzej Duda's current term will expire on 6th August 2020, with this win, he will continue as the President of Poland for another five-year term.

17. Gyanendro Ningombam has been appointed as the new President of Hockey India.

Note: He will replace Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad. This was following the resignation letter of Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad received by Hockey India on 7 July 2020 due to his personal and family commitments.

18. Hemang Amin has been appointed as the interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Note: He will replace Rahul Johri who recently resigned as the chief executive officer (CEO) of BCCI and his resignation was accepted by the BCCI office-bearers. Hemang Amin is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Indian Premier League. He joined the IPL operations team in June 2010 and was appointed as the COO of IPL in 2015.

19. Ashok Lavasa has been appointed as the vice president of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Note: Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa has been appointed as vice president of the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB). Lavasa still has over two years left in his term at the Election Commission of India. He would have retired as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in October 2022.

20. Brett Lee has been appointed as the brand ambassador of SportsAdda, the news and information website for Cricket, Football and Kabaddi.

Note: As the brand ambassador of SportsAdda, Lee conducts activities like quizzes, bowling masterclasses, Q&A's and giveaways featured exclusively on the SportsAdda's app, social media and website.

21. Chandrikapersad "Chan" Santokhi has been elected as the President of Suriname.

Note: Santokhi won Desi Bouterse, former military strongman of National Party of Suriname (NPS) in the general elections held in May. He was born in

Suriname, a former dutch colony, and studies in Police academy, Netherlands. He was a police inspector in Suriname from 1991 and was named chief of Police.

22. Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda has been appointed as the first woman prime minister of **Gabon**.

Note: Prior to holding this position, Ossouka Raponda served as Defence Minister since February 2019. Her appointment is the fourth cabinet reshuffle by the President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba since January 2019.

23. Ashwini Kumar Tewari has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Card.

Note: The new appointment will be valid for two years and his appointment will come into effect from August 1, 2020. He was nominated by parent State Bank of India for the position. Tewari's appointment is followed by the resignation of present MD & CEO, Hardayal Prasad who decided to quit from the directorship of the company owing to his voluntary retirement from the State Bank of India.

24. Aditya Puri has become the highest-paid banker for FY20 with Rs.18.92 cr in remuneration.

Note: HDFC Bank Managing Director Aditya Puri has emerged as the highest paid banker among the top lenders for FY 2019-20, with a 38 per cent jump in salary and prerequisites to Rs.18.92 crore.

25. Roshni Nadar Malhotra has been appointed as the new Chairman of IT company, HCL Technologies.

Note: The appointment of non-executive director Roshni Nadar Malhotra to the new role takes effect immediately. She will replace her father, Shiv Nadar. Shiv Nadar will continue to be HCL Tech's managing director, with the designation as the chief strategy officer.

26. Sahil Seth has been appointed as the honorary adviser of steering committee for BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI).

Note: The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a parent organization that promotes commerce and industry in BRICS. It was founded in 2012. The main objective of the BRICS CCI is to create support system to MSME segment. The BRICS CCI mainly aims to reach out young entrepreneurs. It proposes to champion their business and act as voice of young entrepreneurs.

27. Arun Kumar has been nominated as the Vice-Chairman of the International Union of Railways (UIC).

Note: The decision was taken at the UIC General Assembly. The International Union of Railways is



also called Union Internationale Des Chemins (UIC). The headquarters of UIC is in Paris.

28. Prakash Chandra Kandpal has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Non-life insurer SBI General Insurance.

Note: He is serving as the deputy CEO of SBI General Insurance since June 2019. He will replace Pushan Mahapatra who has been appointed as director.

29. Sumit Deb has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).

Note: Deb is presently serving as Director (Personnel) in the NMDC. His tenure as the CMD of NMDC would be applicable till 28 February, 2023. He will succeed N Baijendra Kumar as the CMD of NMDC who will retire as CMD on 31st July 2020.

30. R Narayanaswamy has been appointed as the Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

Note: The committee consists of 7 members including the chairman. The members of the committee will support and provide insights to the Executive body of the NFRA on the issues related to the drafts of the accounting and auditing standards.

31. Ramesh Babu Boddu has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Karur Vysya Bank (KVB).

Note: His three-year appointment is effective from the date of taking charge, on the terms and conditions approved by the Reserve Bank of India. He retired as Deputy Managing Director in State Bank of India in April 2020.

32. Kulmeet Bawa has been appointed as the President and Managing Director of Systems, Applications & Products in Data Processing (SAP) for Indian Subcontinent.

Note: Kulmeet will be responsible for driving and delivering an exceptional SAP experience for employees and customers across our ecosystem, as well as guide businesses in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to adopt a digital-first mindset. Kulmeet will report directly to Scott Russell, President of SAP Asia Pacific Japan.

33. Alok Misra has been appointed as the Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN).

Note: The appointment will be effective from 1st August 2020. Dr Misra takes over from the present CEO, Harsh Shrivastava, who has put down his papers after spending over 2 years at MFIN. Dr.

Alok Misra has around 28 years of professional experience in international development, rural finance, microfinance, inclusive finance and research at both policy and implementation level.

34. Riva Ganguly has been appointed as the secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI.

Note: Ms. Das who is an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1986 batch will succeed Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh after her retirement on 30th September this year.

35. Partha Pratim Sengupta has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank.

Note: His appointment will be up to date of attaining the age of superannuation which is December 31, 2022, or until further orders whichever is earlier. Currently, he is serving as Deputy Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer at State Bank of India.

36. Thierry Bollore has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR).

Note: He will succeed Ralph Speth, who will continue as non-executive chairman of JLR. Bollore has worked in automotive and auto component companies like Renault, Faurecia and Michelin. He most recently was the CEO of Groupe Renault.

37. N. Sivaraman has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICRA Limited.

Note: Sivaraman held the position at L&T finance (Larson and Turbo) as President and Wholtime Director. In December 2018, he held the position of Chief Operating Officer at IL&FS which ends by July 31, 2020.

38. Archana Soreng has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders.

Note: Archana Soreng joins six other young climate leaders from around the world who have been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.

39. Hardik Satishchandra Shah has been appointed as the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on co-terminus basis.

Note: Currently, He is serving as a Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Before moving to the PMO last year, he worked as the PS to Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar.

June



1. Anita Kotwani has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Media Agency, Carat India.

Note: She was earlier serving as the senior vice president, new business and client lead, for The Walt Disney business at Mindshare India. Taking over the new role of CEO, Anita Kotwani will work towards Carat India's strategic progress and business growth nationally.

2. PR Jaishankar has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) for 3 years.

Note: He will serve as the MD of IIFCL for a period of 3 years. He has earlier served as the executive director of the National Housing Bank. The appointment comes after the recommendation of PS Jaishankar by the Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) on March 15, 2020.

3. Arun Singhal has been appointed as the chief executive officer of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Note: Singhal is special secretary, department of health and family welfare. The food regulator, that comes under the purview of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is responsible for setting up standards for the food industry and regulate the manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale, and import of foods.

4. TV Mohandas Pai has been appointed as the chairman of the advisory committee on service providers by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

Note: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) reorganised its advisory committee on service providers. The appointments of the Insolvency Professionals (IPs) as administrators are provided by the Security and Exchange Board of India Regulations, 2018.

5. Rajnath Singh will chair the committee constituted by the PM Narendra Modi to solve the difficulties faced in the implementation of Rs.3 Lakh crore collateral-free loan for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Note: The borrowers can borrow from the financial institutions without any asset or pledge collateral under this scheme. The units with Rs.25 Crore outstanding credit and Rs 100 crore turnover are eligible for the loan. It is for 4-year tenure with interest rates capped according to the Finance Ministry and the moratorium will be for 12 months.

6. Subramanian Sundar has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB).

Note: This was the second extension given to Mr. Sundar, earlier as the MD and CEO (interim) from January 1, 2020 to April 30, 2020. His tenure was

again extended from May 31, 2020 to November 30, 2020 or till the appointment of new CEO.

7. Uday Kotak has assumed office as the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21.

Note: T V Narendran, CEO and managing director of Tata Steel Limited, is now the president designate of CII for 2020-21. Sanjiv Bajaj takes over as CII vice president for 2020-21. He is the chairman and managing director of Bajaj Finserv Limited.

8. Krishnendu Majumdar has been named as the new chairman of British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).

Note: He is the first person of colour to be named as the chairperson of BAFTA in its 73 year-long histories of BAFTA. He will replace Pippa Harris. Harris will now continue as deputy chairperson.

9. Virendra Nath Datt has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL).

Note: National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) is a state-owned Miniratna (Cat-1) company and producer of chemical fertilizers, organic fertilizers and industrial chemicals. Prior to joining NFL, he was Executive Director in GAIL (India) Limited. He also had a 10-year stint with ONGC before joining GAIL in 1995.

10. Rajeev Topno has been appointed as the senior advisor to the World Bank Executive Director.

Note: He is the 1996 batch IAS officer who has served as a key aide to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Topno had joined the Prime Minister's Office as a deputy secretary in 2009 when Manmohan Singh had just started his second term.

11. Brajendra Navnit has been appointed as the ambassador to the Permanent Mission for India (PMI) at the WTO in Geneva.

Note: Navnit, a 1999-batch officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, will replace JS Deepak as the ambassador to the Permanent Mission for India (PMI) at the WTO in Geneva. The appointments come at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has plunged the global economy into its worst recession since the Great Depression in 1930s and ravaged world trade. The WTO has already warned of a massive 13-32% contraction in global trade in 2020.

12. Manushi Chhillar has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Adidas to join Indian star Batsman Rohit Sharma and sprinter Hima Das.

Note: Chhillar becomes Adidas's forerunner in their mission to inspire women to embrace fitness and to create a beneficial social impact through sports. She supports the #HOMETEAMHERO challenge of Adidas to stay physically and mentally fit in the lockdown.



due to COVID-19 and use sports as a platform to inspire and encourage the women and children to take up sports.

13. Ashok Dalwani has been appointed as the chairman of the rearranged Commodity derivatives advisory committee of SEBI.

Note: The 17 members committee examines issues related to the contract design and new products in the segment and recommend the required risk management system and regulatory framework of commodity derivatives and governance of commodities derivatives exchange

14. Rohit Sharma has been appointed as the first ever brand ambassador of the IIFL Finance.

Note: IIFL finance is one of the leading Non-Banking Finance Companies of India which manages over Rs. 36,000 crore assets. Rohit managed the first campaign by IIFL Finance, IMG Reliance promoting and advertising the people on Safety guidelines and rules that must be followed in the COVID-19 situation.

15. Nethra has been appointed as 'Goodwill Ambassador to the Poor' of the United Nations Association for Development And Peace (UNADAP).

Note: She was recognised for her role in feeding the poor during the COVID-19 lockdown by her father C. Mohan, a salon owner by convincing him to give Five Lakh rupees that he had been saving for her education since 2013. Nethra will speak at the United Nations (UN) conferences in New York and in Geneva addressing Civil Society forums and conferences. She was awarded a Dixon Scholarship amounting to Rs 1 Lakh.

16. G Kishan Reddy has been appointed as the chairman of the committee for the welfare of the freedom fighters reconstituted by the union ministry of home affairs.

Note: This panel will verify if someone has given affidavits to two or more applicant and also examine the demands to build memorials and museums for freedom fighters.

17. Pankaj Tripathi has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Patna's Khadi Mall by the Government of Bihar.

Note: Tripathi mentioned that he would not take any salary for this role. The Khadi Mall in Patna is India's first ever Khadi mall inaugurated by Nitish Kumra, Chief Minister of Bihar in November 2019.

18. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Executive Director of **HDFC Bank** for a period of three years.

Note: Bharucha's re-appointment is subject to the approval of the shareholders at the ensuing Annual General Meeting of the Bank. In his current position, Bharucha is responsible for wholesale banking covering areas of corporate banking, emerging

corporate group, business banking, capital markets and commodities business, agri lending, among others.

19. Imtaiyazur Rahman has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of UTI Asset Management Company (AMC).

Note: Two years ago he was appointed as the acting CEO of UTI. Rehman was the internal candidate for the position which fell vacant after Leo Puri completed his five-year term in August, 2018. He joined the UTI Group in 1998 and is with the AMC since 2003.

20. Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta has taken charges as the Chief of Staff of Eastern Naval Command (ENC).

Note: He replaced Vice Admiral S.N Ghormade, who has been appointed as Controller Personnel Services at the Integrated Headquarters, New Delhi. Mr Dasgupta was an alumnus of the NDA and commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1985.

21. Kubatbek Boronov has been appointed as the Prime Minister of **Kyrgyzstan**.

Note: He succeeded Mukhammedkalyi Abylgazyev who resigned on June 15 following accusations of corruption. Kyrgyzstan's parliament approved the candidacy of Kubatbek Boronov with 105 votes out of 116.

22. Pralay Mondal has been appointed as the President of CSB Bank Limited.

Note: He has around 30 years of banking experience across multiple business and functions including retail assets, retail liabilities, business banking, products and technology. Before joining Axis Bank, Mr. Mondal was the Senior Group President and Head of Retail and Business Banking at Yes Bank.

23. Volkan Bozkir has been elected president of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

Note: Turkish's diplomat Volkan Bozkir has been elected president of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. The 75th session of the UN General Assembly begins in September 2020. Bozkir won the unanimous support of the 178 UN members. He will take over from Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the present General Assembly president. A General Assembly president has a one-year term.

24. Indian American **Sethuraman Panchanathan** has been appointed as the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) by the US senate.

Note: He will replace France Cordova, whose six-year term ended in March, as the 15th director of the NSF. He is expected to take office on July 6. Panchanathan is the second Indian-American ever to be nominated to the prestigious science position



with the first being Dr Subra Suresh who served from October 2010 to March 2013.

25. Saurav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri has been appointed as the brand ambassador of JSW cement.

Note: JSW Cement has signed Sourav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri as its brand ambassadors. The cement brand has also launched a new multi-media marketing campaign "Leader's Choice" which includes both sports icons. The multi-media marketing campaign "Leader's Choice" of JSW Cement promotes the ideology of building a solid foundation for a better tomorrow.

26. Urjit Patel has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).

Note: The appointment of the Urjit Patel has been made for a period of four years. He will be replacing the outgoing chairman Vijay Kelkar. Urjit Patel has earlier served as the Governor as well as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He resigned as the Governor of RBI in December 2018.

27. Nirakar Pradhan has appointed as new as the Chief Executive Officer of the Professional Risk Managers' International Association (PRMIA) of its new India office.

Note: Pradhan has led teams at State Bank of India and Generali Group in India and Europe. PRMIA is a non-profit led by top professionals dedicated to promoting best practices in risk management.

28. Natarajan Chandrasekaran has been re-nominated as a Part-Time Non-Official Director on RBI Central board for 2 years.

Note: The government had 1st nominated him as the Director on RBI Central board for 4 years from March 4, 2016. The Natarajan Chandrasekaran joined Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in 1987, he became its Chief Executive Officer from 2009-17, prior to which he was Chief Operating Officer (COO) and executive director of TCS.

29. Wasim Jaffer has been appointed as head coach of the Uttarakhand Ranji team for the upcoming season.

Note: The highest run-getter in Ranji Trophy, Jaffer had announced retirement in March this year after playing for over two decades, primarily for domestic giants Mumbai and Vidarbha. This will be his first stint as a head coach with a team.

30. T Rabi Sankar has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS).

Note: IFTAS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India. T Rabi Sankar, currently serving as Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India for Payment Systems, Information Technology, Risk Management and Fintech has taken over concurrent charge, ex officio, as the Chairman of IFTAS.

31. Clare Connor has been named as the first female president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in its 233 year-old history.

Note: Connor is the current England and Wales Cricket Board's managing director of women's cricket. The 43-year-old will take up the post on 1 October 2021. Current president, former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara, has been offered to stay in the role for a second tenure in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

32. IAS Vini Mahajan becomes 1st woman chief secretary of **Punjab** state.

Note: She will replace Karan Avtar Singh, who has now been posted as Special Chief Secretary, Governance Reforms and Public Grievances. While Karan Avtar Singh was set to retire on August 31, Mahajan has succeeded him two months prior to that.

33. Micheal Martin has been elected as new Prime Minister of **Ireland**.

Note: There are altogether 160 seats within the current lower house of Irish parliament with one seat getting to the speaker of the house who wasn't involved within the vote. Micheal Martin has won the election by receiving 93 votes in favour, 63 votes against and 3 votes in abstention. He has been the leader of the Fianna Fáil party since 2011.

34. UP Governor, Anandiben Patel has taken additional charges as the governor of **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note: Lal Ji Tandon, the Governor of Madhya Pradesh has been under treatment at a private hospital in Lucknow since 11th June 2020. Ms. Patel served as Governor of Madhya Pradesh before Mr. Tandon took over last year.

35. Lazarus Chakwera was elected as the new President of **Mali** after the annulment of the results of the 2019 Presidential Elections following evidence of irregularities.

Note: Lazarus Chakwera was elected as the new President of Malawi after winning 2,604,043 votes, which is 59.34 percent of the total valid votes. 2019 Presidential Election winner Peter Mutharika secured 39.92 percent of the total valid votes in the 2020 Presidential Elections.

Important News – India

November (1 to 7th)



1.

1. The government of India is to set up fourteen more aerodromes in the country to develop sea plane tourism in the country, the project will be implemented jointly by **The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India.**

Note: Recently, PM Modi inaugurated the seaplane service between Statue of Unity in Kevadia and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. The 14 aerodromes are being planned under UDAN scheme. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India are to implement the project jointly.

2. The Ministry of AYUSH will set up "Strategic Policy and Facilitation Bureau" with **Invest India** to facilitate systematic growth of AYUSH sector.

Note: The Bureau will help to make AYUSH systems future ready. It will support in making initiatives under the ministry to its full potential. Also, it will help to initiate the growth and investment of the AYUSH sector. Invest India and the Ministry of AYUSH will collaborate to define short- and long-term targets. Also, it will deploy trained experts to implement and execute the plans of the ministry.

3. The Ministry of Labour recently notified the draft rules for the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 to be implemented by **April, 2021.**

Note: The Industrial Relations Rules, 2020 is to supersede the Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1949, Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1954, Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rules, 1946 and Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957. Under the new Industrial Relations Rules, 2020, the establishments with more than 300 workers will have to seek Government Approval to lay 15 days in prior to the lay off of the intended actions. Earlier, the limit was 100 employees. This means the doing business is being eased under the new rules.

4. The Indian Oil Corporation Research and Development Centre signed a MoU with **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, to develop biomass gasification-based Hydrogen Generation Technology to produce Fuel Cell Grade Hydrogen at an affordable price.

Note: The technology being envisaged under the programme will provide clean energy option to address the challenge of biomass waste. The technology is to be demonstrated at the Indian Oil Research and Development Centre at Faridabad. The hydrogen generated from this demonstration plant is to be used to power fuel cell buses of bigger projects of Indian Oil. Biomass Gasification is a process that converts biomass to hydrogen and other products without combustion.

5. Which Tiger Reserve has been included in the 'World Network of Biosphere Reserves' list of the UNESCO.

Note: This is the 12th biosphere reserve from India to be included in the 'World Network of Biosphere Reserves', and third from Madhya Pradesh, after Pachmarhi and Amarkantak. Currently, Panna Tiger Reserve is home to 54 tigers. The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) covers internationally designated protected areas (known as biosphere reserves) that demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature (like encourage sustainable development).

6. India's first "Tyre Park" will be established in **Kolkata, West Bengal.**

Note: The West Bengal Transport Corporation will launch this Tyre Park. The Tyre Park, which will come up at the Esplanade area, would have a small cafe where people can sit, relax and enjoy the craftsmanship made from tyres.

7. Meri Saheli initiative has been launched the Indian Railways to provide safety and security to women passengers during their train journeys.

Note: The Meri Saheli initiative has been launched by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways. A team of lady officer and staff have been formed under the new initiative, which will visit all passenger coaches of the train including ladies coaches, to identify women passengers. The team will note down their journey details like coach number and seat number, especially if a lady is travelling alone on the train.

8. Chief Justice of India, Sharad Arvind Bobde inaugurated India's first-ever E-resource centre Nyay Kaushal in **Nagpur.**

Note: Chief Justice of India, Sharad Arvind Bobde inaugurated India's first-ever E-resource centre Nyay Kaushal at Judicial Officers Training Institute in Maharashtra's Nagpur. Nyay Kaushal will facilitate e-filing of cases in Supreme Court, any High court and district courts across the country.

9. India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics** to launch 51 direct-to-home (DTH) education TV channels.

Note: Under the MoU, all the 51 DTH education channels will be available as DD co-branded channels to all DD Fresh Dish viewers. The 51 DTH channels includes Swayamprabha, E-Vidya for Class 1 to 12, DigiShala, Vande Gujarat, etc. The channels are to provide quality educational programmes to rural and remote households. These services are to available free of cost for all the



viewers 24/7. This will aid the GOI to achieve its target of providing "Education to all".

10. Shashi S Vempati will be the chairman of the of the committee constituted the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to review "Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India".

Note: Headed by Shashi S Vempati, CEO, Prasar Bharti, the committee will examine the different aspects of television rating systems in India and carry out any changes, if necessary. The committee will submit its report within two months from the issue of the notice.

11. Six startups under the leadership of women have won the COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge that was launched by **MyGov** in collaboration with UN Women.

Note: COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge was hosted on the platform of MyGov. It called for the applications from the startups that are led by women as well as those startups who provide solutions to issues faced by a large number of women. COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge was implemented in two stages- Proof of Concept Stage and Ideation Stage. It also received an overwhelming response with a total of 1265 entries from all over the nation.

12. The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to invest ₹1,810 crore for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I hydropower project to be constructed across river **Satluj**.

Note: The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to invest ₹1,810 crore for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I hydropower project. The project is to be constructed across river Satluj in Himachal Pradesh. It is being implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis.

13. Indian Railways (IR) has tied up with **Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad** to improve its operational efficiency using digital tools such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Analytics.

Note: Indian Railway will provide passengers-related data, train operations-related data, freight data and asset-related data to ISB for the analysis. After analysis, it will be used by IR in the Passenger Reservation System (PRS), introduction of new trains, and predictive asset maintenance.

14. India holds fifth joint working group on coal with **Indonesia** where the countries discussed on Indian Coal Policy reforms, commercial mining of coal in India and coking coal exploration.

Note: During the meeting, the countries discussed on Indian Coal Policy reforms, commercial mining of coal in India and coking coal exploration. India is currently looking for opportunities to import more coal from Indonesia. This is because the coal prices in world market is declining at rapid rate. The plan is to replace coal imports destinies with Indonesia and not increase coal imports. India is to increase its coal imports from Indonesia because, the Indonesian coal prices have fallen greatly in September 2020 due to the pandemic. The prices have been declining since March 2020.

15. S Jai Shankar represented India in the first India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave held virtually.

Note: The Conclave was jointly hosted by Ministry of External Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry. The Conclave focused on clean technologies and renewable energies, Artificial Intelligence, supply chain logistics and block chain led transformation. The Nordic Baltic Eight includes Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Iceland, Norway, Lithuania and Sweden. The Baltic States are Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. These three countries are located in the Baltic sea and are fast growing economies.

16. The Katakey Panel was set up by **National Green Tribunal** to probe the blowout, subsequent fire at an Oil India Limited (OIL) well at Baghjan in Assam which submitted its report recently.

Note: The Katakey Panel was set up by National Green Tribunal to provide a report about the accident. BP Katakey is a retired Guwahati High Court Judge. According to the panel, OIL did not have the required consent to establish, operate and carry out drilling and testing of hydrocarbons. The panel also reported that the well was deficient in planning and supervising critical operation at the well site.

17. Narendra Modi chaired the Global Investor Roundtable Conference in which twenty of the world largest Sovereign Wealth Funds and pension

Note: The conference witnessed the participation of twenty of the world largest Sovereign Wealth Funds and pension. These participants owned total assets of more than 6 billion USD. The main focus of discussion at the conference was about the vision of GoI in becoming a 5 trillion USD economy.

October

1.



1. 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.

2. 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 Durgam 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 Ranthambore 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.

6. 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.

7. 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

8. 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 an 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 155th 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 129th 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 sealing of a candidate was revised in 2014.

26. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the Anaemia Mukht Bharat index in association with Intergovernmental organization **UNICEF.**

Note: The anaemia Mukht Bharat is an initiative to reduce the prevalence of anaemia in India. Haryana topped the anaemia free India index or the anaemia Mukht 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-- **131st**.

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.

21. 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. Remaining 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. Chidambaram 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.

September

1.

1. According to the annual National Crime Records Bureau report the maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported from **Tamil Nadu**.

Note: The cases of suicide and the number of accidental deaths registered an increase across the country last year compared to 2018, according to the annual National Crime Records Bureau report. The maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported from Tamil Nadu (16), followed by Andhra Pradesh (14), Kerala (11) and Punjab (9) and Rajasthan (7).

2. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract of **Rs 2580 Cr.** for supply of six Pinaka Regiments.

Note: The contract has been signed for supply of six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army and hence will enhance the operation preparedness of our Armed Forces. Induction of Six Pinaka Regiments which comprise 114 Launchers with Automated Gun Aiming & Positioning System (AGAPS); 45 Command Posts to be procured from M/s TPCL and M/s L&T and 330 Vehicles to be procured from M/s BEML, is planned to be completed by 2024.

3. **Dinesh Pant** will head the six-membered committee constituted by IRDAI on index-linked products following requests for permission from life insurers to introduce such products.

Note: It will also examine the products earlier available in the market in terms of product structure, ease of customer understanding and administrative processes and any other matter of relevance. Current IRDAI product regulations do not specifically permit insurers to sell index-linked products.

4. As per the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau **Delhi** city recorded the highest number of deaths due to dangerous driving and overall road accidents in 2019 among all cities.

Note: According to the data, a total of 1,400 persons died in road accidents and 529 persons died

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.

because of driving dangerously or carelessly in Delhi followed by Jaipur in Rajasthan where 320 persons died and Asansol in West Bengal where 301 persons died due to reckless driving. Delhi recorded the highest number of deaths due to dangerous driving and overall road accidents in 2019 among all cities, the data shared by National Crime Records Bureau showed.

5. Union Power Minister R K Singh launched the GTAM (**Green Term Ahead Market**) initiative that will lead to an increase in the number of participants in the Renewable Energy Sector.

Note: The move, that will lead to an increase in the participants in the renewable energy sector. The initiative will also help in achieving 175 GW renewable energy (RE) target of the country. It will lessen the burden on RE-rich states and incentivize them to develop RE capacity beyond their own RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation).

