

# Monthly GK Digest

November 2020



## Monthly Digest November -2020

**Dear readers,**

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

### Banking & Financial Awareness

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 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. 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.
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accelerated digital adoption as a result of the pandemic has made it critical for small businesses to pivot from offline to online.

23. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has enhanced the foreign investment limit for mutual funds from \$300 million to \$600 million.  
**Note:** The regulator's move comes after a recent surge in interest in overseas investments by Indian investors. It also said that mutual funds can make investments in overseas Exchange Traded Fund (ETFs) subject to a maximum of \$200 million per mutual fund, compared to \$50 million earlier, while maintaining the overall industry limit at \$1 billion.
24. According to a recent report of the RBI, Uttar Pradesh has been ranked amongst the top five states of the country which provide employment under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) during Covid-19 pandemic.  
**Note:** The top 5 ranks have been taken by Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. UP has secured the place ahead of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Telangana in the list of top 10 states. UP Government has successfully managed the return of 40 Lakh Migrants from all over the country and provided them employment opportunities also.
25. In accordance with the vision of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) ICICI Bank has launched a new indigenous RuPay debit card- National Common Mobility Card (NCMC).  
**Note:** This card is the bank's 1st ever contactless debit Card. The card is an international Contact-less, debit cum prepaid and interoperable transport card, a 'One Nation One Card i.e., a card with many benefits'. Payments can be made without the need to insert the card at PoS(Point of Sale) terminals, i.e., a contactless payment(Tap & Go).
26. **Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF)** has become the first foreign SWF that has been granted 100% income-tax exemption on income from interest, dividend and long-term capital gains for its investment in India's priority sector as per the Finance Act, 2020.  
**Note:** Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) - MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited - has become the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100% income-tax exemption for the long-term investments to be made in the specified priority sectors in India. This decision is on the lines of July 6, 2020 government notification regarding to broaden the scope of this exemption and to expedite foreign investment in the country's priority areas during the Covid-19 pandemic.

27. 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.
28. **Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Company Limited** has launched, 'Covid Shield+', India's First Individual Covid-19 Life Insurance Policy.  
**Note:** The comprehensive solution provides financial protection against the impact of COVID-19 diagnosis. Covid Shield+ establishes a new niche product category for the industry, that meets the increased protection needs of the people, that arises due to pandemic. The cost effective product requires no medical examination and provides instant decisioning to the policy applicant.
29. Mobikwik partnered with **American Express** to launch its first ever digital prepaid Card.  
**Note:** It is the 1st card for millennial users. It is the 1st first prepaid payments card of Amex with a flexible credit limit. With this launch, MobiKwik becomes the first non-bank Indian company to become a member of the American Express network and issue Cards in India. MobiKwik, which has more than 120 million users of its wallet, aims to issue MobiKwik Blue American Express Card to at least one million users over the next one year.
30. **Tata Consultancy Services** has signed an agreement with Deutsche Bank AG, under which TCS will acquire a 100% of the shares of Postbank Systems AG(PBS) from Deutsche Bank AG.  
**Note:** PBS is the IT (Information and Technology) service provider of Deutsche Bank. Deutsche Bank is an existing IT services partner of TCS. Both the parties intend to finalize the further agreements in relation to the transaction by end of 2020. The Transaction is subject to customary regulatory and governmental approvals.
31. **Paytm** has launched "Payout Links" for businesses, enabling them to instantly process payouts to customers, employees and vendors, without collecting their bank details.  
**Note:** It is aimed at helping small businesses in sectors like gaming, retail, export, manufacturing and e-commerce. Payout Links will allow businesses to send 'incentives' or refunds to the customers' bank accounts or wallet accounts. It can be used for salary payments, vendor payments, commissions and incentive transfers to be done instantly.
32. As per the 'Operation Green' announced by the central government 50 per cent of subsidy will be provided to the Himalayan and North-Eastern states for air transportation of fruits and vegetables.  
**Note:** Under the scheme, the airlines will provide direct air transport subsidy to the supplier, consignor, consignee or agent by charging only 50 percent of the actual contracted freight charges. The balance 50 percent will be claimed by the airlines as subsidy from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
33. **India Post Payments Bank** has launched the initiative of doorstep service for submission of Digital Life Certificate through Postman.  
**Note:** This facility will enable pensioners to submit their life certificates from the comfort of their home. India Post Payments Bank, IPPB of department of posts & ministry of electronics & information technology (MeitY) have successfully launched the initiative of the department of pension & pensioners' welfare (DoPPW)
34. **Paytm Payments Bank** has launched "Payout Links" for businesses.  
**Note:** It is aimed at helping small businesses in sectors like gaming, retail, export, manufacturing and e-commerce. Payout Links will allow businesses to send 'incentives' or refunds to the customers' bank accounts or wallet accounts.
35. HDFC Bank in Partnership with Visa launched 'SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0', India's first comprehensive banking and payment solution for merchants.  
**Note:** This first-of-its-kind solution offers the ideal platform for merchants and self-employed professionals to open a current account instantly and to accept payments in-store and online. The comprehensive merchant solution enables the bank to approach over 20 million small & medium merchants and professional services like doctors, pharmacies, salons and laundry services across metro, semi urban and rural India in the next 3 years.
36. **Tata AIA Life Insurance** insurance company has entered into a partnership with PayBima to distribute its industry-leading life insurance solutions.  
**Note:** The association is in accordance with the mission of Tata AIA Life to provide Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) to its customers. PayBima is the digital arm of Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd. (MIBL). As part of the agreement, PayBima on its platform will offer the life Insurance solutions of Tata AIA Life.
37. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) signed an agreement with world

organization **World Bank** for providing advisory services for asset monetization.

**Note:** Under the agreement, the World Bank will provide advisory services on asset monetization. Asset Monetisation is creating new sources of revenue by unlocking underutilized or utilized public assets. DIPAM is to facilitate monetization of non-core assets and enemy property of Rs 100 crores.

- 38. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** gave its final approval for the merger of HDFC ERGO Health Insurance with which general insurance companies **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co Ltd.**
- Note:** The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has sanctioned the scheme of amalgamation between HDFC ERGO Health and HDFC ERGO General on September 30, 2020. After the merger, the new entity will be the second-largest private insurer in the health and accident segment in India.
- 39. SBM Bank** has partnered with Fintech PayNearby to launch a neo banking platform.
- Note:** The bank is also looking at collaborative banking in other segments and where companies may have access to a large number of customers but does not have a banking license. SBM Bank focuses on to provide top of the line services to the wealthy and growing affluent in India and their counterparts will be NRIs with relations in India.
- 40. Digital lending platform Stashfin** has partnered with Visa to launch co-branded prepaid cards with credit lines.
- Note:** Targeted Customer– Millennials who are just beginning their careers or are still in the early stages and prefer not to deal with hindrances of borrowing from a traditional banking institution. With this launch, Stashfin aims to tap into customers looking for festive shopping discounts, helping them convert their purchases into easy EMIs (Equated Monthly Installments) using their credit line cards.
- 41. The Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on **Punjab National Bank** for violating the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- Note:** Punjab National Bank was operating a bilateral ATM-sharing arrangement with Druk PNB Bank Ltd., Bhutan, since April 2010 without prior approval or authorisation from India's banking regulator. RBI imposed the Rs 1 crore penalty for "contravention of nature referred to in Section 26 (6) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act)."
- 42. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** placed the Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) under moratorium for a period of one

month, the bank is proposed to be merged with **DBS Bank of India.**

**Note:** The RBI has also drafted a scheme of amalgamation for LVB with DBS Bank of India and aims to complete the merger process before moratorium period ends. The proposed amalgamation will provide stability and better prospects to LVB's depositors, customers and employees. As per the moratorium order, LVB will not, without RBI's permission, "make, in the aggregate, payment to a depositor of a sum exceeding Rs 25,000 lying to his credit, in any savings, current or any other deposit account, by whatever name called.

- 43. Equitas Small Finance Bank.** Small Finance Bank has launched 'Eva', a unique savings account for Indian women.
- Note:** The product addresses the wellbeing of women in every aspect such as Health, Wealth and Prosperity. The Product that is aimed at women is based on the concept of Relationship Value. It offers Free Health Check-up and unlimited teleconsultation with women doctors, gynecologists and mental health experts.
- 44. HDFC Bank** has launched a campaign, 'Mooh Band Rakho' to increase awareness on cyber frauds and ways to prevent them .
- Note:** The campaign supports the International Fraud Awareness Week 2020 (November 15 – 21), a global movement to reduce the impact of fraud. The campaign was launched by Retd. Lt General Dr Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator, Government of India and Mr Jimmy Tata, Chief Risk Officer, HDFC Bank in a virtual event. 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign will talk about the steps to be followed like not to share the card details, CVV (Card Verification Value), Expiry Date, OTP (One Time Password) NetBanking/ MobileBanking Login ID & Password over Phone, SMS, email and social media.
- 45. In partnership with technology company Neokred Technologies**, YES Bank launched 'YES BANK Neokred Card', a Co-Branded Prepaid Card to encourage cashless payments.
- Note:** The card offerings can be personalized to suit the needs of companies looking for salary cards or expense cards for their employees. The 'YES BANK Neokred Card' can be used for spends and also be for withdrawing cash at ATMs (Automated Teller Machines). Neokred offers a wide range of customised benefits like cashback on spends, rewards, instant discounts among others .
- 46. Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd (BFIL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) of **Maharashtra** state