6. India's rank in the 13th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 jointly released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School -- **48th**.

Note: India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and R&D-intensive global companies. Switzerland, Sweden, the US, the UK and the Netherlands lead the innovation ranking, and the top 5 positions are dominated by high-income countries.

7. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has decided to block **118** mobile apps in view of the emergent nature of threats.

Note: The step is expected to safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users and will also ensure safety, security and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace. 118 mobile apps have been blocked by the Ministry of Electronics and



Information Technology by invoking its power under section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009.

8. Adani Green Energy Ltd. has been ranked as World's Largest Solar Power Generation Asset Owner in terms of operating, under-construction and awarded projects by the Mercom Capital.

Note: Mercom Capital Group is a clean energy communication consulting firm. AGEL's under-construction and awarded capacity stands at 10.1 GigaWatts (GW) and its operational capacity is nearly 3 GW. AGEL's renewable energy portfolio stands at 12.32 GW, which exceeds the total capacity installed by the entire US solar industry in 2019.

9. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation became the first Indian Dairy Company to enter Rabobank's Annual listing of Global Dairy Top 20 Companies of 2020.

Note: Amul was ranked 16th with an annual turnover of USD 5.5 billion (approximately Rs 40,240 Crores). Switzerland's Nestle topped the list. Rabobank is a Dutch multinational banking and financial services company.

10. The chairman of the steering committee constituted by central government for green initiatives in the coal sector -- **VK Saraswat.**

Note: The objective behind this webinar was to discuss the road map for achieving the 100 million tonnes (MT) coal gasification target by 2030 with investments worth over Rs4 lakh crores. Notably, a Steering Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. VK Saraswat for green initiatives in the coal sector.

11. Organization the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised a two-days long "National Tribal Research Conclave -- **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).**

Note: The inaugural session of conclave was addressed by the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda. The National Tribal Research Conclave was organised to review the progress on the results of projects launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. 10 research partners shared their projects in the 2-days long conclave.

12. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources with its counterpart of **Finland.**

Note: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the MoU. The MoU facilitates cooperation in the field of

geology, training, mineral prognostication and suitability analysis, Seismic and other Geophysical surveys

13. Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad has developed the 'EnglishPro' mobile app that was launched by the Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

Note: The app is developed by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. The app will help learners develop Indian English Pronunciation in the unique "Indian" way. This app will be "a useful digital tool" and will act as an educational resource for the teachers, students and for people from varied backgrounds.

14. Mission Karmayogi approved by the Union Cabinet which is aimed at bringing post-recruitment reforms in the Civil Services.

Note: The objective of this mission is to prepare the Indian Civil Servant for the future with right attitude, skills & knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India by focusing on competency led capacity building.

15. KIRAN helpline has been launched by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry for mental health rehabilitation.

Note: The helpline was launched in view of the growing incidence of Mental Illness, particularly in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The helpline – 1800-500-0019 will provide relief and support to persons with mental illness.

16. Bengaluru city tops the list of destinations for a career in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Note: Job searches in the field have risen 106 per cent in the past year (June 2019 to June 2020), and this has increased further by 20 per cent from March to July 2020, in line with the onset of the pandemic. AI-related job postings have also seen a steady rise in the last two years, with a 51 per cent jump between June 2019 and June 2020.

17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Patrika Gate in **Jaipur.**

Note: The Iconic Gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in the Pink City. Prime Minister Modi also released two books written by the Group Chairman on the occasion, authored by Gulab Kothari, Editor in Chief of Rajasthan Patrika Group and Chairman of Patrika Group of Newspaper.

18. As per NSO report on 'household social consumption' in its 75th round of the survey **Andhra Pradesh** state emerged as least literate state in the country with 66.4% of literacy rate.

Note: As per the report Kerala again emerged as the most literate state in the country with 96.2% literacy followed by Delhi (88.7%), Uttarakhand (87.6%), Himachal Pradesh (86.6%) and Assam



(85.9%). The overall literacy rate in India is pegged at 77.7% where rural areas have 73.5% literacy rate and urban areas has 87.7%.

19. Sanyukta Samaddar will chair the Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC) constituted by the NITI Aayog.

Note: It has members from Ministry of Power, Women & Child Development, Telecommunication, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Rural Development, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Food & Public Distribution, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Education, Housing & Urban Affairs, Health & Family Welfare, and Financial Services.

20. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with **LinkedIn** to provide access to free learning resources for imparting digital skills to youth for enhancing employability.

Note: According to LinkedIn, Indian professionals with digital skills are 20 percent more in demand than professionals without digital skills in 2020. Under the partnership, 10 free LinkedIn learning paths, consisting of 140 courses for a range of in-demand tech jobs will be made available for free on eSkill India digital platform till March 31, 2021. It will help India's youth to develop skills needed for jobs.

21. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges.

Note: The programme will spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups. The initiative will help identify and promote innovations necessary for boosting the MSME sector.

22. The first World Solar Technology Summit 2020 held virtually was attended by **149** countries.

Note: The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. The main objective of the summit is to pay attention to state-of-the-art technologies and next-generation technologies.

23. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has been launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to focus on the focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country.

Note: The scheme will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 20,050 crores within a period of 5 years from the fiscal year 2020-21 to the fiscal year 2024-25 in all states and union territories. The scheme was announced as a part of the centre's AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package. The investment of Rs. 20,050 crores under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector.

24. Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai has QR code-enabled contactless check-in mechanism for the passengers.

Note: Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai has put in place a QR code-enabled contactless check-in mechanism for the passengers, which allows them the use of their mobile phones to remotely operate check-in and self-bag drop kiosks for printing boarding passes and bag tags. Passengers at Mumbai airport just need to scan the QR code shown on the kiosks to access a remote keyboard and mouse on their mobile device, without touching the kiosks.

25. Hubballi Railway Station in Karnataka has been renamed after **Siddharoodha Swamiji**.

Note: Union government has approved long-pending demand of Hubballians of renaming the Hubballi railway station. Name of Hubballi railway station, which is headquarters of South Western Railway, is being changed for the second time in the last five years. It was changed in 2015 from 'Hubli' to 'Hubballi'.

26. 'Streets for People' challenge has been launched by **Union Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry**.

Note: The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.

27. As per DPIIT Gujarat state emerged as the best performer in developing start-up ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs.

Note: Gujarat was categorised as the best performer among all States and one Union Territory (UT) Delhi, barring north-eastern States and other UTs. A total of 22 States and 3 UTs participated in the exercise.

28. NIMHANS institution has developed Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas.

Note: The research by a team of doctors led by Bharath Holla, Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Integrative Medicine; Rose Dawn Bharath, Professor and Head of the Department of Neuro-Imaging and Interventional Radiology; and Dr. Benegal, was published in the journal Human Brain Mapping on August 26

29. Golden Temple has been granted Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration enabling it to receive foreign donations.

Note: Govt's decision to allow FCRA to Sri Harmandir Sahib will deepen the connection of Seva between the Sangat and Sri Darbar Sahib. FCRA registration has been given in the name of 'Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Saheb Sri Darbar Saheb Punjab Association', a body set up in 1925. The FCRA will be valid for 5 years.

30. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the second Indian firm to attain a market valuation



of over Rs. 9 lakh crore after Reliance Industries Limited.

Note: The company's market valuation went past ₹9 lakh crore in early trade helped by a rally in its share price. The stock of the software services firm gained 2.91% to ₹ 2,442.80 — its record high — on the BSE.

August

1.

1. Recently, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched an incubator capabilities enhancement program 'AIM-iCREST' in collaboration with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation**.

Note: This is a first of its kind initiative for advancing innovation at scale in India. Under the initiative, the AIM's incubators will be provided requisite support to foster the incubation enterprise economy in order to enhance their performance.

2. 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting was held under the presidency of **Russia**.

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

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

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

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

Note: The booklet is prepared by Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development. It is based on the presentations made by states during regional and national workshops since inception of the programme. This book is a collection of different best practices that focus on addressing various issues, challenges, and threats to the implementation of DILRMP.

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

Note: Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Hardeep Singh Puri released the Affordable Rental

31. IT company **Infosys** will acquire Czech Republic-based GuideVision for up to €30 million (about ₹260.4 crore).

Note: The acquisition is being carried out by Infy Consulting Company Ltd, a step-down subsidiary of Infosys Ltd. As per the regulatory filing, the cost of acquisition is "up to €30 million including earn-out and bonuses".

Housing Complexes (ARHCs. ARHC as a sub scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

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

Note: The Committee made this recommendation in its report on Social Security Code, which has been evolved subsuming nine Central Labour laws. The committee, which is headed by Biju Janta Dal MP Bharatruhari Mahtab, submitted the report to Speaker Om Birla.

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

Note: Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan is an initiative of Vijnana Bharathi (VIBHA) in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, Government of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). It is India's largest Science talent search examination for New India using Digital Devices.

8. **SEBI** is planning to set up a virtual museum of securities market to highlight achievements and milestones in the Indian capital market.

Note: SEBI has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from agencies to develop the virtual museum. The museum is intended to be a visual online organised collection of history of evolution, achievements and milestones in the Indian securities market over the decades in terms of market infrastructure, regulation and enforcement, among others.

9. Union Minister of Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sirmaur at Dhaura Kuan in **Himachal Pradesh**.

Note: IIM Sirmaur was operationalised by IIM Lucknow from August 2015 as the mentor Institution with the commencement of the first batch of post graduate programme for 20 students from its temporary campus at Paonta Sahib, Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh. The complete full-fledged permanent campus at Dhaurakuan has been



envisaged for a student strength of 1170. The Union Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs 531.75 Crore out of which Rs 392.51 Crore is for construction works.

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

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

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

Note: The committee will make strategies enhancing IFSC position for international financial services drawing a roadmap for the growth of international retail at the IFSC. The report will be submitted in 3 months

12. DD Assam has been launched by Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar recently.

Note: It is a 24 x 7 satellite channel which will work on the message of unity in diversity. The channel will showcase rich history of Assam and other north East States.

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

Note: The train is making its first move from Maharashtra's Devlali to Bihar's Danapur Railway station with various stoppages carrying fruits and vegetables. It will cover a distance of 1,519 km in 32 hours. Kisan rail was announced in Budget 2020

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

Note: The funds granted to Maldives are to be used for the following. To develop 50-tonne ice plant in Gemanafushi. Also, a 100-tonne ice storage facility is to be developed. The funds will be used to set up tuna cooked plant and fishmeal plant. Investments towards fish collection.

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

Note: The event was inaugurated by the PM Narendra Modi. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Education, Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Communications along with Chairman and

Members, Committee for Draft NEP participated in the virtual event.

16. NHAH signs MoU with which **IIT Delhi** to set up Center of Excellence for Advance Data Management System for Highways.

Note: Under the agreement IIT Delhi will work with NHAH to develop advanced analytics based on Artificial Intelligence, prepare simulation models, enhance data storage and retrieval capacities to strengthen data-driven decision making.

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

Note: Under this collaboration, Simplilearn will host more than 1,000 hours of free learning in digital skills and technologies for learners across India under the categories of AI and Machine Learning, Big Data, Data Science & Business Intelligence, Cyber Security, Software Development, Project management, and Digital marketing.

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

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

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

Note: The agreement was signed during a ceremony which was presided Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. The collaboration between these two premier institutions of India will contribute in fulfilling the vision of New Food System 2050.

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

Note: The event was inaugurated by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister for Education. The conference provided a platform to discuss to reimagine and transform the idea of university that will impact the lives of the students, academics and nations all across the globe.

21. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will open the Silk Training cum Production Center in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Note: This would be the first Silk Training cum Production Center in the state. Machinery like handlooms, Charkha, Silk reeling machines and



warping drums would be installed in the training cum production Center. KVIC has transformed the dilapidated school building into the training cum production center for Eri Silk, and has also selected the first batch of 25 local artisans of Chullyu village to begin the training with.

22. Website portal **My Handloom** has been launched by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, for the individual weavers and organization.

Note: The Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani launched a website portal, 'My Handloom' for the individual weavers and organization on the occasion of the 6th National Handloom Day on 7th August, 2020, virtually.

23. **Delhi International Airport Limited** has developed AIR SUVIDHA, a first-of-its-kind portal allowing international arriving passengers to fill a mandatory self-declaration form and eligible passengers to apply for exemption from compulsory institutional quarantine for coronavirus.

24. In a push for 'Make-in-India', **Rajnath Singh** has launched 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Saptah' to focus more on the vision of the government to shift to local manufacturing.

Note: The main idea behind this is to emphasize the importance of domestic defence production in the country.

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

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

26. **Mumbai** become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.

Note: Mumbai's Dadar has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed traffic signals that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.

27. **121** Police personnel have been awarded the "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2020.

Note: A total of 121 Police personnel have been awarded the "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2020. The award of "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" seeks to encourage high professional standards of investigation of crime and

to recognize such Excellence in Investigation by investigating officers.

28. **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)** has organized the "India@75 Summit – Mission 2022".

Note: The summit was focused on 'reinventing technology in India'. The MSME Ministry and Industries should be made import substitutes, cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous.

29. Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has rolled out second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with **Dell Technologies**.

Note: The Student Entrepreneurship Programme has been launched for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) as it will enable them to work closely with Dell volunteers.

30. Festive sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy Harmal Chilli and Myndoli Banana (Moirā Banana) of **Goa** has obtained Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry.

Note: The Bicholim based All-Goa Khaje Producers Association (AGKPA) applied for the GI tag of Khaje through the department of science and technology in 2019.

31. Krishi Megh is the data recovery centre of **ICAR** organization.

Note: Krishi Megh is the data recovery centre of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research). The data recovery centre has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad.

32. Tribal freedom fighter museums are under development by ministry of tribal affairs -- **9**.

Note: The nine museums are being developed in Gujarat(Rajpipla), Jharkhand(Ranchi), Andhra Pradesh(Lambasingi), Chhattisgarh(Raipur), Kerala (Kozhikode), Madhya Pradesh (Chhindwara), Telangana (Hyderabad), Manipur (Senapati) and Mizoram (Kelsi).

33. **Swachh Bharat Mission Academy** is an IVR based mobile online learning course launched by Union Jal Shakti Ministry.

Note: The IVR based free mobile online learning course on ODF Plus will be crucial in achieving goals underlined in Phase - 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). Swachh Bharat Mission Academy, with its mobile based technology will significantly boost the capacity building efforts in training of Swachhagrahis as well as community-based organizations, NGOs and others associated with phase 2 of the mission.

34. **Indian Railways** is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge across river Lajai in **Manipur**.

Note: The bridge which is being constructed across river Ijai near Noney is an engineering marvel



because the tallest pier height will be 141 meter. It will surpass the existing record of 139 meter of Mala - Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.

35. NASSCOM Association with organization 'Atal Innovation Mission' has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Step-up module for school students.

Note: The module was launched in a virtual platform attended by CEO NITI Aayog Mr Amitabh Kant, Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission Mr R Ramanan and NASSCOM President Debjani Ghosh. The AI Step-up module is expected to drive AI education and innovation to the next level in the young minds in schools across the country.

36. As per the draft plan prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the "One Sun, One World, One Grid" (OSOWOG) initiative will **140 countries** through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power.

Note: As per the draft plan prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the OSOWOG will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power. "The vision behind the OSOWOG mantra is "the Sun never sets" and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.

37. IIT Bombay has secured top position in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,' (ARIIA) 2020 for being the best centrally funded institution in India.

Note: The top five centrally funded institutions in the list are 1. IIT Madras; 2. IIT Bombay; 3. IIT Delhi; 4. IISc Bengaluru; 5. IIT Kharagpur. The ARIIA ranking was launched in 2019 by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The objective of ARIIA is to rank higher education institutions and universities in India as per Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Startup, and Development amongst faculty and students.

38. Quality Control Lab has been set up by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in **Porbandar, Gujarat.**

Note: The Quality Control Lab will offer tests for seafood processors as well as exporters to confirm to product safety as per international regulatory requirements. Quality Control Lab is empowered with advanced testing instruments to evaluate antibiotic residues, heavy-metals, namely cadmium, lead, mercury and arsenic in seafood samples and histamine in fish such as tuna and mackerel.

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

Note: The Central Water Commission is the first governmental partner of Google to measure water

levels on an hourly basis using around 1000 stream gauges across India. Under the flood forecasting initiatives, Google has sent out numerous public alerts to people in flood-impacted regions of India.

40. With the vision of going one step further towards self-reliance or "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has launched 'Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge'.

Note: The initiative aims at designing microprocessors for the development of various technological products. Students from all levels and startup companies can participate in the challenge. Prize money of total Rs. 4.30 crore will be provided by the government in the following way. Total of 1 crore to 100 semi-finalists. For 25 finalists, a total of 1 crore and Rs. 2.3 crore for the top 10 teams.

41. Delhi Police has signed an MoU with All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) for extending ayurvedic mode of preventive and promotive health services in the residential colonies of the force.

Note: The MoU will offer Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health services in the residential colonies of Delhi Police through a mobile unit named 'Dhanwantari Rath' and Police Wellness Centres. These sources would be catered by AIIA, supported by Ministry of AYUSH. "Dhanwantari Rath" is a mobile unit of Ayurveda health care services which comprises a team of Doctors who would be visiting Delhi Police colonies on regular intervals.

42. The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla attended the virtual mode of Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) organized jointly by International Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of **Austria.**

Note: The two days long event was organized jointly by Geneva headquartered Inter Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of Austria with the assistance of the United Nations. The second part of the conference is scheduled to be held next year in Vienna, Austria which is expected to be a physical mode of meeting.

43. Central government departments has launched its new official logo displaying three goals of the department, Accuracy, Validity, and Reliability -- **Labour Bureau.**

Note: The newly launched logo displays the three goals of the Labour Bureau i.e. Accuracy, Validity, and Reliability. It also indicates the Labour Bureau as a data-based organization that deals in data pertaining to workers and work.

44. To improve the production and productivity of raw Jute in the country Jute Corporation of India



(JCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Seeds Corporation (NSC)**.

Note: The MoU was signed virtually in the presence of Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Minister for Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani. Around 10, 000 quintals of certified jute seeds of JRO-204 variety to be distributed to the farmers through JCI in the 2021-22 crop year.

45. The Bureau of India Standards (BIS) signed with an MoU with **IIT Roorkee** for collaboration in areas of Standardization and Conformity Assessment based on equality and reciprocity.

Note: In Accordance with the agreement, the collaboration will include several fields like Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical, Earthquake Engineering, Development and Management of Water Resources and Renewable Energy Projects, Infrastructure Development, Medical Biotechnology and Nanotechnology biomaterials. IIT Roorkee and BIS will participate in the standardisation activity through technical committees of BIS at the national and international levels.

46. India's rank in the 2nd edition of global research "Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2020" released by online privacy solutions provider SurfShark -- **57th**.

Note: The DQL Index 2020 analyzes 85 countries around the world covering 6.3 billion people or 81% of the global population in terms of five core pillars: internet affordability, internet quality, e-infrastructure, e-security, and e-government, and results are premised on 12 different factors.

47. TL Alamelu will head the ten-member committee set up by IRDAI to recommend setting up loss prevention entities for non-life insurers.

Note: The ten-member committee headed by Irdai member T L Alamelu has recommended the regulator and industry participants to join hands in establishing this company.

48. Tata Steel has launched the FerroHaat App, a first-of-its-kind mobile application (App) in the world to source steel scrap from the traders.

Note: The new app is a major step by the company to organise India's scrap market while also providing a reliable source of scrap metal for the steel Industry.

49. Nitin Gadkari has launched the mobile app named 'Harit Path' to monitor plantation along national highways.

Note: Under this initiative, the NHAI planted over 25 lakh plants in 25 days along the stretches of the national highways between July 21 and August 15, 2020. The minister launched 'Harit Path', a mobile app to monitor the plantations through geo-tagging and web-based GIS-enabled monitoring tools.

50. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons, a requirement under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

Note: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has set up this council to cater to the transgender community with various essential needs. The Union Minister of social justice will be the head of the commission.

51. As per the recent data published by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), India filed **Less than 1 per cent** of the global patent applications.

Note: The recent data published by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has shown that India filed less than 1% of the global patent applications with total filings of 2,053 in 2019.

52. The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda has e-inaugurated "Tribes India Showroom" in **Mumbai**.

Note: The showroom has been inaugurated in Indian Globe Chambers of LIC Western Zonal Office, Fort, Mumbai. "Tribes India Showroom" is an initiative of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to promote the livelihood of the tribal people marketing. "Tribes India on Wheels" is also launched by TRIFED to boost the sales and enhance tribal income in these challenging times.

53. Ministry of Tourism has signed an MoU with **Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)** and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with primary objective of women empowerment.

Note: The signed MoU will enable FLO & TAAI to focus on personal and hospitality skills, a more flexible work balance and greater options for entrepreneurship with lower capital. The partnership between the three aims to increase the participation of women in the tourism sector and enable them to become an integral part of the tourism workforce of India.

54. APEDA functions under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has signed two MoUs with AFC India Limited and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) for working together in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors.

Note: It has signed two MoUs one each with AFC ((formerly Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd) India Limited, and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Delhi for working together in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors.

55. Ramesh Chand will head the task force constituted by the NITI Aayog that recommended linking of Sugarcane prices to sugar rate.



Note: The Niti Aayog task force has recommended linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates to keep the industry in sound financial health. It has also pitched for a one-time increase in minimum sugar price to Rs 33 per kilo to help sugar mills cover the cost of production.

56. IT majors Tech Mahindra joined hands with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to support Indian women entrepreneurs.

Note: WTI awards is an initiative of the WEP to recognise women leaders in entrepreneurship across various sectors like healthcare and life sciences, agritech and education, among others.

57. ReNew Power signed a partnership agreement with **UNEP** to promote increased access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.

Note: This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a part of progressive strategies that India has adopted to realise its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. The aim is to shift the heating and cooling sector to an energy efficient one.

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

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

59. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed the '**Vendor Performance Evaluation System**' to establish a transparent and comprehensive performance rating system for its consultants, contractors and concessionaires.

Note: The portal-based objective assessment of vendors was initiated to track the vendor performance for various NHAI projects. The vendors are required to conduct a self-assessment and upload the documents related to the project activities executed by them on the portal.

60. Central Railway has introduced a drone-based surveillance system to protect railway assets.

Note: The Mumbai Division of Central Railway zone has recently procured Ninja UAVs. RPF has procured as many as nine drones at a cost of Rs 31.87 lakh at Central Railway, South Eastern Railway, South Western Railway, Modern Coaching Factory, and Raebareli.

61. Rajnath Singh has launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile Training App.

Note: The Mobile Training App will support in conducting countrywide online training of NCC

cadets as it has been affected adversely due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. The DGNCC Mobile Training App seeks to offer entire training material to the NCC cadets on one platform.

62. National e-Governance Division (NeGD) is working under **MeitY** that signed an MoU with Common Service Center e-Governance Services India Limited to facilitate delivery of UMANG app services to citizens.

Note: This will benefit those citizens who either do not have access to smartphones or are not comfortable accessing app based e services on their own. Notably, all the UMANG services at CSCs are available at zero cost and will be provided by CSC operators Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).

63. Piyush Goyal has launched the National GIS (Geographic Information System)-enabled Land Bank system.

Note: The system is developed by the integration of the Industrial Information System (IIS) with State GIS systems. The platform will provide a database of industrial areas/clusters across the country and will serve as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information.

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

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

65. Valipe Ramagopal Rao will chair the 5-member committee constituted by DRDO to review charter of duties of 57 DRDO labs on the basis of current and futuristic defence and battlefield needs.

Note: The five-member committee will be chaired by Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi director V Ramagopal Rao. The committee will submit its report in 45 days.

66. Three-member committee headed by **DB Shekatkar** has been to review the effective utilisation of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHQ CS) cadre.

Note: This is in line with the recommendation of the Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (retd) committee on enhancing the military's combat potential and rebalancing defence expenditure.

67. In partnership with UNDP, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has launched the Sustainable Finance Collaborative (SFC) to Promote Sustainable Finance in India.

Note: In this regard, a three days consultation centered on the broad scope of Sustainable Finance



architecture in India was held to accelerate green finance by bringing together leading experts and organizations.

68. Next-generation startup Challenge contest has been launched by the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ravi Shankar Prasad-- **Chunauti**.

Note: This contest is a part of Rs 95 crore programme, spanning over 3 years, will hunt for around 300 startups working in identified areas and to provide them seed funds of up to Rs 25 lakh and other support from government through the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).

69. Piyush Goyal represented India in the virtual 8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) chaired by Vietnam.

July

1. Two Maharatna PSUs the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has signed an MoU for setting up of a Waste to Energy Plant Okhla New Delhi -- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. & NTPC Ltd.**

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

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

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

3. SheshNaag has been given to the longest 2.8 km long freight train operated Indian Railways.

Note: Indian Railways created another record by operating the longest freight train. Indian Railways named it as 'SeshNaag'. The rake had a total of 251 wagons which were pulled by four electric locomotives which were fitted in between. The feat was achieved in the South East Central Railway zone of the Indian Railways. The train had empty BOXN rakes.

4. According to the report "Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019" by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) **Tamil Nadu** state grabbed the top in annual fish production.

Note: It was attended by Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Meeting was chaired by Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam.

70. The Union Government is planning to come up with Mega Bamboo Industrial Park in **Ghati**.

Note: Apart from this government is also planning to set up a Mega Bamboo Industrial Park at Ghati near Jammu and Bamboo Technology Training Centre will also come up in the region. This was announced by the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh.

Note: As per the report, Tamil Nadu grabbed the top in annual fish production with 7.75 lakh tonnes followed by Gujarat (7.49 lakh tonnes), which had been holding the first position earlier, and Kerala (5.44 lakh tonnes) which retained the third position. Notably, in the global front, India is ranked 3rd after China and Indonesia in marine fish production.

5. An inter-ministerial scheme called "Accelerate Vigyan" was launched by SERB which is a statutory body functioning under **Ministry of Science and Technology**.

Note: The primary objective of the scheme is to give thrust on encouraging high-end scientific research and manpower that will lead to a knowledge-based economy. The scheme will identify research potential, mentors and provide hands on training on a national scale.

6. Under chairmanship **Ranbir Singh**, the Central Committee for reforms in Criminal Law has been constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Note: The objective of this exercise is to gather opinions by consulting with experts and collating material for their report to the government. In this regard, the committee has invited experts in the field of criminal law to participate in the exercise through an online consultation mechanism.

7. The CBSE has partnered with social media platform **Facebook** to launch a free and comprehensive training program for teachers and students of its affiliated schools in the first phase.