- government to enhance doorstep delivery of livestock care to farmers in the state.  
**Note:** The Joint initiative is titled 'Maha Pashudhan Sanjeevani' and will be supported by BFIL as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The Scheme will be implemented under the Mukhyamantri Pashu Swasthya Yojana. The doorstep services will include curative treatment, vaccination, artificial insemination, preventive care and all animal husbandry related information.
47. Moody's Investor Services has projected India's GDP growth to be contracted by what percent the current financial year 2020-21-- **10.6% per cent.**  
**Note:** Earlier it had estimated the contraction rate as 11.5%. It also revised upwards its expectation for GDP growth rate to 10.8 percent for 2021-22 from the earlier 10.6 percent.
48. In association with **Mastercard** the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have jointly launched Project Kirana in India.  
**Note:** The Mastercard and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have jointly launched Project Kirana in India. The project will work to increase revenue streams and adopt digital payments in kirana shops owned or operated by women.
49. **Reserve Bank of India** became the first central bank in the world to have more than one million followers on its Twitter handle.  
**Note:** RBI governor Shaktikanta Das congratulated his colleagues on this occasion. Mr Das has a separate Twitter handle with 1.37 lakh followers. India's monetary authority has beaten the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank on Twitter by emerging as the most popular central bank on the microblogging site with one million followers.
50. The Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 50 million loan to improve operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in **West Bengal.**  
**Note:** The loan will support the integration of financial and information system and the expansion of automation reforms in the operations of the state government, which are expected to strengthen the delivery of public services and create fiscal savings.
51. Indian IT company **TCS** will acquire the shares of Postbank Systems AG, the technology services unit of Frankfurt-based Deutsche Bank AG.  
**Note:** Postbank Systems provides project management, application management and infrastructure support services to Deutsche Bank. The value of the deal was not disclosed. The transaction is expected to be completed by the year-end, subject to regulatory approvals
52. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the revamped viability gap funding (VGF) scheme envisaging a total outlay of **Rs 8,100 crore.**  
**Note:** The revamped scheme will provide financial support to PPP projects in the infrastructure sector spread over a period of five years ending 2024-25. Of the total amount of Rs 8,100 crore, Rs 6,000 crore has been earmarked for PPP projects in the economic infrastructure segment and remaining Rs 2,100 crore for social infrastructure projects.
53. As per the Reserve Bank of India, India's GDP is likely to contract by **8.6%** per cent in the second quarter (July-September) of FY 2020-21.  
**Note:** The RBI has estimated that the economy will contract by 9.5 per cent for the full fiscal year. Researchers have used the 'nowcasting' method to arrive at the estimates ahead of the official release of data and their views in an article in RBI's monthly bulletin. 'India has entered a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history with Q2 2020-21 likely to record the second successive quarter of GDP contraction,' as per the article titled 'Economic Activity Index', authored by Pankaj Kumar of the Monetary Policy Department.
54. Two banks **HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank** have been put in the so-called 'red flag' list, a system used for monitoring foreign portfolio investor (FPI) limits.  
**Note:** A listed company enters the list when the available legroom for overseas investment is less than 3 per cent of the permissible limit. FPIs can invest up to 74 per cent in both HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank. The current FPI shareholding in case of HDFC Bank is 71.3 per cent, while that of IndusInd Bank is 73.1 per cent, data provided by depository firm NSDL shows.
55. **RBL Bank** has selected Amazon Web Services (AWS) as its preferred cloud service to drive digital transformation.  
**Note:** At present, around 40 per cent of the bank's mission-critical applications are on the cloud. The bank first migrated its corporate website to AWS cloud and with the experience gained initiated a 10-in-10 project (a complete migration of 10 applications in 10 days). The bank chose AWS for its commitment to security and highly reliable global infrastructure.
56. **ICICI Bank** has launched a fully digital mode of payment at leading retail stores partnering with Pine Labs to unveil 'Cardless EMI'.  
**Note:** ICICI Bank is the first lender in India to introduce a fully digital, cardless EMI facility at retail stores. For this facility the bank joined hands with Pine Labs, merchant commerce platform, to offer this facility

across pan-India outlets of leading retailers namely Croma, Reliance Digital, My Jio Stores and Sangeetha Mobiles.

57. **Life Insurance Corporation of India** has “ANANDA”, a digital application for agents for onboarding to get a life insurance policy.

**Note:** The Digital Application is called “ANANDA”, which is an acronym for Atma Nirbhar Agents NewBusiness Digital Application. The Digital application is a tool for the onboarding process to get the life insurance policy through a paperless module with the help of the agent or intermediary.

58. The Reserve Bank of India has rejected **Muthoot**

**Finance** proposal to acquire IDBI Asset Management Company on the ground of synergy.

**Note:** IDBI Bank, which was planning to sell its mutual fund business for Rs 215 crore to comply with regulations, will now have to find a new buyer for it. IDBI Bank, which is a subsidiary of Life Insurance Corporation, has to divest its share in the AMC since LIC already has a mutual fund unit.

59. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on public sector bank **Punjab National Bank** for unauthorised ATM operations.

**Note:** RBI has observed that the Bank was operating a bilateral ATM sharing arrangement with Druk PNB Bank Ltd, Bhutan, (international subsidiary of the Bank), since April, 2010 without the prior approval / authorisation from RBI. Meannwhile, in a statement the RBI said it has cancelled the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of five Payment System Operators (PSOs) engaged in issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.

60. **State Bank of India** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSe) to set up a long-term cooperation mechanism, and promote Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance and green finance.

**Note:** The MoU will help SBI and LuxSE set up a long-term cooperation mechanism, and promote ESG (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) and green finance. Through this MoU, the Luxembourg Stock Exchange would work towards creating a sustainable environment for issuers, asset managers, and investors in terms of ESG focused funds and bonds, according to an official release.

61. Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) has signed an MoU with **HDFC Bank** to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Start-ups.

**Note:** Through this association ICCI engages, enrolls and supports various Startups /SMEs /MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) to facilitate financial and other facilities to/from HDFC Bank. HDFC Bank may offer bank accounts to Startups that are supported by ‘Inventivepreneur’. It will provide vital business support functions namely, shared workspaces, digital marketing, web services, Patent filing, content writing, tax, and legal advisory to ICCI recommended businesses.

62. **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has collaborated with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited to launch Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY).

**Note:** This scheme provides life cover of Rs 2 Lakh on death of the insured member due to any reason. It is optional for all the savings account holders with IPPB. The Scheme was launched in 2015. It is a low cost insurance scheme that seeks to bring large sections of the underserved and unserved population into the financial mainstream.

63. The PK Mohanty constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recommended raising the cap on promoter shareholding in private sector banks to **26 per cent** of the paid-up equity capital.

**Note:** The panel has also proposed that large corporates may be permitted to promote banks after necessary amendments to the Banking Regulations Act. The committee, led by PK Mohanty, has also proposed converting of payments banks into a small finance bank. For this, the track record of 3 years of experience as payments bank may be considered as sufficient.

64. Reserve Bank of India imposed restrictions on withdrawals from Urban Cooperative Bank **Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank** for six months.

**Note:** The RBI, in a release, said it has issued certain directions to Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank, Mantha District Jalna, Maharashtra, from the close of business on November 17, 2020. As per the directions, the bank will not, without prior approval of RBI in writing, grant or renew any loans and advances, make any investment, incur any liability including borrowal of funds and acceptance of fresh deposits, disburse or agree to disburse any payment, among others.

65. Luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz has partnered with **State Bank of India** to offer attractive financial benefits, on owning a Mercedes-Benz.

**Note:** The collaboration will give Mercedes-Benz access to the unparalleled market penetration of SBI’s HNI customer base, while the bank’s customers will enjoy exclusive benefits while booking a marque luxury product like Mercedes-Benz. The collaboration



- guarantees a host of financial benefits including an attractive rate of interest, additional benefits worth INR 25,000 exclusively for YONO customers who book a Mercedes-Benz vehicle through its Icon displayed on SBI's digital platform YONO.
- 66.** Union Cabinet has approved the merger of crisis-ridden Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB) with **DBS Bank India**.  
**Note:** The merger takes effect November 27, when the bar on withdrawals by LVB depositors will be lifted. LVB will be amalgamated with DBIL from the appointed date, and with this there will be no further restrictions on the depositors regarding withdrawal of their deposits.
- 67.** The report titled "FDI in India: Now, Next and Beyond" has been prepared by **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** along with Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY), according to which India may foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$120-160 billion per year by 2025.  
**Note:** This is on the condition to increase the FDI to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio between 3-4% from less than 2% now. Notably, India's GDP grew 6.8% in the past 10 years with FDI to GDP at 1.8%. India's GDP growth could also improve to 7-8% growth if the investments come in. The investors ranked India third in terms of attractiveness and 80% of them have planned for investment in India in the next two to three years. Out of them 25% investments are worth over \$500 million.
- 68.** Muthoot Finance in partnership with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** launched a gold jewellery insurance scheme called 'Gold Shield'.  
**Note:** The new product known as 'Muthoot Gold Shield' is the gold jewellery insurance scheme launched by Muthoot Finance for its customers. The policy provides insurance coverage for gold jewellery of individual customers. This product is exclusively designed to provide insurance coverage of gold jewellery articles for customers of the company at the time of closure of the gold loan and release of gold ornaments.
- 69. Yes Bank** has launched an SMS Pay functionality on POS terminals, which enables merchants to accept contactless payments from customers.  
**Note:** The facility was launched in collaboration with French payment services company Worldline. Local merchants and department stores could request payments from customers by entering their contact details. An SMS would be triggered with a generated link, through which payments can be processed by credit and debit cards.
- 70.** Fintech company **Razorpay** has Corporate Cards, in collaboration with VISA to provide relief and stabilise the financial operations of COVID-19-affected startups and SMEs.  
**Note:** The new cards will enable founders to free up working capital expenses with zero personal risks and liability and a repayment offering of up to 45 days of interest-free credit. They can be used to make online payments as well as purchases at a PoS in a brick-and-mortar.
- 71.** As per the data released by the Union ministry of statistics and programme implementation (Mospi), India's GDP contracted by **7.5%** in the quarter ending September 2020.  
**Note:** India's GDP fell by 23.9% in April-June period quarter, worst in decades, amid the coronavirus pandemic-induced which hit businesses and livelihoods across the country. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) internal model expected a GDP contraction of 8.6% in the September quarter.

### Obituaries

- 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 Villupuram 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 Tiruvantahpuram 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.
8. Veteran **filmmaker** Sudarshan Rattan passed away due to COVID-19.  
**Note:** He was known for his 1986 film Manav Hatya, starring Madhuri Dixit and Shekhar Suman. Apart from this, the late filmmaker had also written, directed and produced the 1996 action drama film Hahakaar, starring Sudhir Pandey, Shafi Inamdar, Neelima Azeem and Johnny Lever among others.
9. Renowned personality Sanchaman Limboo passed away recently, he was former chief minister of **Sikkim**.  
**Note:** He was born on January 15, 1947 in West Sikkim district, Sikkim. Sanchaman Limboo, a member of Sikkim Sangram Parishad Party was the fourth Chief Minister of Sikkim who served from 17th June 1994 to 12th December 1994. He formed the congress government in 1994, following the merger of Sikkim Sangram Parishad Party with Indian National Congress.
10. Famous Footballer Satyajit Ghosh passed away recently.  
**Note:** Satyajit Ghosh started his career with Railway FC in 1980. He later switched on to Mohun Bagan Athletic Club, an Indian professional multi-sport club, where he formed the core of their backline alongwith star Indian defender Subrata Bhattacharya. He played for Mohun Bagan from 1982 till 1986 and in 1988 till 1993.
11. Spaniard Father and priest Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ, passed away recently, he was a veteran author and columnist of **Gujrati** language.  
**Note:** Father Valles, Jesuit priest and mathematician came to India in 1949 and settled in Gujarati. He taught mathematics in St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, Gujarati from 1960 to 1982. India honoured him with Indian citizenship. He wrote a weekly column in the Gujarat Samachar's Sunday supplement.
12. World's longest serving prime minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa passed away recently, he was prime minister of **Bahrain**.  
**Note:** He is the World's Longest Serving PM. He has been serving as PM since 1971. He was born on November 24, 1935 in Jasra, Bahrain. He has played a vital role in the political and economic affairs of Bahrain for over 3 decades. He is the son of Bahrain's former ruler, Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who ruled from 1942 to 1961
13. American Television editor, writer, and producer Ken Spears passed away recently.  
**Note:** He co-created the beloved animated series 'Scooby-Doo'. He was also the co-founder of television animation production company, Ruby-Spears Productions, along with the late Joe Ruby. Spears and Ruby together created Scooby-Doo, Dynomutt, Dog Wonder, and Jabberjaw, among other programs.
14. Nobel laureate Masatoshi Koshiba passed away recently, he received Nobel prize in **Physics**.  
**Note:** He was co-winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in physics for confirming the existence of elementary particles called neutrinos. He devised the construction of giant underground chambers to detect neutrinos that stream from the sun. Takaaki Kajita, won the Nobel Prize in physics in 2015 for research at the Super-Kamiokande facility that found neutrinos have mass.
15. Former President of Ghana Jerry John Rawlings, passed away recently.  
**Note:** He is the 1st president of the 4th republic of Ghana. He is the founder of National Democratic Congress (NDC). The former air force officer and military leader was born