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



8. 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' was announced by PM Narendra Modi is an initiative of **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.

Note: The App Innovation Challenge is an initiative by the MeitY in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission. The prize money for apps is between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 2 lakh depending on the category. The app will be evaluated on the basis of ease of use, robustness, security features and scalability.

9. For the formation of a Joint Venture Company (JVC) to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW on pan-India basis the Coal India Ltd signed an agreement with **NLC India Ltd**.

Note: The equity participation in the proposed JVC between Coal India and NLC will be in the ratio of 50:50. This joint venture company marks a new era in the power sector, with the synergy and expertise of two central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Coal.

10. DRDO has developed 1000 bed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital in New Delhi in partnership with Tata Sons Private Limited.

Note: The facility will be providing treatment and care for the COVID-19 positive patients. Along with Tata Sons Private Limited, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital is developed by DRDO. The facility is set up in the land belonging to the Indian Air Force.

11. Indian Railways has setup 1.7 MWp Solar Power plant project at **Bina** to directly power the Railway Overhead Line.

Note: This project is unique because, for the first time in the world, the power generated by the solar power plant will be directly fed to the overhead power lines of the national transporter to power the traction system of the electric locomotives to run trains. The pilot project of 1.7 mega-watt solar power plant has been set up by Indian Railways in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL) on railway land.

12. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is going to establish a research cell at **IIT-Hyderabad** to meet the future defence technological requirements of the country.

Note: Envisaged to become a 'Centre of Excellence', it is being established as an extension of the DRDO Research and Innovation Centre (RIC), Chennai. The research cell will ensure seamless execution of different projects between both organisations as IIT-H has a strong research base in advanced technologies.

13. India's rank has released "Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2020", including the SDG Index and Dashboards by Cambridge University Press -- **117th**.

Note: The index has been topped by Sweden. The report contains data on changes over time in 17 SDG indicators, the future of the SDGs amidst Covid-19, as well as calculations for trajectories until 2030. The 2020 report has reviewed the performance of 193 UN Member States out of which 166 were ranked under SDG index 2020.

14. India's rank in the "INFORM Report 2020: Shared evidence for managing crises and disasters" released by research centre INFORM -- **31st**.

Note: The report ranked the countries based on "INFORM Risk Index" which has been topped by Somalia with an inform risk of 8.9. The report has analyzed 191 countries. Notably, this report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) on behalf of all INFORM Partners.

15. Under chairmanship of K S Reddy, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has set up an 11-member expert committee to study impact of Covid-19 on human rights of individuals.

Note: The expert panel would be headed by Dr K S Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India. The expert committee would assess the impact of Covid-19 on human rights of people, especially marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society, including migrant laborer.

16. Ministry of Home Affairs has set up an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate investigations related to three Nehru-Gandhi family linked trusts, including the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF).

Note: The committee would be headed by special director of the Enforcement Directorate. Congress president Sonia Gandhi is the chairperson of RGF and its board has among others former PM Manmohan Singh, Rahul Gandhi, P Chidambaram and Priyanka Gandhi.

17. Asia's Largest and World's Second Largest Uptime Tier IV Designed Data Centre was inaugurated in **Navi Mumbai**.

Note: The Data Centre is named 'Yotta NM1 or NM1' is located inside the 600-Acre Hiranandani Fortune City at Navi Mumbai's Panvel region. Inside the Hiranandani Fortune City, a Data Centre Park named Panvel Data Centre Park or Integrated Yotta Data Centre Park has been developed, NM1 is located inside the Panvel Data Centre Park.

18. India's rank in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRET) 2020 released by the US-based Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL) -- **34th**.

Note: The Index was released by the United States-based property and investment management services firm- Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated



(JLL). GRETI was first released in the year 1999. This year marked the 11th edition of GRETI. A total of 163 cities and 99 countries have been covered in the 11th edition of GRETI.

19. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **SEBI** to exchange data between them.

Note: The MoU will facilitate the sharing of data and information between SEBI and CBDT on an automatic and regular basis. In addition to regular exchange of data, SEBI and CBDT will also exchange with each other, on request and suo moto basis, any information available in their respective databases, for the purpose of carrying out their functions under various laws.

20. What is the budget outlay of the Central Sector Scheme "Agriculture Infrastructure Fund" which was approved by the Union Cabinet -- **Rs 1 lakh crore.**

Note: The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. Loans will be disbursed in four years starting with sanction of Rs. 10,000 crore in the current year and Rs. 30,000 crore each in next three financial years.

21. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has joined hands with **Microsoft India Private Limited** company to enhance the digital skills of the country's youth.

Note: The partnership with NSDC is an extension of Microsoft's Global Skilling Initiative. Under this, the company is teaching new digital skills to 25 million people all over the world, which is needed in the coronavirus (Covid-19) economy. The integration between the two firms will give the youth a chance to redefine their skills for the digital economy.

22. Under chairmanship of **Suresh Mathur**, the IRDAI has formed a 9- member working group to look into the possibility of setting up 'Pandemic Risk Pool'.

Note: Suresh Mathur, Executive Director, Irdai, will be the Chairman for the 9-member working group with industry representatives as members. Apart from studying the need for such as pool, the group will also recommend the structure and operating model.

23. Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) scheme is a sub-scheme under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY).**

Note: Under this existing vacant government-funded housing complexes across key cities will be converted into ARHCs, and offered to concessionaires for 25 years to rent out the units to urban poor and migrant workers. State and civic bodies will select concessionaire through bidding,

according to guidelines issued by the housing and urban development ministry.

24. IIT Hyderabad has tie-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India's 1st 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC).

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

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

Note: The first set of five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur published under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was recently presented to the Government of Mongolia. Mongolian Kanjur, the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia. In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.

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

Note: As many as 10-15 startups with leading-edge solutions in mobility, energy, agriculture, aerospace, manufacturing, consumer, healthtech, medtech, smart cities and logistics and supply chain sectors will be shortlisted. The call for application for the program will commence in July 2020. Startups will be shortlisted from hundreds of applications after an extensive screening process.

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

Note: The committee strongly recommends that the proposed Non-Personal Data Governance Framework becomes the basis of a new legislation for regulating non-personal data. The committee was set up last year the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY).

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

Note: The HLPF is the foremost international platform for follow-up and review of progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, presented the VNR.

29. BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding with **IIT Alumni Council** to



encourage listing of start-ups and develop 'high investor depth' in its start-ups platform.

Note: The alliance will ensure entity transparency, improvement in governance, market discovery of share price, provide liquidity for private equity investors and enable retail participation. IIT Alumni Council is the largest global body of alumni, students and faculty across all the 23 IITs with over 100 city chapters globally.

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

Note: All routes on Broad Gauge (BG) network have been planned to be electrified by December Indian Railways has also taken a number of initiatives to promote solar energy. Indian Railways is working to harness the potential of 500 Mega Watt (MW) energy through rooftop Solar panels (Developer model). Already awarded for 245 MW and target for completion of these plants is December 2022.

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

Note: India's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely "Anji Khad Bridge" being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) is all set to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which passes through the Young Himalayas.

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

Note: It was called side event of 2020 High-level Political forum – "On the road to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021: Highlighting health and nutritional benefits through sustainable production and consumption of fruits and vegetables".

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

Note: As AAI will act as the development partner, it will assist BEL in its domain of expertise to enable execution of the MEA projects outside India by BEL. The MoU is likely to boost the civil aviation industry. The Organisations will work in cooperation with each other in the civil aviation sector, in present and future projects handled by BEL.

34. GMR International Airport, Hyderabad introduced India's first ever fully contactless airport car parking.

Note: The NETC FASTag Car Park is a part of the "One Nation One Tag" – NETC FASTag programme of Indian Government. The GMR airport introduced the first ever National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) FASTag Car Park in India in November 2019.

35. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (HCG) by **Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso)**.

Note: CCI has approved acquisition under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. Aceso Company Pte. Ltd. (Aceso) is an entity which forms part of the CVC Network. The CVC Network consists of three entities which are privately owned and offers investment advice to and / or managing investments on behalf of certain investment funds as well as platforms.

36. Shripad Yesso Naik has inaugurated the 5th edition of the conference on "Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies".

Note: Tamil Nadu Technology Development & Promotion Centre (TNTDPC) jointly organised the conference with Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

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

Note: India's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely "Anji Khad Bridge" being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) is all set to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which passes through the Young Himalayas.

38. According to the special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18, released by the Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS) the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India has declined to **113**.

Note: One of the key indicators of maternal mortality is the MMR, defined as the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births. The target 3.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the United Nations aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births.

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

Note: The value of two ships is Rs 125 crore, the cost does not include the value for two optional



ships. The vessels are designed by Naval Dynamics Norway, using Kongsberg Maritime systems, with detailed engineering to be carried out by CSL. They will be built under DNV GL Classification and flagged in Norway.

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

Note: It is a part of the Cochin Port in Kochi, Kerala. It is located on Vallarpadam Island. The Kochi International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT), is known as the Vallarpadam

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

Note: The PPE kit includes Gloves, Coverall, Face Shield, Goggles and Triple Layer Medical masks in line with International Standards. It is another achievement of CIPET in the fight against COVID-19 Pandemic and a step forward towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.

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

Note: According to the railway ministry's projections, the transporter will select the companies that will run the private trains by April 2021. The first 12 are expected to start plying by 2023-24, followed by 45 more in FY 2024-25, the next 50 in FY 2025-26 and the last 44 by 2026-27.

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

Note: The Mobile Application, KURMA, was launched on 23rd May this year on the occasion of World Turtle Day. The citizen science initiative aims at conservation of turtles and tortoises. The mobile application has been developed by the Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN) in collaboration with the Turtle Survival Alliance-India and Wildlife Conservation Society-India.

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

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

45. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence

(AI) course for class XI and XII was developed in collaboration with tech giant **IBM**.

Note: The curriculum was developed in collaboration with IBM (International Business Machines Corporation). The IBM AI curriculum is a part of CBSE's Social Empowerment through Work Education and Action (SEWA) program.

46. India's rank in the Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020 – **3rd**.

Note: The annual Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report was released by the US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield, to rank the most suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in Europe, Americas, and the Asia-Pacific.

47. Name the biopharmaceutical company that announced a global collaboration agreement with Voluntis to develop and distribute digital therapeutics supporting people with diabetes on biologics therapy -- **Biocon Biologics**.

Note: Voluntis, based out of Boston and Paris, creates digital therapeutics that allow people suffering from chronic conditions to manage their treatment on their own every day. Insulia provides automated insulin dose recommendations enabling people with diabetes to self-manage their condition and healthcare teams to remotely monitor progress.

48. **RK Singh** inaugurated India's first public Electric Vehicle charging plaza in New Delhi.

Note: The EV charging plaza is a new avenue for making e-mobility ubiquitous and convenient in India. EESL is spearheading the EV ecosystem development in India by undertaking demand aggregation for procuring EVs and identifying innovative business models for implementation of Public Charging Station.

49. **Manodarpan** initiative has been launched by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health.

Note: The initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health and well-being. Named as 'MANODARPAN' the initiative is covering a wide range of activities to provide Psychosocial Support to students for their Mental Health & Well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond.

50. The acquisition wing of **Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract with **Bharat Earth Movers Limited, BEML** for procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough for Tank T-90 S/SK.

Note: The contract has Buy and Make (Indian) categorisation with a minimum of 50 per cent indigenous content in make portion of the contract. These mine ploughs will be fitted on T-90 Tanks of Indian Armoured Corps which will facilitate



individual mobility to Tanks while negotiating mine field.

51. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have partnered with **UNICEF** to strengthen the youth volunteers in the country to achieve Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Note: The GoI has signed a statement with YuWaah of UNICEF. It is a multi-stake holder platform formed by UNICEF. The YuWaah initiative was launched by UNICEF in India in November 2019. The initiative promotes access to foundational and 21st century skills for youth inside and outside formal education system. This includes life skills, foundational skills, flexible learning and scaling impactful delivery models.

52. India began its trial trans-shipment of goods from India to the North East through **Chittagong, Bangladesh** port.

Note: India and Bangladesh signed an agreement to transit goods to north east via ports of Bangladesh. Indian transshipment goods will enjoy a stay of 28-day free-stay at the ports of Bangladesh according to international transshipment agreement.

53. US based Zoom Video Communications announced to open a new technology center in **Bengaluru**.

Note: U.S.-headquartered Zoom Video Communications announced opening of a new technology center in Bengaluru, India. It selected Bangalore as the location for the centre because of the exceptional engineering and I.T. talent.

54. Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant-3 has reached its criticality; the plant is located in **Gujarat**.

Note: This indigenously designed 700 MWe KAPP-3 reactor is a shining example of Make in India. The Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant began its commercial nuclear power production in 1993. In 2015, two of its units were shut down due to coolant leaks. Later, in 2018 the power plant reached partial criticality. The leaks were due to corrosion and cracks.

55. Actor **Sonu Sood** has launched an application "Pravasi Rojgar" for migrant worker to find right job opportunities.

Note: The application provides all necessary information to find jobs and offer specific job training programmes. The application "Pravasi Rojgar" will act as a platform for the workers to find right job opportunities.

56. International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) published the Global Rights Index 2020 according to which India became the new entrant in the 10 worst countries for working people in the world.

Note: The others include Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, Kazakhstan, the

Philippines, Turkey and Zimbabwe. The Middle East and North Africa is the worst region in the world for working people for seven years running due to the ongoing insecurity and conflict in Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Libya coupled with the most regressive region for workers' representation and union rights.

57. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product to be effective from **1st December 2020**.

Note: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs by making an amendment in the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008 vide GSR 458 (E) dated 21st July, 2020 "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Third Amendment Rules, 2020". The amended Rules will be applicable w.e.f. 1st December, 2020.

58. Acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited (KPCL) by **Adani Group** has been the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Note: According to the proposed combination, Adani Ports will acquire equity shareholding along with management control of KPCL. Adani Ports is a customer-facing integrated port infrastructure services provider and manages the logistics chain.

59. AIIMS **Nagpur** has designed and developed a 'smart wristband' for effective tracking and monitoring of Covid-19 positive and suspect patients.

Note: The new device, a wristband is designed in collaboration with IIT Jodhpur and IIT Nagpur looks to overcome the limitations of existing online mobile apps used for tracking and monitoring coronavirus patients.

60. The Indian Navy's largest solar power plant has been commissioned at **Ezhimala, Kerala**.

Note: It is a 3 MW Solar Power Plant which has been set-up in line with the Indian Government's initiative of 'National Solar Mission' which aims to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022.

61. IT major **Wipro** will acquire Salesforce implementation partner 4C for 68 million euros.

Note: This is the company's second acquisition since Thierry Delaporte took over as chief executive officer earlier this month. Founded in 1997, 4C is an independent Salesforce Platinum Partner and it has deep capabilities across multiple Salesforce clouds including sales, marketing and field services.

62. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has entered into a partnership with **IIT, Delhi**.



for the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).

Note: Tribal entrepreneurs under TRIFED's Van Dhan Programme will now be able to get access to the expertise of the entire network of over 2,600 academic and research institutions under UBA.

63. Indian Institute of Management (IIM) **Kozhikode** has developed a wearable hand band Known as the "Veli Band" that helps in maintaining social distancing.

Note: The device has been developed by Qual5 India Pvt. Ltd, a startup co-founded by a woman entrepreneur, mentored and funded by IIMKs business incubator and entrepreneurship development centre. Veli Band helps implement social distancing and location/contact tracing which can help organisations comply with social distancing norms during the current pandemic situation.

64. Indian city **Hyderabad** ranked 16th among the list of top 20 cities with maximum number of CCTV surveillance cameras installed in a survey done on most surveilled cities in the world by the UK-based Comparitech.

Note: The UK-based Comparitech released the list of top 20 cities in the world which use CCTV cameras for surveillance of open places with an intent to detect and prevent crimes. According to the report, three lakh cameras were installed in Hyderabad to keep a watch on one crore people at the rate of 29.99 cameras per 1,000 people in the city.

65. The **Cotton Corporation of India** decided to setup set up its own warehouse in **Vietnam** to boost cotton exports.

Note: A memorandum of understanding is being worked out to export 1.5-2 million bales of cotton to Bangladesh while the state-run CCI will also set up its own warehouse in Vietnam to boost cotton exports.

66. Defence Ministers' Dialogue between India and Indonesia was held in **New Delhi**.

Note: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the Indian delegation while the Indonesian delegation was led by their Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto. The dignitary is in India for strengthening the ties between the two maritime neighbors. This is in consonance with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two sides.

67. Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App "BIS-Care" has been launched using which the

authenticity of ISI-marked and hallmarked products can be checked, BIS is working under **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**.

Note: The mobile app 'BIS-Care', operational in Hindi and English languages, can be operated on any Android phone. Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan also launched three portals of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on standardisation, conformity assessment and training, which consumers and stakeholders can login through www.manakonline.in.

68. On the occasion of "World Hepatitis Day" the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) has organised "2nd Empathy e-Conclave" in collaboration with **Airport Authority of India (AAI)**.

Note: The conclave was held on the occasion of "World Hepatitis Day". The theme of 2nd Empathy e-Conclave is "Keep your Liver Safe in COVID times".

69. As per the update report on India's Tiger Survey from 2018, released by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest number of tigers.

Note: India has 2,967 tigers, a third more than in 2014, according to results of a census made public on July 29 last year. The present survey is a more granular estimate of these numbers.

70. The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed an agreement with **IIT Kanpur** to provide training, research and Entrepreneurship Development (ED) in Smart grid technology.

Note: PFC will provide support to the IIT-Kanpur to develop the infrastructure of the research and development on smart grid technology. The PFC will provide financial assistance of Rs. 2.38 crore to the IIT-K under its CSR initiative. The IIT-K provides training in smart grid technology to 90 participants

71. Ministry of Earth Sciences has launched a Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet)" under the Digital India initiative of Government of India.

Note: These KRCs will be linked with each other and integrated into the KRCNet portal. This portal would be a single point entry to the intellectual world of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). With the launch of KRCNet, MoES aims to set up a Total Quality Management (TQM) system by securing ISO certification for documenting MoES

June

1.

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a video blogging competition my 'My Life, My Yoga' which is

a joint by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and **Ministry of AYUSH**.



Note: The 'My Life, My Yoga' contest (also called 'Jeevan Yoga') is a joint effort by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). It focuses on the transformative impact of Yoga on the lives of individuals and it comes as one of the activities related to the observation of the sixth International Day of Yoga (IDY) coming up on June 21.

2. Union Ministry of Labour and Employment in partnership with TCS iON offers free online career skills training through the National Career Service (NCS) project.

Note: The Ministry of Labour announced that around 1 crore job seekers and 54000 employers have registered with this portal and the NCS portal has mobilized more than 73 lakh vacancies. In the period of lockdown due to COVID-19 the NCS has conducted around 76 online Job fairs to reduce the gap between the employers and job seekers. NCS in partnership with HireMee, online assessment and hiring service provider, offers creation of video profiles for job-seekers.

3. India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) comes under the purview of **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.**

Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Arun Singh as chief executive officer of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Singh is special secretary, department of health and family welfare.

4. The Union Govt has announced Minimum Support Price List in which how many Minor Forest produce have been included **23.**

Note: Tribal Affairs has notified an Inclusion of 23 additional Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items and stipulation of their Minimum Support Price (MSP). This announcement was made under Central government-sponsored Scheme (2011) titled "Mechanism for Marketing of MFP through MSP and development of value chain of MFP".

5. CHAMPIONS platform has been launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help the smaller MSMEs by solving their grievances, encouraging and supporting them to march into the big league as national and global companies.

Note: The portal aims to make smaller units big by supporting them, encouraging, solving their grievances, helping and handholding. It will act as one-stop shop solution of all entities of the MSME sector.

6. PM-SAVNidhi has been launched by the union government for to provide affordable loans to street vendors.

Note: The PM SVANidhi or PM Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi is a credit facility scheme that will help more than 50 lakh urban and rural street vendors. The scheme will help the street vendors restart their livelihoods. Under the scheme, Rs 10,000 of credit is to be provided to street vendors. The street vendors shall return the amount as monthly installments within a year.

7. DRDO has developed a disinfection unit called Ultra Swachh.

Note: The Ultra Swachh Unit houses a catalytic converter that makes it environment friendly. It also holds several safety features such as door interlocks, emergency shut down, delay cycle, dual doors, leak monitors, etc. The system complies to International Standards of Industrial, Personal, Occupations and Environmental Safety.

8. Indian Energy Exchange has launched Real Time Electricity Market (RTM) to help discoms plan their power requirements.

Note: The market will conduct 48 auction sessions during the day and the power will be delivered within one hour of closure of the bid session. The market, thus, will help distribution companies manage their power demand-supply variation. It will also help meet power supply needs in a better way.

9. The Government has announced that it is to provide Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to 1.5 crore **Dairy Farmers.**

Note: The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the Department of Financial Services has issued KCC application format to all State Milk Federation and Milk Unions for implementing the same on a mission mode. The campaign aims to provide KCC to 1.5 crore dairy farmers. The campaign is a part of the PM's Atma Nirbhar Bharat package for Farmers.

10. "Responsible AI for Youth" which will be run jointly by National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and **NASSCOM.**

Note: Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology (IT), Law and Justice and Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad launched India's National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Portal called www.ai.gov.in. He also launched a National Program for the youth, "Responsible AI for Youth" during the occasion of the first anniversary of the second tenure of the government.

11. NASSCOM has provide an end-to-end coronavirus tracking platform for Karnataka, called the Karnataka Listening Dashboard for COVID-19.

Note: As part of the launch, NASSCOM has provided the 1st set of dashboards to state government's use and will add more soon. The analytics-driven platform is to assist state governments in sustainable industry recovery &



helps them make informed decisions to reopen their economies in a phased manner across the state.

12. The Expert Committee on Rationalization of Film Media has submitted its report recently, the committee is operating under **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**

Note: The committee has suggested for an umbrella configuration with four broad verticals under which the institutes should work. This includes festival, production, heritage and knowledge. The verticals are to be headed by the professionals. The committee was headed by Bimal Julka.

13. Nisarga has been given to the fast-moving depression in the Arabian Sea which intensified into a severe cyclone.

Note: As per the India Meteorological Department, the impact of the cyclone is likely to be felt in Maharashtra and Gujarat. There is a concern about the impact of the cyclonic storm on the battle against Covid-19, as the rain and flooding may set back social distancing and other necessary measures at evacuation centres, and even at some Covid-19 facilities located in low-lying areas.

14. The expert panel constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under Ishaat Hussain has recommended to allow **Non-profit Organizations.**

Note: Allowing non-profit organisations to directly list through issuance of bonds in the form of zero coupon or zero principal bonds. Zero-coupon bond is a debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, drawing a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value. This would help to access funds from donors, philanthropic foundations and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spenders as they will be encouraged to buy zero coupon bonds.

15. 25% percent of incentive has been announced on capital expenditure in the recently launched "Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECES)" scheme.

Note: The schemes were approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2020. The Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECES) will provide incentive of 25% on the capital expenditure. This is extended to certain identified lists such as semiconductor devices, electronic goods, display fabrication units, etc.

16. To foster the inclusion of LGBTQAI+ employees of **Mahindra Logistics Ltd.** has launched a five-year plan which aims at hiring queer people and extending benefits to same-sex partners.

Note: The company's definition of compassionate leave — which can be availed for four days by an

employee in case of death of an immediate family member — will be extended to same-sex partners, under the new policy. To make the workplace more inclusive for queer employees, MLL will offer LGBTQAI+ staff counselling services on request, for them and three immediate family members, which includes their partner.

17. The union cabinet has approved to re-establish the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy as Subordinate Office under **Ministry of AYUSH.**

Note: The commission has been set up by merging Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine and Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory. The two central laboratories were established at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh in 1975. The commission is an autonomous body that operates under Ministry of AYUSH. It is in operation since 2010

18. TULIP programme has been launched by the union government to provide internship opportunities to thousands of fresh graduates and engineers of the country under the 'Smart City' projects.

Note: The TULIP portal has been developed by AICTE. Under the internship programme students will get to work for 100 smart cities under ministry of housing and urban development.

19. SWADESH initiative has been launched by the Government of India to map the skills of workers returning to India from overseas under the 'Vande Bharat Mission'.

Note: The full form of SWADESH is "Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support". The exercise, kick-started under the Vande Bharat Mission, aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience, which can be tapped into to fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies.

20. Nagar Van scheme has been launched by the government to develop urban forests across the country.

Note: Stressing on the substance theme of "Biodiversity" by the United Nation's Environment Programme (UNEP), The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change celebrated the day by announcing the initiative of urban forests in India. Urban forest are seemingly the best way to bridge the gap of climate change.

21. Researchers at **IIT Hyderabad** have developed a low cost and Artificial Intelligence-based test kit for COVID-19.

Note: These kits can give results in about 20 minutes. The test kits have already been tried at the ESIC hospital and the results are encouraging. The test kits are Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain



Reaction (RT-PCR)-free and get rid of many processes.

22. Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati has developed an artificial intelligence-based computer diagnosis framework for rapid and accurate diagnosis of oral cancers.

Note: The framework developed by the research group at the Central Computational and Numerical Sciences Division, IASST led by Dr. Lipi B Mahanta, will also help grading of oral squamous cell carcinoma. An indigenous dataset was developed by the scientists through collaborations to make for the unavailability of any benchmark oral cancer dataset for the study.

23. ARCI, Hyderabad institution developed a rare-earth-based magnetocaloric material that can be effectively used for cancer treatment.

Note: A magnetocaloric materials is a substance in which application and removal of a magnetic field causes the materials to become warmer or cooler. A paper on the research work has been published in the Journal of Alloys and Compounds. ARCI is an autonomous R&D Centre of Department of Science and Technology (DST).

24. India's rank in the recently released 12th edition of the biennial Environment Performance Index (EPI Index 2020) released by the Yale University -- **168th**.

Note: The Yale University recently released the biennial Environment Performance Index. In 2018, India scored 27.6 out of 100 and secured 177th rank. Around 32 indicators were considered to create the ranking.

25. Jaya Jaitly will chair the task force constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI to work on the issues of women and child development.

Note: The task force will examine the matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues. The Task Force will be provided secretarial assistance by the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and will submit its report by 31st July, 2020.

26. The ISRO has signed an agreement with **Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)** for cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and Astrophysics.

Note: The main objective of the MoU is to shield the Indian Space assets from the space debris's conjunction threats and R&D of Astrophysics, solar sciences and space environment are the base for future space exploration projects and the key to progress in the Indian Space sector.