- on June 22, 1947 at Accra, Ghana. He led 2 military coups, one in 1979 and another in 1981.
- 16. Padma shri awardee and Sculptor Arjun Prajapati** passed away recently.  
**Note:** He passed away due to COVID-19. He was born on 9th April 1956 and hails from Rajasthan. He was popularly known as the “Maharathi of Cloning” – master of cloning, since he has cloned celebrities like Prince Charles of Britain, former US President Bill Clinton, Padmashree Pandit Vishwamohan Bhatt.
- 17. Renowned politician Mridula Sinha** passed away recently, she was former governor of **Goa state**.  
**Note:** Former Governor of Goa and veteran BJP leader, Mridula Sinha passed away. She was the first woman Governor of Goa. She was also a proficient writer, making extensive contributions to the world of literature as well as culture. She has served as the head of the BJP’s women’s wing and Chairperson of Central Social Welfare Board in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- 18. Renowned personality R N Chibber** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Army Personnel**.  
**Note:** Born on September 23, 1934, Gen chibber was commissioned into the Army on June 2, 1955, and was posted in Afghanistan from 1972 to 1975 as a military attache. He was an outstanding officer, who also commanded the 8 Jat Regiment. His expertise and exceptional strategy put him in the forefront as a brilliant officer.
- 19. Renowned Journalist Ravi Belagere** passed away recently.  
**Note:** Belagere was famous for writings on the crime world and his column ‘Paapigala Lokadalli’ was very popular. Known for his writing style, Belagere was honoured with many awards including the Karnataka Sahitya Academy award, Kannada Rajyothsava award, Karnataka Media Academy award and many more.
- 20. Renowned personality Soumitra Chatterjee** passed away recently,  
**Note:** Chatterjee began his film acting career with Satyajit Ray’s Apur Sansar, the third film of the internationally acclaimed Apu trilogy. The partnership between the two grew over the course of 14 films. Chatterjee was also famed for his poetry, the written word only eclipsed by his impeccable diction, which still acts as the golden standard for actors starting out in Bengali theatre and cinema.
- 21. Renowned banker P G Kakodkar** passed away following a cardiac arrest, he was Chairman of **State Bank of India**.  
**Note:** Kakodkar joined SBI as a probationary assistant in the year 1957 and retired as chairman of the bank on March 31, 1997. During his tenure as chairman of the SBI, he was instrumental in the bank achieving several milestones. He was also on the Managing Committee of Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCCI).

### Important Days

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

6. National Legal Services Day is celebrated every year on **8th November**.

**Note:** The Day is celebrated to make people aware of the various provisions under the Legal Services Authorities Act and the right of the litigants. The aim of celebrating this day is to offer free of charge, proficient and legal services to the people belonging to weaker sections of society. On 11 October 1987, the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 was enacted, while the act took effect on 9 November 1995.

7. The World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated every year on **10th November**.

**Note:** This year the day is celebrated under the theme 'Science for and with Society'. The day was proclaimed in 2001 and is being celebrated by the United Nations since 2002. The main objectives of the day are as follows:

- To strengthen the role of science for sustainable and peaceful societies
- To promote national and international solidarity
- To draw attention about the challenges faced by science
- To renew national and international commitment

8. Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year on **12th November**.

**Note:** The day is celebrated to commemorate the first and only visit of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947. On 12 November 1947, Mahatma Gandhi addressed the displaced people (a refugee from Pakistan), who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.

9. The theme of the National Ayurveda Day 2020 is '**Ayurveda for COVID-19 pandemic**'.

**Note:** National Ayurveda Day is being celebrated every year from 2016 on the day of Dhanwantri Jayanti or Dhanteras. Ayurveda is considered one of the most ancient and well-documented systems of medicine that are equally relevant in modern times.

10. Every year World Diabetes Day is observed on **14th November**.

**Note:** World Diabetes Day is observed every year on November 14, aims to promote global awareness and how can people live the way they want while managing diabetes in an efficient way. World Diabetes Day (WDD) was first created in 1991 by the International

Diabetes Federation and was later recognized by the United Nations in 2006.

11. The International Day for Tolerance is annually observed on **16th November**.

**Note:** The day is observed to educate people about the need for tolerance in society and to help them understand the negative effects of intolerance. This day was created to encourage mindfulness and faith in human rights – in order to encourage equality and diversity across the world.

12. National Press Day is observed every year on **16th November**.

**Note:** The day marks the presence of an independent and responsible press in India. This day symbolizes freedom of the press and its responsibilities towards the society. The Press Council of India started functioning on this day.

13. The theme of the **World Toilet Day 2020** celebrated every year on 19th November -- **Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change**.

**Note:** The official convener of the World Toilet Day is the UN-Water. In 2020, the World Toilet Day is celebrated under theme "Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change". According to the United Nations, more than 4.2 billion live without safely managed sanitation. Also, more than 673 million people still practice open defecation.

14. World Philosophy Day 2020 was observed on **19th November**.

**Note:** The Day encourages academic exchange and highlights the contribution of philosophical knowledge in addressing global issues. The 2020 edition invites the world to reflect on the meaning of the current pandemic, underlining the need, more than ever before, to resort to philosophical reflection in order to face the multiple crises we are going through.

15. The theme of the 59th National Pharmacy Week observed between November 16, 2020 and November 22, 2020 -- **Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals**.

**Note:** The Indian Pharmaceutical Association has been organizing the National Pharmacy Week every year during the third week of November. This year the 59th National Pharmacy Week was celebrated.

16. **Maharashtra** state observed the National Unity Week from 19th to 25th of November in order to increase social harmony in the state.

**Note:** Maharashtra will observe the National Unity Week from 19th to 25th of November in order to increase social harmony in the state, everyone should participate in this programme.

17. The world television day is observed every year on **21<sup>st</sup> November**.  
**Note:** The day marks the association of emerging and traditional forms of broadcast. The World Television Day theme of the 2020 edition is TV makes a difference.
18. World Fisheries day is celebrated every year on **21<sup>st</sup> November**.  
**Note:** The day highlights the importance of healthy oceans ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world. The World Fisheries Day 2020 celebrated under the theme Social Responsibility in the fisheries value chain.
19. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is celebrated worldwide on **25<sup>th</sup> November**.  
**Note:** The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence and the true nature of the issue is often hidden. This year's theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!".
20. The National Law Day is observed **26<sup>th</sup> November** to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution in India.  
**Note:** On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950. The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification. The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi made the declaration on 11 October 2015 while laying the foundation stone of the B. R. Ambedkar's Statue of Equality memorial in Mumbai.
21. In India the National Milk Day is observed every year on **26<sup>th</sup> November**.  
**Note:** The day was fixed by all the dairy majors of the country including the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), along with 22 state-level milk federations.
22. The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed every year on **29<sup>th</sup> November**.  
**Note:** The day marks the adoption of resolution on the partition of Palestine in 1947 and was adopted by UN General Assembly in 1977 as the as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Palestine: It is recognized officially as State of Palestine by UN and other entities. It is a sovereign state in Western Asia with administrative centre located in Ramallah. It will be observed on 1 December with special meetings in 2020 due to COVID-19.
23. The United Nations Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed every year on **30<sup>th</sup> November**.  
**Note:** The day marks a tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.

### New Appointments

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. **Priyanca 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 **Ivory Coast** has been elected as the president of which country for a consecutive third term.  
**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.
8. **Gyanendro Ningombam** has been elected as the President of Hockey India.  
**Note:** Executive Board after being Elected Unopposed for the **Senior Vice President post**. Earlier, Gyanendro Ningombam has been serving as the Officiating President of Hockey India since July 2020. Gyanendro has been associated with the discipline of Hockey in Manipur for the last 40 years, and has impressed with his work at the grassroots level.
9. **Vidisha Maitra** has been elected to the UN's Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).  
**Note:** The election was a tightly contested one but Maitra won with **126 UN members** supporting her candidature for the only post for the Asia-Pacific group while **64 voted** for the opposing candidate who was from Iraq. India has been a member of the committee since its inception in **1946**.
10. **Akshay Kumar Singh** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive of the country's biggest gas importer, Petronet LNG Ltd.  
**Note:** He will replace Prabhat Singh who completed his 5-year term. Petronet is a joint venture of IOC, GAIL, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and BPCL. The four state-owned firms hold 12.5 per cent stake each in the company whose chairman is the Oil Secretary. Petronet operates liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal at Dahej in Gujarat and Kochi in Kerala.
11. **Joe Biden** has been elected as the next President of United State of America.  
**Note:** His Oath of Office as the 46th President of the US will be administered by the Chief Justice of Supreme Court. He is to assume office on January 20, 2021. The election results make Trump the first one term president since 1990. This year, the US vote counting was delayed.
12. **T. N. Manoharan** has been appointed as the as the administrator of the crisis ridden Laxmi Vilas Bank by the Reserve Bank of India.  
**Note:** The RBI has also drafted a scheme of amalgamation for LVB with DBS Bank of India and aims to complete the merger process before moratorium period ends. The proposed amalgamation will provide stability and better prospects to LVB's depositors, customers and employees.
13. **Kris Gopalakrishnan** has been appointed as the first Chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub.  
**Note:** He was appointed by the Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub aims to promote innovation across financial sector. The RBI set up the hub to promote, support and hand-hold cross thinking. The hub will aim to increase the use of innovative technologies across the finance sectors.
14. **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Financepeer, Google incubated education fee financing company.  
**Note:** Rohit Sharma will be supporting Financepeer to transform the education sector and introduce innovation across the various segments of education. This collaboration between Rohit Sharma and

Financepeer will increase the reach of edtech and Fintech platforms of Financepeer among the Indian parents and schools.

15. **Maia Sandu** became the first woman **President of Moldova** after winning the Presidential election with around 57.75% of votes.  
**Note:** Maia Sandu, won the election defeating the pro-russian incumbent president, Igor Dodon by 15 points (42.25% of votes). Maia Sandu worked for the World Bank and later became the prime minister of Moldova in 2019.
16. **Smriti Mandhana** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of ESFBL.  
**Note:** Mandhana will feature in promoting Equitas Small Finance Bank's new product aimed at women called Eva. 'Eva' is a unique savings account which tries to address the well-being of Indian women in every aspect such as Health, Wealth and Prosperity as per the Bank.
17. **Sonu Sood** has been appointed as state icon of Punjab by the Election Commission of India (ECI).  
**Note:** The decision of honouring Sonu Sood with the title comes after he earned laurels for his humanitarian work during the lockdown. Sonu has been helping migrant workers reach their hometowns amid the coronavirus pandemic. He also helped people by giving them face masks, food, mobile phones and more.
18. **SN Rajeswari** has been appointed as a Whole-time member (distribution) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).  
**Note:** She is appointed for a period of 3 years or till attaining the age of 62. The centre appointed her as the CMD of Oriental Insurance in August 2020, she will hold the position as CMD till the end of May 2022.
19. **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been elected as External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva for three years.  
**Note:** Murmu will assume the position shortly by taking charge from Supreme Audit Institution of Switzerland. The CAG of India has been the external auditor of various international organisations. He has

earlier also been on the UN Board of Auditors from 1993 to 1999 and 2014 to 2020.