27. CSIR institution has signed a letter of intent (LoI) with the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to promote innovation in the country.

Note: The main focus of the agreement is supporting world class start-ups through CSIR Incubators under AIM initiatives and jointly work on new models of innovation, including setting up of CSIR Innovation Parks

28. Adani Green Energy Limited has won one of world's largest solar contract from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop 8 GW of solar projects.

Note: Based on the award agreement the 8 GW of solar development projects will be implemented over the next five years. The first 2 GW of generation capacity will come online by 2022 and the subsequent 6 GW capacity will be added in 2 GW annual increments through 2025.

29. Digital learning platform **TCS iON** has partnered with the NSDC to provide its training partners access to the Digital Class Room.

Note: The partnership will strengthen NSDC's online content aggregation platform-- eSkill India--through which it enables e-learning amongst skill seekers and will contribute towards strengthening the Skill India mission.

30. Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed Nano-Technology based disinfectant spray ANANYA to fight against COVID-19.

Note: The spray has been prepared based on Nano-Technology assisted formulation. It will not only stop COVID-19 from entering the body but will also kill the virus that comes in direct contact.

31. IIT Bombay maintains its position as the top institution in India in the QS World University rankings 2021 released recently.

Note: IIT-Bombay still maintains its position as the top institution in India in the QS rankings, but has slipped 20 places from 152 to 172 in the global list. IISc overtook IIT Delhi to make it to the second place, but still dropped a rank to 185. IIT Delhi fell more than 10 places in the rankings to 193 rank, while IIT Madras is at 275. Both IIT Kharagpur and IIT Kanpur crashed out of the top 300.

32. A Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex was inaugurated in **Vishakhapatnam**.

Note: Equipped with the state-of-the-art facilities, the complex is designed to accommodate the newly inducted submarine rescue system and store the DSRV assets in the rescue-ready state. The DSRV system consists of a submarine rescue vessel, a remote operations vehicle and side scan sonar and associated equipment.



33. IIT-BHU has developed an anti-microbial five-layered face mask that can annihilate pathogenic microorganisms.

Note: This face mask can annihilate pathogenic microorganisms that are stuck to its outer surface and thereby limit the spread of secondary infections. The mask that is available in the market currently acts as a filter to stop the entry of microbes to oral and nasal airways but does not have any effect on the microbe stuck to the mask surface.

34. The Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) has allocated Rs. 4000 crores to the state governments for the year 2020-21 for implementing **Per Drop More Crop**.

Note: For further allotment of funds, State Governments have identified the beneficiaries to be covered under the programme. This scheme was formulated on July 1, 2015 with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore in five years for extending the water coverage for irrigation under focusing "Har Khet ko pani" and improving water use efficiency aiming at "More crop per drop".

35. The National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) Nangal**.

Note: Under the MoU, ITI's 12 trades will be taught in the NFL & the theory will be studied at ITI Nangal. The MoU was exchanged between Ms Renu R P Singh DGM (HR) I/c, NFL Nangal unit and Sh Lalit Mohan, Principal of ITI, Nangal.

36. Infosys has announced to launch of 'Summer of Ideas' initiative for university students worldwide, an online learning programme.

Note: The global eight-week ideathon, powered by Infosys' digital learning platform Wingspan, will help the global student and academic community overcome the loss of learning opportunities as a result of the disruption caused by COVID-19. The initiative will allow students access to Infosys mentorship and specially curated learning materials virtually.

37. India's rank in the recently compiled by Nature Research, a division of the international scientific publishing company 'Springer Nature' -- **12th**.

Note: The top five positions have gone to the United States of America, China, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan. The Nature Index is a database of author affiliation information collated from research articles published in an independently selected group of 82 high-quality science journals.

38. As per the "26th Annual Cost of Living Survey 2020" released by Mercer Indian city **Mumbai** is the most expensive city in India.

Note: Mercer released its 26th Annual Cost of Living Survey 2020. From India, Mumbai city has

been ranked 60th most expensive city globally and also 19th in Asia.

39. IIT Bombay has emerged as the top institutions in the list of 'overall ranking' category in the 5th NIRF Ranking 2020.

Note: The rankings are being announced for India's best universities and institutions in 10 categories namely- Overall, Universities, Engineering, Colleges, Management, Pharmacy, Medical, Dental Architecture, and Law.

40. Name the AI enabled robot launched by Indian Railway to intensify the screening and surveillance of railway passengers and railway staff -- **ARJUN**.

Note: The full form of ARJUN is 'Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice'. This innovation will help Indian Railways to modernise its security measures at the time of covid-19.

41. Name the National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies -- **AarogyaPath**.

Note: This national healthcare supply chain portal will remove supply chain bottlenecks during the Covid-19 pandemic. The vision of this initiative is to set up an information management and forecasting database platform at national level.

42. DRDO has developed a sanitizing chamber named 'GermiKlean' to sanitise uniforms of security forces.

Note: DRDO's move came after Delhi Police gave their requirement for sanitizing their uniforms, canes, cane shields, helmets. This chamber is designed to sanitise 25 pairs of uniforms within 15 minutes. The sanitizing chamber has been set up at Parliament Street Police Station.

43. Construction company **NHAI** has become the first of its kind in the construction sector to go fully digital.

Note: With the launch of cloud-based and artificial intelligence-powered big data analytics platform Data Lake and Project Management Software, the entire project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to the online portal based. All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through the portal only.

44. IIT Kharagpur has developed an Artificial Intelligence-based cyber-physical system to monitor social distancing in public places.

Note: The device will play a proximity alert sound through audio output, whenever any violation will occur. It captures images of the field view and computes the distance as per criteria set by the government.

45. An Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS) has been launched for **Mumbai**.



Note: Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods. The system was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

46. According to "Poonam Avlokkan" survey the population of the Asiatic lion at the Gir sanctuary grew by approximately **29 per cent**.

Note: The Gujarat Forest Department has recently announced that the number of Asiatic lions in the state has gone up till 674 from 523 that were reported in a Lion Census done five years ago. Which shows almost 29 per cent increase in the population.

47. The 40th GST council meet was held recently virtually, who is the chairperson of the GST council - **Union Finance Minister**.

Note: Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the virtual 40th GST Council Meeting. The key outcome of this meet was further relief on late fee and interest payable on late payments as a part of compliance burden of businesses. This was the first meeting after COVID-19 breakout in India.

48. Uday Kotak will chair the advisory committee formed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation process.

Note: The new 14-member committee, formed in August 2017, will be chaired by Uday Kotak, the Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank. It will suggest and provide professional support on a request from the IBBI or on its own volition on any matter with respect to the Corporate Insolvency resolution and liquidation dealt with by the Board under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.

49. Construction company **NHAI** has become the first of its kind in the construction sector to go fully digital.

Note: With the launch of cloud-based and artificial intelligence-powered big data analytics platform Data Lake and Project Management Software, the entire project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to the online portal based. All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through the portal only.

50. IIT Kharagpur has developed an Artificial Intelligence-based cyber-physical system to monitor social distancing in public places.

Note: The device will play a proximity alert sound through audio output, whenever any violation will occur. It captures images of the field view and computes the distance as per criteria set by the

government. The system has been successfully tested by installing three prototypes of the device within the IIT-Kharagpur campus

51. GermiBAN device launched by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy that kills viruses & other germs by sterilising, sanitising & disinfecting in large areas.

Note: The device has been developed by Atal Incubation Centre & Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP) Women Entrepreneurs (WE) HUB. The recently launched device has the capability of killing 99.9% of surface and air microbes.

52. India's rank in the annual World Competitiveness Index 2020 compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD) --- **43rd**.

Note: In 2019, India was at the 43rd ranking. Since 1989, India had ranked 41st in the World Competitiveness Ranking. However, it slipped to 45th rank in 2017 and secured 44th in 2018.

53. According to the SIPRI Yearbook 2020, India's position as nuclear weapons holder in the world -- **6th**.

Note: However, India's overall possession of nuclear weapons is less than half of Beijing's and also slightly lower than what Pakistan possesses. The number of nuclear warheads in the Indian arsenal pegged at 150 in comparison to the 2019 report (on the basis of 2018) when India had 130-140. On the other hand, China's nuclear arsenal calculated at 320 as compared to 290 of SIPRI's 2019 report while Pakistan's nuclear arsenal remained constant at 160 in comparison to 2019's 150-160.

54. IIT Hyderabad has developed an Artificial Intelligence-powered COVID-19 test, which can be performed at an affordable cost.

Note: The test kit can produce results in around 20 minutes for symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. The test kit has already been field-tested at ESIC Medical College and Hospital in Hyderabad to ascertain its efficiency. It can be transported quickly, enabling the test to be conducted at the point-of-care.

55. Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS) has been launched for **Mumbai City**.

Note: Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods. The system was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The device will be very useful, especially if people need to be evacuated from low-lying areas.

56. Mumbai Municipal Corporation has launched a mobile application "Air-Venti" to provide information on ICU beds, ventilators.



Note: Octaware Technologies Limited, in partnership with Probitry Soft Pvt Ltd, has developed this mobile application for MCGM and therefore the data regarding the ICU beds and Ventilators vacant status. The mobile app 'Air-Venti' launched by the civic body in Mumbai aims to supply overall statistics of ICU beds and ventilators that are occupied and vacant in both govt and private hospitals besides location map, ability to contact hospital through telephonic call and email is additionally available.

57. Prime Minister Narendra Modi going to launch a massive rural public works scheme, Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan in **Six** states of India.

Note: The campaign aims to provide livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens. The campaign of 125 days will be implemented on mission mode. It will involve intensified and focused implementation of 25 different types of works to provide employment to the migrant workers and create infrastructure in the rural regions of the country. The scheme entails a resource envelope of 50 thousand crore rupees.

58. IT company **TCS** has partnered with IBM to co-develop to accelerate digital and cognitive enterprise transformation.

Note: As part of the tie up, TCS will establish an IBM Enterprise Cloud Architecture Unit, which will include technical professionals from both companies. TCS and IBM plan to co-develop solutions designed to help clients migrate workloads across applications, analytics, data estate and platforms.

59. Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)" has been inaugurated in **Ranchi**.

Note: The centre was inaugurated by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot, and Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda. This is the 21st Composite Regional Centre (CRC) which will serve to fulfil the needs of Persons with Disabilities in Jharkhand.

60. Amitabh Kant will lead the high-powered committee of top executives of technology companies formed by NITI Aayog to develop a job platform for migrant labours who lost their job during lock down.

Note: The committee will look into technology-based measures to address the issue related to migrant laborers. The platform, which will use technology with public and private participation, will connect job seekers, employers, overnment agencies, skill centers and external partners who are using new technology such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

61. India's first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform, "Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)" has been launched with headquartered in **New Delhi**.

Note: It has been launched on the lines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to provide clean, affordable, sustainable and equitable supply of energy to every citizen. Notably, IGX will work as a wholly owned subsidiary of the India Energy Exchange (IEX), which is India's energy market platform. IGX is headed by Rajiv Srivastava as its Director.

62. Two Indian Startups **Stellapps** and **Zestmoney** were featured in the List of Technology Pioneers of 2020, released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Note: The List includes the pioneers focusing on carbon capture, alternative meat, circular economies, food security and financial access. More than 25 industries in the list are led by females which is twice the industry average.

63. Indian Railways' Central Railway zone has installed 1st of its kind an Automated Ticket Checking & Managing Access (ATMA) machine at **Nagpur station**.

Note: The machine has been introduced at the station under the New, Innovative Non Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme (NINFRIS) policy to prevent transmission of COVID-19. This is an Innovative Earning Contract, implemented by Nagar (NGP) Central Railways (CR) for the prevention of COVID-19. ATMA ensures safety for passengers & railway staff as it adheres to social distancing norms.

64. FICCI has been managing the Indian Pavilion at Cannes Film Market 2020 on behalf of the GoI at Cannes.

Note: The e-inauguration of the Virtual India Pavilion at Cannes Film Market 2020 was done by Minister of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar. He also unveiled the booklet and poster of the 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which is scheduled to take place from November 20 to 28, 2020 in Goa.

65. chartered accountancy firm has been appointed to audit PM Cares Fund -- **SARC & Associates**.

Note: The appointment is significant because critics have questioned the rationale for a fund other than the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for relief work and have also sought more transparency about the usage of monies from the Fund.

66. Researchers at **IIT Bombay** has created a chip named 'Dhruva' that can be mounted in smartphones and navigation devices to find places and routes within the country.



Note: The radio frequency receiver chip was designed in 18 months by students and researchers at IIT Bombay. It can receive in multiple frequency bands and handle weak signals. Besides, it can be converted into digital bits and processed by any standard digital signal processor (DSP) to determine one's location precisely.

67. A Five-day Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene Expo was organized by industry bodies **FICCI**.

Note: The event is to create a self-reliant ecosystem in the Pharmaceuticals and Health & Hygiene Sector by ramping up domestic production. In our resolute fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, this sector has a greater significance.

68. For reducing the carbon dioxide emission caused due to transportation in the country, NITI Aayog will launch the project 'Decarbonising Transport in India' in collaboration with **International Transport Forum (ITF)**.

Note: India's Decarbonising Transport initiative is a part of the DTEE project. DTEE stands for Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies. DTEE is a project of ITF under which apart from India, currently Argentina, Morocco, and Azerbaijan are the participants.

69. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA)' via video conference from **Khagaria** district of Bihar.

Note: The outlay of this campaign is Rs 50,000 Crores and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is the nodal Ministry for its implementation. GKRA, the mission mode campaign of 125 days will cover 116 districts comprising more than 25,000 returnee migrant workers each across 6 states viz. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha.

70. Maharatna company **Coal India Limited** has entered into the partnership with NITI Aayog's flagship initiative Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), to actively support the key innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across India.

Note: The tie up will help the talented youth of our country to develop great innovations that have not developed or fallen short and thus enable them to have a AtmaNirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). This will also create employment at the local level in the coming years

71. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) India has partnered with **IIT Delhi** to support state and national governments in achieving food and nutrition security.

Note: The overall objective of this partnership is to use advanced analytics and operations research to develop practical solutions that support long term strategic planning of procurement, storage, and movement of food grains by agencies such as the

Food Corporation of India (FCI). It also focuses on to create cost-effective supply chain networks for distribution of food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at the state level.

72. What is the budget outlay for the recently approved Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) by the Union Cabinet -- **15,000 crore**.

Note: The aim of setting up AHIDF is to unlock private sector investments in the animal husbandry sector. Through the fund, Infrastructural developments will be promoted in dairy, animal feed, and meat processing plants. As per Government estimate, the fund will help in creating up to 35 lakh jobs across the country.

73. The Union Cabinet has approved the declaration of the Kushinagar Airport as an international airport, it is located in **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note: Kushinagar is a Buddhist pilgrimage town where Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana. The move will provide a much-needed boost to the tourism sector of the country in the post-COVID-19 world as International connectivity will increase number of foreign and as well as domestic tourists.

74. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved additional investment of USD 121.27 million by ONGC Videsh Ltd. in Shwe oil and gas project located in **Myanmar**.

Note: OVL, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), had picked up a stake in the Shwe Project in Myanmar in 2002. The firm has invested USD 722 million in the project till March 31, 2019. The first gas from the Shwe Project was received in July 2013 and plateau production was reached in December 2014.

75. Nitin Gadkari launched the scheme 'Distressed Assets Fund- Sub- Ordinate Debt for MSMEs' announced as part of AtmaNirbhar Bharat Package by GoI.

Note: The scheme is also called as Distressed Assets Fund- Sub- Ordinate Debt for MSMEs. This scheme was announced as a part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Package by Finance Minister.

76. As per the data released by the United States (US) Treasury Department what is India's position as a holder of US government securities -- **12th**.

Note: Notably, the holding touched a record high of \$177.5 billion in February, 2020 which was drastically reduced in March. The country with maximum exposure to US government securities is Japan at US\$1.266 trillion followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK) at the second and third positions, respectively at the end of April 2020.



77. Adani Power Ltd will acquire US-based The AES Corporation's 49 per cent equity stake in Odisha Power Generation Corporation.

Note: Adani Power Ltd (APL) has signed an agreement to acquire the 49% of stake (a total of 89,30,237 equity shares) in Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) from the affiliates of the US-based global energy company, AES Corporation (AES) for USD 135 million (around Rs 1,019 crore). The remaining 51% stake in OPGC is held by the Government of Odisha. The 49% stake includes the total issued, paid-up and subscribed equity share capital.

78. A behaviour change campaign named 'Navigating the New Normal' has been launched by NITI Aayog in partnership with **Melinda Gates Foundation**.

Note: As the country is now in an Unlock phase, the aim is to develop an appropriate COVID safe behavior in the country, such as by making people adapt to wearing masks as a part of their daily routine. Until a vaccine is developed, it is essential for the citizens of the country to adopt certain behavioral changes in their day to day life by practicing hand hygiene, wearing masks, etc.

79. As per the Annual Tuberculosis Report 2020 released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare what is the percentage rise in TB patient in 2019 – **14%.**

Note: It should be noted that the sustainable goal of eradicating TB globally is 2030, but the Indian government is committed to achieve this target in the country by 2025.

80. Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has become the 1st airport in India to get an indigenously developed Aviation Weather Monitoring System (AWMS) at both ends of the runway.

Note: The technology is developed by Bengaluru-based CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL). The AWMS sensor has been installed on a 10 meters mast which is a 1st of its kind, designed by NAL.

81. Two Indian Institutes IIT Ropar

and IIT Indore secured their ranks in the top 100 in the "THE Young University Rankings 2020" released by the Times Higher Education.

Note: The Times Higher Education (THE) released THE Young University Rankings 2020 for the universities which are 50 years old or younger. The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (Pune) and Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar ranked 101-150.

82. Ministry of Culture is celebrating the "Sankalp Parva" from 28th June to 12 July 2020.

Note: This initiative has been launched following the call of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to plant at least five trees either in Office campus or wherever it is possible in order to ensure clean and healthy environment of the country. Under the "Sankalp Parva" celebrations, Ministry of Culture expects its Subordinate Offices, Academies, Attached Institutions as well as Affiliated Institutions to plant trees in its campus or at the surroundings wherever it is possible.

83. The Government of India has signed an agreement with World Bank to provide affordable housing to the urban poor of **Tamil Nadu** state.

Note: The agreement signed has two projects under it- (i) Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program and (ii) Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project. The loans for both the project are from the lending arm of the World Bank Group the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

84. Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan virtually inaugurated Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service (QIS) in **Chandigarh**.

Note: The battery swapping technology provides the best alternative to slow charging and enables drivers to optimize the use of the operational hours. The model was initiated to target the commercial segment like electric autos, rickshaws, electric 2W and the electric vehicle, which is factory fitted or retrofitted.

Important News – State

November

1.

1. Uttar Pradesh state government has launched a special 10-day campaign to identify people suffering from tuberculosis (TB) in the state.

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make India TB-free by 2025. Under the door-to-door campaign, which will end on November 11,

health workers will reach out to 81 lakh people, identify those suffering from TB, screen them and help them avail treatment at no cost.

2. The foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for vegetables Protected Cultivation has been laid down in **Assam**.



Note: The centre will provide exposure to the latest Israeli technologies to the farmers of the state. It will help them in maximising their production. The centre is to provide a major boost to agricultural and horticultural production in Assam. The aim is to double farmers' income in the region through infusion of technology in agribusiness, agriculture and food processing.

3. Rajasthan is going to ink an MoU with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to establish 8000 MW Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park of in border area with Pakistan

Rajasthan.

Note: The state government will soon ink an MoU with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to establish Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park. The park to be set up near borders areas will be of 8,000 megawatts (MW) capacity, which will comprise 4,310 MW of wind energy; 3,760 MW of solar energy and 120 MW of power from biomass. Currently, Rajasthan's solar generation capacity is 4,883 MW.

4. India's first solar-powered miniature train launched in **Kerala**.

Note: The train is first of its kind in the country. The train, which would be an attraction for children especially, was part of a string of projects totally worth Rs 60 crore taken up to elevate the facilities at the panoramic destination to international standards.

5. Tamil Nadu state government has granted 100% motor vehicle tax exemption for Electric Vehicles.

Note: The State Government's order says after careful examination it has decided to grant 100 per cent tax exemption for all battery-operated transport and non-transport vehicles. The State has been taking various initiatives to boost the EV system in the state. Tamil Nadu is planning to set up the country's first park exclusively for the electric vehicle production eco-system.

6. Maharashtra state government has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth around Rs 35,000 crore with 15 companies to develop state as data and logistics hub in India.

Note: The MoU was signed by 10 Indian and 5 global companies at the 'Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0' investor meet in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The event was attended by the state's Chief Minister (CM) Uddhav Bal Thackeray. The MoUs were signed with the state-run Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) in the presence of Industries Minister Subhash Desai and Minister of State (MoS) for Industries Aditi Tatkare.

7. Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated the "Tourist Facilitation Centre" facility in **Kerala**.

Note: The facility has been constructed under the project "Development of Guruvayur, Kerala" under PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, at the cost of Rs. 11.57 Crores. The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) were launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15.

8. Tata Technologies has signed an agreement with **Karnataka** state government to modernise 150 state-run ITIs.

Note: The project cost includes investment from the state govt and also from the consortium of 20 companies led by Tata Technologies. The project is expected to bring qualitative improvements in the field of industrial training and education to create an enhanced learning environment for training youth.

9. Kerala state's tourism has been bestowed the coveted 'Highly Commended' Award by World Travel Mart London.

Note: Kerala tourism was recognised for its remarkable activities aimed at promoting Responsible Tourism (RT) during the challenging times of COVID-19 pandemic. Kerala's Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission received this recognition in the category of 'Meaningful Connections.' This is the 5th International Award for the Responsible Tourism Mission since its formation in 2017.

October

1.

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 Swayampurna 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.

September

1.

1. Madhya Pradesh government has launched 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo' campaign.

Note: During the campaign over 7 lakh, people took the oath to maintain cleanliness and eight lakh 70 thousand people were approached to make compost from wet waste. Four lakh 65 thousand masks were distributed with the help of citizens under the mask awareness campaign.

2. According to the J&K official languages Bill 2020, **Bhoti** is not an official of Jammu and Kashmir union territories.

Note: The J&K official languages Bill 2020 will be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming Monsoon Session. This bill will include Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri as official languages of the Union Territory. Bhoti is spoken in Ladakh region.

3. Odisha government has launched AMA SAHAR and SWACHHA SAHAR web app.

Note: With the launching of web app, the urban local bodies (ULBs) will be able to submit utilisation certificate online which will bring better fiscal management.

4. Under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Programme, Goa is paired with **Jharkhand**.

Note: Stalls of Jharkhand displayed delicacies from that state and Goans enjoyed savouring the same. Folk dances presented by Jharkhand artistes also were appreciated by Goan artistes. Later Goan artistes also visited Jharkhand and presented Goan folk dances.

5. Andhra Pradesh government has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) to set up a Bulk Drug Park (BDP).

Note: The objective of the MoU is to develop a collaborative partnership between the State government and CSIR-IICT to establish Bulk Drug Pharma park in the State. It seeks financial support from the Centre.

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

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

7. Uttar Pradesh is all set to create the Udyog Bandhu-like body for farmers to assist Farmer Producer organizations.

Note: Uttar Pradesh (UP) is all set to create a dedicated body, on the lines of Udyog Bandhu, to assist enterprising farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in investing in projects for post-harvest infrastructure management and community farming assets with the help of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) that the Centre had announced in August.

8. First ever Cannabis medicine project will be setup in **Jammu and Kashmir**.



Note: Cannabis Medicine Project will be set up in collaboration with Canada and Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu. It is the first major foreign investment in Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union Territory (UT).

9. Tamil Nadu state constituted a seven-member high-level committee to study the National Education Policy of the Centre and to make recommendations.

Note: Vice-Chancellors of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University K. Pitchumani; Alagappa University N. Rajendran; Madurai Kamaraj University M. Krishnan; and Thiruvalluvar University S. Thamarai Selvi are among the members in the panel.

10. Haryana government has launched Educational WhatsApp Chatbot "Apka Mitra" and Online Admission Platform for Undergraduate courses in government-aided and self-financed colleges for the new academic session 2020-21.

Note: 'Apka Mitra' is the first-of-its-kind educational WhatsApp Chatbot to resolve admission related queries of the students. Students can send a message on Whatsapp chatbot number 7419444449 to get information regarding admission & scholarship.

11. Andhra Pradesh government has launched Sampurna Poshana Yojana scheme for providing food to lactating mothers and pregnant women so as to fulfil their nutritional requirements.

Note: The scheme aims at providing food to lactating mothers and pregnant women so as to fulfil their nutritional requirements. The scheme will bring down malnutrition among the vulnerable section of state.

12. Delhi government has inaugurated an online portal for e-filing of consumers' complaints.

Note: Accessible via delhistatecommission.nic.in, the software has been developed by National Informatic Centre (NIC) in coordination with State Bank of India, which is providing payment gateway for payment of fees digitally. The Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DSCDRC) decided to launch the portal for the convenience of consumers especially due to the pandemic.

13. Assam government has launched Kitchen Garden to promote nutritious food, as part of the Poshan Maah.

Note: Kitchen Garden or Nutri garden will be set up at Anganwadi Centres and Government Primary Schools across the state. Poshan Maah is India's flagship programme, launched in March 2018 to improve the nutritional status of children up to 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

14. Tamil Nadu government has launched a portal for eye donation.

Note: He also pledged to donate his eyes as part of the National Eye Donation Fortnight. The portal will enable persons who wish to pledge to donate their eyes - www.hmis.tn.gov.in/eye-donor.

15. Karnataka Chief Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa inaugurated a flyover named after historic personality **Veer Savarkar**.

Note: The inauguration of the 400-metre long flyover built on Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road in the city. The Bengaluru's civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) built the flyover at the cost of Rs 34 crore.

16. Robotic Process Automation (RPA) software company, UiPath has partnered with **Andhra Pradesh** Skill Development Corporation to bridge the growing skill requirements.

Note: The programme is designed to bridge the growing skill requirements and build RPA resiliency in more than 50,000 students, in the next one year. In line with this, APSSDC will act as the regional center for all UiPath Academic Alliance activities in the State. To start off, UiPath will onboard 100 APSSDC institutes.

17. From which state country's second and South India's first "Kisan Train" was flagged off- **Andhra Pradesh**

Note: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy & Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar flagged off the train, via a video link from New Delhi and Amaravati. This train, loaded with 14 parcel vans, will cover a distance of 2,150 km in 40 hours.

18. An Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (IGRAMS) has been launched in **Jammu & Kashmir**.

Note: The system will replace the current portal launched by the government in 2018. This is the first UT that will be linked to the central government system—CPGRAMS.

19. Odisha state government has launched 'GARIMA' scheme to ensure the economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state.

Note: State Housing and Urban Development department will be the scheme's implementing agency in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha. The scheme will benefit around 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families.

20. India's largest piggery mission was launched at **Meghalaya**.

Note: With funding of Rs 200 crore, the mission will have a transformative effect benefitting over 20,000 enterprises in Meghalaya. The Meghalaya State



Piggery Mission was launched with the support of

NCDC.

August

1.

1. Madhya Pradesh state government has launched a public awareness campaign "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" from August 1-15.

Note: The Scheme will spread awareness about wearing masks as prevention from Covid-19 infection. Establishment of Mask Banks, where people can donate masks which in turn will be distributed free to poor people. Citizens can also donate masks through NGOs in every district/urban body.

2. Maharashtra government approved MagNet project worth Around Rs 1,000 crore to Help Farmers.

Note: The project aims to help farmers across all districts in the state for the next 6 years. This will boost the fruit and vegetable production and will improve processing and minimise the losses in the sector of perishables.

3. Andhra Pradesh state government has signed an MoU with Hindustan Unilever Ltd, P&G and ITC to Support Economic Empowerment of Women.

Note: The MoU was signed in the presence of Y S Jaganmohan Reddy at his camp office in Tadepalli. The state government of Andhra Pradesh is set to launch two schemes YSR Cheyutha and YSR Asara to support the empowerment of women.

4. Union territories Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu has launched E-Gyan Mitra mobile application for online education.

Note: Through the app, the students from primary till the higher secondary can take online classes along with attempting. The app will have lectures and quizzes posted by teachers along with a system of monitoring in which teachers can monitor students' progress

5. 'Thenzawl Golf Resort' project has been inaugurated in **Mizoram**.

Note: The project will develop Golf Tourism attracting both national and international tourist in the country. It will have an international standard of 18 holes Golf Course with a total cost of Rs 92.25 crore. Designed by: Canadian based Golf Course Architect Firm Graham Cooke & Associates and 30 Eco Log Huts.

6. 'E-Raksha Bandhan' awareness programme launched by Andhra Pradesh is related to **Cybercrime**.

Note: It is a month-long online campaign that will create awareness on Cyber crimes across the State with slogan 'Let us make August a month of e-freedom and e-safety. It will be organised by

various organisations including Crime Investigation Department (CID), FM Radio, Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC), Cyber Peace Foundation and other organisations.

7. Haryana state government has launched "Parivar Pehchan Patra" to enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes.

Note: This is to monitor each family (around 54 Lakh) living across Haryana. PPP each family will be considered as a single unit and will be allotted a 8 digit unique identification number. The 8-digit number will enable seamless delivery of state government services.

8. Andhra Pradesh state government has entered into an MoU with the Indian School of Business (ISB) for setting up a Policy lab to spur growth with special focus on economic development and job creation.

Note: The MOU will nurture a think tank by setting up a Policy lab called the GoAP-ISB Policy Lab, a public policy laboratory to drive evidence-based policy decisions.

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

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

10. Haryana state government has launched "Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana" to provide free sanitary napkins to girls and women of below poverty line (BPL) families.

Note: This scheme was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar through video conferencing. This scheme focusing on adolescent girls and women between 10 to 45 years of age of about 11,24,871 BPL families will provide a 6 piece packet of free sanitary napkins every month for a year.

11. Haryana state government has launched "Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana" to provide fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder to women and children.

Note: This scheme was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar through video



conferencing. This scheme was initiated under the aegis of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).

12. Chhattisgarh government has launched "Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangraha Samajik Suraksha Yojana" for tendu leaves collectors.

Note: Used for making bidis (leaf-wrapped cigarettes), these are collected by forest dwellers and from them it is purchased by the state government. Mahendra Karma was popularly known as Bastar tiger for his tough stand against Naxals. He was among 29 people, including senior Congress leaders, who were killed in a Naxal attack in Jhiram valley of Bastar district on May 25, 2013.

13. Maharashtra became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom.

Note: Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray announced the partnership with Google which will blend google's learning programmes that integrate the classroom approach with online learning, over a virtual launch event. The aim of the partnership is to progress Maharashtra in education with effective use of online resources, platforms and technology and to bridge the gap in education amid COVID-19 pandemic.

14. India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, Flipkart has signed an MoU with One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme of **Uttar Pradesh** government.

Note: The MoU will bring the artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme into the scope of the "Flipkart Samarth" initiative. This will provide artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme a momentum to expand their business online as they face social and economic challenges.

15. The Ministry of Railways has inaugurated a dedicated museum for railways in **Hubballi, Karnataka**.

Note: This is the first of its kind museum in Northern Karnataka and second in South Western Railways after the historic railway museum at Mysore, Karnataka. The main objective of the museum is to preserve and portray the glorious heritage of various branches of Railways and displays the gradual evolution of advanced systems in all spheres of Railway.

16. US Based IT Firm "Boston Group" has signed an MoU with **Andhra Pradesh** government to set up an IT company.

Note: The new IT company stated to be installed in the state according to the MoU is expected to create

250+ jobs in the IT sector. The employees of this centre would be deployed in the R&D on Learning platforms and leverage advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Cyber Security and Human Resources.

17. _Gujarat state government has launched Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana.

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

18. Goa state government has signed an MoU with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) for setting up a World-Class Skill Development Institute to provide Advanced Skills Training under "Skill India Mission".

Note: The institute is proposed to be set up at the heritage building of Old Asilo Hospital, Mapusa, North Goa. The institute will provide Advanced Skills training in highly specialized areas across sectors like healthcare, tourism and hospitality and other emerging business domains to meet industry demands.

19. Assam state government has started "Orunodoi Scheme" for women's empowerment.

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

20. Arunachal Pradesh government has formed a nine-member committee to discuss and arrive at a possible solution to the touchy issue of creation of two autonomous councils in the State.

Note: The panel headed by Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein has seven Cabinet colleagues, including Home Minister Bamang Felix and Tribal Affairs Minister Alo Libang, as members. The ninth member is Home Commissioner Kaling Tayeng.

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

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

22. Nagaland state government has launched "YellowChain" centralized e-commerce platform.

Note: Yellow Chain will act as an integrated platform for the people of the state, where any Seller/Service Provider/Individual/Group can



register themselves and upload their products, trades, skills, services etc. to enable the citizens/buyers to have access to their Service or Product.

23. Chhattisgarh state government has launched a student centric scheme named as "Padhai Tuhar Para".

Note: Chhattisgarh government has announced to launch a student centric scheme named as "Padhai Tuhar Para". The scheme will enable the school students to study with the help of community in their localities and villages, in view of the suspension of classes due to coronavirus outbreak.

24. Madhya Pradesh state top in implementing PM SVANidhi Scheme.

Note: Madhya Pradesh is the leading state in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma-Nirbhar Scheme (PM SVANidhi). The state has sanctioned interest free loans of Rs 10000 to more than 58000 street vendors, so far. Identity cards are distributed to the registered vendors.

25. Madhya Pradesh has launched the 'Ek Sankalp – Bujurgo ke naam' campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

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

26. Madhya Pradesh has launched the 'Ek Sankalp – Bujurgo ke naam' campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

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

27. Delhi state government has launched the Niraman Mazdoor Registration Abhiyan for construction workers from August 24 to September 11.

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

28. Uttar Pradesh government has signed a 'plan of cooperation' with **Israel** to resolve water crisis in Bundelkhand region.

Note: The partnership between the two governments seeks to address water crisis in drought hit regions of Bundelkhand. It will support regional farmers with latest farming technologies such as drip irrigation, meant for water deficient regions like Bundelkhand

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

Note: The application being developed through Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) will use command area of projects as geo-fencing region to forward the grievance to the authority concerned.

30. Maharashtra government has extended a ₹50 lakh insurance cover to private doctors who die of COVID-19.

Note: The Maharashtra government has extended ₹50 lakh insurance cover to private doctors who die of coronavirus infection during the pandemic. In a circular issued, director of state Health Services Dr Sadhana Tayde said the insurance cover, which is being given to doctors in government and semi-government services, has now been extended to private medical practitioners who succumb to the infection.

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

Note: The festival has been christened as Thumbimahotsavam 2020. 'Pantalu' is the official mascot of the festival. As part of the festival, various programmes will be rolled out in the coming months to reach out to various sections of society.

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

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

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

Note: The scheme will provide livelihood support to entrepreneurs, unemployed youth and interested progressive fish farmers and will also increase fish production in the state.

34. Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 45 highway projects in **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note: He also announced that Rs.700 crore from the Central Road Fund (CRF) will be utilised for the road sector of Madhya Pradesh. The aim was to complete projects worth Rs 50,000 crore out of Rs 1.25 lakh crore by 2023.

35. Haryana government has inked an MoU with the M3M Foundation to facilitate online preparation, training and mentoring for government jobs to students.



Note: Through this MoU, a program will be implemented to select 50,000 candidates for online training based on their past performance in government examinations in the state. Under the MoU, M3M Foundation will finance the initiative, identify, select and hire suitable students and undertake a periodic review of the implementation of the program.

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

Note: The IWTC seeks to accelerate the women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity. It will also offer a safe place away from home to women to

July

1.

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

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

2. Karnataka government has launched a portal, 'Skill Connect Forum' to connect job seekers and employers on a common platform.

Note: Job seekers can register on <https://skillconnect.kaushalkar.com> by uploading details of their educational qualification, skill sets and other details. Employers will also register on the portal. The portal matches the requirement and availability. The job seekers can search for jobs in different sectors and different regions within the state.

3. The UK India Business Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) with **Maharashtra** for Sustainable Business Relation.

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

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

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

start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.

37. Uttar Pradesh government has launched 'Major Dhyani Chand Vijaypath Yojana' scheme under which 19 International Players will get road connectivity to their homes.

Note: The initial list includes 19 International Players from the state, and later on more players are expected to be added to the list. The list includes Indian Cricketers Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Piyush Chawla and Mohammad Kaif.

5. World's largest, 10,000 bed Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH) was inaugurated in **Delhi**.

Note: SPCCCH is built on the campus of spiritual organization 'Radha Soami Satsang Beas'. SPCCCH is located in South Delhi's Chhatarpur area. SPCCCH is an air-conditioned facility that will be cooled by 18,000 tons of air-conditioners. To date, SPCCCH is the World's largest COVID-19 Treatment and Care facility.

6. Madhya Pradesh government has launched a social media campaign, 'Intzaar Aap Ka' to attract tourists in the state.

Note: The campaign will be conducted by describing the characteristics of the tourism destinations in Madhya Pradesh through photographs and videos. Through the campaign, the tourism board aims to establish the confidence back in the tourism sector by offering tour packages to the tourists that are specially designed by keeping in mind safe travel, stay, and excursion for prevention from COVID-19 infection

7. Odisha state government has launched 'Balaram Yojana' to provide crop loans to landless farmers.

Note: Under the new scheme, the landless cultivators will get loans through joint liability groups (JLGs). Under 'Balaram' scheme, the government has set a target to provide farm loans to 7 lakh landless farmers in the next two years.

8. Uttar Pradesh government has launched a mega plantation programme 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020'.

Note: The name of the mega plantation programme is 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020'. Yogi Adityanath planted 3 saplings at the Kukrail Reserve Forest's Harishankari Vatika in Lucknow to inaugurate the Mission Vriksharopan-2020. He planted saplings of a Banyan tree, Ficus Virens and Ficus Religiosa.

9. Haryana government has decided to bring an ordinance under which 75 percent of the jobs with a



salary of less than Rs 50,000 per month will be reserved for the locals of the state.

Note: In the month of June 2020, Haryana had the highest unemployment rate among all states in the country. The unemployment rate in June 2020 was 33.6 percent. The proposed draft Ordinance is named 'Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Ordinance 2020'.

10. 'Self Scan' mobile application has been launched by **West Bengal** government as an alternative for the much popular Chinese document scanning application- Cam Scanner.

Note: Following the ban of 59 Chinese mobile applications by the Central Government on 29th June 2020, the West Bengal State's Information Technology Department has developed a mobile application that will serve as a better alternative for the much popular Chinese document scanning application- Cam Scanner. The Chief Minister launched the 'Self Scan' mobile application that will be available free of cost at various application download platforms.

11. Maharashtra government has launched 'Maha Jobs' portal that will bridge the gap between the Industrial Units/Employers and the Workers.

Note: Anyone can access the portal by visiting- 'mahajobs.maharashtra.gov.in'. For registration in the Maha Jobs portal, a domicile certificate of the state of Maharashtra is compulsory for the workers. The portal will help in the resumption of business and industries in the state of Maharashtra, which will further help in recreating the economic cycle in the state that was disrupted due to the nationwide lockdown imposed against the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. Karnataka government has launched 'Nekar Samman Yojane' for the weaver's community in the state.

Note: The name of the scheme is 'Nekar Samman Yojane', which means Weaver Samman Yojana. For becoming a beneficiary of the scheme, silk, cotton, woolen and other handloom weavers in the state of Karnataka have to register themselves at the Seva Sindhu portal.

13. Odisha finance commission has recommended for Rs 23,848 crore for the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies over six financial year.

Note: These funds allocated will be for strengthening the ULBs and PRIs in the state financially so that various developmental projects and maintenance of existing assets can be taken up by these institutes and bodies.

14. Assam's Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is being upgraded to a National Park is located in which state of India.

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

15. e-Commerce marketplace Flipkart has signed an MoU with **Karnataka** state MSME and Mines department to promote the states arts, crafts and handloom sectors.

Note: The partnership under the Flipkart Samarth programme will enable local artisans, weavers and craftsmen of Karnataka to showcase their hallmark products to a pan-India customer base, the company said in a release. Both the Government of Karnataka and the Flipkart Group will focus on creating avenues to increase business and trade inclusion opportunities for these underserved segments of the society, thereby adding further thrust to Made in India efforts.

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

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

17. Maharashtra government will be setting up a stress relief fund of around ₹700 crore to ₹1,000 crore, in a bid to support developers undertaking Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) projects.

Note: The State government's contribution will be around ₹700 crore to ₹1,000 crore, while the State Bank of India's contribution will be bigger."

18. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has inaugurated five water supply projects worth Rs 48.39 crore.

Note: The five Water Supply projects located at different districts of Manipur were constructed with the total cost of 48.39 crore rupees having total capacity of more than 26.15 millions of liters per day. The New Development Bank has sanctioned 3,000 crore rupees to provide potable water to every household of the state and work orders for the projects have been issued.

19. Uttar Pradesh state government has approved the Startup Policy 2020.

Note: The validity of this policy is five years from the date of notification which is estimated to provide direct employment to more than 50,000 people and generate self -employment to around 1.5 lakh people. UP was anointed as the "Inspiring Leader" in the national startup ranking in 2018.



20. Madhya Pradesh government has launched 'Roko -Toko' campaign for those who do not wear masks.

Note: In Madhya Pradesh, the government will now run a Roko -Toko means stop and campaign for those who do not wear masks. As the Use of masks is mandatory in all public places in the state. Now selected voluntary organizations will provide masks to the people who do not wear masks in public places and will charge an amount of Rs 20 per mask from the concerned.

21. India's first e-Lok Adalat to ensure the administration of justice and to solve the financial crisis of the parties and lawyers amid COVID-19 pandemic was organized in **Chhattisgarh**.

Note: The high court Chief Justice P R Ramchandra Menon inaugurated the e-Lok Adalat through video conferencing. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute grievance mechanisms or a forum where pending cases or disputes in the court of law are settled or compromised whereas e-lok adalat will be handled virtually.

22. Jharkhand government has signed an MoU with HDFC Bank to provide digital payment solutions to the state's transport department.

Note: The Digital solution will enable the traffic police to equip themselves with Point of Sale (POS) machines to collect traffic-related penalties. The traffic rules violators can also use this online payment facility to pay a fine.

23. Madhya Pradesh state has topped among the other states in the implementation of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).

Note: The scheme is presently benefiting the beneficiaries of 378 urban bodies of the state. Till now 8,70,330 street vendors have registered under the scheme, out of which 1,76,000 street vendors have been issued the identity cards and vending certificates.

24. Telangana Govt. has launched 'CybHER', a month-long virtual awareness campaign to make cyberspace safe for women and children.

Note: The campaign is organized by WSW in collaboration with Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad. To tackle cyberattacks in the midst of social isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic by offering proactive measures to stay safe in the digital world. To create an interactive and informative platform for a healthy discussion on cyber safety

25. Poba Reserve Forest would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary in **Assam**.

Note: Assam Chief Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has announced, Poba Reserve Forest in Dhemaji district would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary. The announcement was made during a meeting with

senior officials of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Majuli districts at Jonai. Poba Reserve Forest declared in 1924 with an area of 10,522 hectares is home to a large number of flora and fauna.

26. Andhra Pradesh government has announced Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020, which permits the sale of power to the other states of India.

Note: Aim of the policy is to utilize the unused potential and to attract private investments to boost the economy and to generate additional revenue to the government. To implement the projects the New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of AP Limited (NREDCAP), will be the nodal agency under the new export policy 2020.

27. Uttar Pradesh government has launched "Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana" for all-round development of the Scheduled Castes.

Note: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched "Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana" for all-round development of the Scheduled Castes. The state government is extending financial help to make people self-dependent.

28. Delhi state government has approved 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana', which will be launched in six to seven months.

Note: It will be linked to Centre's 'one nation, one ration card' scheme. The scheme will help the beneficiaries get ration delivered at home. They will not have to come to the ration shops. The scheme is expected to benefit lakhs of people in the national capital through 2016 PDS shops.

29. Punjab government has approved a US \$285.71 million project for canal-based water supply for its two major cities under World Bank financing.

Note: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) would finance \$200 million (70%) and Punjab government \$85.71 million (30%) as per the proposal mooted by the local government department.

30. Punjab government has an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, in the area of skill development.

Note: The institute will help the state in developing a model ITI and a model polytechnic. The IIT to help the state in the manufacture of small devices for controlling water wastage in irrigation.

31. Chhattisgarh state government has launched "Godhan Nyay Yojna" for cattle ranchers.

Note: Under the 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' Chhattisgarh government will purchase cow dung at the rate of Rs 2 per kg. This scheme will turn cow dung into a profitable commodity.

32. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the ₹3,054-crore "Water Supply Project" in North Eastern state **Manipur**.



Note: The project outlay is Rs 3054.58 crore, with a loan component funded by the New Development Bank.

33. Mizoram becomes the first state in the country to implement the Green-Agriculture (Green-Ag) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Note: It was launched by Agriculture minister of Mizoram C Lalrinsanga. Mizoram is first among the 5 states where the project is to be implemented. The other states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

34. The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) signed a **memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with which state government to speed up the business and industrial development in **Gujarat**.

Note: Neelam Rani, Managing Director of iNDEXTb and Kevin McCole, Managing Director of UKIBC signed the MoU. The objective of the MoU is to enhance the business environment of Gujarat and to

strengthen the collaboration of British business in Gujarat.

35. Haryana government has employed the aerial seeding technique to improve green cover in the Aravalli area of the state.

Note: The project is being carried on a pilot basis to rejuvenate the low vegetation density of Aravalli and Shivalik hills. Using this method plantation on 100 acres is planned to be attempted during the pilot project.

36. Kerala government has announced a new Entrepreneurship Development Programme to address the issues of shortage of working capital.

Note: The programme will be implemented through the Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC), which will provide loans up to 90 percent of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs 50 lakh at 10 percent interest. The government will give 3% interest as subsidy thereby; the net interest rate will be 7%.

June

1.

1. Uttar Pradesh becomes the first state in the country to prepare one lakh beds for COVID-19 patients.

Note: The beds in the hospitals are classified into three categories- Level 1, level 2 and level 3. While level one and two beds are for patients exhibiting mild symptoms, level three beds are meant for graver infections. The hospitals catering to level one patients will have facilities for oxygen support, those catering to level two patients will have a few ventilators in addition to oxygen support.

2. Uttar Pradesh state government has signed an MoU with industry associations to create 10Lakh job for migrants.

Note: The State MSME Minister Sidharth Nath Singh signed the MoU with the Industries and Business Chambers to promote the MSME sector and provide employment for around 10 lakh skilled and semi skilled workers. The migrant workers will be supported with the motto of "work to every hand and Employment to every house"

3. Delhi government has launched a mobile application that will inform people in the state about the availability of the hospital beds and ventilators in the government and private hospitals.

Note: The Application mainly aims at providing real time information. The application will provide information related to availability of hospital beds and ventilators in the city. It is now available on Google Play.

4. Kerala becomes the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizen.

Note: It is to provide free internet access for the poor by December 2020 and become the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizen. It would be implemented by Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited and Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB).

5. Rajasthan state occupied the first rank in the COVID 19 Management Index analysed for 10 states by the Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI.

Note: Rajasthan has occupied first rank in the COVID-19 management index analysed for 10 States by the Central government which included parameter such as active cases, recovered cases, and mortality rate. Mortality rate in the state is 2.16%. Recovery rate is 67.59%

6. Jammu & Kashmir has launched a salary tracker mobile app 'MeraVetan' for government employees.

Note: With the launch of MeraVetan App (V-1), the employees especially posted in remote & rural areas who don't have access to the DDO will easily access their salary and other details anytime. This application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) - J&K State Centre on the Android Platform to provide end to end computerization of JK Payment System (JKPaySys) application.

7. Chhattisgarh has launched a special campaign "Spandan" to check mental stress and depression among its police personnel.

Note: The motive of the campaign is to prevent the force from depression and stress pushing them to take extreme steps. As part of the campaign



"Spandan", senior police officers will visit police lines, police stations and armed forces companies to interact with the personnel to know about problems being faced by them.

8. Gujarat Govt. occupied top position in the 'Food Safety Index 2019-20 released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) among the larger state.

Note: Gujarat is followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released the results of the second 'State Food Safety Index' to celebrate the World Food Safety Day during a webinar.

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

Note: The loan amount has been lend to the West Bengal Government to tackle COVID-19 situation and developmental work in the state. Out of the total amount of Rs 1950 crore, West Bengal Government will spend Rs. 850 crore on various Social-Welfare schemes while the remaining Rs 1,100 crore will be spent to create Industrial infrastructures.

10. The colour of water in Lonar lake has changed to pink due to salinity and presence of algae in the water body. The lake is located in **Maharashtra**.

Note: The lake was formed after a meteorite hit the Earth some 50,000 years ago. Located around 500 km from Mumbai, the Lonar lake is in Buldhana district of Maharashtra. The lake, which is a notified national geo-heritage monument, has saline water with pH of 10.5.

11. Himachal Pradesh government has launched 'Panchvati Yojana' for the senior citizens of rural areas of the state.

Note: Under the yojana parks & gardens will be established in every development block with mandatory facilities under Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act (MREGA) 2005, Scheme of Rural Development Department.

12. Maharashtra government has decided to rename the state's Environment Ministry as 'Environment and Climate Change Ministry'.

Note: The decision to change the name comes just weeks after the state was hit by a severe cyclonic storm Nisarga on June 3, 2020. Maharashtra is one among a few states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana in India which have a dedicated department to address climate change.

13. Financial assistance **Rs 10,000** will be provided tailors, barbers and dhobis under 'Jagananna Chedodu' scheme launched by Andhra Pradesh state government.

Note: Andhra Pradesh government has launched the 'Jagananna Chedodu' scheme to provide financial assistance to tailors, barbers and dhobis (washermen). In total Rs.247 crore was transferred to their bank accounts under financial liability so that bankers cannot use the money to offset the loan repayment balances.

14. Uttar Pradesh state government has launched 'Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana' to educate child labourers in the state.

Note: This scheme has launched, on the occasion of the International Child Labour Prohibition Day. The government will give monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,200 to selected boys and girls, respectively. If these children pass classes 8, 9 and 10, they will be given an additional amount of Rs 6,000 for clearing each standard.

15. Punjab government has launched 'Ghar Ghar Nigrani' app for house-to-house surveillance to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Note: The app, 'Ghar ghar nigrani', was launched by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh through video conference. With the help of the application, the Punjab Government is to cover all the persons that are below the age of 30 years. The survey will cover persons that have influenza like illness.

16. Odisha has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students.

Note: This feat has been achieved due to 'Mission Suvidya' project which was launched by ST&SC Welfare Department to provide all the tribal hostels of the state uniform standards of infrastructure, amenities and human resources earlier. The audit team for certification visited hostels across the state and accorded the certification.

17. amount has been allocated by central government to Jharkhand for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the financial year 2020-21.

Note: The state is planning cent percent household coverage by 2023-24. Out of 54 lakh rural households in the State, only 4.37 lakh have functional household tap connection (FHTC).

18. Kerala governments implemented 'Food forest' project in tribal belts of the state.

Note: As part of the 'Tribal Comprehensive Development Programme in Kerala the "food forest" project is being implemented in cooperation with the Mahila Kissan Sashaktheekaran Pariyojana of the Central Government. The project aims to provide food security to 192 tribal villages in Attapadi.

19. Uttar Pradesh government has set up a labour commission to ensure social and economic security for migrant workers.



Note: The objective of the Commission is to provide maximum employment to the workers at the local level in private and non-government sector as per their skill and employment opportunities. The workers in the state will be given access to employment opportunities by skill development and it will also help the economy of the state gain momentum.

20. West Bengal government has launched Karmo Bhumi, a job portal to help IT professionals who have lost their jobs after the outbreak of COVID-19 and returned to the state.

Note: IT professionals can use the portal 'Karmo Bhumi' to connect with companies based in the state. A web portal will act as a medium between the professionals and IT companies in Bengal. There are around 700 IT and ITes companies at Salt Lake Sector V and Rajarhat where at present around 2.5 lakh people work.

21. Uttar Pradesh government has decided to adopt the scheme of Flatted Factory Model, which means the non-polluting industries can operate in Multistoried buildings.

Note: The committee is headed by Alok Kumar Principal Secretary (Infrastructure & Industrial Development). The members of the committee includes the Chief Executive officers (CEOs) of UPSIDA, NOIDA, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA).

22. Uttar Pradesh has become the top state in India to provide employment to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA).

Note: According to the data released, 57 lakh 12975 workers got employment is around 57 thousand village panchayats of the state which is 18% of the total work generated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country. The state government has generated 7.93 crore man-days and the government will provide jobs to 10 lakh more workers.

23. Tripura state government has decided to start 'Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho' –meaning 'Play Little, Study Little' scheme.