20. **Pia Dandiya** has been appointed the White House Fellow for the year 2020-21.  
**Note:** Dandiya, the founding principal of Democracy Prep Endurance High School in Harlem, New York, is the only Indian American among 14 White House Fellows announced this year.
21. **Navneet Munot** has been appointed as managing director and chief executive officer of HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd.  
**Note:** Munot, who was earlier chief investment officer (CIO) at SBI Mutual Fund, will be succeeding Milind Barve, who has been MD and CEO of HDFC AMC since inception in 2000.
22. The new Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC) -- Greg Barclay.  
**Note:** Barclay succeeds India's Shashank Manohar who stepped down in July 2020 and will replace Imran Khwaja, who is currently the interim chairman. He was serving as NZC's representative on the board of the International Cricket Council and had also served as the director of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015.
23. **Lt Gen Harpal Singh** has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army.  
**Note:** He is presently the Director-General of Border Roads Organisation and would take over his new appointment on 1 December. Lt Gen Harpal Singh, an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers on 24 December 1982. He later commanded a Border Roads, Task Force, in Jammu and Kashmir valley.
24. **Neera Tanden** has been be nominated as the as the **Director of the Office of Management and Budget** by the U.S. President-elect Joe Biden Joe Biden.  
**Note:** It is a top position inside the White House responsible for managing the administration's budget. Ms. Tanden (50) would be the first woman of colour to head the influential Office of Management and Budget at the White House. Ms. Tanden is currently chief executive of the left-leaning Center for American Progress.

### Important News – India

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 destinations 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.
18. The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** in partnership with American India Foundation, Dell Technologies and University of Mumbai has launched "Project Future Ready" to equip students with career skills.  
**Note:** The project is set to impact over 1 lakh students in Mumbai and Delhi-NCR, of which 60 per cent are females. The project aims to provide skills development for these students through career mentoring, leveraging online skilling platforms and providing market aligned skills training for employability and inculcating entrepreneurial mind-set.
19. **Snam** has announced multiple green energy partnerships with Adani group, Indian Oil and Greenko, paving way for its entry into the Indian market.  
**Note:** Snam is an operator of Europe's largest natural gas transmission network. Greenko has tied up with Snam for setting up a 50-50 joint venture to develop a "green hydrogen" business. Italian firm has

collaborated with the Adani Group to “envisage exploration of the hydrogen value chain in India and global markets.

20. Tata Technologies has signed an agreement with **Karnataka** state government to modernise 150 state-run IITs.

**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.

21. According to “Interstate Migrant Policy Index” (IMPEX) released by the ‘India Migration Now’ **Kerala** is at the top in integrating migrant workers.

**Note:** The average IMPEX score of India is 37 out of 100. According to the index, the states of Kerala, Goa, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have been most successful in integrating migrant workers. On the other hand, Delhi has the least Interstate Migrant Policy Index. The index helps India to evolve policy for 455 million internal migrants. According to Census 2011, there are 455 million internal migrants in the country.

22. **Narendra Singh Tomar** chaired Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee meeting that approved 29 projects leveraging investment of Rs 443 crores.

**Note:** The committee approved 29 projects leveraging investment of Rs 443 crores. Under the Scheme of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition, Rs 189 crores were allocated. Rs 15 crores was allocated to the BFL scheme. BFL is creation of Backward and Forward Linkages. BFL is a part of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana. The projects are to generate 15,000 employment and will benefit more than 2 lakh farmers.

23. The Ministry of Labour and Employment notified the draft rules for the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 in the Official Gazette of India, the government aims to implement the four labour codes from **April 1, 2021**.

**Note:** The ministry sought comments from various stakeholders within 30 days for finalizing the rules. The government aims to implement the four labour codes from April 1, 2021. In September 2020, Parliament had approved the Three Labour Codes – Code on Industrial Relations, the Code on Social Security and the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions. The Industrial Relation (Central) Rules, 2020 will replace the Industrial Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1949, the Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1954, the Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957 and

Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946.

24. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a 9 member working group under **R Chandrasekharan** to revisit the product structures of engineering tariffs relevant to the retail businesses and provide suitable recommendations to revise them.

**Note:** The committee will submit the report within 3 months. Engineering insurance requirements are constantly evolving with continuous advancement in technology this resulted to the changes in the customers’ expectations regarding the insurance. So, the Working Group will revisit the Engineering products (which are as per the erstwhile tariffs) for the Retail segment of products.

25. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) issued an order for scale-up and expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme and set a target of enhanced solar capacity of 30.8 GigaWatt (GW) by **2022**.

**Note:** It has set a target of enhanced solar capacity of 30.8 GigaWatt (GW) by 2022 with revised Central Financial Support of INR 34, 035 crores. MNRE launched the PM KUSUM Scheme for farmers for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants in India.

26. The Government of India has set up a 21-member Inter-Ministerial Committee under chairmanship of **Arun Goel** to strengthen the Capital Goods (CG) sector.

**Note:** The committee is headed by Arun Goel, Secretary of Department of Heavy Industries, Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. The Committee will strengthen the capital goods sector. The committee will figure out the ways and means to make the CG sector globally competitive and also to become the manufacturing hub for the world.

27. **Hero MotoCorp** has signed a distribution agreement with Harley-Davidson Motor Company for Indian market, as a part of “The Rewire” a plan to change its business model in India.

**Note:** Under this Hero will sell and service Harley-Davidson motorcycles, parts and accessories for general merchandise through a network of exclusive Harley-Davidson dealerships and MotoCorp will develop and sell a range of premium motorcycles under the Harley-Davidson brand. In September 2020, Harley-Davidson Motor Co decided to exit India and announced the shutting down of its Manufacturing plant in Bawal, Haryana.

- 28.** Tamil Nadu state has won the first position in the in the Union ministry of Jal Shakti's 2nd National Water Awards for 2019 under the best state (normal) category for the conservation and management of water.  
**Note:** The Awards will be presented during the 2-day virtual ceremony on 11th and 12th November 2020 in the presence of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Jal Shakti and Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- 29.** The theme of 13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2020 is **Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility**, held virtually from New Delhi.  
**Note:** It was inaugurated by Minister of State-MoS (Independent Charge-IC) Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). This was the first virtual UMI conference amid COVID 19 and was also held for a day as against the usual format of three days without any exhibition.
- 30.** Government of India issued an order to bring digital or online Media, films and audio-visual programmes, news portal and current affairs content under **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.  
**Note:** This will include OTT (over-the-top) platforms such as Netflix, Hotstar, Prime Video & Online News Portal. In order to do bring this under Ministry of I&B President amended the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. At present, there is no law or autonomous body governing digital content.
- 31. Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** has emerged as the lowest bidder with Rs.3166 crores for the construction of the 20 kilometer (km) 4 lane road bridge across River Brahmaputra connecting Dhubri of Assam to Phulbari of Meghalaya.  
**Note:** This will be India's longest Bridge over a River in the northeast. National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) is the executing agency and is expected to be completed by 2026-27. This river bridge project is financed by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). This project will enable better connectivity between the Northeastern states to the rest of India.
- 32.** According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) report, Renewables 2020 – Analysis and Forecast to 2025 by the year 2025 renewable energy will overtake coal to become the largest source of electricity generation worldwide.  
**Note:** India will double its green energy capacity addition in 2021 compared to 2020 levels. The report has predicted a decline in Global renewable capacity addition in 2022 due to expiry of incentives and policy uncertainties. The Renewable capacity additions are on track for a record expansion of nearly 10% in 2021.
- 33.** As per the Vital Statistics of India based on Civil Registration System, released by the Registrar General of India which is the state with highest Sex Ratio -- **Arunachal Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The report mainly provides insights on Sex Ratios in various states of India. Arunachal Pradesh was the state with highest Sex Ratio. The sex ratio of the state was 1084. The state of Manipur had the least Sex Ratio of 757.
- 34.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled "Statue of Peace" in **Rajasthan** to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Jain Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.  
**Note:** The 151-inch tall statue has been made from Ashtadhatu- 8 metals, with Copper being the major constituent, and is being installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, Rajasthan. Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji was Jain monk born on October 26, 1870.
- 35.** Keetham lake lake is located in **Agra** of India recently been added to the Ramsar site list.  
**Note:** Sur Sarovar also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh has been added to the 'Ramsar Sites'. Sur Sarovar is the 2440th site of Ramsar site. Sur Sarovar is the 40th Ramsar Sites in India.
- 36.** Only crater lake of Country that has been added to the 'Ramsar Sites' recently -- **Lonar Lake**.  
**Note:** Lonar lake is the 2441st Ramsar site. Lonar lake is the 41st Ramsar Sites in India. With the inclusion of this wetland, the total number of Ramsar Sites in India is 41, the highest in South Asia.
- 37. Ministry of Finance** gave its nod for the creation of the first ever "National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)" with an expected outlay of Rs 650 crore.  
**Note:** In this regard, Ministry of Labour & Employment has envisaged development of NDUW seeded with Aadhaar. This project will include migrant workers also and the benefits to be provided through this database will encourage them to enroll on the website.
- 38.** The Energy Efficiency Services Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Goa's** Department of New and Renewable Energy to set up first convergence project of India to generate Green Energy for agriculture and rural areas.  
**Note:** According to the agreement, the first convergence project of India to generate Green Energy

- for agriculture and rural areas is to be set up in Goa. The project is to focus on energy solutions that are evolved based on the concepts that combine climate change, renewable energy and Artificial Intelligence.
- 39. Mumbai** has become the first city in the country with a gender-specific city's urban plan which has provisions for designated spaces for the needs of women.  
**Note:** The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has added a chapter titled 'Gender, Special Groups and Social Equity' under the Revised Draft Development Plan (RDDP) 2034. The plan proposed "departure from gender blindness to gender mainstreaming".
- 40. Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), New Delhi** has become the first airport in Asia Pacific Region to get the Level 4+ Transition – carbon accreditation.  
**Note:** The airport was accredited under ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation program for its works in aligning its carbon management with global climate goals to reach net zero emission reduction. The Airport is owned and operated by GMR Group.
- 41. Indian city Bhubaneswar** becomes the First City in the Country to get ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 9001:2015 Certification for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) services.  
**Note:** Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) was the first civic body to implement FSSM regulations in Odisha. Jenaidah is the first city in the world to get ISO certification for FSSM. Bhubaneswar is 2nd in the world and 1st city in India in this regard.
- 42. Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched the Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, aimed to ensure that no person needs to enter a sewer or septic tank, unless absolutely unavoidable in the interest of greater public hygiene.  
**Note:** The initiative, that promotes mechanized cleaning, also aims to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of 'hazardous' cleaning. The virtual event witnessed participation of representatives from 243 cities across the country, coming together to take a pledge to mechanize all sewer and septic tank cleaning operations by 30th April 2021.
- 43. India's rank in the global list that measured business bribery risks of 2020 -- 77<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Note:** India ranked 77th position in the global list that measured business bribery risks of 2020. North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea were at highest risks and Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.
- 44. The theme of the 13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2020** was held virtually from New Delhi -- **Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility.**  
**Note:** It was inaugurated by Minister of State-MoS (Independent Charge-IC) Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). This was the first virtual UMI conference amid COVID 19 and was also held for a day as against the usual format of three days without any exhibition.
- 45. India** will host G20 summit in 2023.  
**Note:** The main focus of the Summit was on resilient, inclusive and sustainable recovery from covid-19 crisis. During the Summit the leaders discussed on the preparedness of the countries in response to the pandemic. They also shared their vision on building a resilient future. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 2020 G20 summit that was held under the theme of "realising opportunities of the 21st century for all".
- 46. The Union Information Technology Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched the International version of mobile application **UMANG.**  
**Note:** UMANG is Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance. It was launched in UK, US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, UAE, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand. The International version was launched on the completion of three years of UMANG.
- 47. The name of the cyclone that hit the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry -- Nivar.**  
**Note:** It is to hit the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry. The National Crisis Management Committee recently reviewed the status of cyclone held through video conferencing. The committee was set up by Government of India in the wake of natural calamity.
- 48. The theme of the 23rd Edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2020 -- Next is Now.**  
**Note:** The Summit is being held completely in Virtual Platform due to Pandemic. Theme of BTS 2020 is 'Next is Now'. The BTS 2020 Summit focused on technologies and innovations in the field of 'Information Technology & Electronics' and 'Biotechnology'
- 49. According to Global Employability Ranking and Survey (GEURS) 2020, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** has been ranked as the best institute in terms of employability of its students.  
**Note:** The GEURS 2020 was released by the Times Higher Education and French HR Consultancy group 'Emerging'. Globally, India has been ranked among the 15 best-performing countries in employability, improving from its 23rd rank in 2010.

- 50.** Food Processing minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated a mega food park (MFP) in **Punjab**.  
**Note:** This MFP built at project cost of Rs 107.83 crores and spread over 55 acres of land is expected to benefit about 25000 farmers. Till date, 37 MFPs have been sanctioned and 20 have already started functioning
- 51.** **VK Saraswat** will chair the Expert Committee constituted by the NITI Aayog to explore the technological and commercial viability of the Virgin Hyperloop technology for ultrahigh speed travel in India.  
**Note:** The Virgin Hyperloop test run was conducted on a 500-meter track in Las Vegas in the USA with a pod, as the hyperloop vehicles are called, travelling with passengers, including an Indian, inside an enclosed tube at more than 100 mph or 161 kmph.
- 52.** Two-days '80th All India Presiding Officers Conference' was held in **Kevadia, Gujarat** was inaugurated by President Ramnath Kovind and concluding session addressed by PM Narendra Modi.  
**Note:** The two-day conference was held at Kevadia in Gujarat. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates the conference which is being attended by Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, the state's Chief Minister Vijay Rupani among others. Speaker Om Birla is also the chairperson of the conference.
- 53.** **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) virtually.  
**Note:** During the three-day virtual conference, all the leading companies displayed their latest technological development in the field of renewable energy and discuss various options available for energy transition. Several world leaders, Energy Ministers of 75 countries and 200 eminent speakers attended the event. The summit is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.
- 54.** Indian Railways collaborated with **Indian School of Business, Hyderabad** for a study on 'An Integrated Coal-Freight Optimization Model' to increase network throughput and optimize freight transportation over Indian Railways.  
**Note:** In this regard, Letter of Agreement (LoA) was exchanged between Shiva Prasad, Principal Chief Operations Manager, South Central Railway (SCR) and Milind Sohoni, Deputy Dean, Indian School of Business. Exchange was done in the presence of Gajanan Mallya, General Manager, SCR and other senior officials of Railways & ISB at Rail Nilayam, Hyderabad, the zonal headquarters of the South Central Railway zone of the Indian Railway.
- 55.** FLO, the women wing of the FICCI has signed an agreement with **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong** and Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre (IESC) to mentor entrepreneurs.  
**Note:** Under this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), FICCI FLO, IESC and IIM Shillong will jointly provide guidance and mentor entrepreneurs by facilitating a nurturing, instructive and supportive environment during the initial and critical stages of starting a business, thus enabling them to reduce the initial startup costs and establish themselves in a shorter timeframe.
- 56.** The theme of the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) -- '**Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition**'.  
**Note:** During the three-day virtual conference, all the leading companies displayed their latest technological development in the field of renewable energy and discuss various options available for energy transition. Several world leaders, Energy Ministers of 75 countries and 200 eminent speakers attended the event. The summit is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.
- 57.** PM Narendra Modi unveiled **University of Lucknow's** centennial commemorative coin of Rs.100 over a virtual platform.  
**Note:** He also released the commemorative stamp issued by the India Post and its cover at the event organised for the celebration of the 100th Foundation day of the University of Lucknow. Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Anandiben Patel, Governor of UP and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is also a Lok Sabha member from Lucknow Constituency participated in the event.
- 58.** Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' chaired the virtual national conference on 'Empowering Through Zero (Shunya Se Sashaktikaran)', the conference was organized by NGO **Sri Aurobindo Society**.  
**Note:** It was organised by Sri Aurobindo Society. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' honoured over 40 education officers and 26 teachers for their leadership role and innovative practices respectively during COVID-19 pandemic. He launched an e-book, 'Innovation and Leadership Casebook – Covid Edition'. It comprises the innovative efforts and work of the education officers and teachers.

- 59. Narendra Singh Tomar** has inaugurated Honey Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Programme in 5 states for producing honey.  
**Note:** Aim: To address the issues faced by beekeeping industry and also promote honey production in the country increasing farmer's income. These 5 FPOs will be set up by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED). It will be set up at East Champaran (Bihar), Morena (Madhya Pradesh), Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) and Sunderbans (West Bengal).
- 60. Prakash Javadekar** launched the India Climate Change Knowledge Portal.  
**Note:** The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and

international levels to address the climate change issues. It will be a single-point information resource that provides information on the different climate initiatives taken by various Line Ministries enabling users to access status on these initiatives.

- 61.** The Government of India has approved the construction of Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth Rs 1100 crore in **Dehradun**.  
**Note:** This scheme will provide 24-hour drinking water to the city of Dehradun and will give a rebirth to River Rispana. It one of the most important projects of our government. Originally built on the Song River, the dam is about 148 meters high and aims to generate power up to six megawatts.

### Important News – State

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
10. India’s first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) was launched in **Arunachal Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The solar-based lift water supply project is ‘first of its kind’ in the country, and has been commissioned at a cost of Rs 28.50 crore. However, such projects will be carried out in other parts of the country too. The project would provide drinking water to 17,480 people in 39 villages of Lower Dibang Valley district in Arunachal Pradesh.
11. **Kerala** state government has launched a pioneering eco-sustainable programme called ‘Parivarthanam’, to improve the livelihood of the fishing community.  
**Note:** The scheme aims at improving the livelihood skills of youngsters along the coastline and also enable socio-economic uplift of the fishermen community. Parivarthanam, which means change, will be headed by Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC). The scheme will promote the processing and marketing of clean fish and its fresh products.
12. Hornbill Festival is celebrated in **Nagaland**, to be celebrated online this year amidst COVID-19.  
**Note:** This festival is also called the Festival of Festivals. It is held every year from December 1 to 10, showcases the culture, heritage, food and customs of Naga tribes. 16 tribes come together to celebrate their traditions with dance performances. Tourists from across the globe attend the 10-day gala.
13. The International Bird Festival will be organized in **Uttar Pradesh** in February 2021.  
**Note:** Gorakhpur is developing in the tourism and ecotourism sector and it is set to have a zoological park in 2021. The International bird festival will attract international level tourists for Gorakhpur lake and bird watching. The forest department of Uttar Pradesh has been instructed to materialize this bird festival.
14. According to the 6th edition of United Kingdom India Business Council’s (UKIBC) Doing Business in India Report 2020 Maharashtra came out as the state with maximum incremental improvement for third year in a row.  
**Note:** The UK Perspective” was virtually launched by the UK Investment Minister Lord Gerry Grimstone at a roundtable with Indian industrialists during his virtual visit to India. In accordance to the report, 66% of the surveyed UK businesses found it easier to do business in India due to progressive reforms and improvements in components such as the availability of support and service providers, skilled labour, and supply chain.
15. Odisha state government has launched ‘Secha Samadhan’ app for farmers.  
**Note:** Farmers would receive all irrigation-related information from the Water Resources Department through the mobile application.
16. Haryana state government has launched ‘Project Air Care’ through a public-private partnership.  
**Note:** He also inaugurated a project for the beautification of the Gateway of Gurugram on the Mehrauli-Gurugram Road. The Air Purifiers have been developed by CSIR-NEERI, IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Bombay.
17. Under chairmanship of **Sandip Bhagat** the SEBI, set up a 7-member expert group to review the frameworks of the share based employee benefits & issue of sweat equity and recommend policy changes.  
**Note:** The expert group will revisit the framework of the sweat equity regulations against the companies act and suggest required policy changes. The expert group will make suggestions on whether it is advisable to combine both the regulations. If the norms of these

regulations can be combined, the panel will provide draft rules in this regard.

- 18. Jharkhand** state government has passed a resolution on 'Sarna Code' seeking separate Identity Code for Tribal.  
**Note:** The resolution seeks inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in the 2021 census. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren tabled the proposal in the Jharkhand Assembly. he bill will now be sent to the Central Government for approval.
- 19. Asia's First Solar Power-Enabled Textile Mill** to come up in **Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** The Textile Mill is spread across Thirty acres of land and will process cotton to cloth. Once Functional, the mill will provide jobs to many women in the district. Ginning, Pressing, Weaving and Spinning of cotton will be done in the mill itself. It is being set up at a cost of INR 100 Crores and will add momentum to the industrial sector in the district.
- 20. Assam** state received the best state award under the category of best hilly and North Eastern State in Fisheries.  
**Note:** Assam has got the best state award under the category of best hilly and North Eastern state. Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Limited (FISHFED) has been selected under the category of best hilly and North eastern government organization.
- 21. Odisha** state bagged the eminent 'Best Marine State' award which was announced by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.  
**Note:** The award will be bestowed on 21st November, which is World Fisheries Day by the department. Along with recognition, 10 lakh amount will be given. The awards are a great boost to fisheries sector, especially during the COVID-19 times. In 2019, India exported Rs 47,000 crores of fisheries.
- 22. Madhya Pradesh** state government has decided to set up a 'Gau Cabinet' for the protection, conservation and promotion of cows in the state.  
**Note:** The Cabinet will comprise of the departments of animal husbandry, forests, panchayat and rural development, revenue, home and farmers welfare. The first meeting of the Cabinet will be held at 12 pm on 'Gopashtami' on November 22 at the Cow Sanctuary in Agar-Malwa district named 'Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya'.
- 23. Punjab** state government has launched Divyangjan Shaktikaran Yojana' to empower persons with disabilities in a virtual meeting.  
**Note:** The Scheme will be implemented in Two Phases. Phase-I will strengthen the existing programmes to

ensure that benefits reach people with disabilities. Phase-II will introduce 13 new interventions proposed to be undertaken for empowerment of such persons.