Note: The scheme will be implemented via SMS or WhatsApp. For students, those who have access to smartphones of their parents will be able to access the scheme through WhatsApp. For students having feature phones, they will be able to access through SMS. The objective of the scheme is to make sure that students invest their time in studies during these times of uncertainty as it could still take a couple of months for schools to reopen due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

24. Rajasthan state government is going to launch Indira Rasoi Yojana for the poor.

Note: Under this scheme, pure and nutritious food on concessional rates is going to be provided to the needy twice each day. The State government will spend ₹100 crores every year on the scheme.

25. Jharkhand state government is to launch a job guarantee scheme to provide 100-day work guarantee to the unskilled workers living in the urban areas of the state.

Note: The scheme aimed to enhance the livelihood security for the urban poor will be named Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK (Shahri Rozgar Manjuri For Kamgar). Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS) is the 100-day employment guarantee scheme of the Kerala Government for urban poor.

26. Haryana state government has signed an agreement with Reliance Jio TV to benefit around 52 lakh rural students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: The four channels of EDUSAT can be accessed through television, Laptop, desktop, tablets and smartphones for free of cost which will be available on the Jio platform. The contents aired on the television will be available on Jio TV for a week so that the students can access the content to their convenience and time.

27. Himachal Pradesh state's Panchayati Raj Department won the 1st prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020.

Note: All the 3,226 panchayats of the state have been provided internet facility and people can access various services online. The various services such as family register, registration of birth, death and marriages are registered online in the panchayats.

28. Tripura state government has launched Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme to provide nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women.

Note: The scheme is a part of the state's efforts to fight malnutrition and maternal mortality. The scheme was announced by state Minister for Social Welfare and Social Education Santana Chakma. The government expects to incur an expenses of about Rs 8 crore annually for this scheme.

29. Madhya Pradesh state government will launch a campaign called 'Kill Corona' from 1st July 2020 under which door-to-door Survey will be conducted to control the spread of COVID-19.

Note: During the campaign, the highlight will be the number of tests conducted. The campaign will double the COVID-19 testing capacity from 4000 per 10 lakh people to 8000 per 10 lakh people in the state.



30. World's Largest Plasma Therapy Trial under Project 'Platina' was launched in **Maharashtra** state.

Note: The name of the project is Platina. The project was virtually launched by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray.

31. The forest department of **Uttarakhand** state has developed India's first lichen park.

Note: Lichens are found in the Himalayas up to 5000 metres are important species as they are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels. Uttarakhand has more than 600 species of lichens

followed by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir with 503 and 386 species respectively.

32. Gujarat state government has launched 'At One Click' Initiative for MSMEs & Other Bigger Industries.

Note: Through the initiative, the State Government looks to restore the former vibrancy of the state by motivating sectors such as MSME, traders, bigger industries, and businesses. The online initiative is to encourage these sectors for taking up the challenge that the COVID-19 crisis has brought and convert this into an opportunity.

Important News – World

November

1.

1. Russia chaired the recently held BRICS Business Forum to increase trade and investment among the member countries of BRICS.

Note: The council was formed in 2013 summit in Durban. Since its establishment, the primary task of BRICS Business council is to increase trade and investment among the member countries of BRICS. Russia chaired the meet as it is currently holding the rotating leadership of BRICS. Around 90 speakers from the member countries participated at the forum. One of the main tasks of the council is to update the Strategy for Economic Partnership of BRICS.

2. Once completed world's longest immersed tunnel, Fehmarnbelt Tunnel will link **Denmark and Germany**.

Note: After more than a decade of planning, work has begun on the world's longest immersed tunnel. Descending up to 40 meters beneath the Baltic Sea, Fehmarnbelt Tunnel will link Denmark and Germany, slashing journey times when it opens in 2029. The tunnel, which will be 18 kilometers (11.1 miles) long, is one of Europe's largest infrastructure projects, with a construction budget of over €7 billion (\$8.2 billion).

3. Qatar to go for first national election.

Note: Qatar's ruler announced that a vote to review the policy of the country is to be held in October 2021. This is the first of its kind in the region. Currently, un-elected Shura Council advises the absolute ruler, Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. Laws in Qatar can be overruled by a simple decree.

4. Bangladesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Serum Institute of India for priority delivery of 3 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Note: This COVISHIELD Vaccines was developed by AstraZeneca and University of Oxford. According to the agreement, initially 1.5 crore people will be vaccinated as each person requires two vaccine doses. Currently there are three COVID-19 vaccines under trial in India.

5. The Oil India Limited is decided to brought a new technique snubbing unit from **Canada** to control the oil well blowout in Assam's Baghjan.

Note: The Oil India Limited owned Baghjan well erupted on May 27, 2020. It has been burning for more than five months now. The fire damaged the highly sensitive ecosystem in the region. It displaced more than 9,000 people. The fire is still uncontrollable even after five months of continuous efforts. In order to put off the fire, a snubbing unit is being brought from Canada.

6. In coordination with **Andhra Pradesh** the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has launched "Go Electric" campaign.

Note: The Andhra Pradesh State Government is to set up 400 Electric Vehicle charging vehicles all over the state to promote the usage of electric vehicles. This is to be achieved in coordination with the "Go Electric" campaign of BEE. The main of the step is to attract investment in the EV sector by setting up charging stations and electric vehicle infrastructure.

7. USA become the only country to formally pull out of the Paris climate accord since it was adopted in 2015.

Note: With this, the US has now become the only country to formally pull out of the deal since it was adopted in 2015. The landmark Paris climate agreement was signed in 2015 to protect the planet from the worsening impacts of the climate crisis. As per the rules of the agreement, a country cannot



officially leave before one full year of notifying the UN of its intent to withdraw.

8. The governor of Reserve Bank of India chaired the 40th Meeting of the SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group was held virtually.

Note: The meeting was attended by the Governors from SAARC central banks. During the meeting, Mr Das also inaugurated the SAARCFINANCE Sync, a

closed user group secure communication network. The group took stock of the macroeconomic situation in the SAARC region; discussed the current SAARCFINANCE initiatives; and the way ahead. The Governors reaffirmed their commitment to continued co-operation and sharing of central bank experiences.

October

1.

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 12th BRICS Summit to 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 sitecou, 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.



September

1.

1. The publication of "Ease of Doing Business" report has stopped by **World Bank** to probe data collection irregularities in the annual ranking of countries' business and investment climates.

Note: According to World Bank "A number of irregularities have been reported regarding changes to the data in the Doing Business 2018 and Doing Business 2020 reports, published in October 2017 and 2019". World Bank would conduct a systematic review of data changes in the last five Doing Business reports, and independent auditors will probe data collection and review processes.

2. **Japan** is providing an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of an amount of approx. Rs. 3,500 crores to India to fight COVID-19.

Note: Japan has committed the loan for the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support in order to fight the COVID-19 crisis. The ODA loan will support India's efforts in its fight against COVID-19. It will also assist the country to prepare the health system to handle future epidemics. It will also increase the resilience of India's health systems against infectious diseases.

3. **UAE** has launched Agriota, a new technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market platform that will bridge the gap between millions of rural farmers in India.

Note: It has been launched by Dubai's free-zone Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) and the government of Dubai's authority on commodities trade and enterprise. This initiative will enable Indian farmers to connect directly, bypassing intermediaries, with the entire food industry in the UAE, including food processing companies, traders and wholesalers.

4. **Togo** becomes the first African country to eliminate sleeping sickness.

Note: Togo has not reported any cases in the past 10 years. There are two forms of sleeping sickness. The first, due to *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense*, is found in 24 countries in west and central Africa and accounts for more than 98% of cases. The second form, due to *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense*, is found in 13 countries in eastern and southern Africa and represents the rest of cases.

5. Three countries **India-Australia-Japan** have to launch a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in the Indo-Pacific region.

Note: The initiative will help in building a resilient supply chain with focus on free, transparent trade & investment environment in the region. Proposed by Japan and to reduce the dependency on China.

6. Google has partnered with **Bangladesh** to bring the flood warning services to the country.

Note: Announcing this on its official blog Google said that it currently covers more than 40 million people in Bangladesh and it is working to expand its coverage to the whole of the country. More than 65 per cent of people who receive advance flood warnings take action to protect themselves and their assets. The company is also partnering with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to build to deliver alerts to people who don't have smart phones to receive the alerts directly.

7. **Bhutan** chaired the 35th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC 35) held virtually.

Note: The Conference was held under the Chair of the Host Country, Bhutan. The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Parshottam Rupala represented India in the conference. The conference focused on regional priorities and issues such as COVID 19, the state of agriculture, natural resources management, food security and nutrition.

8. Social Media platform Whatsapp has partnered with **CyberPeace Foundation** to create awareness on cyber safety among students.

Note: The facebook-owned messaging platform noted in a press release that "this is an effort to build on their earlier partnership with WhatsApp under the "e-Raksha" program that reached thousands of students. With the collaboration, the platforms aim to reach nearly 15,000 students across five states including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra by the end of 2020.

9. International organization **UNEP** has launched a new publication, "The Little Book of Green Nudges" for university students.

Note: The books aimed to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles. The book is UNEP's first on behavioural science and nudge theory, which focuses on human actions and how to change them and was drafted with The Behavioural Insights Team and GRID-Arendal.

10. **Saudi Arabia** will host the G20 Education Ministers Meeting to be held at the end of 2020.

Note: The Saudi Arabian Presidency has selected the following theme for the G20's 2020 activities: Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All. The meet was chaired by Saudi Arabia's Education Minister Dr Hamad Al-Asheikh where India was



represented by Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, in the virtual mode.

11. The Netherlands and eight companies of that country the Andhra Pradesh government has signed MoUs in the food processing sector.

Note: Representatives of seven companies from across the country and the Netherlands government signed the MoU in the presence of chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. These companies would help farmers through the state government in the food processing sector, including harvesting, processing and packaging of fruits, vegetables, fish and aqua products.

12. Zolfaghar-99 is an annual three-day naval exercise of **Iran** that was held near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Note: Units from the navy, air force and ground forces participated in the maneuver in the Gulf of Oman. Iranian submarines and drones were used during the exercise. The annual maneuver dubbed as Zolfaghar-99 was aimed at improving readiness in confronting foreign threats and any possible invasion.

13. With a focus on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region **India, France, Australia** have held the first trilateral dialogue.

Note: The three countries also had an exchange on the priorities, challenges and trends in regional and global multilateral institutions, including the best ways to strengthen and reform multilateralism. The trilateral dialogue helped underscore the goal of guaranteeing peace, security and adherence to international law in the Indo-Pacific.

14. India and **Japan** signed the Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services agreement boosting the interoperability between the armed forces of the two countries.

Note: The agreement was signed by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Ambassador of Japan Mr Suzuki Satoshi. This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in the reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in bilateral training activities, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities

August

1.

1. India collaborated with **Israel** country to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds.

Note: They have started to conduct trials at a special testing site at Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya (RML) Hospital on a large sample of patients for 4 different kinds of technologies namely, Voice test, Breath analyser test, Isothermal testing and Polyamino acid testing. The rapid testing has been developed jointly in cooperation with the Directorate of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D) of the Israeli Ministry of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

2. Former king of **Spain** Juan Carlos decided to leave his country to protect the monarchy after a barrage of corruption allegations surfaced against him.

Note: The once-popular, now scandal-ridden, king left Spain before Monday's announcement, local media said, with no indication of where he may have gone. The bombshell move stunned Spaniards and left them divided over whether the 82-year-old, who keeps the title of King Emeritus, was right to depart or should have stayed to face justice.

3. Great Britain is considering minting a coin to remember Mahatma Gandhi.

Note: Rishi Sunak Britain's current Finance Minister issued an order in a letter to the Royal Mint

Advisory Committee (RMAC) to pursue recognition of individuals from the BAME community. Taking a step ahead in following the order RMAC will mint a coin to commemorate Gandhi.

4. Barakah Nuclear Plant of **UAE** has achieved first criticality and successfully started up is located in which country.

Note: The announcement, coinciding with the Muslim holiday of Id al-Adha, comes hot on the heels of the UAE's launch of the Arab world's first probe to Mars. The new plant is part of the UAE's graph to become less reliant on oil and gas, the current source of the vast majority of its energy. UAE is among the world's biggest fossil fuels producers.

5. Russia becomes the first country to officially register a coronavirus vaccine and declare it ready for use.

Note: The Russian vaccine will be called "Sputnik V" in homage to the world's first satellite launched by the Soviet Union. The vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Institute in Moscow uses a different virus -- adenovirus -- that's been modified to carry genes for the "spike" protein that coats the coronavirus, as a way to prime the body to recognise when a real COVID-19 infection comes along.



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

Note: In the United States, Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden has named Indian-origin senator Kamala Harris as his Vice-Presidential running mate. Joe Biden made history by selecting the first black woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket. Kamala Harris is currently the US Senator from California. Former US President Barack Obama has often described her as a trailblazer.

7. Reliance Foundation has launched the "W-GDP Women Connect Challenge" across India in association with US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Note: The "W-GDP Women Connect Challenge" has been launched to bridge the gender divide as well as the digital divide in India. The Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) challenge supports private sector-led approaches that close the gender digital divide, expand business opportunities and empower women.

8. India announced a \$500 million package to fund a project in **Maldives**.

Note: An air connectivity "bubble" for travel, a direct ferry service, a submarine cable for telecom connectivity; and assistance for the Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) to connect Male to three neighbouring islands. India has sought to regain diplomatic influence in the islands after a new administration led by President Ibrahim Solih took power following the defeat of the pro-China strongman Abdulla Yameen in elections in 2018.

9. The Dragon Endeavour is the spacecraft of space company **SpaceX**.

Note: NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley are aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon Endeavour spacecraft as it is lifted onto the SpaceX GO Navigator recovery ship shortly after landing in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Pensacola, Florida, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020.

10. Israel has successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, "Arrow-2" ballistic missile interceptor.

Note: The Missile test was conducted in the test site in Central Israel over the Mediterranean Sea. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) of the United States of America along with Israeli Air Force and Israel Aerospace Industries conducted the testing.

11. Intergovernmental organization **European Union** has launched project 'Nirmanshree' for enhancing the women skill towards housing construction sector.

Note: This is the first-of-its-kind sustainable housing on a large scale in India with 1-million-euro. The project will be implemented in Beed and

Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra and the Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts of Odisha.

12. United Kingdom has launched £3 million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India to support scientists in academic arena and industry to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

Note: The fund invites tech innovators with connections to the AI-Data cluster in Karnataka and the future mobility cluster in Maharashtra to submit research and development proposals for tackling COVID-19 or which promote a greener planet.

13. Recently, India has signed a cultural agreement with **Israel** that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations.

Note: India and Israel signed a cultural agreement that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations today. It aims to promote greater people-to-people exchanges.

14. UAE became the first Gulf Arab country to have active diplomatic ties to Israel.

Note: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates, have agreed for the Israel-United Arab Emirates peace agreement, or the Abraham Accord to establish full diplomatic ties. It is expected that the peace accord will be signed in the White House, US in early September, 2020.

15. The first meeting of the National Coordination Committees for monitoring implementation of mutually agreed projects between India and **Uzbekistan**.

Note: Both nations reexamined the activities of bilateral economic and trade cooperation which are in operation or planned for the future. The Committee was set up under the supervision of the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

16. Tech giant **Google** has launched 'The Anywhere School' initiative in more than 250 countries around the world.

Note: Under the initiative, Google will roll out over 50 new features across products like Google Meet, Classroom, G Suite and other products. Google will launch custom and blurred backgrounds in Google Meet to provide 'extra privacy' to the users.

17. China has launched its New Optical Remote-Sensing Satellite "Gaofen-9 05" along with 2 Smaller Payloads.

Note: The satellite, Gaofen-9 05, was sent into orbit by a Long March-2D carrier rocket. A multifunctional test satellite and another satellite named Tiantuo-5 were also launched via the rocket.



18. A pair of gold-rimmed spectacles worn by Mahatma Gandhi were sold in an auction for £260,000 (over Rs 2.5 crore) in **UK**.

Note: The iconic spectacles were sold to an American collector within six minutes of bidding at an auction in Bristol. The glasses had been dropped in their letter box by a man who claimed that they were originally gifted to his uncle by Gandhi himself.

19. Indian Institute of Technology's (IIT) Alumni Council has signed an agreement with **Russia** to build the world's largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India.

Note: The most promising areas for Indo-Russian joint projects are Information and Communications Technology, space exploration, climate change, quantum technology and data security.

20. Global telecom company **Ericsson** has partnered with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to help map school internet connectivity in 35 countries by the end of 2023.

Note: This joint initiative is a part of the Giga initiative launched by UNICEF and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in September 2019 to provide internet connection to every school and their surrounding communities.

21. **Singapore** will offer free coronavirus tests to community groups such as taxi drivers, food delivery workers and hawkers as part of efforts to expand the COVID-19 testing regime.

Note: Singapore will offer free coronavirus tests to community groups such as taxi drivers, food delivery workers and hawkers as part of efforts to expand the COVID-19 testing regime.

July

1.

1. According to the US-based news agency Associated Press, **China** has been running a number of in-human campaigns to slash the birth rates among the minority Muslim population called 'Demographic Genocide'.

Note: Experts have labeled this Campaign of China as 'Demographic Genocide'. Among the Muslim minorities in China, most belong to Uyghurs ethnic groups. The Chinese Government continues to claim that the camps set up at the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China are for offering voluntary education and training.

2. India and Japan have conducted Naval Exercise 'PASSEX' to promote mutual understanding and for tactical and communications training.

Note: This was the 15th exercise undertaken by the navies of these two nations in the last three years. The overall content of this PASSEX was goodwill training and to promote understanding.

3. New Zealand has cancelled the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is opting to lead a virtual summit.

Note: New Zealand cancelled the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that was scheduled to be held in Auckland, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is opting to lead a virtual summit. The 2019 leaders' meeting was cancelled by Chile due to violent anti-government protests and the virtual APEC meeting of 2020 are being hosted by Malaysia.

4. Uganda became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Note: Uganda became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which has opened the way for potential results based payments to Uganda. The submitted documents will help Uganda to claim the funds through the Green Climate Fund's forest conservation scheme.

5. Israel has successfully launched a new spy satellite "Ofek 16".

Note: Ofek 16 is a small electro-optical imaging satellite, which will capture high-resolution images of the Earth for Israel's Ministry of Defence. With the launch of Ofek 1 in September 1988, Israel became the eighth country to develop its own orbital launch capability. It uses this capability exclusively for military payloads, relying on foreign rockets to carry its civilian and commercial satellites into orbit.

6. Fourth edition of "Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)" was held virtually for the first time in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: From India, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar participated in meet. The meet was co-chaired by European Union (EU), China and Canada.

7. Sri Lanka and Maldives became the first two countries from the South East Asia Region of WHO to have successfully eliminated both the Measles and Rubella Virus.

Note: Sri Lanka and Maldives the first two countries from the South-East Asia Region of the WHO to



achieve the target. The target year set by the WHO for eliminating Rubella Virus from the South-East Asia Region is 2023.

8. Germany become the first industrialized country to phase out of both coal and nuclear energy.

Note: This phase out is a part of Germany's "energy transition" to reduce the use of fossil fuels and to support the use of renewable resources. German closed its last coal mine in 2018 and committed to close its nuclear power plants by 2022.

9. India's rank among 10 Asia-Pacific countries in the "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control" prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)-- **eighth**.

Note: The 10 Asia-Pacific countries included in this report were — Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. India records below-average scores across all three pillars in the EIU's ICP — policy and planning, care delivery, and health system and governance.

10. According to Dun and Bradstreet's (D&B) Country Risk and Global Outlook Report in 2020 the global economy is likely to contract by **5.2%**.

Note: As per report, the global economy will not reach pre-pandemic levels of activity again before 2022. India's economy is expected to contract this fiscal year after four decades of positive growth. In March, 2020 D&B downgraded India's rating to DB5c from DB4d, stating the magnitude of downgrade and the risk level highest since 1994.

11. Nepal has imposed a ban on all private Indian news channel.

Note: Except for the Indian State-owned Doordarshan's news channel DD News, Nepal based Multi-System Operators have issued a broadcasting ban on all other Indian News Channels in Nepal.

12. What will be the rise in mean average global temperature in next 5 years as per the report "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-24" released by the WMO -- **1.5°C**.

Note: This is because of man-made greenhouse emissions and there is a 20% chance that it will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) in at least one year between 2020-2024. Overall, it is very likely to be within the range 0.91 – 1.59°C. The 1.5 C mark is the level to which countries have agreed to try to limit global warming as per 2015 Paris accord.

13. World Health Organization (WHO) has formulated an independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 -- **Helen Elizabeth Clark & Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**.

Note: The Panel will be co-chaired by former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Elizabeth Clark and former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. While Helen Clark served as an administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the other hand, Ellen Sirleaf is a recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. Both will choose other Panel members.

14. The ADB has entered into a 5-year agreement with Qatar-based Education Above All Foundation to work jointly for project worth of **\$100 million**.

Note: It will put at least 3.2 lakh out-of-school children, including refugees and internally displaced children into quality primary education. Initially, 10 nations have been selected for projects namely- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

15. Recently **UAE** has expressed interest to have an Open Sky Agreement with India.

Note: Open Sky Agreements are bilateral agreements that the two countries negotiate to provide rights for airlines to offer international passenger and cargo services. It expands international passenger and cargo flights. Open skies between India and UAE will allow unlimited number of flights to the selected cities of each other's countries.

16. Kuwait has approved an Expat Quota Bill.

Note: According to the bill, Indians should not exceed 15% of the population and if it is enacted into law, over 8 lakh Indians could be forced out of Kuwait. The draft expat quota bill has been deemed constitutional and will be transferred to the respective committee so that a comprehensive plan is created. Lawmakers and government officials including the Prime Minister of Kuwait have been calling to reduce the number of expats from 70% to 30% of the population.

17. World's first gold-plated hotel was unveiled in **Vietnam**.

Note: The hotel overlooks the Giang Vo Lake. It boasts of a gold-plated infinity pool on the roof. The 25-storey hotel cost approximately \$200 million to build. Rooms at Dolce start at \$250 per night.

18. Russian Gamalei Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology's COVID-19 vaccine becomes the first in the world to successfully completed the Human Clinical Trials.

Note: The trials on volunteers were conducted from 18th June 2020 at Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University. At Sechenov University, the Director of Institute for Translational Medicine and Biotechnology has informed that the First Group of Volunteers will be released on 15th July 2020 while



the Second Group of Volunteers will be released next Monday (20th July 2020).

19. According to the data released by the United Kingdom, **India** has become the second largest Foreign Direct Investor in the United Kingdom (UK) after the United States in 2019.

Note: The United States of America remains as the top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of the UK, delivering 462 projects and 20,131 jobs. The List is followed by India, Germany, France, China and Hong Kong.

20. China has launched a two-month campaign to clean up websites aimed at users under the age of 18.

Note: The campaign will be for a period of two months, mostly websites providing online learning content through live streamlining or video conferencing. They will be checked as a part of the campaign, also instant messaging tools and android applications offering entertainment, quick part-time jobs for easy money, etc will be checked.

21. Iran drops India from Chabahar rail project, cites funding delay.

Note: Four years after India and Iran signed an agreement to construct a rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, the Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction on its own, citing delays from the Indian side in funding and starting the project.

22. UNICEF India joined hands with **FICCI** to jointly develop UNICEF's "#Reimagine Campaign".

Note: The campaign aims to support the most vulnerable populations and children during the COVID-19 response and its after-math in India. It will also help in avoiding the potential long-term damage to business operations as well as employment pipeline.

23. China has successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite via a Long March 3B carrier rocket.

Note: China Academy of Space Technology has developed the commercial satellite 'APSTAR-6D'. APSTAR-6D marked the 18th Rocket Launched by China in the year 2020. The APSTAR-6D satellite was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology Corp. (CASC), a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp.

24. Elyes Fakhfakh resigned from the post of prime minister of **Tunisia**.

Note: His resignation has come after a campaign to oust him in a vote of no confidence gathered momentum and to avoid more conflicts between state institutions in the country. Elyes Fakhfakh was appointed prime minister of Tunisia in January 2020.

25. UNICEF has partnered with SAP

India to improve the employability skills of young people in a COVID-19 as well as post COVID-19 era.

Note: Under this initiative, UNICEF has collaborated with YuWaah (Generation Unlimited) to offer digital education as well as occupational skillset to the underserved young people of India. The UNICEF – YuWaah – SAP India partnership has a prime objective to empower young people, to utilize their creativity, problem-solving and leadership assets, to improve their own lives as well of their communities.

26. Pakistan and China signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project being built on **Jhelum** river of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Note: The first agreement, for the 1,100 MW Kohala project, was signed on June 23. That project, worth \$ 2.3 billion, too will come up on the Jhelum near Muzaffarabad. Gezhouba set up a special purpose joint venture with the Laraib Group, a Pakistani renewable energy developer.

27. Jordan apex court dissolved the country's branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, a transnational Islamist movement.

Note: The Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1928, is a pan-Islamic movement with both charitable and political arms. It has faced years of pressure, especially in the wake of the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings and has been outlawed as a "terrorist" group in Egypt and banned in several other countries.

28. The first Arab space mission dubbed as 'HOPE Probe' was launched by United Arab Amirate (UAE) from **Japan**.

Note: H2A, the rocket carrying the Hope Probe to space, was launched from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan. It is the Arab world's first interplanetary landmark mission, putting UAE firmly ahead of all the countries in the Middle East in the area of space and technology. Hope Probe Spacecraft is expected to reach the Red Planet by February 2021, to coincide with UAE's 50th anniversary of its formation.

29. The United Nations has declared Noor Wali Mehsud associated with terrorist organization **Tehrik-e-Taliban** as a global terrorist.

Note: The UN has blacklisted Mehsud for participating in the financing, planning and perpetrating acts on behalf of and in support of entities associated with al-Qaeda.

30. India and Maldives signed an agreement to establish "Emergency Medical Services" in Male.

Note: The Emergency Medical Service is financed by India under grant assistance of 20 million USD for neighbouring countries. This will help to increase



the collaboration between the countries, especially in the areas of health care facilities, disaster responses during critical times, etc.

31. Rescue package **€750 billion** has been announced by the European Union (EU) to rebuild the bloc's economies ravaged by COVID-19.

Note: The European Commission plans to raise the money in the financial markets, rather than injecting new money into the system.

32. Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 Digital Ministers' Meet 2020.

Note: Union Minister of Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad attended G20 Digital Ministers' Meet. The Saudi Arabian Presidency has selected the theme, "Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All"

33. 75th session of United Nations General Assembly is to be conducted virtually in 2020 for the first time in its history.

Note: Every year, world leaders meet at UN headquarters in New York to debate important issues of the planet. The UNGA is the main policy making body of the United Nations. It was created under Chapter IV of the UN charter. The charter was signed in San Francisco in 1945.

34. Nicaragua has become the 87th country to join the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, an initiative led by India to promote sustainable energy.

Note: The ISA is an alliance of 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

35. World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council has granted the "Observer" status to Asian country **Turkmenistan**.

Note: After receiving the observer status from WTO, Turkmenistan has become the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the trade body. Turkmenistan has become the 25th observer of the organization.

36. China has successfully launched "Tianwen-1" its first independent mission to Mars.

Note: China had launched an orbiter destined for Mars on a Russian rocket in 2011, but the mission failed because the rocket malfunctioned. Tianwen-1, whose name means "Questions to Heaven," is a combined orbiter, lander and rover that aims to explore the Martian environment and search for hints of life.

37. India handed over 10 Railway Locomotives to **Bangladesh** to bolster its Neighborhood First Policy.

Note: India had committed to Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina during her visit to India to provide broad gauge diesel locomotives to the country. The

handing over event was conducted virtually and was attended by Indian External Affairs Minister S Jai Shankar, Railways Minister Piyush Goyal and their Bangladeshi counter parts.

38. The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** is published by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** organization that says that India and Thailand are the main source of (82%) of illegal shipment of tiger body parts.

Note: According to the report Thailand and India are the main source countries for shipments seized in international trade of tiger parts. The report says that India and Thailand source 82% of illegal shipment of tiger body parts. The tiger body parts have great medicinal values. The medicines made of bones of the tiger are used to heal ligament injuries, joint and bone fractures.

39. Kali temple (300 years-old) is being reconstructed in **Bangladesh** with the support of India.

Note: The reconstruction is happening with Indian grant assistance of Bangladeshi Taka 97 lakhs and a total cost of Bangladeshi Taka of 1.33 Crores under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) scheme of India.

40. Delhi government has launched a free website 'Rozgaar Bazaar 2020', that will connect the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform.

Note: The portal connects the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform. The aim of the portal is to boost the economy and employment in Delhi. In this website, the employers and companies can post their jobs and vacancies.

41. Under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA) NTPC Ltd planned to establish solar power plants in **Sri Lanka**.

Note: The Ceylon Electricity Board(CEB) has an installed power generation capacity of around 35.8 GigaWatts(GW).The NTPC's Sri Lanka Solar park with installed capacity of 62.91 GW is one of the contracts to help the ISA member countries to build a 10 GW solar capacity.

42. Zimbabwe has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.

Note: The objective of the MoU is to promote traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy between two nations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

43. The polycarbonate facility of SABIC in **Spain** is set to become the world's first large scale chemical production plant which will run entirely on renewable energy.

Note: Once the solar plant is operational, SABIC's customers including the ones from automotive and



constructive sectors will have access to polycarbonate solutions produced with 100 per cent

renewable power.

June

1. SpaceX become the first private rocket company to send astronauts to space.

Note: SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft with two NASA astronauts successfully docked with the International Space Station last night after a historic launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It has marked the dawn of a new age in commercial space travel.

2. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has extended the individual sanctions, travel ban and an arms embargo on **South Sudan** country till May 2021.

Note: An arms embargo is a restriction or a set of sanctions that applies solely to weaponry. This extension has been drafted by the United States (US), which received 12 votes in favour while Russia, China and South Africa abstained it. The resolution will encourage developments in South Sudan's peace process as the nation is emerging from a brutal six-year civil war that left 380,000 dead and millions displaced.

3. In association with **Costa Rica** country the World Health Organization has launched COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).

Note: More than 30 countries have signed up to support this initiative. C-TAP was first proposed by Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado in March 2020. He also joined WHO's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during the video launch of the initiative. The nations who have not signed up for the WHO launched initiative are the economic powers such as France, China, Germany, Turkey, Japan, the US, and the UK.

4. India's rank in the "Countries Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem 2020" report prepared by Zurich based global innovation mapping and research company StartupBlink -- **23rd**.

Note: The third-largest ecosystem – India, in terms of number of technology startups, has been ranked even behind emerging ecosystems such as Estonia, Lithuania, Brazil, Denmark etc. The ranking has been led by the US, the UK, and Israel while China has improved its rank by 13 spots to 14th position this year and Japan stood at 21st spot.

5. South African National Space Agency (SANSA) has partnered with NASA to host a deep-space ground station, which will support human spaceflight missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

Note: With this collaboration, South Africa became the fourth country after the US, Spain and Australia to host a deep space ground station. The partnership

between the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) to host the space station followed an earlier agreement between the two organisations for the establishment of the station at Matjiesfontein town in the Western Cape Province.

6. India has signed an MoU with **Bhutan** on cooperation in the areas of the environment that was approved by the union cabinet.

Note: A Memorandum of Understanding covering air, waste, chemical management, climate change has been considered keeping in view bilateral interest of both sides. The MoU shall come into force on the date of signing and shall continue to remain in force for a period of ten years.

7. United Kingdom has hosted Virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020.

Note: The virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020 featured the participation of over 50 countries including the business leaders, civil society, government ministers, UN agencies, Heads of State and country leaders. During the virtual summit, India pledged a contribution of 15 Million US Dollars to Gavi, the international vaccine alliance.

8. Australia signed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) with India to increase military inter-operability through defence exercises between the two countries.

Note: The first India-Australia virtual leader's summit was held between Indian Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison. The focus of the meet was to further strengthen the bilateral ties in areas like healthcare, trade and defence.

9. What is the theme of the 51st WEF annual summit to be held in January 2021 --- **The Great Reset.**

Note: The announcement was made by Prince Charles of Wales and WEF Founder and Executive Klaus Schwab during a virtual meeting. WEF annual meeting will be held every year at Davos, Switzerland. 50th annual WEF meeting was held from January 21-24, 2020.

10. An Unmanned submersible of **China** to dived deep down to 10,907 metres to the world's deepest point Mariana Trench,

Note: A team of scientists left for an expedition on April 23, 2020. The researchers tested acoustic detection, video transmission, high precision depth detection during the deep-sea diving operation.



11. Kathy Sullivan has become the first woman and the fifth person in history to descend to the deepest known spot in the world's oceans called the 'Challenger Deep' in the Mariana Trench.

Note: She was also the first American woman to walk in space in 1984. Sullivan is now the only human who has walked in space and reached the deepest point in the ocean. Challenger Deep is the deepest point in the Earth's sea bed. It is at a depth of 10,902 metres.

12. Italy and Greece has signed an agreement demarcating their maritime boundaries, amid tension in the Mediterranean region over rights to natural resources.

Note: The agreement signed at the foreign ministry during a visit to Athens by Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, tackled an issue that had been pending for 40 years. It demarcates the exclusive economic zone — the maritime area in which a nation has the right of energy exploration and use of marine resources — between the two neighbors, as well as settling fishing rights.

13. Massachusetts Institute of Technology institute/university maintains its position as the top institution in world in the QS World University Rankings 2021 released recently.

Note: In the QS World University Rankings 2021 feature not a single Indian institute among the top 100 universities across the world. Only three educational institutes from India IIT Bombay (172), IISc Bengaluru (185), and IIT Delhi (193) featured in the top 200 list.

14. New Zealand has declared that the nation has become free from "Coronavirus".

Note: The announcement was made when the last person who was being monitored for coronavirus was released from isolation and regarded as recovered. Hence, New Zealand has announced to lift all the coronavirus measures that were implemented in the country and move to national alert level 1 from midnight on 9 June 2020.

15. Bangladesh has launched an initiative named 'Shohojodha', an online network to facilitate plasma exchange between recovered patients of COVID-19.

Note: The initiative has been launched by the ICT division of the government of Bangladesh in collaboration with Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The plasma therapy for the Coronavirus patients in Bangladesh is under trial process awaiting final approval from the government.

16. India has signed an MoU with **Denmark** country to strengthen the cooperation in power sector.

Note: Under the MOU to implement the agreement of the identified areas a Joint Working Group (JWG)

will be established and co-chaired by joint Secretary-level officials who will report to a Steering Committee jointly chaired by the Secretary level officers from both the sides.

17. United Kingdom has announced 'Jet Zero' plan to drive down aviation emissions and to make carbon-free transatlantic flights possible.

Note: The U.K. is chasing a target to make the country a net-zero economy by 2050, and transport emissions are proving among the toughest to get down. Aviation emissions currently account for more than 2% of global greenhouse gases and have risen by 70% since 2005. The International Civil Aviation Organization forecasts that they will rise another 300% by 2050 in the absence of measures to bring them down.

18. Western Railway has created a new world benchmark by successfully running first Double-Stack Container Train in high-rise in Over Head Equipment electrified territory on.

Note: This achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of Green India. The Operations successfully commenced on 10th June from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat.

19. Teams for Education features launched by Microsoft to engage and prepare students and teachers for new remote and hybrid learning formats in the upcoming school year.

Note: These features include expanded audience view of up to 49 participants, custom backgrounds, class insights, and virtual breakout rooms, among other new features. Aimed at increasing student participation and give educators new methods to keep students digitally engaged, Teams will expand its grid view to 7x7, accommodating up to 49 participants.

20. India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term.

Note: Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the Security Council elections held last night. India was a candidate for a non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term. India's two-year term will begin on January 1, 2021.

21. India will send 75-member Tri-Service contingent to participate in the military parade to **Russia** on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.

Note: The parade will honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other friendly people. Defence Minister of Russia had invited an Indian contingent to take part in the Victory Day Parade scheduled to be held on 24th of this month.



22. Accordance to the annual report on displacement titled "Global Trends- Forced Displacement in 2019" released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with **approx 1.0 per cent** of world population faced forced displacement.

Note: On the Global front, the displacement number is 79.5 million or one in every 97 people on the planet at the end of 2019. This number of forced displacement has almost doubled since 2010 (41 million). It should be noted that this figure is the highest since these statistics have been systematically collected. It is approximately 1% of the world's population.

23. China has decided to join the multilateral Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Note: China was one of the 23 countries back in 2013 when it abstained from the vote to adopt the treaty at the United Nations. The U.S. President has announced in April 2019 that the U.S. will never ratify the Arms Trade Treaty under his administration (the U.S has signed the treaty but was yet to ratify).

24. China has successfully launched the last Satellite of its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).

Note: The satellite was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch center in Sichuan Province. BDS is one of the four global navigation networks among the US's GPS, Russia's GLONASS and European Union's Galileo.

25. Mt. Merapi an active volcano erupted twice in June, 2020 is in **Indonesia**.

Note: Merapi (Mountain of Fire) is the most active of Indonesia's 130 active volcanoes. Indonesia is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire. It is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.

26. As a commemorations of the 6th International Yoga Day, world's first Yoga University outside India was launched in **Los Angeles** United State.

Note: The university will be known by the name- Vivekananda Yoga University. The University was launched as a part of the commemorations for the 6th International Yoga Day. Chancellor of SVYASA- Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana, Dr. H R Nagendra will be the first Chairman of the Vivekananda Yoga University.

27. Pakistan remained in the FATF's Grey List.

Note: The decision has been taken as Pakistan has failed to check flow of money to terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The decision was taken at the Financial Action Task Force's third and final plenary held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

28. African country **Mali** granted the Project Management Consultancy (PMC) contract for the development of a 500 MW solar park to NTPC Limited.

Note: In the event chaired by RK Singh, Minister of State for Power and President of International Solar Alliance (ISA), Sekou Kasse, Ambassador of Mali handed the award letter to Gurdeep Singh, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of NTPC. To support the electricity requirements of their citizens, the Republic of Mali has taken various initiatives with more focus on Solar power and its applications.

29. A Tripartite Power Purchase Agreement was signed for the construction of the 1124 MW Kohala Hydro Power Project between Pakistan, China, and Azad Kashmir. The Project is built on **Jhelum** river.

Note: The agreement was signed in between the Government of Pakistan, Chinese Company- China Three Gorges Corporation (State-owned company of Chinese Government), and Government of Azad Kashmir (PoK). The Hydropower project is located near the villages of Siran and Barsala in Muzaffarabad district of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

30. India become the first country to control locusts through drones.

Note: India is the first country to control locusts through drones. Under the Make in India initiative, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW), Agriculture Ministry has indigenously developed a vehicle-mounted Ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayer for locust control. Locust is a crop-threatening migratory pest that has entered the country through the India-Pakistan border.

31. According to latest study by OECD's 'Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes, which are top three countries as Exchange of Information partners of Switzerland -- **India, France and Germany**.

Note: India is getting detailed information on request, from Switzerland about bank accounts and beneficiary ownership of entities established by its residents. India is also rated as 'largely compliant' by this OECD's review. It has also named Italy, Netherlands and Spain among other significant EOI partners for Switzerland.

32. The theme of the '36th ASEAN Summit held via video conference under chairmanship of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc -- **Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN**.

Note: The summit was chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc as Vietnam is ASEAN's chair in 2020. The focus of the meet was on COVID-19 response, post-pandemic recovery and further cooperation with partners.



Honour & Awards

National Sports Awards 2020

1. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2020

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Rohit Sharma	Cricket
2.	Shri Mariyappan T.	Para Athletics
3.	Ms. Manika Batra	Table Tennis
4.	Ms. Vinesh	Wrestling
5.	Ms. Rani	Hockey

2. Dronacharya Awards 2020

Life- Time Category

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Shri Dharmendra Tiwary	Archery
2.	Shri Purushotham Rai	Athletics
3.	Shri Shiv Singh	Boxing
4.	Shri Romesh Pathania	Hockey
5.	Shri Krishan Kumar Hooda	Kabaddi
6.	Shri Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar	Para Powerlifting
7.	Shri Naresh Kumar	Tennis
8.	Shri Om Parkash Dahiya	Wrestling

Regular Category

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Shri Jude Felix Sebastian	Hockey
2.	Shri Yogesh Malviya	Mallakhamb
3.	Shri Jaspal Rana	Shooting
4.	Shri Kuldeep Kumar Handoo	Wushu
5.	Shri Gaurav Khanna	Para Badminton

3. Arjuna Awards 2020

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson (Shri)	Discipline
1.	Shri Atanu Das	Archery
2.	Ms. Dutee Chand	Athletics
3.	Shri Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy	Badminton
4.	Shri Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty	Badminton
5.	Shri Vishesh Bhriguvanshi	Basketball
6.	Subedar Manish Kaushik	Boxing
7.	Ms. Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing
8.	Shri Ishant Sharma	Cricket
9.	Ms. Deepti Sharma	Cricket
10.	Shri Sawant Ajay Anant	Equestrian
11.	Shri Sandesh Jhingan	Football



12.	Ms. Aditi Ashok	Golf
13.	Shri Akashdeep Singh	Hockey
14.	Ms. Deepika	Hockey
15.	Shri Deepak	Kabaddi
16.	Shri Kale Sarika Sudhakar	Kho Kho
17.	Shri Dattu Baban Bhokanal	Rowing
18.	Ms. Manu Bhaker	Shooting
19.	Shri Saurabh Chaudhary	Shooting
20.	Ms. Madhurika Suhas Patkar	Table Tennis
21.	Shri Divij Sharan	Tennis
22.	Shri Shiva Keshavan	Winter Sports
23.	Ms. Divya Kakran	Wrestling
24.	Shri Rahul Aware	Wrestling
25.	Shri Suyash Narayan Jadhav	Para Swimming
26.	Shri Sandeep	Para Athletics
27.	Shri Manish Narwal	Para Shooting

4. Dhyan Chand Award 2020

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Kuldip Singh Bhullar	Athletics
2.	Ms. Jincy Philips	Athletics
3.	Shri Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe	Badminton
4.	Ms. Trupti Murgunde	Badminton
5.	Ms. N. Usha	Boxing
6.	Shri Lakha Singh	Boxing
7.	Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu	Football
8.	Shri Ajit Singh	Hockey
9.	Shri Manpreet Singh	Kabaddi
10.	Shri J. Ranjith Kumar	Para Athletics
11.	Shri Satyaprakash Tiwari	Para Badminton
12.	Shri Manjeet Singh	Rowing
13.	Late Shri Sachin Nag	Swimming
14.	Shri Nandan P Bal	Tennis
15.	Shri Netarpal Hooda	Wrestling

November

1.

1. Paul Zacharia has been selected for 'Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2020', the highest literary prize of Kerala.

Note: Zacharia was chosen for his contribution to Malayalam literature during the past five decades. A five-member jury, headed by Kerala Sahitya Akademi President Vyshakhan, selected him for the award.

'Salam America', 'Oridath', 'Aarkkariyam', 'Bhaskara patelarum ente jeevithavum' are among his various literary works. Zacharia also won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979 and the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award in 2004.



2. For Gully Boy Karsh Kale and the Salvage Audio Collective won the Best Original Music Award 2020 in 14th Asian Film Awards (AFA14).

Note: Karsh Kale and the Salvage Audio Collective won the Best Original Music Award 2020 for the film Gully Boy directed by Zoya Akhtar. Yang Ik-Joon, South Korean Actor and Director presented the Award. The film Gully Boy starring Ranveer Singh as the budding rappers who achieve his dream with his music about his life on the streets of Mumbai.

3. The 14th Asian Film Awards (AFA14) held in Busan.

Note: Karsh Kale and the Salvage Audio Collective won the Best Original Music Award 2020 for the film

Gully Boy directed by Zoya Akhtar. Yang Ik-Joon, South Korean Actor and Director presented the Award. The film Gully Boy starring Ranveer Singh as the budding rappers who achieve his dream with his music about his life on the streets of Mumbai.

4. Indian Army chief General M. M. Naravane was conferred the honorary rank of General by Nepal.

Note: He has also presented a sword and scroll during the function held at the President's official residence 'ShitalNiwas' in Kathmandu. The tradition, which started in 1950, reflects the strong ties between the two militaries. Gen. K. M. Cariappa was the first Indian Army chief to be decorated with the title in 1950.

October

1.

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 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.

September

1.

1. Satyendra Singh Lohia becomes the first Divyanga sportsperson of the country to get the prestigious Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award 2020.

Note: He is also the first Asian Divyanga swimmer to cross the 42-kilometer Catalina Channel in the US in just 11 hours 34 minutes. Para-swimmer Satyendra Singh was also conferred with the Best Sportsperson National Award by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on World Divyanga Day.

2. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad has won the 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' awards at the 21st National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management'.

Note: It was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC). The award was given during the 19th edition of 'Energy Efficiency Summit', Virtual Conference and Exposition on Energy Efficiency held from August 6-28, 2020.

3. NTPC Limited has won the All India Management Association (AIMA) Chanakya (Business Simulation Game) National Management Games (NMG) 2020.

Note: AIMA Chanakya National Management Games is an online Business Simulation Game which is conducted every year. The championship aims to ensure that executives participating in the event get the onboard experience about the complexities of running an organisation and gain expertise and skills from this event. It also enables the Corporate

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.

Managers to face the thrill of Managing Business in a competitive mode.

4. Sir David Attenborough has been conferred with the prestigious Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019.

Note: He is an English broadcaster and a historian. He is popular for writing and presenting the BBC Natural History Unit. He worked to make aware to preserve and protect the biodiversity of the planet.

5. American global aerospace and defence technology company, Northrop Grumman, announced to name its next Cygnus capsule after Astronaut **Kalpna Chawla**.

Note: Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defence technology company, announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named the "S.S. Kalpna Chawla", in memory of the mission specialist who died with her six crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003.

6. Indian filmmaker Chaitanya Tamhane has won the best screenplay award at the Venice Film Festival.

Note: Chinese American filmmaker Chloe Zhao bagged the top prize of the coveted Golden Lion for her drama Nomadland. The Jury headed by two-time Oscar winner Cate Blanchett. Mr. Tamhane became the first director from the country to compete in the main category of a European film festival after Mira Nair.

August

1.

1. Sunil Ydv SS has been conferred with the Karmaveer Chakra Award instituted by the United

Nations and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO).



Note: He received the award for his relentless contribution to society through his Telegram channel "SS Motivation."

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

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

3. Moothon film has won the Best Film Award in the 20th edition of New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) of Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC).

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

4. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recognized Venkataipur and Noliassahi, villages of **Odisha** as 'Tsunami Ready' for their overall preparedness to face the tsunami.

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

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

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

6. Nitin Sethi has won the Asian College of Journalism's award 2019 for investigative journalism.

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

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

Note: He won the inaugural social impact journalism award for his story titled "Death by digital exclusion: On faculty public distribution system in Jharkhand" published in The Hindu.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Rohit Sharma will be the fourth cricketer after legendary Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli to be conferred the award. Tendulkar was awarded the Khel Ratna in 1998, Dhoni got it in 2007 and Kohli received in 2018.

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

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

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

Note: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the Swachh Survekshan 2020 result at the Award Ceremony 'Swachh Mahotsav' in the national capital



being organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA). This is the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of the country. A total of 129 awards will be handed out to the top-performing cities and states.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Bhanu Prakash had secured the gold medal with a score of 167, Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal with a

score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.

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

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

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

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

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

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

July

1.

1. Dr. C. Rangarajan has been conferred with the first Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award in Official Statistics for lifetime achievements.

Note: He received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution in providing solutions in the issues related to the estimation of national income. The award has been instituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) from 2020

2. Ravindra Jadeja has been named as the India's 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) of the 21st century by Wisden.

Note: He made his debut in 2009 and represented India in 49 test matches, 165 ODIs and 49 T20Is as of 2020. Jadeja's MVP rating is around 97.3 which is second only to Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka making him the second most Valuable Test Player of the 21st Century.

3. Name the Indian-American who were listed among the 38 immigrants to be honoured as the

'2020 Great Immigrants' by the Carnegie Corporation -- **Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee and Prof Raj Chetty.**

Note: The noted biologist, oncologist and the author Siddhartha Mukherjee was awarded Pulitzer Prize in 2011 for his book: The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer. Raj Chetty was chosen as the recipient for the award for his efforts in launching a real-time economic impact monitor of COVID-19.

4. Government announced to release commemorative stamp to honour **PV Narasimha Rao.**

Note: PV Narasimha Rao served as 9th prime minister from 1991 to 1996. He is the only non-Gandhi who completed a full term as prime minister. He was also the 1st prime minister of the country to hail from South India. His 100th birth anniversary was celebrated on June 28, 2020.



5. Mon District of Nagaland state received 2020 SKOCH awards under three categories in the 65th SKOCH summit 2020.

Note: The SKOCH Crucible Award for its focus on mission mode implementation of opening bank accounts through the Indian post Payment Bank (IBBP). SKOCH Order of Merit for its quick and innovative response to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and its initiative to home deliver the essentials to assist the citizens.

6. A new category of awards titled 'Prerak Dauur Samman' has been announced as a part of Swachh Survekshan 2021.

Note: The Prerak Dauur Samman has a total of five additional subcategories namely, Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze) and Aarohi (Aspiring). In Swachh Survekshan 2020, cities are evaluated on the criteria of 'population category' but for 2021, they will be categorised on the basis of six select indicator wise performance criteria

7. Freya Thakral has received the 2020 Diana Award for her "Recycler App".

Note: She developed this App to connect users with waste-handlers as a measure to help the ragpickers of Delhi. Her recycler App is a web-based mobile application which connects the users with waste handlers.

8. Chhattisgarh state's Darpan Portal and Mobile app, which contains the details of the schemes of the government received the Elites Excellence Awards 2020 by the IT institution Elites Technomedia under the Digital India Initiative.

Note: The e-certificate was presented during the three-day virtual conference from 10th July to 12th July organised to encourage innovation in the IT Sector of the Government. The conference was inaugurated on 10th July 2020 by Nitin Gadgari, Union Minister of MSME.

9. Sachin Awasthi has been honoured with the "Top Publicist" award in the Global Humanitarian Awards 2020 held as a webinar over a virtual platform in London.

Note: The Global Humanitarian Award 2020 is instituted as a part of the Honoring the Honorable initiative of the World Humanitarian Drive (WHD). The award is to honour the popular men and women who contribute to the betterment of the society and the world.

10. NTPC Limited has won the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019, under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category.

Note: The company has also received Commendation for Significant Achievement in the category of CSR. CII-ITC Sustainability Awards recognize and reward excellence in sustainability

practices. It is considered to be the most credible platform for sustainability recognition in the country.

11. Kezang D Thongdok has won the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2020.

Note: Kezang D Thongdok won the 2020 Dada Saheb Phalke Award for his documentary "Chi Lupo". The documentary Chi Lupo portrays the customs and practices of the Shertukpen community.

12. Edappadi K Palaniswami has been honored with Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

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

13. Ashok Kumar has been honoured with the Lifetime achievement award by the football club – Mohun Bagan Athletic Club.

Note: The Club decided not to celebrate any physical programme for 2020 Mohun Bagan Day on 29th July 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. The awards will be personally presented to the awardees available in Kolkata and for the other awardees the award will be handed after the pandemic.

14. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index as the world's richest man -- **6th**

Note: Larry Page is ranked in 7th position with a net worth of USD 71.6 billion, Sergey Brin in 9th position(USD 69.4B) and Elon Musk in 10th position(USD 68.6 billion). Warren Buffett is ranked in 8th position with a networth of USD 69.7B, after he gave away USD 2.9 billion to charity.

15. Parkash Dudeja has been awarded with coveted 'Infra Business Leader of the Year' award for 2020.

Note: He is the vice chairman of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA). He has been awarded for his contribution towards the infrastructure development.

16. N Chandrasekaran has been awarded the 2020 USIBC Global Leadership Award along with Lockheed Martin CEO Jim Taiclet.

Note: Every year, the USIBC Global Leadership Awards are conferred upon executives in recognition of outstanding leadership and for promoting Indo-US trade and business. The earlier receivers of this award include Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Google CEO Adena Friedman, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, and Sun Pharmaceuticals Founder and Managing Director Dilip Shanghvi.

17. Amal Clooney has been awarded with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award 2020.



Note: In recognition of her tremendous efforts towards the freedom of press, CPJ is awarding Clooney the highly prestigious award. She has been a strong supporter of CPJ's advocacy in recent years and has taken up the call for governments to provide emergency visas to journalists in distress. She is currently representing Maria Ressa, CPJ's 2018 Gwen Ifill award winner, who has been convicted of cyber libel, a criminal offense, in the Philippines.

18. Greta Thunberg has been awarded with the 'Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2020'.

June

1.

1. Virat Kohli has become the only cricketer and the only Indian to feature in the Forbes' Top 100 highest paid athletes of 2020.