- 24. Gwalior** city of Madhya Pradesh a digital Museum has been opened for the public.  
**Note:** It is the first center of its kind in Gwalior and Bundelkhand area and will play a role in educating school students. In the Digital Museum, the architectural styles, objects, costumes, lifestyle, musical instruments, jewelry, handicrafts, cultural tradition, painting and many genres of paintings have been digitally displayed in a modern way.
- 25. Manipur** state introduced award for civil servants to promote good governance.  
**Note:** Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched "Scheme for Chief Minister's Award for Good Governance" to recognise and reward progressive and extraordinary work executed by authorities officers that promotes good governance.
- 26. Puducherry** has rolled out a free breakfast scheme for school students.  
**Note:** The scheme is named named after the late DMK President M Karunanidhi, for government and government aided school students at Jeevanandham Government Higher Secondary School. The scheme was an apt tribute to Karunanidhi who championed the cause of downtrodden and poor people and was keenly interested in the development and welfare of people of Puducherry while taking efforts to ensure the rights of states.
- 27. The International Cherry Blossom Festival** hosted every year by **Meghalaya** state that has been cancelled this year due to COVID-19 pandemic.  
**Note:** It is the only Cherry festival being conducted in India. The India International Cherry blossom festival is organised by the Government of Meghalaya every year.
- 28. India's First Moss Garden** was inaugurated in **Uttarakhand** state.  
**Note:** The Garden has been set up for the purpose of conservation of different species of moss. It will also serve the purpose of generating awareness among people regarding the importance of Moss in the environment
- 29. First cow hospital of North East** inaugurated in **Assam**.  
**Note:** A cow shelter in Assam's Dibrugarh inaugurated Northeast's first-ever cow hospital, on the occasion of Gopashtami. The hospital, Surbhi Aarogyashala, is set up by Shree Gopal Gaushala at a cost of Rs 17 lakh. The hospital will provide services in 30 km radius. There are 368 cows in the shelter.



- 30. Prime minister Narendra Modi launched 'Har Ghar Nal Yojna' to provide tap water for every household in Uttar Pradesh.**  
**Note:** Government was committed to solving the water scarcity problem and hence the scheme of worth ₹5,555 crores was launched in the state. The scheme will benefit 21,87,980 villagers in Mirzapur. In Sonbhadra, 19,53,458 families will be benefitted by the scheme. Rs 3212.18 crore and Rs 2343.20 crore will be spent under the scheme. The total cost of the scheme is Rs 5555.38 crore.
- 31. Karnataka** state has set a target to become a USD 50 billion biotechnology market by 2025.  
**Note:** The government released its first draft of the Bio-economy Report 2020 at the Bengaluru Tech Summit, highlighting achievements and earmarking targets for the next five years. The report also claims that the same has grown by 14-17 per cent in the previous two years and that the state contributes 10.3 per cent to the gross state domestic product (GSDP) of USD 221.82 billion.
- 32. Himachal Pradesh** has launched the 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' to collect real-time data on the health profile of entire state.  
**Note:** Under this Abhiyan about 8000 teams comprising of Health, Ayurveda, Women and Child Development, Panchayati Raj Departments, District Administration and NGOs would be involved in this campaign. It would ensure door to door data collection of health parameters of the people.
- 33. The 10th edition of prestigious National science film festival was organized by Vigyan Prasar, Department of Science and Technology (GoI) and Council of Science and Technology of Tripura.**  
**Note:** The science film festival offers a unique platform to showcase the science films made by professionals, amateur and student filmmakers under various themes,

to promote science films in India. A total of 372 films in different languages were received for participation, of which 115 films have been shortlisted by the ten-member jury to be screened during the festival. These films are in Hindi, English, Urdu, Malayalam, Kashmiri, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi and Tamil languages.

- 34. West Bengal** government has launched "Government At Doorstep" scheme.  
**Note:** To run until Gandhi Jayanti on January 30, the initiative will attempt to ship pending companies to folks. From 11 am to 3 pm every day from December 1, government camps will be held in every block in the state where people can come and demand any service they have not received yet.
- 35. Tamil Nadu** state government has launched 'Thee', a mobile phone-based application for the benefit of the general public to reach out to the Fire and Rescue Services when in need.  
**Note:** The application has been designed to help the general public in case of fire accidents, floods, mishaps in deep wells, rescue of wildlife, chemical or gas leaks, among other accidents. Arrangements have been made to facilitate people in need getting help within 10 seconds of their using the app.
- 36. Rajasthan** government has signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for proposed participation to achieve food and nutritional security goals.  
**Note:** On the basis of the signed MoU, WFP authorities have signed the LoU with various government departments to develop a partnership with them. The Civil Supplies Department of Rajasthan had signed an MoU with the UN to achieve sustainable goal development.

### Important News – World

- 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, unelected 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.

9. Virgin Hyperloop successfully completed the first-ever human trial in the hyperloop pod at the 500 metre DevLoop test facility in **United States of America**.

**Note:** Josh Giegel, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Virgin Hyperloop and Sara Luchian, Director of Passenger Experience of Virgin Hyperloop, were the first people in the world to ride on Hyperloop. They travelled 500 metres in 15 seconds in newly-unveiled XP-2 vehicle, reaching 107 mph (172 Km per hour). The testing campaign will continue with Pune native and Virgin Hyperloop Power Electronics Specialist, Tanay Manjrekar to ride next in Hyperloop.

10. A pictorial anthology on Mahatma Gandhi was released by Nepal in their language meaning 'My understanding about Gandhi.

**Note:** Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal released a pictorial anthology on Mahatma Gandhi in Nepali language, titled 'Maile Bujheko Gandhi'(the Gandhi as I understood or 'My understanding about Gandhi')at a special function in Shital Niwas, Kathmandu in the presence of Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Ambassador of India to Nepal. The book was published by the Embassy of India along with B. P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation.

11. The Second World Health Expo is being held in **Wuhan** city of China.

**Note:** The World Health Expo will showcase the Latest Technology in Fitness Sports and the most realistically restored anti-epidemic Scenes. It will feature 12 different venues for audiences to experience the most frontier health technology

12. The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project is being installed at Maunakea in Hawaii.

**Note:** The project will revolutionize the understanding of the universe and mysteries surrounding it. The TMT project is an international partnership project between CalTech, Universities of California, Canada, Japan, China, and India; through the Department of Science

and Technology (DST) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

- 13. Narendra Modi** represented India in the 20th Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State (CHS) 2020 presided over by Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

**Note:** This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format and the third meeting that India participated after becoming a full member in 2017. It should be noted that President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan will assume the chairmanship of SCO in 2021.

- 14.** Tajikistan will assume the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2021.

**Note:** This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format and the third meeting that India participated after becoming a full member in 2017. It should be noted that President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan will assume the chairmanship of SCO in 2021.

- 15.** The theme of the 12th BRICS summit that is to be hosted by Russia -- **“Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”**.

**Note:** The summit is to be held under the theme “Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”. The BRICS members to participate in the meeting are China, India, Brazil, Russia and South Africa.

- 16.** Two countries **Japan and Australia** have signed the “Reciprocal Access Agreement” to counter the growing influence of China in the South China sea and in the Pacific Island Nations.

**Note:** The defence agreement has taken six years of negotiations. This will bring the countries closer amidst militarization in South China sea and series of disputes over islands in East China sea. This is the first agreement of Japan to allow foreign military presence in its sovereign territory since 1960.

- 17. United Nations** organization in association with “the Vaccine Confidence Project” of University of London launched “Team Halo” to counter misinformation around COVID-19 vaccines.

**Note:** More than 100 scientists from different parts of the world have come together under the project. Team Halo aims to tackle misinformation on safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. Under the initiative, the scientists will create social-media friendly videos on COVID-19 vaccine science based on their personal experiences.

- 18. London** city emerged as the best city in the “World’s Best Cities for 2021” list released by the Vancouver-based Resonance Consultancy Ltd.

**Note:** London was followed by USA’s New York. Only one Indian city Delhi, made it to the list, taking the 62nd position. Paris (France), Moscow (Russia), Tokyo (Japan), Dubai (UAE), Singapore, Barcelona (Spain), Los Angeles (USA), and Madrid (Spain) took the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth rank respectively. The other cities that were named are Rome (Italy) and Toronto (Canada).

- 19.** The 15th East Asia Summit held virtually was chaired by **Vietnam**.

**Note:** External Affairs Minister S.

Jaishankar represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) on behalf of the PM. The Summit Meeting discussed ways and means to strengthen the EAS platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary.

- 20.** The Guadalajara of **Mexico** named World Book Capital for the year 2022 by the Director-General of UNESCO.

**Note:** The city was selected for its comprehensive plan for policies around the book to trigger social change, combat violence and build a culture of peace. Tbilisi (Georgia) was named as the World Book Capital 2021 and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) for 2020.

- 21.** The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the global strategy to fast track the eradication of cervical cancer by -- **2050**.

**Note:** For the first time, 194 countries, including India, committed to eliminate cancer, following the adoption of a resolution at the World Health Assembly 2020 in Geneva. The countries should vaccinate 90% of girls aged 15 years with the HPV vaccine by 2030, while 70% of women up to the age of 35 years should be screened using a high-performance test and 90% of women of up to 45 years diagnosed with cervical cancer must receive treatment.

- 22.** The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was recently hosted by **Malaysia**.

**Note:** The Summit was attended by the US President Donald Trump as well. The next APEC meeting is to be hosted by New Zealand. The APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 was adopted during the Summit. It envisions and open, resilient peaceful Asia Pacific community by 2040.

- 23.** According to the **Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL)** annual report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) which group of cities emerged as the most expensive cities of the world --- **Hong Kong, Paris and Zurich**.

**Note:** According to the Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) annual report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) revealed that Singapore and Osaka, which

were joint first in 2019, have slid down the rankings to fourth and fifth place respectively. Cities in the Americas, Africa and eastern Europe have become less expensive since 2019, whilst western European cities have become pricier.

- 24. Finland and India** signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of biodiversity conservation and environment protection.  
**Note:** The agreement was signed by the Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and his counterpart Krista Mikkonen of Finland. According to the Memorandum of Understanding, the countries will exchange their best practices in areas such as prevention of air and water pollution, waste management, low carbon solutions, sustainable management of natural resources and promotion of circular economy. Also, it will help the countries to develop technological, scientific and management capabilities.
- 25. United Arab Emirates** is all set to become the first Arab Gulf country, and probably the last, to generate electricity from coal.  
**Note:** In this regard, the company has already inked a long time agreement with Japan's Jera Co under which the latter will supply coal. The capacity of the plant will be 600 megawatts (MW) initially which will be increased to 2,400 MW by 2023.
- 26. India** has revived the Indian Ocean troika with two countries **Maldives and Sri Lanka** to promote the "meaningful cooperation" in the Indian Ocean region on maritime security.