Note: Kohli ranked 66 with Forbes Magazine estimated earning of around 26 million USD (24 million from endorsements and 2 million from salary/winnings). Tennis player Roger Federer tops the list for the first time with estimated earnings 106.3 million USD. He placed 4th in the 2019 list with the estimated earnings of 95million USD.

2. Kritika Pandey is the author of the book 'The Great Indian Tee and Snakes' for which she bestowed with Commonwealth short story prize 2020 for Asia region.

Note: The 29-year-old writer won for her story The Great Indian Tee and Snakes, which is about two young people trying to navigate the idea of love in an era of hatred and prejudice. The story about a Hindu girl falling in love with a Muslim man had made it to the shortlist for the Asian region.

3. The World Health Organization (WHO) has accorded the "World No Tobacco Day Award 2020" to **SEEDS** NGO.

Note: SEEDS has been working closely with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to prevent & control smokeless tobacco use. Deepak Mishra, executive director of the SEEDS has been nominated by the ministry as a member of the task force on the de-addiction campaign

4. Akshay Kumar. is the only Indian celebrities to find a place in the Forbes 100 list of world's highest paid celebrities during June 2019 to May 2020.

Note: With an estimated pre-tax earnings of USD 48.5 million (roughly Rs 366 crore) during June 2019 to May 2020. Forbes puts Akshay at the 52nd spot in the list topped by makeup mogul Kylie Jenner, whose estimated earnings during the same time were USD 590 million (roughly Rs 4,453 crore).

5. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been named as EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2020.

Note: The Climate Activist is to donate the prize money to organizations focused on environment and climate change. Miss Thunberg is the first person to receive the prize. She was selected among 136 nominees from 43 countries.

19. Arnab Chaudhuri has been conferred with 'Legend of Animation' award instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG) as part of the Animation Masters Summit (AMS) 2020.

Note: The award is being presented for his invaluable contribution to the animation and entertainment industry of India.

Note: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw became the 2nd woman to hold the title, following Olivia Lum of Hyflux Limited from Singapore in 2011. She was chosen for this title among 46 entrepreneurs from 41 countries.

6. Indian Airport received Platinum Recognition in ACI Asia-Pacific Green Airports recognition 2020 -- **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad.**

Note: The focus of Green Airport Recognition 2020 is Water Management. The Airports Council International (ACI) awarded the highest Platinum Recognition on World Environment Day.

7. Javed Akhtar becomes the first Indian to receive the prestigious Richard Dawkins Award for 2020 for critical thinking.

Note: Javed Akhtar is a renowned lyricist in the Indian film industry. He was awarded Padma Shri in 1999. He has also won the Sahitya Akademi award and Padma Bhushan. It is to be noted that Javed Akhtar raised voice on social media like twitter, literary events and in interviews about the issues with Citizenship Amendment Act, public policy, reopening of liquor shops after lock down, communism in the society, etc.

8. India's first solar-powered ferry which has been shortlisted for the Gustave Trousseau Award -- **Aditya.**

Note: Gussies Electric Boat Awards were instituted in memory of Gustave Trouvé, a French electrical engineer and pioneer in electric cars and boats. Trouvé was a prolific inventor with over 75 patents. Back in 1881, he developed a 5-m-long prototype electric boat.

9. Australian player **Michal Clarke** has been appointed an officer in the Order of Australia, an honour for achievement or meritorious service.

Note: Clarke joined iconic ex-skipper Allan Border, Mark Taylor, Ricky Ponting, Bob Simpson and Steve Waugh who have received the national recognition. Clarke, who led Australia to the 2015 World Cup title, has been appointed an officer (AO)



in the general division of the Order of Australia, an honour for achievement or meritorious service.

10. The Ramon Magsaysay awards, regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, have been cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the award foundation is located at **Manila, Philippines**.

Note: The Manila-based foundation also cancelled the award due to a financial crisis in 1970 and a disastrous earthquake that hit the Philippines in 1990. The awards are named after a popular Philippine president who died in a 1957 plane crash and honor "greatness of spirit in selfless service to the peoples of Asia."

11. Renjith Kumar has been honoured with "NASA Distinguished Service Medal" for his administration to NASA.

Note: He worked in relationship with NASA for over 30 years and contributed to updating the International Space Stations (ISS). He is CEO Emeritus of the Virginia based Analytical Mechanics Associates (AMA). RK Chetty Pandipati was the First Indian to win this honour in 2002.

12. Rattan Lal has been conferred with prestigious World Food Prize 2020.

Note: He was named as the 2020 World Food Prize Laureate for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change. He will get USD 250,000 as prize money. The first recipient of this prestigious award in 1987 was Indian agricultural scientist Dr M S Swaminathan, the father of India's Green Revolution.

13. Shobha Sekhar has been chosen for the 'Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)'.

Note: She started the Kalakruthi in 1994 affiliated with The Music Academy, Chennai and has been training many aspirants of Carnatic music. The medal of the order of Australia is awarded to the individuals contributing to their community or to Australia globally or domestically.

14. Angad Singh Rana has been adjudged as the winner of New Zealand's first 'Virtual' Chef competition – the 'Quality NZ Culinary Cup' held in India.

Note: Chef Angad Singh Rana has won QualityNZ Culinary Cup 2020. The award was announced by Cricket legend and Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming. This award is the New Zealand's first 'Virtual' Chef competition – the 'Quality NZ Culinary Cup' held in India.

15. Deccan Development Society (DDS) has won the Biodiversity award 2020 of Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

Note: The award was announced in a teleconference by Olivier Wenden, Vice President and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. The award is given to recognise the individuals for their actions and the organisations for their contribution in preserving the planet in the three priority areas of the foundation.

16. Jammu and Kashmir has been conferred with three prestigious Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sashaktikaran Puraskar for its outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development of the Gram Panchayats across the state/UTs.

Note: Panchayat Rathal, (Block Rajouri) and Panchayat Badakana, (Block Thana Mandi) of District Rajouri and Panchayat Meej, (Block Pampore) of Pulwama district were adjudged the best performing panchayats in recognition of their work in improving the delivery of services for socio economic development and implementation of various schemes.

17. Amartya Kumar Sen has been selected for the 2020 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade.

Note: He will be presented with the award by German Publishers' and Booksellers' Association, Borsenverein in a ceremony that will take place on October 18, 2020, in Paulskirche (Germany). Every year since 1950, the German Book Trade Peace Prize has been given.

Sports News

November

1.

1. Amit Panghal won the gold medal in Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament in Nantes, France in 52kg category.

Note: World silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) won gold medal at the Alexis Vastine international boxing tournament in Nantes. Panghal defeated American Rene Abraham 3-0. Sanjeet beat Frenchman Soheb Bouafia.

2. Jio won the sponsor title of the BCCI's 2020 edition of the Women's T20 Challenge.

Note: The partnership will also have the support of Reliance Foundation Education and Sports For All (RF ESA). This is a historic partnership, as for the first time a sponsor has signed with BCCI exclusively for the women's matches. The Jio Women's T20 Challenge to be played from 4th November to 9th November will be held in Sharjah.



3. Lewis Hamilton won the Formula One Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix at Imola in Italy.

Note: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Formula One Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix at Imola in Italy. The second prize was won by another Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas. A Red Bull driver, Daniel Ricciardo, won the third prize. Mercedes won the 2020 constructors' championship.

4. Renowned Australian cricketer Shane Robert Watson announced retirement from all forms of Cricket.

October

1.

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

Note: He had already announced retirement from International Cricket in 2015 but was playing Franchise-based Cricket tournaments such as Indian Premier League (IPL), Pakistan Super League (PSL). He is a right-handed batsman and a right-handed fast medium bowler. He made his debut for the Australian cricket team in 2002, playing his first One Day International against South Africa.

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 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.

September

1.

1. Para-Athletic Jayanti Behera has been awarded with the Biju Patnaik sports award in Odisha

Note: Indian women's hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekka and para-athlete Jayanti Behera received the Biju Patnaik sports award for outstanding performance. Both of them received a citation along with cash award of Rs 2 lakh each.

2. The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in **2021**.

Note: The Cycling Summit 2021 will consist of cyclists, athletes, fitness and sports enthusiasts, cycling coaches, health and nutrition experts, and influencers. There will also be indigenous and global brands that cater to the needs of health, fitness and cycling enthusiasts. The summit is estimated to attract around 25,000 people in each city.

3. Sumit Nagal becomes the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last 7 years.

Note: He went into second round of the ongoing US Open Tennis by defeating Bradley Klahn of USA 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the US Open. Prior to him, Somdev Devvarman is the last player to reach the second round of the Australian Open, French Open and US Open in 2013. He will now face Austria's Dominic Thiem in the 2nd round.

4. P Iniyan has won the prestigious Annual World Open online chess tournament.

Note: He scored 7.5 points out of a possible 9 with six victories and three draws to finish on top. The 48th edition of the annual event was held online from August 7-9.

5. Famous cricketer, Ian Bell announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, he held from **England**.

Note: He made his debut in 2004. He played 118 Tests, 161 ODIs, and 8 T20Is for England. He retired from ODIs in 2015 to focus on Test cricket. He won five Ashes series out of seven. He was the Player of the Series in the 2013 series, where he scored 562 runs at an average of 62.44.

6. Pierre Gasly has won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2020 held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Italy.

Note: This is his first Grand Prix win. Carlos Sainz Jr. (McLaren, Spain) came second followed by Lance Stroll (Racing Point, Canada) in third place. Lewis Hamilton ended at 7th place after he earned a 10-second stop and go penalty.

7. Poonam Khatri has been crowned as Wushu World Champion. Iran's Maryam Hashemi failed her dope test.



Note: Her medal got upgraded after Iran's Maryam Hashemi failed her dope test. Maryam won the gold medal in the Women's Sanda event at this Championship last year in October. She defeated Poonam in the 75 kg category in the final which was held in China.

8. Dominic Thiem has won the men's singles title at the 2020 US Open tournament.

Note: Thiem is also the first player to capture a Grand Slam title from two sets down since Gaston Gaudio at 2004 French Open. For the first time in six years, there was a first-time Grand Slam champion at the US Open.

9. Japan's Naomi Osaka has won the women's single title at the 2020 US Open tournament defeating **Victoria Azarenka**.

Note: Osaka previously won the title at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open. She is now the first Asian player to win three Grand Slam singles

titles. The victory has moved up Osaka to number 3 in the world rankings.

10. The Formula one driver **Sebastian Vettel** will drive for the Racing Point in the next season.

Note: Four-time Formula One champion Sebastian Vettel will drive for Racing Point starting next season. The team, which will be renamed Aston Martin. The team said Vettel has signed for the 2021 season "and beyond" but did not reveal the length of the contract.

11. Lewis Hamilton has won the Formula One (F1) Tuscan Grand Prix 2020.

Note: This was Hamilton's 6th win of the season and 90th F1 victory of his career. Mercedes racer Valtteri Bottas (Finland) bagged 2nd position, followed by Alexander Albon (Red Bull-Thailand) at the F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020. It was the 1st edition of Tuscan Grand Prix and 9th race of F1 2020

August

1.

1. German Famous footballer Benedikt Howedes retired recently.

Note: He was one of the 3 players who had played every minute for the team in the tournament. Benedikt Howedes has played 44 times for German National Team from 2011-17. In September 2007, German Football Association honored him with the Fritz Walter Medal, under-19 Gold Medal which is given to the best youth players.

2. The **Indian Government** has provisionally granted permission for the 13th edition of **Indian Premier League's** (IPL's) 2020 to be rescheduled in **UAE**.

Note: BCCI has also decided to host a Women's T20 Challenge to be held from November 1 to 10 in UAE. Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah will be the three venues of the tournament. No spectators to be allowed in the initial phase of the tournament

3. India has withdrawn from the women's world team **Squash championship** scheduled to be held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.

Note: India has withdrawn from the **women's world team Squash championship** scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15th to 20th December, due to lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of its players. Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has decided to withdraw from the championship.

4. Lewis Hamilton won the **British Grand Prix** (GP) 2020.

Note: It is officially known as the Formula 1 Pirelli British Grand Prix 2020. The tournament was held at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom (UK). This is his 7th time to win this title. He is the only racer to win most in British GP.

5. Sports Authority of India with CISCE and CBSE, will host an online program for training of Physical Education (PE) Teachers on "Khelo India Fitness Assessment of School Going Children".

Note: The program will target 7500 participants across 2615 CISCE schools. It will assess the fitness levels of the school children and identify potential future champions. Khelo India Fitness Assessment through Khelo India Mobile App (KIMA) will be done. The session is titled 'Whole School Approach to Fitness'.

6. Indian umpire **KN Ananthapadmanabhan** has been included in ICC's international panel of umpires.

Note: Ananthapadmanabhan played 105 First-Class and 54 List A games for Kerala, taking 344 and 87 wickets respectively. Ananthapadmanabhan has officiated in all major domestic events including the IPL.

7. INOX company will be the official sponsor Indian team for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympic.

Note: The Tokyo Olympics was rescheduled to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be held from July 23 to August 8 in 2021. As part of the partnership the Group will also support team's



promotions through its entertainment company -- INOX Leisure Limited, which owns a chain of multiplexes in the country.

8. "Fit India Freedom Run" would be organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from **15th August to 02nd October 2020**.

Note: The ministry is organising "Fit India Freedom Run" to mark the 74th Independence Day of India on August 15 to 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2. This would be the largest country-wide run, targeted to encourage fitness among the masses while following the COVID-19 protocols.

9. Max Verstappen has won the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix.

Note: His victory ended Mercedes dominant Formula 1 season. 70th Anniversary Grand Prix 2020 was the 5th race of 2020 Formula 1 season and was held at Silverstone, United Kingdom

10. India will host the ICC Men's T20 World cup 2021.

Note: While the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will be held in Australia in 2022. Cricket's governing body has also decided to postpone the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 in New Zealand till February – March 2022 because of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on cricket globally.

11. Suresh Raina announced his retirement from **Cricket** sport.

Note: He made his international debut against Sri Lanka in 2005 and represented India in 226 ODIs, 78 T20Is and 18 Tests in his cricketering career that spanned over 13 years. He scored 7,787 runs across all the formats in international cricket. He also claimed 167 catches in his international career, setting the bar high with his athleticism on field. Suresh Raina is the first Indian batsman who has scored a century in all three formats of the game.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. Famous cricketer Laura Marsh of England has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket.

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

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

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

17. Football team Sevilla has won the Europa League for a sixth time.

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

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

Note: The government has announced the National Sports Awards 2020. Rohit Sharma (Cricketer), Mariyappan Thangavelu (Para-Athlete), Manika Batra (TT player), Vinesh Phogat (Wrestler) and



Rani Rampal (Hockey) will receive the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

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

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

20. Sophia Popov has won the Women's British Open 2020 title in Golf.

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

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

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

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

Note: He represented Australia in 4 Test matches, 91 ODIs and 47 T20Is. He also led the Australian

limited-overs team in 7 international games. He amassed 146 runs in tests, 2072 runs in ODIs and 984 runs in T20Is.

23. Table Tennis player Poulomi Ghatak announced her retirement.

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

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

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

25. India will host BRICS Games 2021.

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

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

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

July

1.

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

Note: The recently launched mobile application aims to bridge the gap between NADA and the athletes by offering easily-accessible information on various aspects of sport, prohibited substances as well as dope-testing.

2. G. Akash has become the country's 66th Grandmaster.

Note: Akash got his third GM norm in the National senior chess championship in Majhitar (Sikkim) last year, but his rating fell short of the required Elo mark of 2500. He played another five tournaments across the world to reach that rating.

He attained his final norm in Bad Worishofen (Germany) in March.

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

Note: The 27-year-old also bagged the Test cricketer of the year while young opener Laura Wolvaardt took home the women's cricketer of the year and ODI cricketer of the year awards. Pacer Lungi Ngidi was named ODI and T20 player of the year while David Miller was voted the fans' favourite player.

4. Valtteri Bottas has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2020.

Note: Austrian Grand Prix 2020 was the first race of 2020 Formula One season. Ferrari's Charles



Leclerc finished second while McLaren's Lando Norris came third. Another Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton being handed a 5 second penalty that dropped him from second place to fourth. The event was held at the Red Bull Ring without spectators

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

Note: During his 20-year glorious national team career, he won the Olympics singles titles in Beijing in 2008 and the 2012 London Games.

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

Note: Austrian Grand Prix 2020 was the first race of 2020 Formula One season. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished second while McLaren's Lando Norris came third. Another Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton being handed a 5 second penalty that dropped him from second place to fourth.

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

Note: Nouran Gohar of Egypt claims the No.1 ranking after the retirement of Welily. Raneem El Welily became the top- ranking squash player in 2015 and became the 1st Arab woman to secure the world's top ranking in any sport.

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

Note: She first entered the top 10 list in 2016 second to Dipika Pallikal, the other Indian woman squash player to enter the top 10 ranking. Saurav Ghosal, India's top male squash player, remains in the 13th position in the latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) ranking.

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

Note: Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) finished second while Max Verstappen (Red Bull- Belgium) was third. It was the second race of the 2020 Formula One World Championship and the first running of the Styrian Grand Prix.

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

Note: The tournament was earlier scheduled to be held in September 2020. India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament and is the defending champions, having won the last two tournaments.

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

Note: Former Socceroos captain Mile Jedinak has announced his retirement from the sport.

Socceroos is the official nickname of the Australia national soccer team that represents Australia in international men's soccer.

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

Note: He has played in 2010, 2014, 2018 FIFA World Cups. Mile captained the Socceroos' to win the 2015 Asian cup in his own country. He has represented many clubs in his career.

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

Note: The postponement of Dakar 2022 allows the IOC, the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the International Federations (IFs) to better plan their activities, which have been strongly affected by the postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

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

Note: He will receive the degree in recognition of his achievements as a footballer and as a passionate campaigner against child poverty. He will follow in the footsteps of Manchester United legends Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Bobby Charlton by receiving an honorary doctorate.

15. Lewis Hamilton has won the Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary.

Note: Lewis Hamilton won the Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary. Max Verstappen (Dutch-Red Bull) was second, followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes- Finland) at the third spot. Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 was the third race of the 2020 Formula One World Championship.

16. World cup winner famous footballer Andre Schurle has announced retirement from the sport held from **Germany**.

Note: He helped his country to win the 2014 FIFA World Cup. He represented Germany in 57 matches, scoring 22 goals. He also played for Chelsea from 2013-15 and also won a Premier League winners medal in 2015.

17. Fabio Quartararo has won the Moto Grand Prix 2020.

Note: Quartararo, 21, who rides for the Yamaha satellite outfit, had started on pole position and his main threat was removed when reigning world champion Marquez crashed out on lap 20.

18. Football Club Real Madrid has been crowned with the La Liga Champions for the 34th time after



defeating Villarreal 2–1 at Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano.

Note: Karim Benzema was the leading scorer for a 2-1 victory against Villarreal. Real Madrid, who are standing at the top spot with 26 wins from 37 matches, will lock horns with Leganes in their last game of the 2019-2020 La Liga season on July 20. Last time the team won the title in 2017.

19. Due to COVID-19 the ICC Men's T20 World Cup has formally been postponed to **2022**.

Note: Besides rescheduling the T20 World Cup to October-November, 2022 the ICC Board also decided to push the 2023 ODI World Cup in India to October-November 2023 from its designated window in February-March, 2023. India's 2018 Asian Games mixed relay medal upgraded to gold after disqualification of **Bahrain**.

Note: The medal was upgraded to gold following the disqualification of Bahrain squad that finished first in the 4×400 mixed relay final. The Bahrain squad was disqualified as Kemi Adekoya of Bahrain has been handed a 4-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit for failing a dope test.

20. Haryana state will host 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Note: The announcement was made by the state's chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union sports minister Kiren Rijiju via video conference. The Games will be held in Panchkula. Haryana has done well in all three editions of KIYG. While they came second in both 2019 and 2020 editions (200 medals in 2020 and 159 medals in 2019) Haryana won it in 2018 with 102 podium finishes (38 gold, 26 silver, 38 bronze).

21. Jamie Vardy has won the Premier Leagues Golden Boot award after netting 23 goals across the 2019/20 season.

Note: He beat Arsenal striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (22 goals), Southampton Danny Ings (22 goals), and Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling (20 goals) to scoop the prestigious individual award.

22. Bangladesh bowler **Kazi Anik Islam** has been banned for two years by the national cricket board for failing a dope test in 2018.

Note: Bangladeshi pacer, Kazi Anik Islam has been handed a 2-year ban by the national cricket board for failing a dope test in 2018. Kazi, who was Bangladesh's leading wicket-taker in the 2018 U-19 World Cup, tested positive for Methamphetamine, a prohibited substance, during a National Cricket League game in the same year. The 21-year-old admitted to the offence. His two-year ban began on February 8, 2019.

23. Mohun Bagan became the country's first-ever football club to feature on NASDAQ billboards in New York's Times Square.

Note: The billboard announcing "131 years of unmatched legacy" of the club also reminded fans about the, "time to start believing, again," in an obvious reference to Mohun Bagan's recent amalgamation with the ISL champion ATK.

24. Rajat Bhatia associated with **Cricket** sports has announced his retirement.

Note: He started his career with Tamil Nadu in 1999-2000 but played most of his cricket for Delhi. Bhatia played 112 first-class games, scoring 6482 runs at an average of 49.10 and taking 137 wickets at a shade under 28. He also played 119 List A games and 146 T20s.

June

1.

1. Cricketer **Rohit Sharma** has been nominated by the BCCI for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards 2020.

Note: The period of consideration for a person to get nominated is from January 2016 to December 2019. Rohit has become the first T20 cricketer to score four centuries. Also, he holds record of 150 plus score in around 8 ODIs. He also holds the greatest number of centuries in ODI matches since 2017, that numbered to 18.

2. Indian long distance player **Kiranjeet Kaur** has been slapped with four year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Note: The period of her ban started from December 15 and on February 26 she was

provisionally suspended by World Athletics. The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) disqualified Kaur from all the competitive results from 15th December 2019 to 26th February 2020.

3. In association with **National Sports Federations (NSF)** the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has launched India's 1st -ever national-level open online coaching and education programme called "Khelo India e-Pathshala".

Note: Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju and Union Minister of Tribal Affairs and Archery Association of India president Arjun Munda have inaugurated the programme via a webinar. A total of 21 games are included in this program, where veteran players showcase their



technical skills and talk to young players and help them improve their technical and overall game.

4. India will host Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup 2022.

Note: The tournament is likely to be held in the 2nd half of the year. The tournament will feature 12 teams from an earlier slot of 8 teams.

5. The Athletes Integrity Unit (AIU) of the World Athletics has imposed a four-year ban on which Indian player who won the gold medal in 2019 Asian Athletics Championships -- **Gomathi Marimuthu**.

Note: She won the gold medal in the women's 800 m event at the 2019 Asian Athletics Championships held in Doha, Qatar with her personal best timing. Gomathi had won gold with a timing of 2 minutes and 2.70 second.

6. The doping charge against Indian sportsperson has been dropped due to "non-conformities" in the handling of her sample -- **K Sanjita Chanu**.

Note: The IWF made the decision based on the recommendation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The 26-year-old, who claimed innocence since the beginning, was informed about the final verdict via an e-mail, signed by IWF's legal counsel Lilla Sagi.

7. Spain's sports council has accepted the change in status for the competitions, which will also be valid for men's and women's futsal.

Note: The move is another step to promote the development of these competitions that until now were considered amateur football.

8. Former European high jump champion, Alexander Shustov banned for four years by Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), he held from **Russia**.

Note: This was confirmed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The Russian Athletics Federation stated that his ban was dated from June 5, and his results had been disqualified for a period from 2013 to 2017.

9. Lightweight boxing champion Oleksandr Gvozdyk also known as "The Nail" announced his retirement held from **Ukraine**.

Note: He won the Bronze medal in the 2012 Olympic games. He won the 2018 World Boxing Councils (WBCs) light heavyweight world title against Adonis Stevenson in Quebec.

10. The 4th edition of Asian Youth Para Games to be held in **Bahrain** in December 2021.

Note: Around 800 athletes under 20 years aged are expected to compete in nine sports: athletics, badminton, boccia, goalball, para taekwondo, powerlifting, swimming, table tennis and

wheelchair basketball. The event is being organised in conjunction with the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Bahrain with the support of the government.

11. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov has won the World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020.

Note: He won the coveted title and price of \$3000 after scoring 7.5 points from 10 rounds. Indian Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna finished second in the Championship after scoring 6.5 points from 10 rounds. Sharjah Online International Chess Championship was hosted by the Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club.

12. Indian tennis player **Niki Poonacha** has been elected as a player member to ITF World Tennis Tour Player Men's panels.

Note: The Men's and Women's Panel will be headed by Mark Woodforde and Mary Pierce respectively who are the athlete representatives on the ITF board of directors. Poonacha is chosen as one of the two players from Asia/Oceania locale with a second-most noteworthy number of votes (62) among all challenging players.

13. Football club **Liverpool** has won the English Premier League 2019-20.

Note: This is the first time that Liverpool has won the English Premier League title. As of 26th June 2020, Liverpool by winning 28 of their 31 games in the season has accumulated 86 points.

14. Wicketkeeper-batswoman Rachel Priest of **New Zealand** has announced her retirement from International Cricket.

Note: She had a long career which spanned for 13 years. After her retirement, she has now signed up a contract with Cricket Tasmania to play in Australia Women's National Cricket League and will represent Tasmanian Tigers for the 2020/21 season.

15. Indian umpire **Nitin Menon** has been inducted into International Cricket Council's Elite Panel of Umpires.

Note: Nitin Menon was earlier a part of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Umpires. He has an experience of officiating in three Tests, 24 One Day Internationals and 16 T20 Internationals.

16. Germany footballer Mario Gomez has announced his retirement from the sport.

Note: He is considered as one of the best German forwards of his time. Mario Gomez played for different clubs in his soccer career. He won the Bundesliga title in 2007 while playing for Stuttgart, and two more titles while playing for Bayern Munich.



17. Australia and New Zealand will host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.

Note: The joint offer put together by Football Federation Australia and New Zealand Football got 22 of the 35 substantial votes cast by the FIFA Council individuals in the first voting form, with the Colombian Football Association having acquired 13 votes.

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

Note: Dravid beats Sachin Tendulkar by a narrow margin of votes in the final round of voting. Dravid

got 52 per cent of the votes, with as many as 11,400 fans participating within the final round of voting.

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

Note: The recently launched mobile application aims to bridge the gap between NADA and the athletes by offering easily-accessible information on various aspects of sport, prohibited substances as well as dope-testing.

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