**Note:** Mauritius and Seychelles joined as observers through virtual mode. In a shift from the past, the National Security Advisors of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives decided — after their in-person trilateral meeting in Colombo — to broad-base the maritime security dialogue and include "terrorism", "radicalisation", "extremism", "drugs", "arms and human trafficking", "money laundering" and "cybersecurity" as they decided to cooperate in these areas of common concern. This is the first time that NSA Ajit Doval participated in the trilateral dialogue as the group has not met since March 2014.

- 27. The Hualong One** is a first domestically made nuclear reactor of **China** country that goes online recently.  
**Note:** It is a significant step in Beijing's attempts to become less dependent on Western allies for energy security and critical technology. The reactor, which was connected to the national grid, can generate 10 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year and cut carbon emissions by 8.16 million tons.
- 28. India** hosted the Heads of Government (HoG) council meeting of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) 2020.  
**Note:** The Summit was chaired by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu. This is the first time that a Summit-level Meeting will be held under India's Chairmanship since it gained full membership of the organisation in 2017. The Prime Ministers from the SCO Member States of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will attend the SCO meeting.

### Honor & Awards

- 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.

5. Indian Movie **Natkhat** has won the top prize at the third edition of Best of India Short Film Festival 2020, thus becomes eligible for 2021 Oscar qualification.

**Note:** By winning the festival, the film has become eligible for 2021 Oscar qualification. The film has been directed by Shaan Vyas and co-produced by Ronnie Screwvala and Vidya Balan. The film also won cash prize money of \$2,500 (approximately Rs 1,85,497) and an opportunity for a television broadcast deal on ShortsTV.

6. Kerala'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.

7. **Karkhanisanchi Waar** becomes the only Indian entry at Tokyo Film Festival.

**Note:** Marathi film, Karkhanisanchi Waari (Ashes on a Road Trip), the 149-minute film tells the story of the Karkhanis, the last joint family of Pune. The movie was directed by Mangesh Joshi. The movie will have its world premiere at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival. It is the only Indian entry at the festival.

8. **S Hareesh** has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 for his novel Moustache.

**Note:** It has been translated into English by Jayasree Kalathil & published by HarperCollins India. The JCB Prize for Literature is regarded as the richest literary prize in India. As per the norm, the Malayalam author will receive a Rs 25 lakh cash prize and the translator will receive an additional Rs 10 lakh.

9. **Dr Satish Mishra** has won the "Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020".

**Note:** The research was focused on "Secreted Protein with Altered Thrombospondin Repeat (SPATR) which is Essential for Asexual Blood Stages but not Required for Hepatocyte Invasion by the Malaria Parasite Plasmodium Berghei". The study was focused on the dispensability of SPATR in Plasmodium berghei sporozoite and its importance for the establishment of blood stage infection.

10. **Ruskin Bond** conferred with Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 for his outstanding contribution in the field of literary.

**Note:** Apart from this, lyricist Javed Akhtar has been named as the Poet Laureate of the Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest 2020. Tata Literature Live!: It recognises exceptional work and outstanding contribution to writing and literature and poetry in India which has made a significant impact in the Indian literary field.

11. **Sadat Rahman** has won the International Children's Peace Prize 2020 for his work to stop cyberbullying of teens.

**Note:** The award was given away by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai during a ceremony in the Netherlands. The prize is given away by the international children's rights organization KidsRights. The prize was launched by KidsRights during the 2005 World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Rome.

12. **Azim Premji** topped in the 7th edition of the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020 released by the Hurun India and EdelGive Foundation.

**Note:** Azim Premji, the founder and Chairman of Wipro topped the 2020 list. Azim Premji became India's Most Generous man with a donation of Rs.7904 crores. The list featured the individuals who have donated Rs.5 crores and more during the review period (from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020).

13. The Madan Jeet Singh Prize is being awarded by UNESCO every year for the promotion of tolerance and nonviolence on **International Day for Tolerance**.

**Note:** The day is celebrated to increase awareness about importance of tolerance in the society. It also aims to increase awareness among people about the negative effects of intolerance. The Madan Jeet Singh Prize is being awarded by UNESCO every year for the promotion of tolerance and nonviolence.

14. The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the Lilavati Awards which is an initiative of **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**.

**Note:** The award is an initiative of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The Lilavati Award aims to recognise the efforts of AICTE affiliated institutions in treating women. The Lilavati Awards are to be presented based on the theme of women empowerment.

15. **Bhutan's Queen Mother Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck** has been awarded the United Nations Population Award in the individual category for 2020.

**Note:** The awardee in the organisational category is HelpAge India that works on elder care. Only two Indians have been awarded in the past four decades since the award was established in 1981: former Prime

Minister Indira Gandhi in 1983 and industrialist-philanthropist J.R.D.Tata in 1992.

- 16. Udhampur** district has been conferred with National Award for water conservation under Jeevika Project launched by the District Administration.  
**Note:** The project aims to increase the assured irrigation of Agriculture land and conservation of water and was conceptualized by the District Development Commissioner Dr. Piyush Singla. The project envisages development of sustainable ecosystems through water conservation to enhance the livelihood for small and marginal farmers.
- 17. Dr Susanta Kar** has been awarded Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award 2020.  
**Note:** The award is conferred in every two years. Recipient of the award should be below 50 years of age. Award is given for Biological Chemistry and Allied sciences, preferably related to parasitic infections. Awardee has to deliver an award oration at the Annual Meeting of SBC(I).
- 18. Nasiruddin Shah** has been bestowed with the 2020 Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar at annual Sangit Kala Kendra Awards.  
**Note:** Alongside, two emerging stars, in the firmament of theatrics – Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik were awarded the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalakiran Puraskars. “Theatre” is the central theme, for this year’s awards. The Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar and Kalakiran Puraskar awards, were instituted in 1996 by the Sangeet Kala Kendra (SKK), which was founded in 1973 by Aditya Vikram Birla (former Chairman of Aditya Birla Group), to honor excellence in theatre and performing arts.
- 19. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’** has received the **Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award 2020** for his contribution to the literary works of India.  
**Note:** The award was presented to him by the Vatayan-UK organization in London, England. The Vatayan-UK felicitation ceremony organised as a virtual event by the British Institution Group in England. Along with Minister of Education, Manoj Muntashir, famous poet and lyricist won the International Vatayan Literary award 2020 at the Vatayan-UK felicitation ceremony.
- 20. Web series Delhi Crime** has won the best drama series honour at the 48th International Emmy Awards.

**Note:** Told from the perspective of the Delhi Police team investigating the crime that made global headlines, the series deconstructs the case of the 23-year-old physiotherapy intern who was abducted and gangraped in a moving bus on the night of December 16, 2012 before she was abandoned on a Delhi road. Actor Shefali Shah played Vartika Chaturvedi, whose character on “Delhi Crime” was based on former Delhi Police DCP Chaya Sharma who cracked the case of the brutal gangrape within 72 hours.

- 21. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve** received the first-ever international award, TX2, for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years.  
**Note:** In this regard, the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) of Uttar Pradesh (UP) under the UP Forest department has bagged the first-ever international award, TX2, for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years. The PTR had 25 tigers in 2014 which went up to 65 in 2018. The award was virtually presented to the principal chief conservator of forest (wildlife) of the state, Sunil Pandey, by UNDP’s (United Nations Development Program) head of ecosystems and biodiversity, Mindori Paxton.
- 22. Indian student Vinisha Umashankar (14-years)** won the prestigious 5th Children’s Climate Prize 2020 for designing a mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box rather than conventional charcoal.  
**Note:** Vinisha will receive the prize of 100,000 Swedish krona (Rs 8.64 lakh approximately), diploma, and medal from the Sweden-based Children’s Climate Foundation at a digital event. This is the fifth edition of the Children’s Climate Prize — one of the world’s largest international climate awards for young innovators.
- 23. Neha Mahajan and Ricky Martin** bagged a Grammy Awards nomination in the Best Latin Pop or Urban Album category.  
**Note:** Ricky Martin's album Pausa recently received a Grammy nomination in the Best Latin Pop or Urban Album category. Sitar player Neha Mahajan collaborated with the singer on the song Mi Sangre. The singer's album, Pausa was nominated by the Recording Academy.

## Sports News

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 (RFESA). 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.  
**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.
5. **Daniil Medvedev** has won the Paris Master 2020 title in tennis.  
**Note:** He became the fourth Russian to capture the Rolex Paris Masters title. The World No. 5 earned his first service break at 4-4 in the second set and charged to the title from that point by winning eight of the final nine games.
6. **Chen Meng** has won the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Women's World Cup table tennis title in held in Weihai, China.  
**Note:** The world number one Chen Meng beat Chinese compatriot Sun Yingsha to win her maiden International Table Tennis Federation(ITTF) Women's World Cup table tennis title in held in Weihai, China.
- The 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup was the 24th edition of the ITTF-sanctioned event.
7. **Mumbai Indian** team has won the 13th Edition of the Dream11 Indian Premier League 2020.  
**Note:** A total of 8 teams participated in the event. Delhi Capitals became the runner up in the 13th edition of IPL. Jofra Archer of Rajasthan Royals won the Player of the Series. Mumbai Indians won their 5th IPL Title by defeating First-Time Finalists Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets in the Final at Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Title Winners Mumbai Indians received INR 20 Crore as Prize Money, whereas Finalists Delhi Capital received an amount of INR 12.5 Crore.
8. **Aryna Sabalenka** won the Linz Open tennis single title for 2020.  
**Note:** The 22-year-old Sabalenka finished the season in style with a straight-sets victory over her doubles partner Elise Mertens in final in Austria. She traded places with Williams, who dropped one spot to 11th and hasn't played since pulling out of the French Open with an Achilles injury.
9. Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) cancelled the Women Under-17 world cup due to COVID-19 pandemic and postponed to 2021, the tournament was to be held in **India**.  
**Note:** It has been postponed to 2021. The 2020 FIFA Women Under-17 World Cup was to be held in India. Both Under-17 and Under-20 women's World cup were to be held in India. This has been cancelled and the country has been awarded to host the 2022 cup. FIFA announced that Costa Rica will host the FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup 2022 and India will host FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2022.
10. **Novak Djokovic** has been awarded with ATP Tour No. 1 trophy for finishing as the top ranked player for the sixth time in his career.  
**Note:** With this, he has become the only second player in tennis history, after Pete Sampras, to receive the trophy sixth time. Earlier Djokovic had finished as world number one in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018. Before this, only Pete Sampras has managed to finish six years on top of the rankings which he did between 1993 and 1998.
11. Sudeep Tyagi is associated with **Cricket** has announced his retirement.  
**Note:** Indian cricketer, Sudeep Tyagi has announced his retirement from all forms of the cricket. The 33-year-old had played for the Indian national cricket team in four ODIs and a lone T20I as a fast bowler.

- Apart from this, the right-arm medium-fast bowler had also featured in 14 games in the Indian Premier League (IPL) for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).
12. **Daniil Medvedev** has won the ATP tennis tournament, the second highest tier of men's Tennis Tournament after the Grand Slam held in London.  
**Note:** The ATP tournament is the second highest tier of men's Tennis Tournament after the Grand Slam. The tournament was first held in 1970. He is a Russian tennis player at rank number 4 under ATP ranking. He was born in Moscow.
  13. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Turkish Grand Prix 2020.  
**Note:** Sergio Perez secured the second position and Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari finished third. This was Hamilton 10th victory of the season and 94th F1 win of his career. With this win, he claimed the seventh Formula One championships title of his career to equal the record of Michael Schumacher.
  14. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports granted the annual recognition as a National Sports Federation (NSF) to **Archery Association of India**  
**Note:** AAI's recognition was withdrawn by the ministry on December 7, 2012 on account of its failure to conduct elections in accordance with the sports code despite the directions of the High Court. This comes after AAI's independent elections and revocation of suspension by the World Archery and Indian Olympic Association. The recognition will be valid for one year.
  15. **Avinash Sable** set a new national record in winning the 16th Airtel Delhi Half Marathon (ADHM).  
**Note:** He specialises in 3000m steeplechase. He completed his win in 1:00:30sec to become the only Indian to finish half a marathon in less than 61 minutes. In the 2019 World Athletics Championships, Sable had clocked 8 minutes 21.37 seconds in the men's 3000m steeplechase final to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.
  16. **Belgium** country topped the FIFA Ranking in Nov 2020.  
**Note:** Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), has released the international rankings for November 2020. Nonetheless, the top six spots remain unchanged in the rankings. Belgium has kept their place on the top, followed by France, Brazil, England, and Portugal. Mexico and Italy back in top 10 after nine and four years respectively.
  17. India's rank in the recently released FIFA ranking -- **104<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Note:** Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), has released the international rankings for November 2020. Nonetheless, the top six spots remain unchanged in the rankings. Belgium has kept their place on the top, followed by France, Brazil, England, and Portugal. Mexico and Italy back in top 10 after nine and four years respectively.

### Books and Authors

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 Prasara.
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. **Anupam Kher** authored the book titled "Your Best Day Is Today!".  
**Note:** Through this book, Kher will recount his experiences during the lockdown, several ups and downs, including the time when his mother Dulari and brother Raju Kher had contracted the virus. His



previous books are his biography Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly & The Best Thing About You is You. He is also a recipient of two National Film Awards.

5. **Sasindran Kallinkeel** authored the novel titled "Rasaathi: The Other Side of a Transgender".

**Note:** The main character in the novel, published by BookMitra, is a transgender named Rasaathi born in a well-to-do family in South India. Rasaathi, meaning princess, is in the late 40s who wants people to treat transgenders like human beings by showering love, affection, sympathy and recognise their pathetic and horrible life.

6. **Rajendra Darda** has authored the book titled 'Majhi Bhint' (My Wall) written in Martahi language released by Bhagat Singh Koshyari, governor of Maharashtra.

**Note:** The book is a compilation of selected Facebook posts of Rajendra Darda that pertains to a range of issues written over the last four years. The book contains the experiences of the author's world travel. This will give the readers the same joy of world travel. The interspersing of the Marathi write-ups with Hindi couplets by the author has further enriched the book.

7. **Ruskin Bond** has authored the book titled 'How to Be a Writer'.

**Note:** The book gives a glimpse into the writing credo of Ruskin Bond, the author who has over 70 years of successful writing career. As per Ruskin Bond, to become a writer, the person must have the following qualities-love of books, languages and life, an observant eye, a good memory, enthusiasm, optimism and persistence.

8. The book titled 'Leading with Empathy' is a Biography of **Jacinda Ardern**.

**Note:** Jacinda Ardern:Leading with Empathy' - A Biography of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern will be published in 2021 by HarperCollins. The book will be authored by Supriya Vani and Carl A Harte.

9. The book titled 'Boskiyana' has been published by Radhakrishna Prakashan is on life of which Indian poet and lyricist **Gulzar**.

**Note:** The book portrays the life of Gulzar through his films, poetry, philosophies, lifestyle, likes and dislikes. The 228-page book is edited by Yashwant Vyas. 'Boskiyana' is the name of the house of Gulzar in

Mumbai. The book expresses the personality of Gulzar through detailed conversations and reveals his thoughts and vision of the world.

10. The book titled "I Am No Messiah" is an autobiography of **Sonu Sood**.

**Note:** The book will be co-authored by Meena Iyer. Written in the first person, the book will reveal the emotional and often challenging journeys he undertook along with the people he rescued.

11. **Rachna Bisht Rawat** has authored the book titled "Insomnia: Army Stories" featuring stories based on life in the armed forces.

**Note:** Rachna Bisht Rawat stated that all the characters featured in Insomnia are not heroic, the characters represent ordinary people who have their own weaknesses and failures. She also stated that this book speaks more about emotions in various forms and speaks less about the army.

12. **Barack Hussein Obama** has authored the book titled "A Promised Land".

**Note:** In the first of his two-part memoir he speaks at length about his interest in India, Mahatma Gandhi's life and his relationship with former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh whom he calls a man of "uncommon wisdom and decency." Mr. Obama says he had developed a "warm and productive" relationship with Mr. Singh, describing their interactions in New Delhi on Mr. Obama's first visit there in November 2010.

13. **Douglas Stuart** is the author of the book titled 'Shuggie Bain' that won the 2020 Booker Prize.

**Note:** Stuart dedicated his book, which was turned down by 32 publishers before being picked up, to his mother, who died when he was 16. A former fashion designer based in New York, Stuart took home £50,000 as prize money. He also received a trophy, a designer-bound edition of his book, and a further £2,500 for being shortlisted for the big award.

14. **Kirpal Singh** has authored the book on the life and ideals of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism and first of its 10 gurus, released by the PM Narendra Modi.

**Note:** Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was also present during the book release. The book has been penned by Kirpal Singh Ji, who is based in Chandigarh.

## Science and Defence

1. The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired an air-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from **Sukhoi 30 MKI**.  
**Note:** The aircraft took off from an airbase in Punjab & reached the Bay of Bengal after mid-air refuelling. The missile successfully hit a sinking ship in the Bay of Bengal, with deadly accuracy. This test was the longest range BrahMos strike that was undertaken by the Sukhoi 30 MKI platform. This missile was developed by DRDO, the air-launched version of nuclear-capable BrahMos has a strike range of 300 km with the capability to hit targets at sea or land in all weather conditions.
2. Defence Research Development Organization test fired the advanced version of Pinaka successfully.  
**Note:** This enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket would replace the existing Pinaka Mk-I rockets. While Mk-1 had a range of 40 km, the new variant can hit a target 45 to 60 km away. The design and development of Pinaka were done by DRDO laboratories based in Pune, namely Armament Research and Development Establishment, ARDE and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, HEMRL.
3. CARAT is a joint Naval Exercise conducted between **USA and Bangladesh**.  
**Note:** Bangladesh and United States held a joint Naval Exercise CARAT. CARAT is Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training. The exercise was held at Chittagong. Historically, the exercise involves people-to-people interactions, variety of professional exchanges, community relations project, Subject Matter Expert exchanges and social events. Due to COVID-19, the exercise was held virtually.
4. **DRDO** has developed fire detection and suppression system for passenger buses that can detect fire in buses in less than 30 seconds.  
**Note:** The technology was developed by the Delhi based Centre for fire explosive and environment safety of DRDO. The fire detection and suppression system consist of a water tank of 80 litres of capacity, network of tubing with 16 atomizers and 6.8 kilograms of Nitrogen cylinder. The system has an aerosol generator with which the fire suppression can be achieved within 5 seconds. The system has been developed as a defence spin off Technology.
5. China has successfully launched the world's first 6G satellite namely "UESTC" satellite (Star Era-12)" into orbit with an aim to test communications from space using high-frequency terahertz (THz) spectrum.  
**Note:** It was one of the 13 satellites aboard the Long March-6 rocket, which launched on November 6, 2020 at the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Shanxi province of China. The UESTC is named after the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China and will test the performance of the 6G frequency band in space which is expected to be over 100 times faster than 5G which is already expected to be ultra-fast.
6. Indian Navy received the 9th Poseidon 8I maritime surveillance aircraft from **USA** at the INS Hansa, Goa Naval Airbase.  
**Note:** The P-8I Aircraft received on November 18, 2020 is the first of the Four Additional planes ordered by India after completion of the Initial order for eight aircrafts. In 2016, India signed a deal of USD 1.1 Billion with the US for Four Additional P-8I Aircrafts. The P-8I is a variant of the P-8A Poseidon used by the US Navy. It is developed and produced by Boeing Defense, Space & Security (US-based).
7. The trilateral Naval exercise, SITMEX-20 between India, Singapore and Thailand was held in **Andaman sea**.  
**Note:** The SITMEX-20 Naval exercise was scheduled in a "non-contact at sea only format" due to covid-19 restrictions. The main objective of the exercise is to increase the interoperability between the three navies. The exercise will also enhance multifaceted Maritime operations.
8. The maritime exercise SIMBEX-20 is joint exercise between India and **Singapore**.  
**Note:** The exercise is being conducted between the countries since 1994. The exercise aims to enhance mutual inter-operability between the countries. The Indian Navy ships to participate in the exercise are destroyer Rana along with Chetak helicopter, corvettes Kamorta and Karmuk. Also, submarine Sindhuraj and P81 reconnaissance aircrafts are to participate in the exercise.
9. For **Monitor oceans** purpose NASA has launched the Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.  
**Note:** The satellite launch was a part of the Mission Jason Continuity of Service. The mission was launched to measure the height of the ocean. Measuring the height of the ocean is one of the key components in understanding the climate change. The spacecraft consists of two components. The other component of the spacecraft is to be launched in 2025.

**10.** The second phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 conducted in **Northern Arabian Sea**.

**Note:** The second phase is taking place from 17 to 20 November 2020. It is the 24th edition of the MALABAR series of maritime exercises. This second phase involves participation from the US Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

**11.** India successfully test fired the land attack version of supersonic missile **Brahmos**.

**Note:** The range of the missile has been extended to 400 km from 290 km. Its speed has been increased to 2.8 Mach which is almost three times the speed of sound. The missile can be launched from ships, submarines, aircraft and from land platforms. Brahmos

was a joint venture of DRDO and Russia. It was developed based on the Russian P-800 Oniks Cruise missile.

**12.** Change-5 Lunar Mission has been launched by **China**, the first probe in four decades to bring back rock samples from the moon from its previously unexplored portions.

**Note:** Change-5 is the first probe to land on the far side of the moon. As the rotation and revolution time period of the moon is same, only one side of the moon is constantly visible to the earth. The other side of the moon till date remains unexplored and is called the far side of the moon. The mission is named after the Chinese moon goddess.





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